

General (Retired) John Philip Abizaid

GEN (Ret) Abizaid is a retired four-star General in the U.S. Army and former Commander of the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM). In this position, he provided oversight for American military operations encompassing a 27-country region and including 250,000 U.S. troops. GEN (Ret) Abizaid retired from the military on May 1, 2007 after 34 years of service, and served longer as Commander of CENTCOM than any of his predecessors. Previously, GEN (Ret) Abizaid was named the first Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and as Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center at (USMA) at West Point. Additionally, GEN (Ret) Abizaid serves on the Board of Directors for RPM International and for the Defense Ventures Group. GEN (Ret) Abizaid is considered an expert in the field of Middle Eastern affairs. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and serves as a Director of the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation. Through JPA Partners, LLC, GEN (Ret) Abizaid provides strategic and analytic consulting services to corporate, non-profit, international and government clients.

GEN (Ret) Abizaid's military education includes the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point (Class of 1973); Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Armed Forces Staff College, and a U.S. Army War College Senior Fellowship at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. In his civilian studies, GEN (Ret) Abizaid earned a Master of Arts degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, and was an Olmsted Scholar at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan.

GEN (Ret) Abizaid's experience includes serving as Assistant Division Commander, 1st Armored Division, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, after which he served as the 66th Commandant at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served as the Deputy Commander (Forward), Combined Forces Command, U.S. Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff assignments include a tour with the United Nations as Operations Officer (G-3) for Observer Group Lebanon and a tour in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. European staff tours include assignments in both the Southern European Task Force and Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe. GEN (Ret) Abizaid also served as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) on the Joint Staff and Director of the Joint Staff, where he advised the Chairman and the Secretary of Defense regarding the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks, homeland security issues, and all military operations worldwide.

GEN (Ret) is a three-time recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, a six-time recipient of the Legion of Merit, as well as a recipient of the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Officer of the Order of Australia, an order of chivalry established by Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia for his achievement and meritorious service. Additionally, he holds military honors from numerous nations including: Germany, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Australia, Afghanistan and Egypt.