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#### Driving the Conversation:

**"If we know that the commanding general has recommended more troops to win in Afghanistan, if we know that time is of the essence, then why are we having this big public debate about it?"-Jon Kyl**

### In the [Health Care Arena](#), Jindal's conservative option

**Oct. 5, 2009**

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**David Boaz**, Executive VP, Cato Institute:

**Senator Kyl needs to read the Constitution.** Generals don't make foreign policy. Generals don't decide if America has a mission in Afghanistan, or what that mission is. Generals can provide our political leaders with very useful advice about military aspects of foreign policy, including the resources that would be required to bring about a desired end. But we're having this big debate because our political leaders need to decide if America still has a mission in Afghanistan, and if the costs of achieving it are worth it.

Furthermore, I agree with [Bruce Ackerman's op-ed](#) in the Washington Post It is outrageous for General McChrystal to publicly pressure the president on Afghanistan strategy. Generals should give their advice to the president in private. They should not engage in public debate. Conservatives would be outraged if a general had publicly announced -- in a speech in Europe -- that President Bush needed to change his strategy in Iraq. They should have the same attitude now, even if they agree with McChrystal's argument.

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