

there are signs that the Taliban may be interested in figuring out a political settlement, which ultimately is going to be critical for consolidating that country.

It's also because of you that we had the platform to be able to go after bin Laden and Al Qaida. And we have decimated their ranks. Al Qaida leadership, half of them have been killed, and most of them are now on the run, and they can't operate as effectively as they could.

And so as I look around this room, I suspect that some of you joined the military after 9/11 because you had seen fellow Americans suffer at the hands of bin Laden. And when we got them—when we got him, and as we keep on driving to get the rest of them, it's because of the work and the sacrifice that you guys have made.

Now, the 10th Mountain and the 1st Brigade, you guys have sacrificed mightily. I know that you got 11 fallen soldiers just out of this group right here, and I think about 270 all told since 9/11.

We will never forget their sacrifice. And the reason that, I know, many of you continue to do the outstanding work that you do is not only love of country, but it's also love for each other and your commitment to making sure that those sacrifices were not in vain.

So the main message I have for all of you here today is that the American people understand the sacrifices you're making, they understand the sacrifices that your families are making. Our job is not finished.

If you looked at the schedule that I set forth, we're only bringing out 10,000 by the end of this year. We're going to bring out all 33,000

that we surged by next summer. But there's still some fighting to be done. And then we're still going to have 68,000. And frankly, the 10th Mountain Division is still going to be represented there until we have fully transferred to the Afghan military and security forces.

But I hope that all of you can both take pride in what you've done over the past years, but also understand that there's a future there that is brighter not only for the Afghan people, but for—most importantly, for American security. And you guys are the tip of the spear. You guys are the ones that keep us safe each and every day.

So for all the sacrifices that you've made, I want to say thank you. For all the sacrifices that your families have made, I want to say thank you. I have no greater job, nothing gives me more honor, than serving as your Commander in Chief. And to all of you who are potentially going to be redeployed, just know that your Commander in Chief has your back.

So thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. "Climb to Glory." Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade dining facility. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Willard M. Burleson, USA, commander, and CSM Dennis E. Defreese, USA, command sergeant major, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division; and CSM Terry E. Parham, Sr., USA, post command sergeant major, Fort Drum. He also referred to SFC Jared C. Monti, USA, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on September 17, 2009.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to North Korea

June 23, 2011

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency un-

less, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance

with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The existence and the risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and ex-

traordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to these threats and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 23, 2011.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans *June 23, 2011*

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622 (d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton accords in Bosnia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, or the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in Macedonia,

that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 23, 2011.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.