

Set 1: spend, billion, defens, propos, dollar, budget, prioriti, cut

Set 2: energi, coal, gas, oil, clean, land, technolog, wind

Set 3: militari, world, nation, forc, peac, mission, around, troop

Set 4: thank, togeth, hope, trust, promis, futur, elect, opportun

AUDIENCE Mr. Vice President, today our military forces are stretched thinner and doing more than they have ever done before during peacetime. I would like to know what you are — I think we would all like to know what you as president would do to ensure proper resourcing for the current mission and/or more selectively choosing the time and place that our forces will be used around the world.

AL GORE Thank you, sir. Just to finish briefly, I started to say that for the last eight years Ive been on the National Security Council. Last week I broke up — I suspended campaigning for two days, or parts of two days, to go back and participate in the meetings that charted the Presidents summit meeting that he just returned from earlier today. And our team of — our countrys team over there did a great job. Its a difficult situation. The United States has to be strong in order to make sure that we can help promote peace and security and stability. And that means keeping our military strong. Now, I said earlier that we are the strongest military, but we need to continue improving readiness and making sure that our military personnel are adequately paid and that the combination of their pay and their benefits and their retirement as veterans is comparable to the stiff competition thats coming in this strong economy from the private sector. And I have supported the largest pay raise in many a year, and I support another one now. I also support modernization of our strategic and tactical weaponry. The governor has proposed skipping a generation of technology. I think that would be a mistake, because I think one of the ways weve been able to be so successful in Kosovo and Bosnia and Haiti and in other places is by having the technological edge. You know, we won that conflict in Kosovo without losing a single human life in combat, a single American life in combat. Now, readiness. The trends before we — before I got my current job were on the decline, the number of divisions were reduced. I argued that we should reverse that trend and take it back up. And Im happy to tell you that we have. Now, in my budget for the next ten years I propose \$100 billion for this purpose. The governor proposes \$45 billion. I propose more than twice as much because I think its needed.

MODERATOR Governor Bush, two minutes.

GEORGE W. BUSH If this were a spending contest, I would come in second. I readily admit Im not going to grow the size of the federal government like he is. Your question was deployment. It must be in the national interests, must be in our vital interests whether we ever send troops. The mission must be clear. Soldiers must understand why were going. The force must be strong enough so that the mission can be accomplished. And the exit strategy needs to be well- defined. Im concerned that were overdeployed around the world. See, I think the mission has somewhat become fuzzy. Should I be fortunate enough to earn your confidence, the mission of the United States military will be to be prepared and ready to fight and win war. And therefore prevent war from happening in the first place. There may be

some moments when we use our troops as peacekeepers, but not often. The Vice President mentioned my view of long- term for the military. I want to make sure the equipment for our military is the best it can possibly be, of course. But we have an opportunity — we have an opportunity to use our research and development capacities, the great technology of the United States, to make our military lighter, harder to find, more lethal. We have an opportunity, really, if you think about it, if we're smart and have got a strategic vision and a leader who understands strategic planning, to make sure that we change the terms of the battlefield of the future so we can keep the peace. This is a peaceful nation, and I intend to keep the peace. Spending money is one thing. But spending money without a strategic plan can oftentimes be wasted. First thing I'm going to do is ask the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan so we are making sure we're not spending our money on political projects, but on projects to make sure our soldiers are well- paid, well- housed, and have the best equipment in the world.