

Text 1

MCCAIN: I – I don't think that Senator Obama understands that there was a failed state in Pakistan when Musharraf came to power Everybody who was around then, and had been there, and knew about it knew that it was a failed state But let me tell you, you know, this business about bombing Iran and all that, let me tell you my record Back in 1983, when I was a brand-new United States congressman, the one – the person I admired the most and still admire the most, Ronald Reagan, wanted to send Marines into Lebanon And I saw that, and I saw the situation, and I stood up, and I voted against that, because I was afraid that they couldn't make peace in a place where 300 or 400 or several hundred Marines would make a difference Tragically, I was right: Nearly 300 Marines lost their lives in the bombing of the barracks And then we had Somalia – then we had the first Gulf War I supported – I supported that I supported us going into Bosnia, when a number of my own party and colleagues was against that operation in Bosnia That was the right thing to do, to stop genocide and to preserve what was necessary inside of Europe I supported what we did in Kosovo I supported it because ethnic cleansing and genocide was taking place there And I have a record – and Somalia, I opposed that we should turn – turn the force in Somalia from a peacekeeping force into a peacemaking force, which they were not capable of So I have a record I have a record of being involved in these national security issues, which involve the highest responsibility and the toughest decisions that any president can make, and that is to send our young men and women into harm's way Senator McCain, I want you to do me the honor of wearing a bracelet with my son's name on it He was 22 years old and he was killed in combat outside of Baghdad, Matthew Stanley, before Christmas last year This was last August, a year ago I will – I will wear his bracelet with honor And this was August, a year ago But, Senator McCain, I want you to do everything – promise me one thing, that you'll do everything in your power to make sure that my son's death was not in vain That means that that mission succeeds, just like those young people who re-enlisted in Baghdad, just like the mother I met at the airport the other day whose son was killed And they all say to me that we don't want defeat MCCAIN: A war that I was in, where we had an Army, that it wasn't through any fault of their own, but they were defeated And I know how hard it is for that – for an Army and a military to recover from that And it did and we will win this one and we won't come home in defeat and dishonor and probably have to go back if we fail

OBAMA: Jim, let me just make a point I've got a bracelet, too, from Sergeant - from the mother of Sergeant Ryan David Jopeak, sure another mother is not going through what I'm going through No US soldier ever dies in vain because they're carrying out the missions of their commander in chief And we honor all the service that they've provided Our troops have performed brilliantly The question is for the next president, are we making good judgments about how to keep America safe precisely because sending our military into battle is such an enormous step and Senator McCain, nobody is talking about defeat in Iraq, we took our eye off the folks who perpetrated 9/11, they are still sending out videotapes but I have to say we are having enormous problems in Afghanistan because of that decision And the point that I originally made is that we took our eye off Afghanistan, And it is not true you have consistently been concerned about what happened in Afghanistan Afghanistan You don't muddle through the central front on terror and you don't muddle through going after bin Laden You don't muddle through stamping out the Taliban I think that is something we

have to take seriously And when I'm president, I will

LEHRER: New

MCCAIN: You might think that with that kind of concern that Senator Obama would have gone to Afghanistan, particularly given his responsibilities as a subcommittee chairman By the way, when I'm subcommittee chairman, we take up the issues under my subcommittee But the important thing is – the important thing is I visited Afghanistan and I traveled to Waziristan and I traveled to these places and I know what our security requirements are I know what our needs are but we need the new strategy and we need it to succeed So the point is that we will prevail in Afghanistan, But the important thing is, if we suffer defeat in Iraq, which General Petraeus predicts we will, if we adopted Senator Obama's set date for withdrawal, then that will have a calamitous effect in Afghanistan and American national security inter Senator Obama doesn't seem to understand there is a connected between the two