

TRUMP AND U.S.- AFGHANISTAN, U.S.- IRAN POLICY TIMELINE

Timeline prepared by Rayne and subject to change.

08/18/20	DOD Inspector general's office released its 2020 report, noting the Taliban's violations of the DOD-Taliban agreement. "The Taliban did not honor its obligation to disassociate from terrorist organizations in Afghanistan. US and U.S. officials reported that the Taliban continued to support Al-Qaeda, and conducted joint attacks with Al-Qaeda members against Afghan National Defense and Security Forces." https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html?article=2136201 Lead Inspector general, for operation freedom sentinel-1-quarterly-report-to-the-NV
09/03/20	The last 400 Taliban fighters were released from detention by the Afghan government. https://www.voxnews.com/world-central-asia/afghan-prisoner-swap-ends-peace-talks-finally-begin
01/15/20	Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan had been drawn down to 2500. https://www.defense.gov/News Releases/Release Article/2473377/statement-by-acting-defense-secretary-christopher-miller-on-force-levels-in-afg/ Afghanistan's government tells the Trump administration it has made too many concessions to the Taliban, that violence has increased just as they had warned it would after the 5000 Taliban fighters were released. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50665152
09/12/20	Afghanistan government and Taliban set to begin the peace process. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/12/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban.html
09/16/20	USA: "Taliban attacks in three provinces across northern Afghanistan since Tuesday killed at least 17 people, including six civilians, and wounded scores of others even as a Taliban political team was negotiating peace with the Afghan government and representatives of the U.S. and India." https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/16/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban-attacks.html
09/18/20	Trump, at press conference: "We're dealing very well with the Taliban. They're very smart, they're very sharp. But, you know, it's been 20 years, and even they are tired of fighting, in all fairness." https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/18/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban.html
11/XX/20	Exact date TBC: Caper "sent a classified memo to the White House this month expressing concern about additional cuts, according to the two U.S. officials familiar with the discussion. Conditions on the ground were not yet right," Caper wrote, citing the ongoing violence, possible dangers to the remaining troops in the event of a rapid cutback, potential damage to the U.S. and its partners' credibility and apprehension about undercutting the negotiations." The memo had been "leaked" by Trump's tweet which insisted U.S. troops in Afghanistan be "home by Christmas." https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-pentagon-afghan-war/2020/11/13/5ec547e-7cb-11eb-8559-406664a1bde_story.html
11/09/20	Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper by tweet.
11/16/20	Republicans in Congress expressed concern that the Trump administration's plans to withdraw from Afghanistan relying on rapid draw down of troops could lead to a "Saigon-type of situation." https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/16/republicans-trump-afghan-troop-reduction-48621
11/17/20	Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq will by January 15, 2021 reduced to 2,500 troops in each of the two countries. https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2418641/
12/02/20	Afghanistan government and Taliban agreed to a framework for peace talks. https://www.voxnews.com/world-central-asia/afghan-talib-sign-peace-deal.html DOD's inspector general reported the Taliban continued to violate the terms of the U.S.-Taliban agreement throughout 2020, and that the Taliban were admitting Al-Qaeda members into its leadership. https://www.voxnews.com/world-central-asia/afghan-talib-sign-peace-deal.html
01/15/21	Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan had been drawn down to 2500. https://www.defense.gov/News Releases/Release Article/2473377/statement-by-acting-defense-secretary-christopher-miller-on-force-levels-in-afg/ Afghanistan's government tells the Trump administration it has made too many concessions to the Taliban, that violence has increased just as they had warned it would after the 5000 Taliban fighters were released. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50665152