Iraq, Country, Years, Fighting, War, Military, Thinking, Political, Past, President, Men, Loss, Government, Challenges, Ideas, Iran, Pakistan, Mean, Important, Office

People often ask, why aren't you reading about what it is you're working on right now? And the truth is, you only get three pages a night before your eyelids close.

~David Petraeus

The job of the leader is to get the big ideas right.

~David Petraeus

I am not a politician, and I will never be, and I say that with absolute conviction.

~David Petraeus

After being married for over 37 years, I showed extremely poor judgment by engaging in an extramarital affair.

~David Petraeus

Political progress will only take place if sufficient security exists.

~David Petraeus

The fact is that Iran doesn't want to see the Taliban come back any more than do most Afghan citizens.

~David Petraeus

I'm living the dream.

~David Petraeus

Every civilian's death diminishes us, collectively.

~David Petraeus

Don't forget Yemen, where there are also extremist elements, as we saw recently.

~David Petraeus

I think Putin wants to recreate as much of the Soviet Union as he can

through a variety of different means. He's invaded parts of Georgia, took Crimea, southeastern Ukraine, bases in other countries.

~David Petraeus

I think no commander ever is going to come out and say, 'I'm confident that we can do this.

~David Petraeus

Money can be a very important form of "ammunition," although we should never forget that when you're being shot at the most important ammunition is real ammunition.

~David Petraeus

Progress in Iraq has always been about teams of people and teams of teams - and ultimately about young men and women, Iraqi as well as people from the coalition.

~David Petraeus

Afghanistan has other enormous challenges as well, including a political system that is still very much developing, although there has been some progress in the past several years.

~David Petraeus

The president and I sat down in the Oval Office, and he expressed very clearly that what he wants from me is my best professional military advice.

~David Petraeus

This cannot be the United States being the air force for Shia militias, or a Shia on Sunni Arab fight.

~David Petraeus

ISIS is on its way to defeat but terrorism threat persists.

~David Petraeus

Fighting in cities is a totally different endeavor than obviously fighting out in the open.

~David Petraeus

The Islamic State fighters in Mosul are dead men walking and I think they increasingly know it.

~David Petraeus

I will not ever run for political office, I can assure you of that.

~David Petraeus

Let's remember that the reason we are there is that we have vital interests in Afghanistan, hugely important national interests, as do the other countries involved.

~David Petraeus

The first official statements of President Asif Ali Zardari's new government have been firm and robust. Pakistan is obviously a renewed democracy.

~David Petraeus

The task [in Afghanistan] is to reduce civilian casualties while still not hesitating to respond to enemies who are trying to kill our soldiers.

~David Petraeus

Pakistan are very keen to carry out the operations themselves. And there's significant effort on the part of the US and other countries to provide assistance that can enable Pakistan to do just that.

~David Petraeus

I am neither a pessimist nor an optimist. I am a realist, and the reality in Iraq is that it has been very hard and it continues to be hard.

~David Petraeus

We cleared many of their towns and cities and rural areas of al-Qaida lrag and other insurgents.

~David Petraeus

There has, indeed, been very substantial progress in Iraq over the past year - violence is down by 80 percent, civilian deaths by about the same, and so on.

~David Petraeus

Iraq has gone from being on the brink to being on the mend, and it clearly has some big advantages.

~David Petraeus

US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and I have repeatedly sought to emphasize that the progress in Iraq is fragile and also, possibly, reversible.

~David Petraeus

There is no military solution to the challenges of Syria.

~David Petraeus

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