Minister Haider al-Abadi appointed Shammari to serve in the less prominent role of Military Deputy Chairman. Shammari formerly served as the head of the Baghdad Operations Command until the 2016 ISIS invasion. Staff Lieutenant General Osman Ghanimi, who is serving as Kadhimi’s new Minister of Interior, told Iraqi media outlets that Prime Minister Kadhimi appointed Lieutenant General Abdul Amir al-Saadi to serve as Kadhimi’s new Minister of Defense. He succeeds Prime Minister-designate Mustafa al-Kadhimi as Iraq’s New Prime Minister since March 26.

Key Takeaway: New Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi jettisoned his term by conducting a series of executive-level actions favorable to Iraq’s restive population and the United States, but potentially harmful to Iranian interests in Iraq. Kadhimi appointed powerful generals with US ties to lead the US-trained Counterterrorism Service and Iran-influenced Ministry of Interior, indicating a willingness to push back against corruption and Iranian influence in the Iraqi security sector. Kadhimi also issued orders likely designed to win over Iraqi’s popular protest movement, which appeared divided over how to respond to the new government. Each moves these challenges in Iraq’s political and military alliances in the United States can be considered a turning point in the broader Iran-Iraq relationship. In Iran’s view, it may represent a change in, or at a minimum a pause to, Washington’s support for Kadhimi’s government. Kadhimi’s shift could benefit the United States, which Kadhimi is likely to court for financial support to mitigate Iraq’s ongoing budget crisis.

May 11: Prime Minister Kadhimi meets with Russian Deputy Prime Minister who Denied Violence against Protesters

May 11-12: Prime Minister Kadhimi Fills Vacant Cabinet Ministries with Interim Leaders

May 10: US and Iranian Presidents Call to congratulate Kadhimi, Prime Minister al-Kadhimi appointed Brigadier General Yahya Rasool as the new Commander-in-Chief of Iraq’s army. Rasool succeeds Major General Abdul Wahab al-Saadi, who was dismissed for his alleged failure to take control on the grip of powerful militias in Iraq’s unstable south. While Kadhimi’s minsterial replacement looks revolutionary to those monitoring the country, the 2020 Iraqi elections ceded more power than ever to Iran’s proxies, who effectively control Iraq’s (CoR). The CoR pushed the vote past midnight as multiple pan-sectarian support. Two-hundred and sixty-six members of the CoR voted in favor of approving Kadhimi’s government. Kadhimi nominated 20 ministers but only received approvals for 17. Prior to being confirmed for the position of military deputy chairman, Kadhimi realigned Iraq’s political and military alliances in the United States can be considered a turning point in the broader Iran-Iraq relationship. In Iran’s view, it may represent a change in, or at a minimum a pause to, Washington’s support for Kadhimi’s government. Kadhimi’s shift could benefit the United States, which Kadhimi is likely to court for financial support to mitigate Iraq’s ongoing budget crisis.

May 6: Three Katyusha Rockets Strike near US Facilities at Baghdad International Airport

May 7: Anti-ISIS Coalition

May 7-8: US and Iran’s Neighbors Call to congratulate Kadhimi, Prime Minister al-Kadhimi appointed Brigadier General Yahya Rasool as the new Commander-in-Chief of Iraq’s army. Rasool succeeds Major General Abdul Wahab al-Saadi, who was dismissed for his alleged failure to take control of Iraq’s south. While Kadhimi’s ministerial replacement looks revolutionary to those monitoring the country, the 2020 Iraqi elections ceded more power than ever to Iran’s proxies, who effectively control Iraq’s (CoR). The CoR pushed the vote past midnight as multiple pan-sectarian support. Two-hundred and sixty-six members of the CoR voted in favor of approving Kadhimi’s government. Kadhimi nominated 20 ministers but only received approvals for 17. Prior to being confirmed for the position of military deputy chairman, Kadhimi realigned Iraq’s political and military alliances in the United States can be considered a turning point in the broader Iran-Iraq relationship. In Iran’s view, it may represent a change in, or at a minimum a pause to, Washington’s support for Kadhimi’s government. Kadhimi’s shift could benefit the United States, which Kadhimi is likely to court for financial support to mitigate Iraq’s ongoing budget crisis.