

## issues - foreign policy and defense

### Foreign Policy

#### Iraq

Louise has opposed the Iraq war from the start, and is fighting to bring our troops home. To remain in Iraq policing a civil war will not create a stable Iraq nor keep our nation secure. Our military has done all it can and it is long-past time to bring our troops home. Unfortunately, the President has chosen to increase the number of troops in Iraq, a losing strategy that directly contradicts the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group and top military experts.

Louise and the Democratic Congress are committed to bringing the war to an end. The House took the first critical step on February 16, 2007 by passing a resolution that expressed disapproval of the President's troop escalation strategy. The House also passed H.R. 4156, the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act. This bill would have appropriated \$50 billion to further fund the Iraq War, but clearly states that the purpose of funds should be to transition the mission of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq and undertake their redeployment, and not to extend or prolong the war. It also would have set a timetable for withdrawal, commencing 30 days after the enactment of the bill, with full troop withdrawal to be completed by December 15, 2008. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to gain the 60 votes necessary to close debate and move to a vote on the bill.

Louise is proud to cosponsor H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act. This bill would require the Secretary of Defense to begin reducing the number of troops in Iraq to a limited presence by April 1, 2008. H.R. 2956 passed the House on July 12, 2007 by a vote of 223&ndash;201, but the Senate has failed to act on it.

Additionally, on July 25 2007,

the House passed H.R. 2929, Banning Permanent U.S. Bases in Iraq. This bill states that it is the policy of the United States not to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing a permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq. It also states that it is the policy of the United States not to exercise U.S. control of the oil resources of Iraq. Louise was proud to support this bill.

Louise also was proud to support an amendment to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, which would have taken several steps to control the war in Iraq. This amendment included provisions that troops begin to be redeployed from Iraq starting in December 2009, and that any agreement committing U.S. troops to Iraq be authorized by Congress. It further required that any American funding for reconstruction in Iraq be matched by the Iraqi government, and banned the establishment of permanent bases in Iraq. It passed the House on May 15, 2008, by a vote of 227-196.

Unfortunately, on June 19, 2008, the House passed a newer amendment to H.R. 2642, which provides \$165.4 billion to support ongoing operations related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and does not issue a timeline for troop withdrawal. This amendment passed the House by a vote of 268-155, and was signed into law on June 30, 2008.

Louise is very frustrated that a number of her colleagues, predominantly Republicans, continue to support the President's Iraq policy and block efforts to end the war. She will continue to work with like-minded colleagues to withdraw U.S. troops as early as possible.

## Europe

Louise is a long-time member of the Organization on Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, also known as the Helsinki Commission. The OSCE is an independent U.S. Government agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments. The Commission contributes to the formulation of U.S. policy on the OSCE and takes part in its execution, including through Member and staff participation on U.S. Delegations to OSCE meetings and in certain OSCE bodies. Louise works with OSCE members to address and assess democratic, economic, and human rights developments in the OSCE region.

## Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

In 2005, Louise and the WNY Congressional Delegation fought successfully to keep the Niagara airbase off the BRAC closure list. The men and women serving in the 914th Air Reserve and 107th Air Guard units have valiantly defended the United States, and Louise is honored to do her part to make sure the Niagara airbase remains a vital part of our community and national defense.

Since BRAC, Louise has turned her focus to expanding the Niagara airbase.

In November 2006, Louise brought then-Undersecretary of the Army, Pete Geren (now the Secretary of the Army) to Niagara for a tour. The Undersecretary and Louise jointly announced that the Army would include \$27 million in the President's FY 2008 budget for a new Armed Forces Regional Readiness Center. This funding was recently allocated as part of the Omnibus appropriations bill signed into law by the President in December. The Readiness Center will relocate a number of Army units currently scattered around Western New York to the base. The Army will begin construction on the facility in January and complete it no later than January 2010.

In addition, Louise secured language in the 2008 Defense Authorization bill directing the Air Force to plan for a new \$7 million dining hall at Niagara in their next five-year defense plan.

Finally, BRAC mandated that the 107th's airplanes leave Niagara beginning in 2008, and be replaced with different airplanes down the line. To make certain that Niagara has the planes needed to complete their missions, Louise is working diligently with the Air Force and New York State to bring new planes to Niagara as soon as possible. In October, the Chief of Staff for the Air Force, General Michael Moseley, announced the transfer of the four C-130 planes to the Niagara airbase for purposes of the Association between the 914th and 107th. The Niagara airbase is expected to have all four planes by April 2008. Moreover, Louise got an amendment attached to the 2008 Defense Authorization bill that requires the Secretary of the Air Force to map-out a long term plan for aviation assets at Niagara no later than March 1, 2008.