Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the

time. I want to also thank everyone who works on this committee and has

spent so much time over the years working to prepare our military

forces to be able to handle contingencies and wars around the world. We

appreciate that, and you have lots of great experience.

But let me tell you, this provision in this particular bill is

terrible for the warfighters. Let me talk about a small piece of it.

You have what I call a 15-day wait, notify and hold provision. That

means before any unit can go into Iraq, a 15-day period, waiting

period, has to expire after you have notified the Armed Services

Committees and the Defense appropriations committee that unit is

``ready for battle'' and meets a mission-capability standard.

Now, the problem with that is we have a war against terror in which

teams, whether they are special operations teams, medivac teams, EOD

teams, special fire support teams like C-130, A-6 gun ships are

constantly moving across the boundaries between Iraq and the rest of

the world. Some of our assets come off of carriers. Some of them come

out of Incirlik, Turkey. Some from Kuwait and some of them come from

other places.

This idea that before a special forces team can move across a line

you must have a 15-day notify and wait period is totally unworkable.

I want to give to you what Admiral Fallon, head of the Central

Command, said when we asked him what he thought about the notify and

hold provision. He said, ``I would ask for consideration that we not

limit the flexibility of our commanders in allowing them to use forces

that might be necessary to meet a situation or a mission which they

might be asked to undertake. And so I would opt to allow our commanders

to have the flexibility of making that decision rather than have some

dictated requirement in advance.''

I would say to my good friend, Mr. Murtha, who has several times

stated that the administration should listen to its generals: Every

team that goes into that warfighting theater goes in because one of the

battlefield commanders has requested their presence.

I can remember talking to my son when he was in the battle of

Fallujah as an artillery officer and he was inside the city as a

forward observer. And I asked him what the most important platforms we

had out there were. He said the A6 C-130 gunship. I said, Where are

they? He said, They come and they go.

Ladies and gentleman, we move firefighting teams, all types of

special operations crews and teams, EOD teams, A6 C-130 gunships across

those borders constantly, and to have a requirement where you are going

to have to give a 15-day notification and wait before you can move that

unit in is devastating to our warfighting capability.

I would ask for a ``no'' on this measure.