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Germany announces to increase its troop numbers to 980 in Afghanistan

November 19, 2015

Germany currently has up to 850 troops assisting NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan but the country has announced increasing this number to 980.

Mainly after the seizure of a provincial capital by Taliban, which is unprecedented in last 14 years, NATO member countries argued that Afghan National Security and Defense Forces and the country's security institutions still need assistance to combat terrorism and maintain security.

They started reviewing their strategies of withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission in Afghanistan said late September that he had sent five different recommendations to the Pentagon and to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials in Brussels regarding the withdrawal of the US and NATO forces from Afghanistan.

After Gen. Campbell's recommendations, the United States and some other NATO counties changed their plans.

The original plan of US President Barack Obama was to draw-down his troop numbers from 9,800 to about 1,000 by the end of 2016 but he announced in October that the troops currently in

Afghanistan would stay through most of 2016, and then be reduced to 5,500 troops stationed in Kabul, Bagram, Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Following President Obama's announcement, the British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon also said that Britain will keep its current level of 450 troops on non-combat missions in Afghanistan through 2016.

Some other NATO members have also extended or plan to extend their mission in Afghanistan.