Obama to Keep Troops in Afghanistan Beyond 2016

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama will keep 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan when he leaves office in 2017, according to senior administration officials. The announcement by the White House came before the end of next year, a timeline coinciding with the final weeks of his presidency. The military leaders argued for months that the Afghan needed additional assistance and support from the U.S. to beat back a resurgence Taliban and hold onto the gains made in the past 14 years of American military.

The announcement came Thursday, two days after the U.S. and Afghan governments signed a historic security agreement between the two countries.

The next morning, Putin warned of possible blowback. Putin said of the current situation in Afghanistan: "Now is the moment to act. It is important for us to be ready to react in concert with NATO." Putin said in a speech posted on his Facebook page.

President Ashraf Ghani Better Management of Land & Water Resources Key to Stability

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said Thursday that the Kabul Bar Afghanistan’s environmental activism and future development was closely linked with effective management of land and water resources. Addressing delegates he pledged to establish a new law to be effective in the future.

People must cooperate with the government while acquiring land so that important economic projects are implemented. (Merce on P40, 4)

Mushahieden should Help Fight Talibain: Masoud

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani’s special representa- tives for reform and good government, Ahmad Zia Massoud, a nephew of the former president, said that the government would include Mushahieden in ministerial structures so they can help lead the war against the Taliban. This is the second senior government official that has come out in support of re- integration of Mushahieden into the Afghan government. The foreign air minister Haneef Atmar has also been instrumental in bringing the young Afghan into the fold.

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Friday visited Kunduz city where he paid tribute to the security forces and thanked them for their commitment to restore security in the region. Ghani said that the Afghan forces proved in Kunduz that they will be able to defend their country bravely. "Kunduz’s dark situation has now changed to one of hope and I am proud of my security forces," Ghani said, after the forces drove out insurgents from the city.

In addition, he awarded outstanding medals to soldiers who lost their lives in Kunduz which fell to the Taliban about three weeks ago following a co-ordinated attack by the group on the city.

Ghani also promised the soldiers he would appreciate their promotion in the SOON as possible.

"Be sure I will stand behind every martyred soldier’s family," Ghani vowed as he was accompanied by army officials, government authorities and parliamentarians.

Highlighting U.S. President Barack Obama’s remarks Thursday about Af- ghan troops and the delay in the draw down of American troop presence at- ter 2016, Ghani said: "Yesterday the world’s biggest, most powerful coun- try’s..." (Merce on P40, 4)
KARUL - Kabil-Kandahar high- weight road, which was closed by Tal-iban fighters, re-opened after three months of southern Taliban forces blocking the road. The re-opening followed the release of two American pilots who were held by the Taliban.

Taliban forces had been blocking the road since September, citing security concerns.

The re-opening of the road is seen as a significant development, as it will improve access to supplies and reinforcements for both the Afghan government and international forces operating in the region.

The American pilots, who were released in a swap deal, were among the first to benefit from the re-opening of the road, as they were able to travel freely once again.

Afghan security forces are expected to continue patrols along the road to ensure its safety.

TIMELINE:
- September 2020: Taliban forces block Kabil-Kandahar road
- February 2021: Road re-opened
- September 2021: American pilots released in swap deal

Source: Report from the Ministry of Defence

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Turkmen Strongly Denies ‘Incidents’ at Afghan Border

KARLAK - Turkmenistan has strongly denied reports of incidents at the Afghan border.

“Reports of any incidents at the Afghan border are baseless. We have no information on any such incidents,” said the Turkmenistan Foreign Ministry.

The ministry also said that Turkmenistan has been working closely with Afghanistan to ensure peace and stability in the region.

The Afghan government has not responded to the Turkmenistan's denial of incidents at the border.

Source: Report from Turkmenistan Foreign Ministry
Our Ethical Values

I can be observed in both the individual and social lives that the actions we are most often considered in terms of whether they are right or wrong. An individual, in most of the cases, when performing actions, tends to gauge it in perspective of his individual concept of what constitutes right or wrong. While this concept can be easily placed in moral philosophy, it involves systematizing, defending, and criticizing the concept on a basis of how its various aspects are determined. It is important to understand what the vague and qualitative terms like 'right' and 'wrong' mean. In this regard, the basic concepts are derived from the social norms and traditions. Right is the behavior considered as desirable and in accordance to the social values, while 'wrong' is a conduct that is contrary to these values.

The important point, however, is to determine whether the social norms and traditions can be discarded or be considered immutable. For example, in some societies, as discussed earlier, criminal behavior is considered right and not be considered as such. The question, then, is whether a behavior can be considered as ethical or not?

With the globalization, there has been development of universal ethical values, which, although to a limited extent, tend to standardize the conduct based on the universal concepts of human rights and responsibilities. The universal ethical values concern the actions that have other human beings as in the ones that benefit others as well. However, it is very difficult to promote and implement universal ethical values to all the societies of the world. This is because the ethical values are different in various societies, mostly due to the differences in the development of social, political, and cultural and religious beliefs. Religion and culture have been the dominant sources of ethical values. The followers of different religions, however, express their ethical values from the basic teachings of their religion which are present in their holy scriptures or from the lives and behaviors of their Prophets. In the context of certain, most of the ethical values have been inherited from the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religious traditions.

Though societies have large impact on the lives of the individuals, their behavior is also influenced by the ethical values of the society. The individuals, on certain occasions, perform their actions based on their ethical values which are not always varying to conform to that of society. They question the rules and regulations and the values based on the values of self and pleasures. Thus, the individuals, mostly after the establishment of individualism, have considered the actions that lived to please others as values and not as ethical. Such an individualism concept can be based on a social condition known as Hedonism. It states that the principal ethical is in the pursuit of individual pleasure, and thus, human behavior is guided by the pursuit of pleasure.

The American society, like the society of other in the world, has certain ethical values, which are considered to be a part of our culture and are considered universal. Most of the ethical values and moral principles have been internalized in the majority of the American society. The American society derives these values from its culture, tradition, and religion. However, it is not right to be a part of the American society is an ethical concept because a diverse and very diverse and ethical values are not homogeneous. Nonetheles, that does not mean that major issues as long as diverse values are appreciated and tolerated. The major issue, however, is that some of the ethical values are derived from obsolete and outdated moral principles. In the other hand, the individuals must be kept in consideration the welfare and security of others while performing the actions that are considered as ethical. Such a concept can be based on the principle known as the principle of Utilitarianism. The ethics, in this case, is not about doing good to one’s oneself but also about acting on the principles of humanity and must avoid discriminatory behavior.

Chairman/ Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain
Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Qulzari
Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com
Phone: 0903 (799) 005019/777-005019
www.outlookafghanistan.net

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.
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EU Leaders Agreed on Further Steps to Tackle Refugee Crisis

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) leaders agreed on additional steps to tackle the "migration" and refugee crisis, following a one-day summit which ended early Friday.

"Tackling the migration and refugee crisis is an utmost priority in Brussels," EU leaders agreed in a joint statement released after the summit. The EU leaders also agreed that Turkey has been a "good actor" in the refugee crisis, saying the "member states will continue to support Turkey." 

Turkey's government has been criticized for its response to the refugee crisis, with some EU leaders complaining that the country is not doing enough to manage the influx of migrants.

The summit focused on finding ways to slow the flow of refugees into the EU, with many leaders calling for a "comprehensive" approach that includes both internal and external measures.

European Council President Donald Tusk said the summit was "an historic moment" and that the EU had "taken major steps in the right direction." 

"We must not lose sight of the fact that we have made considerable progress," Tusk said. "We must continue to work together to ensure that our borders are secure and that we provide a fair and equitable distribution of responsibility among member states."
Religious Scholars Term Taliban Acts UnIslamic

KABUL - At a gathering in Kabul, a number of Islamic scholars denounced the Taliban's acts over the past few years, labeling them as against the laws of Islam.

The religious scholars said the Taliban—who they say take orders from Pakistanis—introduced a policy that led government forces, civilians and children to death and injury. The scholars also said the Taliban's actions are not acceptable.

Condemning the acts of the Taliban, the clerics called upon the people of Afghanistan to rise against the Taliban.

The religious scholars said the Taliban's actions are against the laws of Islam and morality.

Nowhere to Go for Orphan Girls after 18

KABUL - The government's recent efforts to help orphan girls aged 11 to 16 to finish their studies, it seems, will become less effective as they turn 17. A head of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor said, "The government is trying to help orphan girls to get education."

The ministry is currently working on a new program to help orphan girls aged 17 to 18, but it is not yet clear how this will affect the current program.

Activists Urge Rights Bodies to Probe Kunduz 'Crimes'

KABUL - A civil society group, the Afghanistan Council Group, on Thursday urged UNAMA and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to take action against all alleged crimes against human rights committed in Kunduz by insurgents after they attack the city on April 15.

AIHRC and UNAMA should send all their findings to the international community if they find that crimes against human rights have been committed in Kunduz," said Kamar Karimi, a member of the Afghanistan Council Group.

The group also condemned the recent attack on the city of Kunduz by Taliban and other insurgent groups.

‘Time Has Gone when Taliban Was Dominated by Afghan People’

AFGHANISTAN, September 26 - Afghanistan has entered a new phase in its history, according to a report by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The report, which was released on Monday, said that the Taliban had been replaced by a new government in Afghanistan, which is supported by the International Community.

UN urges EU to Speed Registration, Relocation of Refugees

MOSCOW, October 17 - The European Union has called on the EU to speed up the registration and relocation of refugees, adding that this will help to reduce the burden on countries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The EU has been under pressure to take more refugees from the Middle East and North Africa, where the number of refugees has increased sharply in recent years.

Decades of War Damage Land Management System

KABUL - The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Development has said that the country's agricultural sector has been damaged by decades of conflict.

The minister said that the sector has been damaged by decades of war and conflict, and that it needs to be rebuilt.

Narhan Calls on CIS Leaders to Step up Fight against Int’l Terrorism

ANKARA - Turkey and the United States agreed to step up their cooperation against the Islamic State (IS). Daily News Turkey on Wednesday reported that US President Barack Obama and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met in Ankara.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed the fight against IS and the steps to be taken to defeat the group.

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Both leaders agreed that the IS must be defeated and that the US and Turkey should work closely together to achieve this goal.

NATO Welcomes Obama’s Decision on Withdrawal

Gen. Campbell Welcomes Obama’s Decision on Withdrawal

KARLIS - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday welcomed US President Barack Obama’s decision on delaying the troop drawdown in Afghanistan.

In a statement, Stoltenberg said, “I welcome President Obama’s announcement that the United States will maintain its current troop levels in Afghanistan through 2016 and will return a substantial number of troops that were deployed in support of ISAF’s mission in Afghanistan.”

Obama’s decision comes as the Afghan government is seeking to negotiate a final agreement with the Taliban, which has been fighting a guerrilla war in the country since 2001.

The US military has been operating in Afghanistan since 2001, and has been responsible for training and providing security to the Afghan government.

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