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## Pentagon confirms 11 thousand US troops are stationed in Afghanistan

August 31, 2017

The United State Department of Defense or Pentagon officials have confirmed the exact number of US troops stationed in Afghanistan.

The officials have said eleven thousand US forces are currently based and serving in the country.

This comes as the number was put at eight thousand and six troops earlier as there was expectations that the numbers for the deployment of the additional troops will announced soon.

In the meantime, defense secretary James Mattis earlier said decisions regarding the deployment of the additional forces will be taken once the exact number of the US troops are confirmed serving in Afghanistan.

The latest report regarding the confirmed number of the US troops emerges almost ten days after the US President Donald Trump unveiled his administration's latest policy for Afghanistan and the South Asia.

While announcing the new strategy on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, President Trump said his original instinct was to pull out however he said after detailed study of the situation he arrived at three fundamental conclusions.

“First, our nation must seek an honorable and enduring outcome worthy of the tremendous sacrifices that have been made, especially the sacrifices of lives. The men and women who serve our nation in combat deserve a plan for victory. They deserve the tools they need, and the trust they have earned, to fight and to win,” he said.

President Trump further added “Second, the consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable. 9/11, the worst terrorist attack in our history, was planned and directed from Afghanistan because that country was ruled by a government that gave comfort and shelter to terrorists. A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists, including ISIS and al Qaeda, would instantly fill, just as happened before September 11th.”

He said “Third and finally, I concluded that the security threats we face in Afghanistan and the broader region are immense. Today, 20 U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations are active in Afghanistan and Pakistan — the highest concentration in any region anywhere in the world.”