

Jihadi Activists Call for Intelligence Gathering on the New Commander of the US Forces in Iraq

On September 16, 2008, General Raymond Odierno replaced General David Petraeus as Commander of the American forces in Iraq. Two weeks later, on September 30, the al-Qaida affiliated Al-Hesbah forum published a blog written by Abu Ahmad al-Sahrawi, who joined the site in December 2007. Al-Sahrawi explained that General Petraeus caused complicated problems for the "Islamic state of Iraq," achieving many tactical gains because nobody understood his approaches or knew the



details of his identity. Al-Sahrawi therefore requested that activists assist the Ministry of Defense of the "Islamic State of Iraq" in gathering documents and creating a database on Petraeus' successor, General Raymond Odierno, in order to understand his approaches and modus operandi, helping to guide the jihad in Iraq.

Al-Sahrawi provides precise details regarding the required information: his age, weight, height, origin, relatives, family, residence, food preferences, manner of dress, hobbies, aversions, vacation sites, important events in his life, social contacts, friends, religion and faith, etc. Such information, explains Al-Sahrawi, must be collected through the internet, newspapers, television, army sites, etc. He even sets a deadline for the task – giving activists 20 days to collect the data.

To date, 630 people have entered the site. This indicates the level of interest shown toward the request.¹

¹ <http://al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=193789>