

FAREED'S BRIEFING BOOK

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GENERAL PETRAEUS



David Petraeus

General David Howell Petraeus, is the 10th and current Commander, U.S. Central Command. He assumed command in October 2008, after serving for over 19 months as the Commanding General of the Multi-National Force-Iraq. Prior to that, he was in charge of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth.

Petraeus was born in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York to an American mother and a Dutch sea

captain father. In 1974, he graduated in the top 5% of his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 1983, Petraeus earned the General George C. Marshall Award as the top graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Class of 1983 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Later he earned a M.P.A. in 1985 and a Ph.D. in international relations in 1987 from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the lessons of Vietnam.

From 1994-1995, Petraeus completed a military fellowship at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. He was also assigned to the UN Mission in Haiti Military Staff as its Chief Operations Officer during Operation Uphold Democracy. In 2001, Petraeus was selected for promotion to Major General and served a ten-month tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of Operation Joint Forge.

Petraeus's first time in battle was when U.S. forces invaded Iraq in March 2003, when he deployed as Commander of the 101st Airborne Division also known as the "Screaming Eagles." Under Petraeus, the 101st Airborne established an Iraqi governing council in Mosul.

In 2004 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and from late 2005 through February 2007, Petraeus served as Commanding General of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC). At Fort Leavenworth, Petraeus formulated the Army Field Manual 3-24 or what is now known as "The Petraeus Doctrine." As commander of CAC, Petraeus was responsible for oversight of the Command and General Staff College and seventeen other schools, centers, and training programs.

In early 2007, Petraeus took over command of the Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I) just as President Bush ordered the "surge" of forces, a buildup that peaked in summer 2007. In his 19 months presiding over Multi-National Force Iraq (MNF-I), violence in Iraq declined 80% coming down from 180 deaths a day to 25.

In November 2008, General Petraeus took charge of the Central Command with responsibility for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also oversees a strategic crescent that includes Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

A Four Star General, awards and decorations Petraeus has earned include two awards of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Defense Superior Service Medal, four awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the State Department Distinguished Service Award, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the Gold Award of the Iraqi Order of the Date Palm, the French Légion d'Honneur, and the National Defense Cross of the Czech Republic. He is a Master Parachutist and Air Assault and Ranger qualified. He has also earned the Combat Action Badge and French, British, and German Jump Wings.

In 2005 he was recognized by the U.S. News and World Report as one of America's 25 Best Leaders, and in 2007 he was named by *TIME* magazine as one of the 100 most influential leaders of the year and one of four runners-up for *TIME* Person of the Year. Most recently, he was selected by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of the world's top 100 public intellectuals and by *Esquire* magazine as one of the 75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century.

[More biographical information here](#)

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AYAD ALLAWI

Ayad Allawi

Ayad Allawi is a former Prime Minister and current leader of the Iraqiya Coalition in Sunday's elections. He was the first elected Prime Minister after the Americans returned power to the Iraqis in 2004.

Born in 1945 to a prominent Shia Muslim merchant family, Allawi joined the Ba'ath party underground movement as a young man. In the 1960s Allawi was a leader in the Ba'ath Party, a coalition of Arabic groups that worked to establish unity among Arab nations. Allawi went into exile in 1971 when the Ba'ath party was coming to power. For nearly thirty years Dr. Allawi lived in the UK working as a neurologist. Then in the early 1990s, Allawi co-founded the Iraqi National Accord (INA) party known for attracting disillusioned former Baathists from the military and security fields.

Allawi's INA party was founded with the backing of the US Central Intelligence Agency and British intelligence, who supported the idea of fostering a coup from within the Iraqi army to overthrow Saddam Hussein. In 2004 when he joined the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, Allawi was publicly opposed to the purging of members of Ba'ath party from government positions.

His secular coalition, the Iraqi List, won 14% of the vote in the Jan., 2005, elections for the Transitional National Assembly, and did not join the new government when it was formed in April. In the Dec., 2005, elections for the National Assembly, his coalition placed fourth. If elected this year, Allawi has said that one of his first actions will be to convene a regional conference under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League, the GCC, and Islamic Conference Organization.



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[The Occupation of Iraq - Allawi, Ali A. - Yale University Press](#) *Yale University Press*

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IRAQ ELECTION

As Fareed mentions on the show, today is Election Day in Iraq. Voters are at the polls choosing members of Parliament, who will in turn choose a Prime Minister. The hope for this election was that it would be more inclusive -- you'll recall that Sunnis largely boycotted the 2005 elections. But instead, political divisions have wracked the political process and violence has risen sharply in recent days. So what are the chances for a decent outcome?

Click [HERE](#) for the latest on the Iraqi elections

AHMED CHALABI

Timeline:

1944: Born to an elite Baghdad family

1956: Flees Iraq with his family

1991: Still in exile, forms the opposition Iraqi National Congress – with U.S. \$ and guidance

Run-up to 2003 Iraq invasion: Crucial ally and source for the CIA and Pentagon

April 2003: Returns to Iraq, escorted by US Special Forces

July 2003: Appointed by US to the Iraqi Governing Council, chairs its finance comm.

Nov 2003: Named head of US-formed de-Baathification panel

Jan 2004: President Bush's guest for the State of the Union

May 2004: US cuts funding to Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress

May 2004: Chalabi's Baghdad compound raided by US, suspected of passing US secrets to Iran

May 2005: Named 1 of 4 deputy prime ministers of Iraq

Nov 2005: Denies supplying US with false info about WMD's

Dec 2005: Runs for Iraqi parliament but loses

2010: Chalabi still heads an Iraqi govt de-Baathification panel

Jan 2010: Chalabi led Justice and Accountability Commission disqualifies 511 candidates

Feb 2010: Iraqi govt says it will re-instate 20k army officers kicked out for ties to Saddam

Feb 2010: U.S. Gen Odierno says he has direct intel Chalabi is under Iranian influence

Today: Chalabi on the ballot as a candidate for the Iraqi National Alliance

Profile (from the *BBC News* Archive):

"Ahmed Chalabi led the foremost Iraqi opposition movement, the US-backed Iraqi National Congress [INC...] A Shia Muslim born in 1945 to a wealthy banking family, Mr Chalabi left Iraq in 1956 and has lived mainly in the USA and London ever since, except for a period in the mid-1990's when he tried to organize an uprising in the Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. The venture ended in failure with hundreds of deaths. Soon after, the INC was routed from northern Iraq after Saddam's troops overran its base in Irbil. A number of party officials were executed and others - including Mr Chalabi - fled the country.

Chequered career

A seasoned lobbyist in London and Washington, who studied mathematics at Chicago University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr Chalabi is often described as a controversial figure, charismatic and determined but crafty and cunning at the same time.

Mr Chalabi has been accused by some opposition figures of using the INC to try to further his own ambitions.

There are also allegations of financial misdemeanours. In 1992, he was sentenced in absentia by a Jordanian court to 22 years in prison with hard labour for bank fraud after the 1990 collapse of Petra Bank, which he had founded in 1977.

Although he has always maintained the case was a plot to frame him by Baghdad, the issue was revisited later when the State Department raised questions about the INC's accounting practices.

'Not seeking office'

In interviews after the fall of Saddam Hussein, Mr Chalabi discounted the possibility he would take a role in any future government.

"Personally, I will not run for any office, and I am not seeking any positions. My job will end with the liberation of Iraq from Saddam's rule," he is quoted as telling the German weekly *Die Zeit*.

He had strong backing among some sectors of the US Congress and the Pentagon, but had little grassroots support in Iraq and a number of opposition groups sought to distance themselves from the INC.

In 1998, the then US president, Bill Clinton, approved a plan to spend almost \$100m to help the Iraqi opposition - principally the INC - to topple Saddam.

But only a fraction of the money was ever spent, and the INC subsequently suffered leadership infighting.

Fall from grace

In May 2004, Mr Chalabi's home and offices were raided.

He denounced the raid, which he said was carried out by American agents and Iraqi police, as politically motivated.

There were whispers from Washington that Mr Chalabi had all along been duping the Americans by spying for the Iranians.

It appeared that he was being sidelined by Washington because he and his organisation were one of the sources for intelligence about Iraq's weapons of destruction capability that is now widely viewed as faulty.

In August 2004, Mr Chalabi and his nephew Salem Chalabi has arrest warrants issued against them while they were outside Iraq.