President Scraps Logar Chromite Deals

A Weakened Taliban Unlikely to Overmatch ANSF

Gen. Campbell
WASHINGTON - Even as the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) has come under criticism for its weak performance in a number of provinces, the Taliban is expected to face further challenges in 2015. The US and its allies are likely to continue to work closely with the Afghan government to improve the ANSF's capabilities.

Afghanistan Rules Out Pakistan Operations on Its Soil

KABUL - Kabul would not allow any foreign country in any circumstances to conduct operations on its soil, nor would it conduct any joint operation with Pakistan inside Afghanistan, a statement from the Presidential Palace said Friday. Earlier, media quoted the country's Interior Minister, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai as saying that Pakistan in cooperation with NATO and Afghan forces conducted joint operations in Afghanistan.

A strange statement sparked political outrage in Afghanistan but Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that “these reports are inaccurate.”

A statement from the Interior Ministry of Afghanistan said “The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that “these reports are inaccurate.”

UN Calls for Urgent Action to End Use of Child Soldiers in Conflict

NEW YORK - The United Nations on Thursday called for urgent action to end the use of child soldiers in conflict as children are increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups.

In a joint press release marking the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, appealed to all parties of conflicts to meet their obligations under international law and end all forms of violence against children, including recruitment and use by armed groups.

White governments of the world need to recognize that countries that recruit children, including child soldiers, are guilty of committing serious international crimes, especially with armed groups,” said Zerrougui.

“Out of 25 parties to conflict that are identified by the Secretary-General for grave violations, 22 of them are in conflict zones, 37 are accused by the UN, 40 thousands of boys and girls are associated with armed forces and armed groups in conflict zones, 132 countries around the world have been affected,” she added.

UNAWEF - President Abul Aslam Ghani on Thursday paid a surprise visit to central Logar province and truncated contracts with two foreign mining companies in extraction of chromite, the mining province now. Daily Mohammad Asadi said that the president arrived on an unannounced visit and inspected the Mess Ayub copper deposits. He said the president scrapped contracts with the two foreign mining companies, but he had no idea why. (Move on Page: 5)

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

US Wasted $20 Million in Iran

SAGIR

US Officials Signal Support for Flexible Troop Withdrawal Strategy

WASHINGTON - Chaired by U.S. Senator John McCain, a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington D.C. included testimony by senior American diplomats and national security officials unanimously advocating for a continued U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan post-2015 and a willingness to adapt policy based on how the country’s security situation evolves.

The men who gave testimony were Ambassadors James Cunningham, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan until December 2015; Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries; Ambassador Eric Olson, the former Commander of Special Operations Command; and Michael Letter, the former Director of National Counterterrorism Center.

The committee hearing, and the thrust of the testimony provided, falls in line with comments made by White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, during a press briefing on Wednesday. Mr Earnest said that President Barack Obama favors “a phased withdrawal” of U.S troops from... (Move on Page: 6)

Pakistan Calls for Greater Shift in Ties with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The government of Pakistan’s prime minister and the U.S. ambassador on foreign affairs and national security said his country needed a major shift in its ties with Afghanistan, Iran and India to ensure regional peace and stability.

Speaking at a seminar: “South Asia: Dynamics of Peace and Progress,” said Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, “Afghanistan’s relations with its neighbors must move away from the policies of confrontation, and towards policies of cooperation, dialogue and peaceful means.”

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

KABUL - Provincial Council Members (PCM) from around Afghanistan once again denounced the US that it must cease its involvement and to respect Afghan sovereignty. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said $301 million was wasted because four Department of Defense installations in Afghanistan never used them... (Move on Page: 6)

US Wasted $20 Million in Iran

SIGAR

Afghan FM Support Needed in Four Areas to Resolve Afghanistan Issue

ISLAMABAD - Support is needed in four areas to resolve the Afghanistan issue, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said after his meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was aimed at discussing the active role China can play in the Afghan peace process. Wang told a joint press conference with the Pakistani official. For a long time, Afghans have been suffering from the war and conflict, so there should be an urgent solution to this... (Move on Page: 6)

UN Calls for Urgent Action to End Use of Child Soldiers in Conflict

NEW YORK - The United Nations on Thursday called for urgent action to end the use of child soldiers in conflict as children are increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups.

In a joint press release marking the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, appealed to all parties of conflicts to meet their obligations under international law and end all forms of violence against children, including recruitment and use by armed groups.

White governments of the world need to recognize that countries that recruit children, including child soldiers, are guilty of committing serious international crimes, especially with armed groups,” said Zerrougui.

“Out of 25 parties to conflict that are identified by the Secretary-General for grave violations, 22 of them are in conflict zones, 37 are accused by the UN, 40 thousands of boys and girls are associated with armed forces and armed groups in conflict zones, 132 countries around the world have been affected,” she added.

UNAWEF - President Abul Aslam Ghani on Thursday paid a surprise visit to central Logar province and truncated contracts with two foreign mining companies in extraction of chromite, the mining province now. Daily Mohammad Asadi said that the president arrived on an unannounced visit and inspected the Mess Ayub copper deposits. He said the president scrapped contracts with the two foreign mining companies, but he had no idea why. (Move on Page: 5)

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

US Wasted $20 Million in Iran

SAGIR

US Officials Signal Support for Flexible Troop Withdrawal Strategy

WASHINGTON - Chaired by U.S. Senator John McCain, a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington D.C. included testimony by senior American diplomats and national security officials unanimously advocating for a continued U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan post-2015 and a willingness to adapt policy based on how the country’s security situation evolves.

The men who gave testimony were Ambassadors James Cunningham, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan until December 2015; Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries; Ambassador Eric Olson, the former Commander of Special Operations Command; and Michael Letter, the former Director of National Counterterrorism Center.

The committee hearing, and the thrust of the testimony provided, falls in line with comments made by White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, during a press briefing on Wednesday. Mr Earnest said that President Barack Obama favors “a phased withdrawal” of U.S troops from... (Move on Page: 6)

Pakistan Calls for Greater Shift in Ties with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The government of Pakistan’s prime minister and the U.S. ambassador on foreign affairs and national security said his country needed a major shift in its ties with Afghanistan, Iran and India to ensure regional peace and stability.

Speaking at a seminar: “South Asia: Dynamics of Peace and Progress,” said Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, “Afghanistan’s relations with its neighbors must move away from the policies of confrontation, and towards policies of cooperation, dialogue and peaceful means.”

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

KABUL - Provincial Council Members (PCM) from around Afghanistan once again denounced the US that it must cease its involvement and to respect Afghan sovereignty. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said $301 million was wasted because four Department of Defense installations in Afghanistan never used them... (Move on Page: 6)

UN Calls for Urgent Action to End Use of Child Soldiers in Conflict

NEW YORK - The United Nations on Thursday called for urgent action to end the use of child soldiers in conflict as children are increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups.

In a joint press release marking the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, appealed to all parties of conflicts to meet their obligations under international law and end all forms of violence against children, including recruitment and use by armed groups.

White governments of the world need to recognize that countries that recruit children, including child soldiers, are guilty of committing serious international crimes, especially with armed groups,” said Zerrougui.

“Out of 25 parties to conflict that are identified by the Secretary-General for grave violations, 22 of them are in conflict zones, 37 are accused by the UN, 40 thousands of boys and girls are associated with armed forces and armed groups in conflict zones, 132 countries around the world have been affected,” she added.

UNAWEF - President Abul Aslam Ghani on Thursday paid a surprise visit to central Logar province and truncated contracts with two foreign mining companies in extraction of chromite, the mining province now. Daily Mohammad Asadi said that the president arrived on an unannounced visit and inspected the Mess Ayub copper deposits. He said the president scrapped contracts with the two foreign mining companies, but he had no idea why. (Move on Page: 5)

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

US Wasted $20 Million in Iran

SAGIR

US Officials Signal Support for Flexible Troop Withdrawal Strategy

WASHINGTON - Chaired by U.S. Senator John McCain, a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington D.C. included testimony by senior American diplomats and national security officials unanimously advocating for a continued U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan post-2015 and a willingness to adapt policy based on how the country’s security situation evolves.

The men who gave testimony were Ambassadors James Cunningham, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan until December 2015; Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries; Ambassador Eric Olson, the former Commander of Special Operations Command; and Michael Letter, the former Director of National Counterterrorism Center.

The committee hearing, and the thrust of the testimony provided, falls in line with comments made by White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, during a press briefing on Wednesday. Mr Earnest said that President Barack Obama favors “a phased withdrawal” of U.S troops from... (Move on Page: 6)

Pakistan Calls for Greater Shift in Ties with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The government of Pakistan’s prime minister and the U.S. ambassador on foreign affairs and national security said his country needed a major shift in its ties with Afghanistan, Iran and India to ensure regional peace and stability.

Speaking at a seminar: “South Asia: Dynamics of Peace and Progress,” said Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, “Afghanistan’s relations with its neighbors must move away from the policies of confrontation, and towards policies of cooperation, dialogue and peaceful means.”

Afghanistan Operations on Its Soil

KABUL - Provincial Council Members (PCM) from around Afghanistan once again denounced the US that it must cease its involvement and to respect Afghan sovereignty. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said $301 million was wasted because four Department of Defense installations in Afghanistan never used them... (Move on Page: 6)