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Editorial**International support for Afghan forces a must**

Afghan National Defense and Security Forces retook the centers of Dawlat Abad district in northern Faryab province and Khan Abad district in Kunduz on Wednesday morning, according to Ministry of National Defense.

The ministry said that the security forces launched clearing operations on Tuesday night with air support in the centers of the districts and cleared it of Taliban presence. This comes as according to ministry, dozens of Taliban killed or injured in Afghan forces air strikes in different provinces.

Besides Afghan forces bravery in war on terror, the international community has recently also assured support for the forces, as an American MD Helicopters, Inc (MDHI) has confirmed it has been awarded two separate contracts worth \$2.9 million from Army Contracting Command-Rokkone supporting the Afghan Air Force's MD 530F Cayuse Warrior light attack helicopters.

In a statement issued by the company, MDHI stated the first contract, a six-month extension worth \$14.5 million, continues MDHI's longstanding efforts to provide program management, and contractor logistics support services, material, and remote operations to support the Afghan fleet.

Fighting against the Taliban and combating terrorism, Afghan soldiers have been paying high sacrifices, which received unprecedented public support in recent years. Taliban, al-Qaeda, ISIS and other guerrilla fighters, are widely involved in war crime as they violate the humanitarian law. They kill both combatants and non-combatants without an iota of humanity.

Afghan soldiers, who are seeking to protect the rights and dignity of the nation and defend national sovereignty, lose their lives on daily basis, and receive less attention from political figures and some regional countries. It is an undeniable fact that military forces are the backbone of a society and defend their national values. That is to say, without the blood of soldiers, a nation will never ever breathe a sigh of relief in a relatively peaceful atmosphere. Meanwhile they are not fighting only for stability in Afghanistan, but also targeting terrorists that posing serious threats to regional and global security.

Afghan soldiers have shown their bravery on different occasion, including carrying out complex and independent operations in Taliban held areas and releasing our innocent civilians and military personnel from their custody.

Therefore, the brave Afghan forces must be paid enough heed and the life and dignity of their families should be ensured forever. The government must pay them decently so that they can fight the battles without economic dilemma.

Moreover, the US, NATO and their allies must reinforce the Afghan soldiers and equip them with strong arms in order to mitigate the insurgency after their withdrawal. Afghan soldiers, who fight not only to protect nation's rights but also to root out radical groups, should be paid enough attention.

Meanwhile much more should be done to prevent from further casualties of Afghan combatants and non-combatants through adopting effective strategies.

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UN: Revealing Taliban's strategic ties with al-Qaeda and Central Asian jihadists*By: Lone Rashid*

As the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the deadline for the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan draws near, the region has been witnessing sudden adjustments. The Taliban have not only intensified assaults against the Afghan government forces and targeted hard core territories but also begun to demonstrate their regional influence in Central and South Asia.

As the US military has originated more than half of its withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban have then their deflated America after 20 years of grinding war. The Taliban leaders, who were driven by the latest military successes, began to further setting their own conditions for the withdrawal and stepping on the toes of Washington in order to prevent the establishment of a new US military base in Central Asia.

On May 26, the Taliban issued a statement warning Afghanistan's neighbors not to allow the US to utilize their territory and airspace for any future military operations against them. The recent Taliban jihad group cautioned that facilitating US military operations by neighboring countries in the future will be "great historical mistake."

base from Karachi-Kashmabud along political disagreements over a Hoody 2005 crackdown on protesters in Suleman. The Doha talks and Kabul airports in Tashkent were used very briefly by the NATO forces. The US base at the heavy 2000s hands. It is not clear that following the report of US military bases, were political leaders of Central Asia became skeptical of Washington, thus further perceiving it as an unreliable partner.

The Taliban's warning to the Central Asian states is fully consistent with the strategic expectations of al-Qaeda, the loyal and faithful ideological partner in the global jihad, both of which jointly seek to pull the US out not only from Afghanistan, but also from Central and Southern Asia based on propaganda release and the Central Asian Salafi-jihad groups which are linked to the Taliban and al-Qaeda, strongly supported the withdrawal of US forces from the region. Consequently, Uighur and Uzbek jihadists potentially see the Taliban and al-Qaeda as powerful partner organizations, whose rescue

gence in Afghanistan offers major advantages for their military and political strengthening. Unsurprisingly, al-Qaeda and Taliban aims to over the US forces from the regions, hence placing into the hands of Moscow and Beijing, considering that such entities to welcome an increased US military presence in their backyard.

Taliban leaders are well aware that the possible deployment of US military assets in Central Asia will impede their strategic goal in rebuilding the so-called Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Today Washington is actively working with nations surrounding Afghanistan on the deployment of its troops to support Afghan forces "on the border" after withdrawal from the country on September 11. The US air support for the Afghan military could thwart Taliban plans to quickly seize Kabul and force them to sit at the negotiating table with the Afghan Government administration. The Taliban have consistently and clearly expressed their numerous public statements opposing the negotiation and power share with the Kabul regime.

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