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## Australia pledges extra \$300 million to help develop Afghan forces

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Australia has pledged extra \$300 million in a bid to help develop the Afghan National Defense and Security Force (ANDSF).

The latest commitment was reportedly made on Friday ahead of a major NATO summit in Warsaw summit on Afghanistan.

Australia will provide \$100 million annually to the Afghan forces until 2020 which comes as the country had earlier pledged \$500 million to the Afghan forces from 2010 to 2017.

The announcement of extra funding came two days after U.S. President Barack Obama said he had decided to postpone plans to cut the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Obama said Wednesday that the decision to keep 8,400 troops in Afghanistan has been taken due to the situation in the country which remains 'precarious'.

“As president and commander-in-chief, I have made it clear that I will not allow Afghanistan to be used as safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again,” Obama said. “I strongly believe that it is in our national interests, especially after all the blood and treasure we’ve invested in Afghanistan over the years, that we give our Afghan partners the very best opportunity to succeed.”

The Department of Defense said Obama made the decision after consulting with the new U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. John Nicholson; his national security team; Congress and allies.