

83.4B sought for anti-terrorist efforts

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. President Barack Obama requested an \$83.4 billion supplemental appropriation for anti-terrorist efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"We face a security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan that demands urgent attention," Obama said in a letter sent Thursday to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "The Taliban is resurgent, and al-Qaida threatens America from its safe haven along the Afghan-Pakistan border."

Nearly 95 percent of the funds would be used for military personnel "as they help the people of Iraq to take responsibility for their own future -- and work to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaida in Pakistan and Afghanistan," Obama wrote. Funding would be directed to diplomatic and civilian efforts as well.

The supplemental funds also would help create political and economic stability in Iraq through governance, reconstruction and humanitarian relief programs, Obama said.

"This request reflects the reality of our day and age: We need to use all the elements of our power -- economic and diplomatic as well as military -- to confront threats to our security," Obama wrote.

It also seeks funding to provide wounded service personnel and would provide additional compensation to troops, the letter said.

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