*"Our soldiers and the people of Afghanistan cannot afford to wait any longer"*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement, urging President Obama to act decisively in fully resourcing a counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan:

**"President Obama faces a choice of whether to adequately equip the military in Afghanistan or lose the war to defeat al Qaeda and the Taliban.**

**"General Stanley McChrystal, who was brought on to implement the counterinsurgency strategy the President himself endorsed in March, has made clear the additional resources he needs to get the job done.**

**"If we fail in Afghanistan, we risk the country returning to a training ground for al-Qaeda, with increasing instability spilling into a nuclear-armed Pakistan, and it will be only a matter of time before the United States would face the consequences.**

**"The sooner we get moving on the counterinsurgency strategy the better. Our soldiers and the people of Afghanistan cannot afford to wait any longer. Now is not the time to relinquish hard-fought, blood-bought gains in this critical front in the war on terror; now is the time for the President to act decisively to win the war in Afghanistan."**