

Congress has the Constitutional duty to provide for our common defense and in an ever changing world that is constantly giving rise to new threats, this responsibility is as important as ever. We must maintain a strong Armed Forces and always provide our troops the funding and equipment they need to succeed in their missions. Now is also the time to bring our conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan to a responsible and successful conclusion, steered by the guidance of military commanders on the ground.

Ensuring our military personnel are equipped with the best resources, the finest training, and an adequate degree of flexibility to complete their missions is critically important to me. I am also committed to ensuring our active duty personnel, reservists and retirees continue to have access to the best health care and benefits possible.

In a period of enhanced fiscal scrutiny, it is also important that security strategies are conscious of costs. I am committed to strengthening America's defense and security infrastructure, while adhering to increased fiscal responsibility.

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