
GERMAN DEFENSE CHIEF VISITS IRAQ AMID UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR FOREIGN TROOPS

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Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauers arrival late on January 15 comes as Berlin looks to maintain the Bundeswehr training mission in Iraq.

Troops from Germany and some others that are part of the U.S.-led military coalition that has been aiding Baghdad in the fight against Islamic State (IS) and other terror groups have pulled out of Iraq after the United States killed Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani in an air strike in Baghdad in early January.

That attack led Iran to fire missiles at military bases hosting U.S. forces in Iraq.

Germany has still has some 90 soldiers in Irbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdish region where the Bundeswehr soldiers help train local Kurdish forces.

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