Last week, as Americans and the world absorbed the news that Osama bin Laden had been brought to justice, I traveled to Iraq to visit our troops and then to Israel to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu. This was my ninth visit to join U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The purpose of this particular visit was to assess the status of U.S. forces in Iraq (who are scheduled to redeploy by the end of the year); to support the work our troops continue to do; and to understand Israel's perspective as momentous shifts occur throughout the Middle East.

While the Iraqi government remains in transition, now more than ever we must support our troops and ensure that they have the tools they need for success.

For more pictures from my trip, click here . And for more information on my trip to the Middle East, please visit http://israel.house.gov.