Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It is good to be

with my colleagues as we talk about this important issue.

I would like to share with my colleagues an experience I had over the

weekend involving a real person, a real American. Representative John

Bocerri, a young State representative from my State of Ohio, serves in

the State legislature. He is also in the Air Reserves, and he has

previously been to 3 deployments in Iraq. He flies these big C-130

transport planes.

John has a wonderful wife and 2 young daughters, and just about 4

days ago his third child was born. A little guy named Matthew Bocerri.

They brought him home the day before yesterday, and I was there as this

wonderful family gathered around this newborn, sisters holding him for

the first time.

John Bocerri is leaving Thursday of this week for his fourth

deployment to the war zone. A young father with a child recently home

from the hospital for the fourth time is being sent by this country to

the war zone to fly transport in and out of Iraq from Qatar.

When you talk with someone like John Bocerri, when you see his little

daughters and his newborn child and you talk to his wife you understand

what this war is doing to Americans, to families, to community. The

President has some explaining to do to all of us.

I have here an e-mail from a Marine Corps Civil Affairs officer who

is currently in Ramadi, Iraq. This Marine has received his master's

degree in international policy from Stanford University. He is a bright

guy obviously. And I would just like to read briefly from his e-mail

and then I will be happy to hear from the rest of my colleagues.

This young Marine writes, ``As an Iraq War veteran, I disagree with

how President Bush has assessed the war and how we should be conducting

it. The President has mischaracterized the debate as a simplistic black

and white challenge. Is the sacrifice worth it? That is the question.

But this mischaracterization clouds the debate and avoids 2 essential

questions: What are the real conditions on the ground and what must be

done to win this war?''

He continues, ``Unfortunately,'' he says, ``the President obscures

the truth of the current conditions in Iraq. My personal experiences in

Iraq confirm statements made by numerous officers there, including

General John Abizaid, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, that the

insurgency shows no signs of weakening and its numbers continue to

grow. The Bush administration must first recognize this serious problem

in order to rectify it.''

``Denial,'' says this young Marine, ``is not the path to success. As

a Marine Corps Civil Affairs officer serving for 7 months in Ramadi, a

hotbed of the Iraqi insurgency, my job was to cultivate economic,

governmental and civil society development. This work was part of a

strategy to inculcate Iraqis with the desire and capacity to defeat the

insurgents themselves, allowing America's withdrawal.''

Then he concludes his e-mail with this sentence. ``The gap between

President Bush's rhetoric and the reality that I saw on the ground is

enormous.'' It is time for some truth telling from this President and

this administration. The American people can deal with the truth. But I

say to my friend from Hawaii (Mr. Abercrombie), the American people are

sick and tired of exaggerations, of distortions, of

mischaracterizations, of twisted and distorted intelligence.

The American people and young Americans like John Bocerri that I just

talked about earlier deserve to hear the truth from this President.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me to join him for these moments.

It is good to be back with my fellow colleagues as we talk about these

important issues.

Mr. Speaker, looking at this picture, it almost makes

me nauseated. What you are telling me is that Americans work hard, pay

their taxes, and this administration, knowing that this kind of

terrible torture and human rights abuses are occurring, still continues

to give our tax dollars to this leader simply because he is willing to

say he is our partner in the war in Iraq?

That is terribly, terribly disturbing, and I think it

does point out what you said earlier, a hypocrisy that discredits us in

the eyes of much of the world.