Mr. Speaker, on April 12 at Fort Hood, Texas, President

Bush told an audience of thousands of service members that, for the

first time, Iraqi soldiers outnumbered U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Specifically, he put the number of trained Iraqi forces at 150,000.

This rosy assessment of the situation in Iraq is shocking, not only

for its arrogance, but also for its ignorance. Is the President totally

oblivious of Iraq's true security failures, or is he misleading the

American people into thinking that peace has taken hold?

Either way, the President's assessment misleads the American people

about the true situation in Iraq. Take, for example, his claim that

150,000 Iraqi soldiers have been trained. Iraqi military leaders

actually reveal that the number of trained soldiers is closer to

75,000, about half of the President's estimate. But the actual number

of trained security personnel committed to a secure and democratic Iraq

is even less than that, because many soldiers use their posts to

assassinate political opponents. Others simply have no desire to help

secure Iraq.

The chief of police in Basra, General Hassan al-Sade, stated that at

least half of his 14,000-member militia are openly opposed to a secure

Iraq, and another quarter are politically neutral and do not follow his

military orders. General al-Sade recently told the Guardian newspaper,

``I trust 25 percent of my force, no more.''

After giving his Fort Hood speech, the President never again

mentioned that 150,000 Iraqi security personnel have been trained.

Perhaps that is because he realized that his assessment was entirely

inaccurate.

But the President never admitted to the American people that he was

wrong in this assessment, and he still has not told the American people

how he plans to help secure Iraq or how and when he plans to bring the

troops home.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to help secure Iraq and protect our troops

is to remove U.S. troops from the country. Nothing enrages and unites

Iraq's insurgency more than the presence of nearly 140,000 American

soldiers on Iraqi soil.

One option is to bring one American soldier home for every

trustworthy Iraqi soldier that has been trained. If 75,000 Iraqi

soldiers have been trained, half the President's April 12 assessment,

then why can we not remove the same number of our own soldiers?

This is just one plan to exit from Iraq. We have asked the President

to come up with his own plan for securing Iraq. I am not against

supporting the President's plan if it is a good one; but right now, he

does not even have a plan. So we will develop a plan of our own.

Fortunately, there is a plan that would secure America for the future

once we have cleaned up the mess we made in Iraq: SMART Security. SMART

is a Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism for the 21st

Century, and it will help us address the threats we face as a Nation.

SMART Security will prevent acts of terrorism in countries like Iraq

by addressing the very conditions which allow terrorism to take root:

poverty, despair, resource scarcity, lack of education, and economic

opportunities. SMART Security encourages the United States to work with

other nations to address the most pressing global issues. SMART

Security addresses global crises diplomatically instead of by resorting

to armed conflict. Efforts to help the Iraqi people must follow the

SMART approach: humanitarian assistance coordinated with our

international allies to rebuild Iraq's war-torn physical and economic

infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 2 years since the United States

started the war in Iraq. Do the American people, especially the

soldiers who are bravely serving our country halfway across the world,

not deserve a plan for ending the war? It is time for the President to

create a plan to end the war in Iraq to bring our troops home.