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Hoekstra Statement on Strategy for Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *U.S. Rep Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, issued the following statement after President Obama announced the administration’s strategy for Afghanistan:*

“The plan unveiled today is an evolution of the existing strategy that puts more emphasis on civil reconstruction and training.

“For some time, I have advocated greater civil engagement in Afghanistan as I did Iraq. In addition to military forces to achieve success, we need to foster conditions for the long-term viability of Afghanistan as a nation. It was the civil war and breakdown in governance that allowed the Taliban to claim power and turn the country into an al-Qaeda training ground, and I welcome the administration’s focus on building the civil infrastructure. I also welcome its support for the Reconstruction Opportunity Zone bill for Afghanistan and Pakistan that I have sponsored with Congressmen Van Hollen, Kirk and Levin.

“As the administration moves forward on the strategy, we must focus from the beginning on getting it right. We need to ensure that we have the troops and intelligence support necessary to get the job done. We also need our NATO allies to engage fully in the fight, something the previous administration and this one both have rightly focused on. We do not want to get into a situation where several months down the line, we are forced to expend more troops and treasure because political considerations overruled those on the ground.”