

# Long US Stay in Afghanistan Foreseen

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, June 25, 2010

[Press TV](#) 24 June 2010

Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [AFGHANISTAN](#)

Major US policy analysts say the appointment of David Petraeus as new commander of American forces in Afghanistan signals a long US military presence in the country.

Former member of George Bush's national security team and US State Department's Policy Chief Richard N. Haass states that since a dramatic increase in an Afghan government force in a near future appears unlikely, "a large number of US forces will remain fighting in Afghanistan for many years to come."

In a statement published by influential US think tank Council on Foreign Relations, Haass writes that the Obama administration's desire to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan within the next 12 months can either come significantly boosting "the effectiveness" of Afghan government forces, "both in absolute terms and relative to the Taliban" — or "that a large number of U.S. forces will remain fighting in Afghanistan for many years to come."

"Everything about Afghanistan points to the latter as being more likely," Haass emphasizes, adding that since the Afghan government is "riddled with corruption" and the Taliban benefit from "sanctuary in Pakistan," such a policy is unlikely to succeed given the enormous costs.

Additionally, Haass observes, the US is faced with a "looming fiscal crisis" as well as growing "strategic challenges in Iran and North Korea."

Anthony Cordesman, a prominent military analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, has welcomed recent appointment of Gen. Petraeus as the new US military commander in Afghanistan, stressing, in a NPR report, that putting him "in charge of the war" has the benefit of showing the Afghans that the United States "does not intend to leave - that it is going to be a partner."

Meanwhile, another NPR report on the ouster of General Stanley McChrystal from the command of the US-led forces in Afghanistan reflected unhappiness of "some US soldiers" with the rules of engagement established by the McChrystal that called for protecting Afghan civilians at the cost of putting the lives of US troops at risk.

The US troops have basically reported serious concerns about having to take extra precautions to avoid taking civilian lives.

According to the report, US soldiers, particularly the Marines deployed in Helmand province, have complained that "they can't really go after the Taliban now because they have to be so concerned about killing innocent civilians."

Observers say that it will remain to be seen whether new US commander General Petraeus

is going make changes to the current rules of engagement and allow US troops freer hand at taking innocent civilian lives.

The original source of this article is [Press TV](#)  
Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Press TV](#), 2010

---

**[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)**

**[Become a Member of Global Research](#)**

Articles by: **[Global Research](#)**

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)