



Special Report with Bret Baier

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BAIER: The American military's current involvement in Libya continues to be the subject of much debate on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue and beyond. White House correspondent Mike Emanuel reports today one very interested party weighed in.
(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MIKE EMANUEL, FOX NEWS WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): In an audio message, a defiant Moammar Gadhafi told supporters the NATO alliance will be defeated. While in Washington, the operation in Libya is still under fire with House Speaker John Boehner demanding answers today. Still, the White House plans to stay the course.

JAY CARNEY, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: We're obviously not changing our position. NATO extended the mission a number of weeks by 90 days. We are participants in the NATO mission and our position is very well known.

EMANUEL: But the administration is being challenged on that position from the left. At the liberal Netroots gathering, White House Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer was grilled by a blogger worried this is the start of another long war.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So you're saying that you're guaranteeing us that this is not going to become a bigger war?

DAN PFEIFFER, WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS DIR: The president made that guarantee when he put our troops in. Absolutely.

EMANUEL: And about the use of force without congressional approval.

PFEIFFER: What you should be able to do is be involved in limited supporting roles in military conflicts like this one, where there are no U.S. troops on the ground.

EMANUEL: Even the president's close ally in the Senate, Dick Durbin, says an offensive operation like Libya requires congressional approval and has offered an authorization that would limit the mission until the end of this year.

DICK DURBIN (D-IL), SENATE MAJORITY WHIP: We have a limited commitment. No ground forces. And under our resolution, a limited period of time for those -- the current involvement to continue.

EMANUEL: But constitutional law experts say by Sunday, Mr. Obama will be in violation of the War Powers Act because Congress has not given authorization when the mission hits the 90-day mark.

MASON CLUTTER, THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT: Any House resolution or Senate resolution or any sense of the House or the Senate that is not done in a bicameral fashion and presented to the president for his signature is merely just a strong political statement but does not have any legal binding effect.
(END VIDEOTAPE)

EMANUEL: White House officials have argued they do not need to provide Speaker Boehner with further justification for the operation in Libya. Late today, a spokesman for Boehner said Congress will consider all options available to hold the president to his obligations to the American people, lawmakers and the laws of the nation -- Bret.

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