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US CENTCOM COMMANDER DISCUSSES SECURITY TIES IN VISIT TO IRAQ

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Al Monitor (9 July 2020)

Jared Szuba

Head of United States Central Command Gen. Frank McKenzie, after meeting with Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in Baghdad, told reporters he is confident the Iraqi government will request that some US forces remain in the country.

The government of Iraq recognizes the true value that the coalition brings to the fight against Daesh (another name for ISIS) in Iraq, and I believe that going forward, they're going to want us to be with them, McKenzie said.

The statement comes as the US and Iraq prepare for another round of dialogue on the future of US troop presence in Iraq, where they have been leading the international coalition against Islamic State since 2014.

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