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## **U.S. TO CUT TROOP PRESENCE IN IRAQ BY ABOUT ONE-THIRD, OFFICIALS SAY**

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Washington

The Pentagon is cutting the U.S. force in Iraq to about 3,500 troops, U.S. officials said, a roughly one-third reduction that President Trump is expected to tout as progress toward winding down what he has described as endless wars.

The U.S. and Iraq refrained from publicly setting a schedule for reducing the approximately 5,200 American troops now in the country when Iraq's prime minister visited Washington last week.

Several American officials said the Pentagon is cutting troop levels by roughly one-third over the next two to three months. That would bring American force levels roughly back to where they were in 2015 when the U.S. was in the early phase of its campaign against ISIS / Daesh.

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