



OUR VISION FOR A CONFIDENT AMERICA

A Better Way to Keep Us Safe and Free

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do we need a better way for national security and national policy?

A: Our nation's foreign policy is failing at nearly every turn. From refusing to enforce its red line in Syria, to legitimizing Iran's nuclear enrichment program, to its failed reset with Russia, to tolerating a more bellicose North Korean regime, to cavalierly dismissing the threat while the most dangerous terrorist organization in history emerged, the Obama administration has experimented with a new foreign policy concept—leading from behind—that can now be declared an unambiguous failure. There is a better way, and it starts with being uncompromising in defense of our country and our values.

Q: Does this plan lay out a clear strategy to defeat ISIS?

A: Yes. The plan lays out at least a dozen ideas for a clear strategy to defeat the terrorists—including keeping all military options on the table, countering extremist propaganda, assembling a broad international coalition, and shutting down terrorist ratlines to and from conflict zones.

Q: Does this report recommend putting troops into combat in Syria and/or Iraq?

A: This report calls on the president to develop a strategy to defeat ISIS, not just contain it. The fact is, there are already troops in “combat” in Iraq and Syria, but the president refuses to call it combat. This is irresponsible and it further demonstrates the lack of seriousness of the president's commitment to the fight. Decisions about troop deployments are ones that have to be made in the context of a real strategy from the commander-in-chief.

Q: How does this plan address immigration?

A: Our plan calls for developing the means to track illegal aliens within the United States. And it calls for detaining and removing criminal aliens and restoring overall immigration enforcement within the United States.

Q: Does this plan endorse the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement?

A: The report doesn't make a specific recommendation on any trade agreement. Instead, the report describes the kind of approach to trade that serves U.S. strategic goals.

Q: Does this report recommend ending sequestration?

A: Republicans are united in agreeing that the military should have the manpower, force structure, and resources it needs to successfully complete the missions it's assigned.

Q: Will this plan be turned into legislation?

A: The report is an agenda for the committees with jurisdiction over national security. Some of the actionable recommendations will involve committee oversight to ensure the executive branch acts, some recommendations will involve implementation of already passed laws (for example, the 2015 cybersecurity bill), and other will involve new legislation (for example, the annual defense authorization bill).

Q: What does the plan do about Iran?

A: This administration's decision to appease Iran with billions of dollars in sanctions relief was not only misguided, but downright dangerous. Even President Obama admits that Tehran will use this relief to fund terrorism against the West. Our plan calls for an end to this appeasement by imposing severe sanctions on the regime to punish its aggression towards the United States and our allies, and we should assert that America will keep all options on the table—including military force—to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. And finally, we will take strong action against Iran's terrorist proxies, including Hezbollah and Hamas, and prevent it from developing new ones.

Q: Why doesn't this plan include an AUMF against ISIS?

A: Republicans stand ready to assist whoever is president in defeating ISIS. The president's job is to first submit a comprehensive strategy to winning this fight, but President Obama has failed to do so. His proposed AUMF would severely constrain future administrations from taking all necessary steps to defeat ISIS. Hopefully, our next president takes these threats more seriously.