

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
OUR MILITARY
IN THE MIDEAST:
WHAT'S THE POINT?

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 24, 2014



Here's what provoked me:

There was a newspaper opinion piece and supportive follow-up editorial letters that seemed to ignore the possible reasons for military actions in the Mideast against the terrorist ISIL and Khorasan military forces.

Here's my response 😊:

Our Military in the Mideast: What's the Point?

Thomas Friedman has something to say on September 18 in "Is the Islamic State really a problem for the United States?" His premise is that the existential struggle taking place in the Arab world today is not ours, but theirs. He discounts our "exaggerated fears" and implies that we are really trying to be the hero in the struggle between regional powers in the Muslim world.

Then along came Bob Adomaitis on September 22 in "This efforts looks like Obama's folly." He agrees with Friedman that we are pointlessly expanding our Mideast role in an attempt to make a difference in the "perpetual blood feuds," and that we should let the "Mideast fight it out among themselves."

Both Friedman and Adomaitis seem to feel that we are involved in the Mideast primarily to save the fighting parties from themselves.

I see this in much more simplistic terms. We, the most influential and powerful country on earth, are there to save our own "backsides" from developing ISIL and Khorasan forces dedicated to our demoralization in the short term, and destruction in the long term. Foolish premise you say? Witness the 9-11-01 events to disprove that theory. These evil elements are capable of pulling it off!

There is a face of evil in this world and the United States is the prime target. We must not deny the potential disastrous outcomes. We must deal aggressively with these very real threats to our freedom!