
THE US IS GOING TO BE IN IRAQ A LONG TIME, MATTIS'S BUDGET HINTS

- 02.06.2017

Daily Caller (01 June 2017)

The Pentagon is asking for more a billion dollars in a multi-year commitment to the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), in a sign the U.S. role in Iraq and Syria is likely continue for the majority of President Donald Trumps first term.

The budget provision is likely a facet of Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Trumps overarching strategy to defeat the Islamic State. The new budget request will provide the ISF with hundreds of millions of dollars in weapons to help the ISF contain the fall out from the Islamic States defeat in the city of Mosul.

Mosul is the last major city in Iraq held by ISIS but experts warn a vibrant insurgency could still bedevil the country for decades. Iraq shares a border with Syria where ISIS continues to control wide swaths of territory and sectarian tensions continue to flare, which could give ISIS increased support if the government does not effectively re-administer the area.

ISIS came to be in the first place after former President Barack Obama withdrew all U.S. forces in 2011. Lacking U.S. forces to broker disagreements, the Iraqi government purged the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) of Sunni leadership, inflaming sectarian tensions with the large Sunni population in Anbar province.

Kaynak/Source: