Mr. Chair, I wish to engage in a colloquy with Chairman

Young and Ranking Member Dicks.

Yesterday, the House adopted an amendment I offered with

Congresswoman Buerkle directing the National Guard to conduct a

capability assessment of the medical equipment in its domestic Humvee

ambulances. This will pave the way for the retrofitting of Humvee

ambulances that lack adequate cardiac monitoring and resuscitation

equipment. As you know, the National Guard's mission includes

responding to terrorist attacks, homeland security emergencies, natural

disasters, and providing defense support to civil authorities. This

equipment will allow the Guard to effectively carry out their mission.

But the retrofitting of currently-owned Humvee ambulances is not

enough. To purchase ambulances in the future that lack cardiac

monitoring and resuscitation equipment is, frankly, irresponsible. Mr.

Chair and Mr. Ranking Member, the adjutant generals in eight different

Sates, including Washington, New York, and my home State of Oregon,

have indicated that this equipment is necessary to their missions, and

could make the difference between life and death in an emergency

situation.

Mr. Chair and Mr. Ranking Member, both Congresswoman Buerkle and I

appreciate your support for our amendment yesterday and your commitment

to all who serve in our Nation's National Guard. Congresswoman Buerkle

and I had another amendment to ensure that this important lifesaving

equipment would be included in Humvee ambulances purchased for the

Guard in the future. In lieu of that amendment, I ask if you will work

with Ms. Buerkle and me to ensure that future Humvee ambulances

purchased for Guard use contain adequate cardiac monitoring and

resuscitation equipment?

I would be happy to yield to the distinguished chairman.