



## Time to end involvement in Afghanistan

**By The Flint Journal**

December 11, 2009, 11:44AM

**Voice: Michael D. McManaman, Davison**

When are we going to stand up and say enough is enough? Obama has just ordered 30,000 more of our young people into combat, fighting a war in which the best we can hope for is a draw. There is no way to win a war in the Middle East. Focusing on the undeclared war in Afghanistan (Congress is the only body of government able to declare war and that never happened), our presence there has neither made the country safer nor slowed the recruitment of young Muslims into terrorist organizations.

In fact, the U.S. occupancy has served as a recruitment tool and has done the complete opposite of the intended consequence. Thousands of civilians still die every year, centralized government is still corrupt and ineffective, and our troops still have no idea who exactly they are fighting. In the most generous estimates by U.S. intelligence, there are only 100 al Qaida members in Afghanistan. We're going to risk the lives of 30,000 more troops to fight 100 terrorists? We can focus on simply the loss of human life as a justification for ending this conflict, but we also could look at the tremendous cost of the war. The White House estimates each soldier costs \$1,000,000 to station overseas. Can we really afford this in times like these? Wouldn't it be more effective to bring soldiers home, pay for their college tuition, and still have close to \$900,000 left to create some well-paying, middle-class jobs?

Not only are liberal groups speaking out against the war, but even conservative groups like the Cato Institute are opposed. So the real question is when are we going to wake up and say enough is enough?

© 2009 MLive.com. All rights reserved.