

What's general up to?

Gen. Stanley McCrystal is too smart to not know his words, and those of his team, would be printed. One question is why didn't he choose a more respected magazine than Rolling Stone.

Also, what happens to his staff? There are a lot of good colonels whose careers have been jeopardized.

But the real dilemma is why he did what he did. A possibility is that he came to realize his strategy wasn't working, perhaps because it was flawed or the president failed to support it. If so, the best way for McCrystal to avoid a further link to a dismal outcome was to do something that would give him an out.

Over the years I have seen smart generals do what seemed to be dumb — for what later turned out to be a good reason. That may have happened here.

— Star Carey,
Canyon Lake