



## Media Release

Embassy of Australia  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3 November 2009

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### **General Petraeus Appointed Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia**

General David H Petraeus of the United States Army was appointed an Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia, Military Division, on Tuesday 3 November.

General Petraeus was nominated for the award by Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, Chief of the Australian Defence Force, in recognition of his distinguished service to the International Coalition Against Terrorism as Commanding General, Multi-National Force Iraq, from 26 January 2007 to 30 October 2008.

“I greatly valued General Petraeus’s leadership and determination in ensuring that young men and women of the Australian Defence Force were operating within a coalition effort that was coordinated and effective,” Air Chief Marshal Houston said. “This award is the highest honour in our system and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition than General Petraeus.”

General Petraeus was presented with the insignia by the Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, who represented the Governor-General of Australia in an investiture ceremony in Washington DC.

“Tonight, we recognise that it was you General Petraeus who designed and implemented the strategy which delivered success in that war. Can I say that you are a very good friend of Australia,” said Senator Faulkner.

General Petraeus led Coalition Forces, including Australian Defence Force Members, to great effect in an exceedingly complex operational environment. Under General Petraeus’s guidance the Coalition gained tactical momentum that directly led to strengthened reconciliation efforts and a renewed focus on political reform, resulting in a reduction in violence, lessening casualties and a decrease in security incidents. This resulted in a safer environment for Australian forces in Iraq.