

General David H. Petraeus (U.S. Army, Ret.)

General David H. Petraeus (U.S. Army, Ret.) is one of the most prominent U.S. military figures of the post-9/11 era and has been described as one of the “great battle captains” in American military history. Following his military service, he served as Director of the CIA. He is now a Partner with the global investment firm KKR and Chairman of the KKR Global Institute.

During his 37-year career in the United States Army, General Petraeus was widely recognized for his leadership of the organization that produced the U.S. Army’s counterinsurgency manual and overhauled all aspects of preparing U.S. Army leaders and units for deployment to combat; for his subsequent command of the Surge in Iraq that retrieved a desperate situation and dramatically reduced violence in the country; and for his command of coalition forces in Afghanistan as they reversed the momentum of the Taliban and enabled initial transition of tasks to Afghan forces and institutions. He culminated his military career with six consecutive commands as a general officer, five of which were in combat, a record unmatched in the post-World War II era.

After General Petraeus’ retirement from the military, and following Senate confirmation with a vote of 94 to 0, he served as Director of the CIA as the Agency played the central role in a number of important achievements in the global war on terror, established a strategic campaign plan for the Agency, and pursued investments in the Agency’s most important element, its human capital.

A graduate with distinction from the United States Military Academy, General Petraeus is the only person in U.S. Army history to be the top graduate of both the U.S. Army’s challenging Ranger School and the year-long U.S. Army Command and General Staff College course. He later earned a Ph.D. from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1987 and completed a fellowship at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. He taught economics and international relations at the United States Military Academy in the mid-1980s and, after leaving government, he was a visiting professor of public policy for 3-1/2 years at the City University of New York’s Macaulay Honors College, and from 2013 until 2019 he was a Judge Widney Professor at the University of Southern California and a Senior Fellow at Harvard University’s Belfer Center.

General Petraeus has been Chairman of the KKR Global Institute since June 2013 and a partner with the firm since late 2014. He is also a member of the boards of Optiv and OneStream, an Honorary Professor of International Security at the University of Birmingham (England), a Visiting Fellow at Yale University’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Co-Chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Institute’s Global Advisory Council, a member of the Trilateral Commission, Senior Vice President of the Royal United Services Institute, and a member of the boards of the Institute for the Study of War, the Atlantic Council, and over a dozen veterans service organizations. He is also a personal venture capitalist.

Over the past 15 years, General Petraeus has been named one of America’s 25 Best Leaders by the *U.S. News and World Report*, a runner-up for *Time* magazine’s Person of the Year, the *Daily Telegraph* man of the year, *Prospect* magazine’s Public Intellectual of the Year, a *Time* 100 selectee, one of *Foreign Policy* magazine’s top 100 public intellectuals on three occasions and ranked 8th on two of those, and the recipient of the Madison Medal at Princeton University. He is a frequent commentator on global security and economic issues, and also was Co-Chairman in 2013-2014 of a Council on Foreign Relations Task Force on North America.

General Petraeus has been awarded numerous U.S. military, State Department, NATO, and United Nations medals, including four awards of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, two awards of the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, and Master Parachutist Wings. He has also been decorated by 13 foreign countries, and he is believed to be the only American military figure to throw out the first pitch of a World Series game and to flip the coin at a Super Bowl while in uniform.