Mr. President, I am very concerned that the continuing

resolution does not adequately support our Armed Forces at this

critical time. Our military commanders tell me that the resolution

passed by the House of Representatives could deprive our bases of $3.1

billion of crucial Federal funding. I am particularly concerned about

the nearly $375 million of BRAC funding that is supposed to go to Fort

Leavenworth and Fort Riley. As a member of the Military Construction

Appropriations Subcommittee, I support the Hutchinson-Inhofe amendment

to reinstate the $3.1 billion for BRAC that will be lost in the current

version of the continuing resolution.

Several of Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth's projects are in jeopardy

unless full funding is restored, including: the Regional Correctional

Facility at Fort Leavenworth, the Battle Command Training Center at

Fort Riley, the Child Development Center at Fort Riley, Fort Riley's

Consolidated Soldier and Family Medical Clinic, Fort Riley runway

improvements, phase I of the Combat Aviation Brigade complex, and the

increment 2 of the First Division headquarters construction.

Unless we correct this problem in the continuing resolution, it will

have a domino effect on future BRAC funding, which will be detrimental

to our operations around the world. Fort Riley is a good example. First

Division soldiers from Fort Riley continue to deploy in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fort Riley trains the soldiers who will embed

with both Afghan and Iraqi forces. Right now, Fort Riley has enough

soldiers deployed overseas that it can manage base operations. But as

one Fort Riley official put it a few weeks ago, world peace is Fort

Riley's worst nightmare: if all the soldiers come home, there is no

place to house them all. We need to fund BRAC priorities to stay on

schedule and make sure the appropriations process in the Senate does

not adversely affect the ability of our Armed Forces to execute their

missions.

We cannot afford to play games with military construction funds. We

worked hard last year to write good legislation that funded key

priorities. That funding should be restored. All of us come to the

floor pledging to support the men and women of our Armed Forces. Our

promises of support will ring hollow if we fail to turn our words into

action. We need to restore full funding to military construction in

this continuing resolution.