

*We have been working that way with renewed vigor from the moment we took office.*

work with every patriot who is committed to our nation's defense. But I will not work with those who distort the truth, and use threats to our security as a way to score political points.

As Commander-in-Chief, I don't need any lectures about the fact that we are at war with al Qaeda. Already, we have strengthened partnerships from South Asia to the Pacific, from Africa to the Arabian Peninsula. We are applying relentless pressure. And in the last year, more than half of al Qaeda's leadership has been captured or killed – far more than in the previous year.

*reference Hillary*

In Afghanistan, we are deploying the troops necessary to target the Taliban and train Afghan Security Forces, so that they can begin to take the lead next July. Our assistance will reward good governance, reduce corruption, and support the rights of all Afghans – men and women. We are joined by allies who have increased their own commitment, and who will come together in London tomorrow to support this effort. There will be difficult days ahead. But we will do what it takes to defend our people. And tonight, every American serving in harm's way must know that they will always have the resources they need, as well as the respect, gratitude, and full support of every American. You and your families have set a standard for responsibility through a decade when so many institutions let us down – and we are honored by your service.

As we take the fight to al Qaeda, we are responsibly reducing our presence in Iraq. As a candidate, I promised that I would end this war, and that is exactly what I am doing as President. By the end of August, we will have all of our combat brigades out of Iraq. We are supporting the Iraqi people as they hold elections this year, and we will continue to stand as a partner with the Iraqi people. But make no mistake: after seven years of fighting, this war will end.

We are also confronting the greatest danger to the American people – the spread of nuclear weapons. That is why I have embraced the vision advanced by John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan – a strategy that reverses the spread of these weapons, and seeks a world without them. After a year of steady diplomacy, we are ready to show real results.

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that the United States and Russia have agreed on the farthest-reaching arms control treaty in twenty years. This landmark agreement will substantially reduce our stockpiles and launchers, while ensuring our deterrent, and I look forward to working with the Senate to see that it is ratified. We will sign this agreement in advance of April's Nuclear Security Summit here in Washington that will bring forty-three nations together behind a clear goal: we will secure all loose nuclear materials around the world in four years, so that they never fall into the hands of terrorists.

We will also stand up to nations that pursue nuclear weapons. That includes the Islamic Republic of Iran. For years, Iran's leaders have ignored their international obligations. And yet Iran was resurgent in the region and the international community was divided. After a year of American engagement alongside our partners, Iran is isolated in the region and the international community is united. Moreover, we have made it clear to the Iranian people that it is their own government – not the United States – that stands in the way of their aspirations for universal rights at home, and better relations with the world. Our message is clear and it will not change: If Iran's leaders continue to ignore their obligations, we will work with other nations to hold them accountable through deeper isolation, and stronger sanctions.

*Mention veteran's fund is here, as part of separate paragraph – we didn't just talk the talk, we walked the walk.*

*the change course, they can be full members of international community.*