

# Why Can't We End the War?

Source: "Families Bear Brunt of Deployment Strains" by James Dao and Catrin Einhorn, the New York Times, 12/31/10.



A boy in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in DC, 10/02/10

Last September when time was up for Sergeant Brian Eisch, a single father, to return back to Afghanistan from his mid-tour leave, his 12-year-old son Isaac asked him:

**“Why can’t we just, like, end the war?”**

As they waited at the airport, “Be safe,” Isaac implored his father over and over.

Sergeant Eisch and his sons Isaac and Joey clung to each other. “I’m going to have to drink like a gallon of water to replenish these tears,” the sergeant said.

Young Isaac, calm on the outside, was nervous on the inside. **“It’s pretty hard worrying if he’ll come back safe,”** Isaac said. **“I think about it like 10 or more times a day.”**

Just weeks after returning to Afghanistan, Sergeant Eisch was hit by machine gun fire in both legs. After learning this terrible news, Isaac was found in his bedroom weeping quietly while looking at a photograph showing his father outside his tent, holding a rifle.

Isaac is just one example of the millions of military family members who have borne the brunt of the psychological and emotional strain of deployments.

Thousands of miles away, the entire nation of Afghan men, women and children have been suffering from this senseless war. For more than 9 years, life has become a living hell for the people of Afghanistan who did nothing wrong and posed no threat to the U.S.

**While oil companies recently celebrated the signing of an agreement on building a pipeline (called TAPI) passing through Afghanistan, the two peoples, both Afghans and Americans, are shouldering the costs of the war in blood and treasure.**

**How would you answer Isaac’s question: “Why can’t we just, like, end the war?”**



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