Don't Forget About Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr.: The Steady Hand Behind the Trump Administration's Military Strategy



Amidst the constant churn of the Trump administration, one figure has remained a steady and influential presence: Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A four-star Marine general with over 40 years of experience, Dunford has been a key player in shaping the administration's military strategy and navigating its often turbulent waters.



Don't You Forget About Gen X: One Generation's Crucial Role in Healthcare by Kevin J. Ryan

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Dunford's tenure as Chairman has been marked by both continuity and change. He has maintained the military's focus on counterterrorism and great power competition, while also overseeing the development of new strategies for emerging threats such as cyberwarfare and climate change. He has also been a vocal advocate for military readiness and modernization, arguing that the U.S. must be prepared to fight and win future wars.

However, Dunford has also been willing to challenge the administration when he believes it is necessary. He has publicly criticized President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, arguing that it would create a vacuum that could be filled by ISIS or other extremist groups. He has also expressed concerns about the administration's approach to North Korea, warning that a military conflict could be "catastrophic."

Despite these occasional disagreements, Dunford has remained a trusted advisor to President Trump. The President has reportedly been impressed by Dunford's intelligence, integrity, and candor. Dunford has also enjoyed strong support from Congress, both Democrats and Republicans.

Dunford's tenure as Chairman is likely to come to an end in 2019, when he is scheduled to retire from the military. However, his legacy is likely to last for many years to come. He has been a steady hand in a tumultuous time, and he has helped to shape the U.S. military's response to a wide range of challenges.

Dunford's Early Life and Career

Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1955. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1977 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served in a variety of command and staff positions, including as the commanding officer of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division.

In 2010, Dunford was promoted to four-star general and became the commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In this role, he oversaw the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and the transition of security responsibilities to the Afghan government.

In 2013, Dunford was appointed the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He served in this role for four years, during which time he oversaw the implementation of a number of reforms, including the opening of all combat roles to women.

Dunford as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

In 2015, Dunford was appointed the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this role, he is the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council.

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Dunford's Legacy

Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. is a highly respected and influential figure in the U.S. military. He has served in a variety of leadership roles, including as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Dunford's legacy is likely to last for many years to come. He has been a steady hand in a tumultuous time, and he has helped to shape the U.S. military's response to a wide range of challenges.



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