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Musharraf does not fit into the Petraeus Doctrine

What happened on 9/11 changed everything. Under the post-9/11 Bush Doctrine, the Pentagon's top priority was to prevent another direct attack on the homeland. In late 2007, a Benazir-Musharraf agreement was stitched up under the Bush Doctrine. All court cases to be withdrawn, all accounts to be defreeze, Musharraf to continue for five more years and a PPP-led, PPP-PML(Q) coalition to fight the war on terror.

Back then, Admiral William Fallon, the Commanding General, United States Central Command (CENTCOM), was the Pentagon's regional enforcer and the guarantor of Benazir-Musharraf stitch-up. Then came December 27 followed by February 18, and the rest is history.

On March 11, Admiral Fallon fell out of favor and the US Army General David Petraeus was nominated by the Bush Administration as CENTCOM's new Commander. On July 10, the United States Senate confirmed General Petraeus as America's new Hector (from Greek, the new Trojan prince).

Pakistan will not be the same anymore.

The aboriginal Bush Doctrine and the original Benazir-Musharraf bargain are failing in their war on terror. America's old war on terror is now the brand-new long war and America's new Hector has a new doctrine, the Petraeus Doctrine.

Petraeus is America's lone scholarly warrior (he is a PhD from Princeton). In 1987, Petraeus rewrote the book on counterinsurgency — his doctoral dissertation *The American Military and the Lessons of Vietnam: A Study of Military Influence and the Use of Force in the Post-Vietnam Era*.

Testifying before a Senate committee, Petraeus once said: "...the way ahead will be neither quick nor easy, and undoubtedly there will be tough days."

The Petraeus Doctrine rests on intelligence-based counterinsurgency in-tandem with the use of hard

“We face a determined, adaptable, barbaric enemy. He will try to wait us out.”

and soft power. Counterterrorism, in the Petraeus Doctrine, is a test of wills (Petraeus has been a marathon runner).

How will the Petraeus Doctrine untie the knot in Pakistan?

Well, July 30 carried the first assault on the ISI, Pakistan's premier intelligence outfit. The ISI will be pushed, pulled and squeezed till it bends to do Petraeus bidding. The ISI-squeeze is in-tandem with the use of hard and soft power to procreate a political consensus conducive to the long war.

Clearly, President Musharraf has become a hindrance in the development of a political consensus and thus an obstacle to the Petraeus Doctrine.

Will Petraeus be able to untie our thick political knots? Only the time will tell.