



# GOP candidates fail to articulate novel counterterrorist strategy

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When it comes to addressing the threat from ISIS, none of the candidates proved up to the task at last night's GOP debate. All we heard were different versions of deploying our soldiers into the Middle East or Africa.

I might be in the minority on the right, but I just don't believe we will defeat ISIS, al Qaeda, or any other terrorist group by getting involved in a counterinsurgency war. We absolutely must do what we can to destabilize any possible base of operation that allows them to plan and direct a terrorist attack against the United States.



[http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/RTS97MV\\_gop\\_debate\\_march3-e1457103660257.jpg](http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/RTS97MV_gop_debate_march3-e1457103660257.jpg)

Republican . presidential candidate at the debate in Detroit,

Michigan, March 3, 2016. REUTERS/Jim Young.

That said, [as I noted here](https://www.aei.org/publication/seeing-around-the-corner-is-key-to-fighting-terrorist-threat/) (<https://www.aei.org/publication/seeing-around-the-corner-is-key-to-fighting-terrorist-threat/>), we must begin to “look around the corner” at what will come after ISIS and how our actions now can shape a future in which the threat from Islamic jihadists is greatly reduced. We’ve been putting American soldiers in and pulling them out of the Middle East since 1983, yet the threat has only gotten bigger after each withdrawal.

I for one would love a presidential candidate who recognized that history and who could articulate a plan to lance that boil once and for all.

This article was found online at:

<http://www.aei.org/publication/gop-candidates-fail-to-articulate-novel-counterterrorist-strategy/>