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Pentagon Plan Would Have US Troops Out of Afghanistan Within Five Years

Half of US troops could be withdrawn within a matter of months Posted on [February 28, 2019](#) [February 28, 2019](#) Categories [News](#) Tags [Afghanistan](#), [Pentagon](#)

Ongoing US-Taliban peace negotiations, designed to end the 18-year Afghan War, has a new proposal, with the Pentagon having finally offered a formal plan for withdrawing US forces from Afghanistan.

As with the usual Pentagon plans, there seems to be reticence toward actually doing this in a timely fashion. The plan reportedly would have half of the 14,000 US troops leaves Afghanistan within a matter of months, but then the [rest would stay for as long as five years](#). The [end of the five years would see not only all US troops out of Afghanistan](#), but also NATO troops. It is said to enjoy support within NATO and among administration officials. It's not clear what the Taliban's position is, however.

And that might be a tough sell for the Taliban. After resisting a US occupation for 18 years, the Taliban's demand is to get the US out of the country, and while the logistics of that might take awhile, five years is a very long time.

If anything, such a long time is likely to raise fears that the Pentagon is dragging its feet specifically to give officials time to change their minds and dishonor the deal, and keeping thousands of troops inside Afghanistan means Trump, or his successor, could end up resuming the war.