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Karzai Restores Gen. Dostum to Position as Army Chief

Posted By [Jason Ditz](#)

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Back again like a bad penny, one of Afghanistan's most notorious warlords, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, [has been restored to his position as Afghan Army Chief of Staff by President Hamid Karzai](#).



General Dostum

The announcement was not well received by the international forces, as US officials said they have “repeatedly” expressed concern over giving Dostum any role in the government, while [British Foreign Secretary David Miliband promised to press Karzai to rescind the appointment](#).

Dostum was previously removed from the position amid controversy about corruption in 2008, but [returned to favor with Karzai after he campaigned heavy for his re-election campaign last year](#).

Gen. Dostum is generally believed to be responsible for the infamous Dasht-e Leili massacre in late 2001. [Dostum, who was on the CIA's payroll at the time](#), was given custody of prisoners captured during the US invasion, and [had around 2,000 of the prisoners either shot or suffocated to death](#). Investigators have suggested US troops were likely present during the massacre, and the Bush Administration fought against allowing any official probes for years.