

Position on Israel

After having operated in the Middle East for many years as a US Marine, I see and appreciate the unique security requirements of our closest ally in the region, Israel.

Having been a part of the close military and intelligence collaboration and bond between the US and Israel during my career, I fully believe the continued security of Israel and its people are essential and are in the United States' interest, and I believe a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fundamental to Israel's security. I believe that it is up to the Israelis and the Palestinians to come together to achieve peace, but feel that the United States should be involved in efforts to achieve that goal given our long standing connections with both sides and our vested interest in the region.

Position Iran and the Middle East

Iran and its Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps continue to be the largest destabilizing influence in the Middle East today. Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon would pose a serious threat to Israel, to American interests, and to the peace and security of the entire Middle East.

I believe the United States must have a strategy for beginning negotiations with Iran that would lead to an improved JCPOA/nuclear deal, perhaps one with indefinite time duration, rather than the 8-10 years the Obama team negotiated for most of the 2015 deal's provisions.

Anti-Semitism:

There is no place for anti-semitism in the America that I fought for, or in the America that I want my children to grow up in. We know that the number of the anti-Semitic attacks have risen the last several years, and we know that this hatred fueled such atrocities as the Tree of Life Shooting. My heart goes out to the victims of these attacks and their families. No one should fear for their safety and the safety of their loved ones because of their religion or ethnic background. That's not what this country stands for or should be. I'm committed to doing everything I can to denounce these acts and make sure this type of behavior does not take place in our country.

I will never forget visiting Yad Vashem when I spent a summer leading a group of cadets and midshipmen around Israel with the IDF. Seeing that and then standing with Lexington's Jewish community after the Tree of Life shooting are constant reminders to me that calling out and fighting anti-Semitism (along with other forms of hatred) is something we must do at home and abroad with a clear conscience every day.

Foreign Policy Broadly:

As a lifelong Marine, I believe our national security has to be tied to our values here and abroad. We must strive to be the champion of democratic movements, human rights (including women's rights), justice, equality, opportunity, and the freedoms of speech, religion, and the press.

Even though we always have to be concerned about hard power, every major national security threat we have had in the 21st Century has been non-traditional. 9/11 required a military response, but was also largely about intelligence and homeland security. Climate change is creating challenges everywhere. And now, COVID-19 has forced our society to stop entirely and left over 100,000 Americans dead.

If the Pentagon is going to have a roughly \$700 billion budget, it needs to be prepared to tackle a range of threats, not just ones that require guns. We probably need to spend more money on hospital beds and PPE and less on helicopter gunships. We need to think about what we are spending on the CDC and infrastructure as a part of our national security now, too.

Our failure to be prepared for non-traditional scenarios has led to, for the first time in about a century, other countries not looking to the U.S. for leadership during a global crisis during this pandemic. I believe we have to earn that trust back and show our allies we are there for them because I believe in American leadership, and without our allies, it becomes a lot harder to exercise it.

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