



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS

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BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS, NATO AMBASSADORS AND DEFENSE EXPERTS JOIN CSPC's CALL FOR A REMOBILIZED NATO ALLIANCE

Leaders Stress Need for Action and Reform to More Equitably Share the Burden in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, in anticipation of President Obama's State of the Union Address and the upcoming London Conference on Afghanistan, the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) released recommendations providing NATO with a strategy to maximize its contributions to effectively and to ably turn the tide against the extremist insurgency.

A successful refocusing of NATO would reinvigorate participation among Alliance members and bolster international security on multiple fronts. Such a shift would lead to more effective and successful management of the precarious campaign in Afghanistan and would also allow the Alliance to more effectively meet the new challenge of Pakistan and deal a blow to an increasingly interconnected Taliban and al-Qaeda. Joining the Center in rolling out these findings were Senators Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), former NATO Ambassadors Robert Hunter and Kurt Volker, and defense experts Ambassador James Dobbins, Bruce Riedel and W. Bruce Weinrod.

"NATO remains the most successful regional security alliance in history," said Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs. "Our special ties run deep and continue to underpin global security in today's world. If we are to meet the shared challenge and threat in Afghanistan and Pakistan, our Alliance will need to work together to marshal additional security, training, mentoring, and financial resources to take to the fight."

To successfully revitalize the international coalition, the CSPC initiative's recommendations include:

- Increased training capacity for developing Afghan military and police forces to provide security;
- Providing combat enablers and support forces such as ground and air tactical mobility units, intelligence and surveillance detachments, and medical support facilities to allow frontline troops to be fully capable;
- Civilian mentoring to help improve the legitimacy and efficacy of the Afghan government, while also combating corruption;
- Adjusting the Alliance's strategy to reflect the dynamic, ever-changing situation and to have a greater understanding that the enemy it faces is not based solely in Afghanistan.

"NATO was once the greatest Alliance in human history because it effectively used all the power at its disposal," said former NATO Ambassador David Abshire who is President of the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. "The NATO clock is out-of-sync with reality on the ground and further Americanization is not a sustainable course of action for success in Afghanistan. The much-needed increase of American resources must be matched by the Europeans."

The NATO mission in Afghanistan represents a crucial test of the Alliance in the post-Cold War world. Despite the significant threat posed to all NATO members by radical extremists, NATO's efforts have been hindered by discrepancies in commitment, domestic politics, caveats regarding troop actions, and by NATO's own structures and procedures. There is also concern that the Alliance's own internal processes are moving too slowly, and systemic reform will not come until fall 2010 at the earliest. Despite these challenges, "Mobilizing NATO for Afghanistan and Pakistan: Ensuring the Alliance's Future", identifies that while the current situation is challenging, NATO has changed course in the past and can do so again.

To access a PDF copy of "Mobilizing NATO for Afghanistan and Pakistan: Ensuring the Alliance's Future", please visit The Center's website: www.thepresidency.org.

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