

Will U.S. Leave Afghanistan?

Sources: "General Opposes a Rapid Pullout in Afghanistan" by Dexter Filkins, the New York Times (8/16/10); "Gen. Petraeus Goes to Media War" by Norman Solomon, CommonDreams.org, (8/16/10); "The Coming Military Offensive Against the July 2011 Timetable" by David Dayen, FireDogLake (8/12/10).



The Afghanistan War has **deteriorated** on the ground and American soldiers are dying at a faster rate than at any time since 2001.

A new NBC/Wall Street Journal Survey shows that **68% of the Americans feel "less confidence"** about whether the war will reach a successful conclusion.

On August 15, Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, launched a huge media campaign to **oppose a rapid pullout** in Afghanistan in July 2011. During the NBC interview, the Times noted, "Petraeus even appeared to leave open the possibility that he would **recommend against any withdrawal** of American forces next summer."

Remember, this would be a total reversal of Petraeus' own word. In Jonathan Alter's book *The Promise*, he describes a meeting between Obama and Petraeus in late 2009:

OBAMA: "I want you to be honest with me. You can do this in 18 months?"

PETRAEUS: "Sir, I'm confident we can train and hand over to the ANA [Afghan National Army] in that time frame."

OBAMA: "If you can't do the things you say you can in 18 months, then no one is going to suggest we stay, right?"

PETRAEUS: "Yes, sir, in agreement."

The July 2011 transition date was the necessary concession by the military commanders in exchange for getting a larger commitment of forces in December of last year. That was the agreement. **That was the deal. Petraeus is already breaking it.**

It's time to speak out against the efforts by a top general to stampede this country into more war.



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