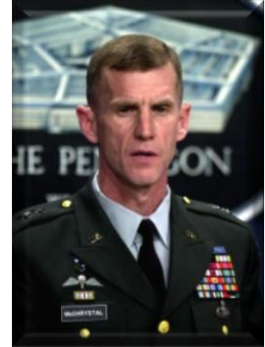


**NEW BROOM IN AFGHANISTAN** excerpts from the Conference of Defence Associations / La Conference des associations de la defense press release

**MAY 11, 2009 - OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA** - U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today recommended Army Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, currently the director of the Joint Staff, to replace Army Gen. David D. McKiernan as commander U.S. forces in Afghanistan and commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, citing the need for fresh leadership as the U.S. takes a new approach to the region. Gates said he reached the decision following consultations with Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command; and after gaining approval of President Barack Obama.



Mr. Gates also said General McChrystal would be assisted by a deputy commander, Lt. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, who is to serve in a new position with responsibility for the day-to-day management of the war. General Rodriguez had a previous tour in eastern Afghanistan as commander of the 82nd Airborne.

**EXPERIENCE** - Director of The Joint Staff, August 2008-present; Commander, Joint Special Operations Command and commander, Joint Special Operations Command Forward, 2006-2008; commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command, 2003-06; vice director for operations, J-3 The Joint Staff, 2002-03; chief of staff, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, 2001-02 and chief of staff of military operations in Afghanistan 2001 and 2002, assistant division commander for operations, 82d Airborne Division; commander, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1997-99.

*Lt. Gen. McChrystal*

He is a fiercely driven ascetic with a deep knowledge of clandestine and intelligence operations. The general eats just one meal a day, usually in the evening, to avoid sluggishness. He is known for operating on just a few hours' sleep. During his current tour in Washington, he runs several miles back and forth to work, often listening to audio books on his iPod.

McChrystal is known as one of the smartest and least conventional thinkers in the Army, and a counterinsurgent's counterinsurgent. Over the next few days you'll read a lot of glowing praise for him from the counterinsurgency community. Faiz Shakir at Think Progress had this anti-McChrystal post not long ago, raising a quote of his from April 2003: "I would anticipate that the major combat engagements are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters at a Pentagon briefing. He said U.S. forces are moving into a phase of "smaller, albeit sharper fights." The second half of that quote gives more context than the one Faiz highlighted. It certainly wasn't the case that "major" combat engagements ended, but it certainly was the case that "sharper fights" with an incipient Iraqi insurgency escalated. While McChrystal should have known better than to use the word "major" to describe "conventional" conflict, that quote looks more prescient than wrong-headed.

The suddenness of the decision -- the "hastily convened" press conference, for instance -- underscore the seriousness of the situation in Afghanistan and the need for a "nonconventional" approach.

McChrystal has experience in that approach. He led the covert Special Forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond, and commanded the black ops unit responsible for the manhunt and death of Iraqi insurgency leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. McChrystal also approved the Silver Star citation given posthumously to Pat Tillman, the former NFL player killed in action in Afghanistan. The award cited Tillman's heroic conduct in "devastating enemy fire." But, at the time, McChrystal had already guessed that Tillman was accidentally killed by U.S. troops. He sent a back-channel memo advising then-President George W. Bush

*NOTE: This online-only information was added to the CCT history after publication of The Eye of the Storm – A history of Combat Control Teams.*

to avoid speaking about the "enemy fire." Pentagon officials questioned McChrystal over his conduct, though, he ultimately wasn't punished.

**As Commander of Joint Special Operations Command**, headquartered at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. General McChrystal controlled the U.S. military's three special mission units (SMU): the Army's Delta Force, the Navy's DEVGRU, and an unnamed joint unit based on the East Coast designed for clandestine operations and operational preparation of the environment. The SMU are responsible for the conduct of counter terrorism (CT) operations, strike operations, reconnaissance in denied areas, and special intelligence missions.

JSOC also controls the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment and 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the **Air Force's 24th Special Tactics Squadron**.

SMUs under JSOC command are:

(1) Army 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta [SFOD-D), aka "Delta." It is understood to be organized into three operating squadrons: A, B, and C. Each squadron is subdivided into troops, similar to the British Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) organization, and each troop specializes in HALO/HIHO, SCUBA, or other operational skills.

SFOD-D also maintains support units for purposes of personnel selection and training, logistics, finance, and medical requirements.

(2) Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Development Group (NSWDG/DEVGRU). The successor to SEAL Team 6, DEVGRU is responsible to oversee development of NSW tactics, equipment, and techniques, and counter terrorist operations in the maritime environment. Located in Little Creek, VA., it is commanded by a US Navy Captain. Its primary functions are intelligence, counter-intelligence, investigative and national security work.

DEVGRU is comprised of approximately 200 operators, broken down by teams, much like the British SAS and Delta. It is understood to be comprised of six teams: Team Red - Assault, Team Blue - Assault, Team Gold - Assault, Team Black - Reconnaissance & Surveillance, Team Gray - Special Boat, Team Green - Training.

Each team is comprised of Cells, including capabilities such as an Evasion and Recovery Cell, Force Protection, i.e., VIP Protection, and Sniper. All members are trained in underwater and HALO insertion.

There is also an administrative and testing section of approximately 300 personnel which is responsible for the testing and development of new NAVSPECWAR equipment and weapons.

It is understood that DEVGRU operates a small number of HH-60 helicopters, but the majority of its aviation requirements are provided by the 160th SOAR (A), especially in support of ship assaults, which frequently make use of the small MH-6 "Little Bird" (operated exclusively by the 160th).



(3) **USAF 24th Special Tactics Squadron (24thSTS)**. 24th STS is a USAF air commando force comprised of Combat Controllers (CCTs), Pararescuemen (PJs, and Combat Weathermen. CCTs are ground operators certified as air traffic controllers who can also take over or construct an airstrip, set up navigational equipment, and direct airplanes and helicopters to

a safe landing without the use of a tower or elaborate communications system, and control air attacks of fixed and rotary wing aircraft from all military services. PJs are also trained paramedics and are able to fight as SF. Combat Weathermen are airmen that gather and interpret meteorological and oceanographic information, as well as act as forward ground combatants. Air commandos from these three specialties also form Special Tactics Teams whose job is to assault behind enemy lines in teams of no more than 2–4 men.

(4) Unnamed joint unit based on the East Coast designed for clandestine operations and operational preparation of the environment.

**In recent work as director of the Joint Staff**, General McChrystal has developed a plan to select a group of some 400 troops and officers to go back and forth from assignments in the region and the United States. While at home, the troops and officers would continue in their military jobs and work on some aspect of Afghan strategy, training or operations. The troops would remain in the cadre for three to five years, depending on the job. The approach is similar to the way General McChrystal ran Special Operations forces.

Most troops now deploy to Afghanistan for about a year or less without any formal training in the region before they go. They often move on to unrelated jobs when their Afghan tours end.

“The idea is to develop a group of people who give you continuity, expertise and relationships. They know each other plus the people they’re going to work with,” said a senior military official who has worked closely on the plan. “As they build relationships among themselves, relationships with Afghan partners and relationships with Afghan units, their relative effectiveness is just going to go up.”

The official said that the program, which Admiral Mullen has approved, should be up and running within 60 days after details are worked out, and its effects would be noticeable in Afghanistan within six months.