

Obama to nominate Army Gen. Rodriguez to lead AFRICOM

Paxton tapped to be assistant commandant of Marine Corps



Army Gen. David Rodriguez is President Barack Obama's nominee to head the U.S. Africa Command.
U.S. ARMY

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes
Published: October 18, 2012

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will nominate Army Gen. David Rodriguez to succeed Gen. Carter Ham as commander of U.S. Africa Command and Marine Lt. Gen. John Paxton to succeed Gen. Joseph Dunford as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced Thursday.

Both appointments must be confirmed by the Senate.

Rodriguez is the commander of U.S. Army Forces Command and has served in a “variety of key leadership roles on the battlefield,” Panetta said.

He’s “a proven leader” who oversaw coalition and Afghan forces during the surge in Afghanistan, and “was the key architect of the successful campaign plan that we are now implementing,” Panetta said.

In announcing Ham’s successor, Panetta also praised the work Ham has done with Africa Command.

“Gen. Ham has really brought AFRICOM into a very pivotal role in that challenging region,” Panetta said. “I and the nation are deeply grateful for his outstanding service.”

Last week, Panetta announced that Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford will succeed Gen. John Allen as the top commander in Afghanistan. Thursday, he said Paxton will step into Dunford’s current position.

Paxton is the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Force Command, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Fleet Marine Force Atlantic. Panetta called Paxton “an exceptionally capable leader” who will join the “growing cadre of senior military leaders who have deployed to combat theaters... throughout their careers.”

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Beta Sig

Commanders for Combatant Commands (COCOMs) typically serve no more than 2-3 years in the position depending on when they plan to retire. GEN Ham took command of AFRICOM in Mar 2011 so by the time the confirmation and change of command ceremony of GEN Rodriguez happens, Ham will have served at least 2 years in the position. Doesnt sound anything like a cover up or conspiracy...



SempliceCittadino

The STORY you heard. Care to provide some proof. Otherwise it's just garbage.



SempliceCittadino

I think you forget that Don Rumsfeld said that the Iraq war would pay for itself in reduced oil prices. Iraq has the oil, we just didn't get it. Big contractors got the profits though.

Afghanistan has vast mineral deposits. From and ABC news article in June 2010:

Geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey have been working in Afghanistan for the past couple of years surveying locations across the country and have concluded that it contains vast mineral deposits. A Pentagon task force that has helped to develop Iraq's long term economic viability has been working with Afghan ministries to begin the process of helping them with the expertise some believe could turn Afghanistan into one of the world's most important mining centers.



Jane Fielding

Would like to hear from military - are the troops being discouraged from voting in this election? I am troubled by low turnout reports.



SDCraigo

One must wonder if there was some sort of mass mutiny going on relative to the rescue of our people in Bengazi - Coincidental to General Ham's firing:

Navy replaces admiral leading Mideast strike group

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Navy said Saturday it is replacing the admiral in command of an aircraft carrier strike group in the Middle East, pending the outcome of an internal investigation into undisclosed allegations of inappropriate judgment.

Rear Adm. Charles M. Gaouette is being sent back to the USS John C. Stennis' home port at Bremerton, Washington stae, in what the Navy called a temporary reassignment. The Navy said he is not formally relieved of his command of the Stennis strike group but will be replaced by Rear Adm. Troy M. Shoemaker, who will assume command until the investigation is completed.

It is highly unusual for the Navy to replace a carrier strike group commander during its deployment.


The Navy did not reveal details of the allegations, citing only an accusation of "inappropriate leadership judgment" that arose during the strike group's deployment to the Middle East. Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Navy's chief spokesman, declined to discuss the investigation.

The Stennis group deployed from Bremerton in late August and had entered the Navy 5th Fleet's area of operations in the Middle East on Oct. 17 after sailing across the Pacific. The Stennis made port visits in Thailand and Malaysia on its way to the Middle East.


It deployed four months earlier than scheduled in response to a request by the commander of U.S. Central Command, Marine Gen. James Mattis, to maintain two aircraft carriers in the Middle East. The Stennis replaced the USS Enterprise carrier group.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited the Stennis and its sailors in Bremerton shortly before they departed. He thanked them for accelerating their deployment on short notice.


"I understand that it is tough," Panetta said. "We are asking an awful lot of each of you, but frankly you are the best I have and when the world calls we have to respond."

 **Leo**


Very well put!! This is the same crowd that only believe 'nukes' are WMD's, chemical and biological are NOT, in their pea-brains... Geez, how MANY movies have we ever seen that involve chem/bio among the masses????? Even that POS rainman (we all know whom I'm talking about) played a Colonel in the US Army trying to defuse an attack in the pacific northwest!!!!

 **Leo**


Your correct, and China is ALREADY there, drilling and mining away!

 **D Mag**


They going to shut him up and keep him out of view for the next 2 months

 **fb274**


Iraq was 'regime' change. It was the Dems after Hussein's over-throw who started the "No Chemical Weapons Found" litany. If it was for Oil, I haven't seen Free flowing oil from Iraq to the benefit of the U.S.

 **Daniel Kleitman**

I was around before and after 9/11. Before that it was the Clinton administration which was ranting about the dangers from Iraq and the Republicans were dubious, many claiming that this talk was an attempt by Clinton to distract from his Monica Lewinsky difficulties. After 9/11, the left, including the New York Times continued to dwell on the dangers from Iraq, chiding the Bush administration for ignoring them. The left only gave up this line after Bush fell for the bait (by the way Valerie Plame's husband himself reported that Saddam had attempted to get yellow cake from Africa but hadn't got it though it was known that he already had quite a bit of it) that the left started to attack him for doing so.
(I bet you believe that Republicans started the VietNam war! It was Kennedy indirectly and Johnson and his whiz kids, all Democrats, who involved us in it and Nixon, the Republican, who got us out, with the Vietcong destroyed. And it was a Democrat controlled Congress which refused air support to the South Vietnamese causing the North Vietnamese invasion to succeed three years later.)
And Bush won the late war in Iraq. Obama is attempting to convert this victory into a subsequent defeat as in Vietnam.

 **Ofnir**

Not sure of yields, but a buddy of mine who was in 10th Mountain was talking about taking over guarding a facility for about two weeks back in about '06-07 (think it was from 4ID, but don't quote me on that) that was on the outskirts of Baghdad. He said it was rows and rows of bunkers for storing chemical weapons, and that some of them still had fieldable chemical weapons in them. A few airplane-based bombs and something like 500 artillery rounds. He said a lot of the bunkers had been raided before our forces secured the complex and that's where the components for those sarin IEDs came from that our guys got hit with a few times back in '04.

 **Jason**

"WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the Afghan economy and perhaps the Afghan war itself, according to senior American government officials."

And it goes on...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06...>



effinayright

Maybe so: name them, their potential yield, and their location, and who says so. During Bush 43 the claim was that we invaded there to ensure that an oil pipeline got built ---whatever happened to that canard?

What Afghanistan certainly doesn't have is (1) a history of being fought over for its mineral resources, (2) any historical interest from locals to exploit them, and (3) any infrastructure whatsoever to mine them: no developed roads, power grid, labor resources, no ports to export them, etc etc.



Dustoff

Afgan has huge mineral deposits.



Morgan Collins

And, Bin Laden ELUDED capture, Afghanistan has no oil or other strategic value, and I don't think Dick Cheney profited from either war, although his former company Halliburton certainly did.



rudytbone

Wow, so many false talking points, so little time. 2 "Wars for Oil". Really? 2?
Afghanistan has oil? Who knew? And what oil are we getting out of Iraq? You check, I'll wait. Yup, zippo. Bush lied about intel...ah, that old chestnut. Well, the Clinton (both of them) also lied, as did Gore, and Kerry, and British Intel, and Israeli Intel. But, then again, WMDs were found in Iraq, and continue to be found to this day.

I'm so glad to read the opinion of someone so much better informed than the entire 9-11 commission, who actually had access to classified documents. But, what can you expect from the "fire can't melt steel" crowd.



Morgan Collins

Commander IN Chief...and clean your keyboard, it looks like some of the keys are sticky.



Jordan Harris

the worst commander and chief in history ???? really???? Bush was better ???? he got us into two decade long wars for oil and his V.P.s profit.....mised the U.s> and the U.N. as to the capabilities of Iraq and WMD's allowed the greatest attack to take place on

American soil since the attack on pearl harbor.....and allowed Bin Laden to allude him for 8 years that's the worst commander and chief in history !!!!!!!



jukin

The story I heard is that Ham was going to disobey orders of standing down and send in assets to Benghazi. Within a minute he was relieved of command. With the group that is in power, I believe this story.



James Lee Johnson

Why is Ham leaving?

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