

### Iraq

I opposed President George W. Bush's decision to pre-emptively invade Iraq and continue to believe that this war was neither necessary nor justified. The war in Iraq has already cost thousands of American lives and many, many more thousands in total casualties. The total dollar cost to present and future U.S. taxpayers of waging war, providing security during the initially sectarian strife-filled and ongoing volatile aftermath, and our rebuilding efforts there was also staggering, measuring in the ten-figure range during a period when our deficit spending was far too high in total.

President Obama's term in the White House has been marked by the official end of the U.S. combat role in Iraq and both formal and informal agreements as well as plans to completely withdraw U.S. troops. The people of Iraq and their elected representatives must now make the political compromises necessary to provide for their own security, and the U.S. cannot continue to indefinitely bear the financial and military burden of promoting a sovereign nation's internal political security.

### Afghanistan

A decade of fighting in Afghanistan has failed to undo the extremist elements feeding recruits to al Qaeda and the Taliban, nor has it brought the stability to the region. Our military's continued presence may be doing as much to unite violent extremists in Afghanistan as it is doing to disarm or quell them. Thus, I support the safe and orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, and, with the death of Osama bin Laden, I believe it is more important than ever that we do so. We should halt our armed forces' offensive planning in Afghanistan and replace it with a plan to bring our soldiers home. I support the continuation of US development aid to Afghanistan through non-military organizations.

### Libya

I supported the initial short-term U.S. emergency military intervention, in conjunction with UN action and our NATO allies, to halt Moammar Gaddafi's mass assault on his own people. I also

support a limited, temporary NATO role to prevent Gaddafi's forces from continuing their massacre of civilians who oppose his stronghold on Libya.

### More Information

[The Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan Act, preventing any escalation by US forces in Afghanistan](#)

[Afghanistan Exit and Accountability Act, requiring a detailed, transparent and timely exit strategy for troops in Afghanistan](#)

[Letter to establish the Out of Afghanistan Caucus](#)