

like that, this will work and we can make good progress.

The problem is, I think some are not desirous of us being successful. Everything that tends to work seems to be delayed and slowed down and undermined. If we move forward, we can send a message to the world that our National Guard is there, our troops are there, the Border Patrol has been increased, we are building barriers, and you are not going to get in easily anymore, so you better wait in line and come here lawfully, and the whole country will be better off. This amendment will be a big part of doing that.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. What is the pending amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sessions amendment is the pending amendment.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask that amendment be accepted by voice vote.

Mr. STEVENS. We agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3192) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. INOUE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3131

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I send to the desk an amendment in behalf of Senator STABENOW and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], for Ms. STABENOW, proposes an amendment numbered 3131.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make available from Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army, \$4,000,000 for the Virtual Systems Integrated Laboratory-Armored Vehicle Components and Systems Simulated In Cost-Effective Virtual Design and Test Environment)

At the end of title VIII, add the following:
SEC. 8107. Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by title IV under the heading "RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, ARMY", up to \$4,000,000 may be available for the Virtual Systems Integrated Laboratory-Armored Vehicle Components and Systems Simulated In Cost-Effective Virtual Design and Test Environment.

Mr. INOUE. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3131) was agreed to.

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAMS

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise to enter into a colloquy with my good friend, the Senior Senator from Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. INOUE, ranking member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator STEVENS, and my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, regarding the need for additional Stryker Brigade Combat Teams in our Army National Guard.

Mr. INOUE. I would be happy to discuss this important issue with the Senators from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH. Sir, we have all watched with pride the bravery of our men and women in uniform as they defend freedom around the world. We are particularly proud of the members of the National Guard, who fight side-by-side with active duty forces. These guardsmen and women deserve the same protection and equipment as the active force with which they stand shoulder to shoulder. In combat operations, the Stryker vehicle has performed exceptionally and proven itself to be a superior fighting vehicle that protects the precious lives of our servicemembers. I would like to express my strong support for our guardsmen and women and ask that the Army ensure that funding for additional Stryker vehicles with the intent of forming a second Stryker Bridge Combat Team for the National Guard figures prominently in immediate planning.

Mr. WYDEN. I would like to join my colleague from Oregon in recognizing the Guard soldiers who leave their community to fight for their country. And I agree that they deserve the best equipment available, including the Stryker vehicles. I think it is also important to point out that in the hands of the Guard the Stryker vehicles would also be used during domestic disaster situations as well as combat overseas. Our citizen soldiers deserve the same equipment as the active duty Army, and I too hope that the Army will see the wisdom of establishing a Stryker Brigade Combat Team for the National Guard.

Mr. INOUE. I thank the Senators from Oregon for unwavering support of our men and women in the Army National Guard. We all recognize and are deeply grateful for the service that the National Guard has provided in domestic disasters and international conflict. It is well-documented that the Stryker brigades have indeed performed exceptionally in Iraq. The House has added over \$1 billion for Strykers. Your and

your colleagues' views on Strykers for the Guard are noted and will be taken into consideration as we enter into conference.

Mr. STEVENS. I wish to echo my colleague's support for the men and women in the National Guard. I am extremely grateful for their service and dedication to our country. I reiterate my colleague's sentiment that we will take into consideration our colleague's views on a Stryker Brigade for the National Guard.

IMPROVED ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to express my support for a program sponsored by the U.S. Navy, which will significantly streamline the process for planning and executing repair and modernization of our submarine fleet at our naval shipyards. The Improved Engineering Design Process uses advanced 3-D digital scanning techniques to accurately capture the "as is" layout of specific ship spaces that will be impacted in the repair process. These digital 3-D images can then be easily shared to allow collaboration among our public shipyards to facilitate greater efficiency in planning and executing repairs and modernization. Because of the high operating tempo of our fleet, it is essential that we find ways to accomplish these repairs faster and return our submarines to operational readiness more quickly. I understand that implementation of this process in our public shipyards has the potential to produce annual savings of \$30 million. I ask the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee if he would agree such a program should be further developed and implemented as quickly as possible?

Mr. STEVENS. The project described by the Senator from Maine appears to have great merit. Savings of this magnitude are especially important at a time when our resources are stretched very thinly.

Ms. COLLINS. The distinguished ranking member makes a very important point regarding the need for pursuing initiatives of this kind so that our scarce dollars can go further. I understand that the Navy believes strongly in the merits of this program and has considered this program for inclusion in future budget requests. I encourage the Navy to not only include it in its budget request, but to also identify existing funds that may be applied to keeping this program moving forward. In addition, I ask the committee ranking member to join me in encouraging the Navy to continue supporting this critical program and, if possible, to identify potential fiscal year 2008 funds that could be made available as we finalize those budget deliberations. I thank the Senator for his interest in and support for this important initiative.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Senator from Maine for bringing this important program to my attention.