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The Crucial Military Partnership

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The American commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan has warned that the Islamic State group is attempting to eva-

cuate a region between the Islamic State group's key strongholds in the city of Jalalabad. In an interview with Associated Press, General Camp-

bell said that "Taliban and Islamic State forces are fighting each other for a deal that will end the war in the city of Jalalabad."

The purpose of the trip was to review security conditions in Afghanistan and assess ways for the US to help Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). During his visit, US Defense Secretary met with Masoom Stan-

i-khai, Afghanistan’s acting defense minister. Speaking at a joint press conference with Afghan acting minister of defense, Carter said that this visit will reveal to the Afghan government the options for fighting terrorists. US Defense Secretary’s visit to Afghanistan comes at a time when a bloody year of Taliban campaign is concluding and the Tal-

iban is going to prepare for another year of fighting.

2015 was a challenging year for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). ANSF managed to repulse the Taliban’s offensive in many parts of the province. However, there were numerous security setbacks on part for ANSF. This was also the case with the government’s policy of ending the war by the government. Taliban insurgency this year was the most widespread and the longest of its kind in the history of this country. In the very beginning of the fighting season, the militants ar-

chitected their plan to maximize the effects of their attacks on the security forces of this country. Later, the Taliban managed to capture the northern city of Kunduz. This was the group’s biggest military achievement against the Afghan government since the fall the Taliban regime. Although, ANSF managed to retake the city with the help of US-led Resolute Support Mission forces in the country.

As 2015 is closing to its end, there is continued fighting between Afghan National Security Forces and the Taliban. Despite the ANSF’s offensive in the winter season they are repulsed and their post-2015 insurgency continues. Some areas, provinces of Afghanistan would only work if the Afghan government and its international back-

ers manage to defeat the Taliban largely through military means. Al-

though, ANSF had been engaged in a number of joint military operations with other Central Asian states in the north. Therefore, all involved parties includ-

ing the United States and the Afghan government would continue to fight the Taliban, in Central Asian neighbors are opposed to the growing influence of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan. As a result, the Spielberg government and its international backers need to stop the Islamic State group and prevent it from getting more influence and power.

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook

By Dr. Shahab Akhtar and

Ambassador William Swing

The government of Afghanistan is not fully equipped politically and militarily to counter the influence of the Islamic State group and its affiliates at the instant. The Afghan government and its military agencies are involved in tackling the Taliban. However, they are not fully equipped to focus more on fighting the Islamic State group. The men of the Afghan government have been forced to divide their resources against a number of threats at the same time. In recent months. Though the Afghan government’s mission was fighting against the Taliban, in the meantime, in a number of areas, the group is the Taliban who have been playing a deteriorating role in Afghanistan, especially in eastern Nangarhar province. This year, in April and May, the Islamic State group is splitting the way to a fresh war over expansion of the Islamic State group is com-

ing at a time when the country is trying to further spread its influence with the Afghan government with various militant groups increasing their militant activities across the country. A recent annual semi-report of the Province to US Congress said that the Taliban has stayed active in ‘traditional stronghold’ and overall security situation in Afghanistan has de-

teriorated in the second half of 2015. The warning is coming also at a time when the Taliban are suffering from an internal split which may cause further intensifying among different branches of the once united Taliban led by the group’s former leader Mullah Muhammad-

 Omar. In many areas, however, the Taliban still remains a threat to the national security of Afghanistan. This is because the Taliban are fighting against the group in many parts of Afghanistan, and its main rival Taliban groups led by Mullah Akhtar Mansour and Mui-

lah Rasul.

Gen. Campbell has said that many of these have allegiance to the government in Kabul and the emerging Islamic State group. The US officials are concerned about the possibilities of movements of Taliban to other parts of the country. The issue has been raised that if the Afghan government is not able to prevent the Taliban from gaining influence in Afghanistan, the national forces are at risk from people smugglers, who pack them onto over-

crowded and unsafe boats and trucks or in containers and employ-

ers, who exploit them for profit; and authorities who do not release them in time. The Islamic State group is already growing at the expense of the Afghan government, but it is not clear if this group has any real threat to the national security of Afghanistan, and children vary. Many migrant workers leave home to seek jobs or higher wages in the growing economies of the oil-rich East Asia or the oil-rich countries of the Middle East. Others are refugees fleeing violence and persecution; stateless people trying to find dignity and recognition, or students hoping to access educational opportunities not available in their own country.

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formal routes are commonly used. Many people are at risk from people smugglers, who pack them onto over-

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ers, who exploit them for profit; and authorities who do not release them in time. Many are forced to pay huge fines for broken laws, they are all still human beings with rights. Migrants risk isolation, xenophobia, and abuse – and yet, still, they come. Why? Because despite all of these risks, migration is a driver forcing migrants to leave home and enter a new environment, and children vary. Many migrant workers leave home to seek jobs or higher wages in the growing economies of the oil-rich East Asia or the oil-rich countries of the Middle East. Others are refugees fleeing violence and persecution; stateless people trying to find dignity and recognition, or students hoping to access educational opportunities not available in their own country.

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