



US Official Resigns in Protest over Afghan War

Source: "US Official Resigns in Protest over Afghan War" Karen DeYoung, The Washington Post, October 27, 2009



Matthew Hoh (photo by Gerald Martineau, The Washington Post)

**“My resignation is based NOT upon how we are pursuing this war, but why and to what end.”
- Matthew Hoh**

Matthew Hoh, a former Marine Corps captain with combat experience in Iraq, had also served in uniform at the Pentagon, and as a civilian in Iraq and at the State Department. By July, he was the senior U.S. civilian in Zabul province, a Taliban hotbed in Afghanistan.

How did Hoh turn from Marine, reconstruction expert and diplomat into war protester?

“I have doubts and reservations about our current strategy and planned future strategy, **but my resignation is based NOT upon how we are pursuing this war, but why and to what end,**” Hoh wrote Sept. 10 in a four-page letter to the State Department's head of personnel.

Korengal and other areas in Afghanistan, he said, taught him **“how localized the insurgency was. I didn't realize that a group in this valley here has no connection with an insurgent group two kilometers away.”** Hundreds, maybe thousands, of **groups across Afghanistan had few ideological ties to the Taliban but took its money to fight the foreign intruders and maintain their own local power bases.**

“That's really what kind of shook me,” he said. “I thought it was more nationalistic. But it's localism. I would call it valley-ism.”

As the White House deliberates over whether to deploy more troops, Hoh said he decided to speak out publicly because “I want people in Iowa, people in Arkansas, people in Arizona, to call their congressman and say, 'Listen, I don't think this is right.'” Call our Congress persons: Eliot Engel: (845) 735-1000; Nita Lowey: (845) 639-3485; John Hall: (845) 291-4100.

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