

# Former CIA Boss and 4-Star General David Petraeus: U.S. Should Arm Al Qaeda

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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*Former CIA boss and 4-star general David Petraeus – who still (believe it or not) holds a lot of sway in Washington – [suggests](#) we should arm Al Qaeda to fight ISIS.*

Members of al Qaeda's branch in Syria have a surprising advocate in the corridors of American power: retired Army general and former CIA Director David Petraeus.

The former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan has been quietly urging U.S. officials to consider using so-called moderate members of al Qaeda's Nusra Front to fight [ISIS](#) in Syria, four sources familiar with the conversations, including one person who spoke to Petraeus directly, told The Daily Beast.

He's not alone ...

As we've previously shown, [other mainstream American figures support arming Al Qaeda ... and ISIS](#).

Initially, [Barak Mendelsohn](#) – an Associate Professor of Political Science at Haverford College, a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a five year veteran of the Israeli army – [argues](#) in the Council on Foreign Relations' publication *Foreign Affairs* that the U.S. should support Al Qaeda ... as a way to counter ISIS:

The instability in the Middle East following the Arab revolutions and the meteoric rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) require that Washington rethink its policy toward al Qaeda, particularly its targeting of Zawahiri.

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Destabilizing al Qaeda at this time may in fact work against U.S. efforts to defeat ISIS.

Many mainstream players are suggesting that Al Nusra – the main Al Qaeda group in Syria – “re-brand”, so that it can pretend it is moderate ... and so receive direct U.S. backing. See [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

Not to be outdone, influential New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman [asks](#) if we should arm ISIS to counter Iranian influence.

The U.S. actually did [knowingly support Al Qaeda](#) in Libya. And [also](#) in [Syria](#).

And we [actually ARE supporting ISIS](#) to some extent:

NATO member Turkey was [busted](#) buying huge quantities of oil from ISIS (its main source of funding), and bombing ISIS' main on-the-ground enemy - Kurdish soldiers - using its air force. Many also say that Turkey has long been [directly supporting ISIS](#).

The [Israeli air force has bombed](#) near the Syrian capital of Damascus, and attacked agricultural facilities and warehouses (the Syrian government is the other main opponent of ISIS in Syria besides the Kurds). The Israeli military [recently admitted](#) supporting Syrian jihadis. And [see this](#).

[Mainstream U.S. writers](#) such as Thomas Friedman have called for America to support ISIS.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz opposed U.S. military intervention in Syria, saying the U.S. military [shouldn't be "Al Qaeda's air force."](#) Similarly, former Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich said that striking Syria would turn the United States military into ["al-Qaeda's air force."](#) (ISIS is just a [re-branded](#) name for Al Qaeda).

Indeed, [NBC News](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#), [CNN](#) and others report that the U.S. has already committed to provide air power to support Muslim jihadis in Syria.

So Turkey, Israel and the U.S. are all now acting as ISIS' air force in order to oust the Syrian government ... [again](#). (Washington Blog, August 3, 2015)

Truly, America's [foreign policy is insane](#).

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