

U.S. to send 200 more troops to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. has agreed to deploy more than 200 additional troops to Iraq and to send eight Apache helicopters for the first time into the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq, the first major increase in U.S. forces in nearly a year, U.S. defense officials said Monday.

The uptick in American fighting forces — and the decision to put them closer to the front lines — is designed to help Iraqi forces as they move to retake the key northern city of Mosul.

Speaking to reporters Monday in Baghdad, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the decision to move U.S. advisers to the Iraqi brigade and battalion level will put them “closer to the action,” but he said they will have security forces with them and the U.S. will do what’s needed to reduce the risks.

A senior U.S. official said there will be eight Apache helicopters authorized to help the Iraqi forces when Iraq leaders determine they need them. The official was not authorized to discuss the numbers publicly so spoke on condition of

anonymity.

Last June the Obama administration announced that hundreds of troops would be deployed to help the Iraqis retake Ramadi — a goal they accomplished at the end of the year.

President Barack Obama on Monday emphasized the additional troops won’t be doing the fighting, but the extra training and intelligence support they provide can “continually tighten the noose.”

“As we see the Iraqis willing to fight and gaining ground, let’s make sure we’re providing them more support,” Obama said in an interview with CBS that aired Monday evening.

Obama also predicted success in Mosul: “My expectation is that by the end of the year we will have created the conditions whereby Mosul will eventually fall.”

Of the additional troops announced Monday, most would be Army special forces, who have been used throughout the anti-Islamic State campaign to advise and assist the Iraqis. The remainder would include some

trainers, security forces for the advisers, and maintenance teams for the Apaches.

The decisions reflect weeks of discussions with commanders and Iraqi leaders, and a decision by Obama to increase the authorized troop level in Iraq by 217 forces — or from 3,870 to 4,087. The advise-and-assist teams — made up of about a dozen troops each — would embed with Iraqi brigades and battalions, likely putting them closer to the front lines and at greater risk from mortars and rocket fire.

The U.S., said Carter, is “on the same page with the Iraqi government” in how to intensify the fight against the Islamic State.

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said the deployment of troops was welcome but called it “yet another example of the kind of grudging incrementalism that rarely wins wars, but could certainly lose one.”

The proximity to the battlefront will allow the U.S. teams to provide more tactical combat advice as the Iraqi units move

toward Mosul, the country’s second-largest city, still under Islamic State control. Until now, U.S. advisers have worked with the Iraqis at the headquarters level, well back from the front lines.

Carter called the addition of the Apache helicopters significant, because they can “respond so quickly and so dynamically to an evolving tactical situation.”

He said he discussed the Apaches with Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Monday and “he understood that it would be necessary for just these cases and agreed with me that we would provide it.”

Last December, U.S. officials were trying to carefully negotiate new American assistance with Iraqi leaders who often have a different idea of how to wage war. At that time, the Iraqis refused Apache helicopters for the battle to retake Ramadi, saying they didn’t think they were needed.

Speaking to U.S. troops at the airport in Baghdad, Carter also said that the U.S. will send an additional long-range, rocket-assisted artillery system to Iraq.

Split high court holds fate of Obama immigration actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative Supreme Court justices expressed sharp skepticism about President Barack Obama’s immigration efforts Monday, leaving his actions to help millions of people who are in the country illegally in the hands of a seemingly divided court.

As hundreds of pro-immigration demonstrators and a smaller number of opponents filled the sidewalk outside the court, the justices appeared to split along ideological and partisan lines over a case that pits Republican governors and members of Congress against the Democratic administration.

President Barack Obama’s administration is asking the justices to allow it to put in place two programs that could shield roughly 4 million people from deportation and make them eligible to work in the United States.

Texas is leading 26 states led by Republicans in challenging the programs that Obama announced in 2014 and that have been put on hold by lower courts. Those states say the administration usurped power that belongs to Congress, and Justice Anthony Kennedy indicated some support for that view.

“It’s as if ... the president is setting the policy and the Congress is executing it. That’s just upside down,” Kennedy said.

Chief Justice John Roberts also aggressively questioned Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr., suggesting there are few limits to the president’s power under the administration’s view of immigration law.

“Under your argument, could the president grant deferred removal to every ... unlawfully present alien in the United States right now?” Roberts asked.

“Definitely not,” Verrilli said. But it was not clear Roberts was satisfied with the answer and subsequent explanation.

The programs would apply to parents of children who are citizens or are living in the country legally. Eligibility also would be expanded for the president’s 2012 effort that applies to people who were brought here illegally as children. More than 700,000 people have taken advantage of that earlier program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The new program for parents, known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans, and the expanded program for children could reach as many as 4 million people, according to the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

Workers study cause of fluctuations in nuclear waste tank

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE — Fluctuations inside a huge tank of radioactive waste raised concerns on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state over the weekend, and workers prepared Monday to pump out the area of the leak.

A federal contractor said the amount of nuclear waste that has been leaking between the two walls of the underground tank for several years grew dramatically this weekend.

None of the waste appears to have escaped from Tank AY 102 into the environment, the contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions, said.

But workers were trying Monday to determine why the waste that leaked between the tank walls rose by about 8 inches on Sunday and then dropped by half an inch.

Hanford is located near Richland, Washington, and for decades made plutonium for nuclear weapons, including the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. The site contains a huge volume of radioactive waste that



This July 2014 file photo shows a sign that says “Where Safety Comes First”, which welcomes visitors to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland. A Department of Energy contractor is checking after more waste leaked from the inner tank of a double-shell waste storage tank at the reservation over the weekend of April 16.

will cost billions of dollars and take decades to clean.

“We’re continuing our checks of the tank to determine whether any material might be escaping from the tank itself,” said Jerry Holloway of Washington River Protection Solutions, which manages the underground tanks for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Workers are making preparations to pump all of the waste from

between the two walls of the tank back inside the tank, Holloway said.

“We see no indication of any release of material to the environment,” Holloway said Monday.

The most dangerous nuclear wastes at Hanford are stored in 28 giant double-walled tanks similar to AY 102. There are also 149 older single-walled tanks that contain wastes.

Tank AY 102 is Hanford’s oldest double-shell tank and since March was being emptied of its 750,000 gallons of radioactive waste because of the leak between the two walls, which is called the annulus. Less than 100 gallons of waste was estimated to have leaked into the annulus in recent years, drying in three separate patches.

But Hanford officials said that on Sunday an alarm in the annulus sounded, after the waste level rose to more than 8 inches deep. Several hours later the waste level in the annulus dropped by about half an inch.

Hanford workers found no waste outside the tank in the leak detection pit in an initial check Sunday, Holloway said.

Work to pump out the contents of the tank itself stopped when the increased leak into the annulus was detected.

Holloway said pumping equipment had already been installed in the annulus, which is about 2-feet wide, in case the levels of waste there increased over time.

Holloway said officials had expected that the leak into the annulus might be impacted by the pumping of the main tank space.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny and very warm	Mostly sunny, warm and pleasant	Partly sunny and very warm	Mostly cloudy, a shower; warm	Cloudy; windy in the afternoon

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
82° 47° 84° 53° 83° 52° 78° 54° 69° 43°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
85° 45° 88° 50° 87° 51° 82° 56° 73° 46°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	77°	44°
Normals	63°	39°
Records	88° (1910)	23° (1909)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.21"
Normal month to date 0.73"
Year to date 4.20"
Last year to date 3.01"
Normal year to date 4.73"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	79°	38°
Normals	65°	40°
Records	87° (1939)	21° (1964)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.28"
Normal month to date 0.47"
Year to date 2.98"
Last year to date 1.78"
Normal year to date 3.61"

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 6:02 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:47 p.m.
Moonrise today 5:33 p.m.
Moonset today 5:08 a.m.

Full Last New First
Apr 21 Apr 29 May 6 May 13

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Partly sunny today.

Eastern Washington: Sunny today. A moonlit sky tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny and very warm today; pleasant in the south and upper Treasure Valley.

Cascades: Mostly sunny and warmer today; a thunderstorm in spots in the south in the afternoon.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today. Clear and moonlit tonight. A shower in places tomorrow.

Northern California: Partial sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight; a shower or two at the coast.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	68	49	pc	63	49	pc
Baker City	77	31	s	79	38	s
Bend	81	43	s	77	43	pc
Brookings	67	51	pc	62	51	pc
Burns	78	34	s	78	39	pc
Enterprise	74	41	s	76	44	s
Eugene	84	51	s	74	49	pc
Heppner	80	48	s	82	51	s
Hermiston	85	45	s	88	50	s
John Day	81	50	s	81	51	pc
Klamath Falls	79	41	pc	72	37	pc
La Grande	77	44	s	80	43	s
Meacham	75	37	s	78	42	s
Medford	88	53	pc	81	49	pc
Newport	65	49	pc	61	49	pc
North Bend	68	50	pc	65	50	pc
Ontario	78	41	s	82	46	s
Pasco	85	44	s	87	48	s
Pendleton	82	47	s	84	53	s
Portland	87	56	s	79	54	pc
Redmond	84	39	s	80	41	pc
Salem	85	53	s	77	50	pc
Spokane	76	50	s	81	54	s
Ukiah	77	41	s	78	43	s
Vancouver	85	54	s	79	50	pc
Walla Walla	80	51	s	84	55	s
Yakima	86	46	s	86	50	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	63	48	c	81	49	s
Hong Kong	79	72	t	84	76	c
Jerusalem	82	64	s	86	64	s
London	59	41	pc	57	45	pc
Mexico City	79	52	pc	76	51	pc
Moscow	55	36	c	55	32	r
Paris	58	42	pc	63	48	pc
Rome	71	50	s	73	50	pc
Seoul	63	45	pc	65	52	c
Sydney	73	60	pc	75	62	c
Tokyo	68	52	s	65	58	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	NNE 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton	N 4-8	NNW 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

1 4 6 6 4 1

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Showers will leave New England as cooler air moves into the Northeast today. A slow-moving storm will bring additional rain to the Central states with the greatest risk of flooding in the south.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 94° in Thermal, Calif. Low 15° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	63	40	pc	72	46	c	Louisville	84	61	c	80	61	pc
Atlanta	85	58	pc	83	61	c	Memphis	73	62	c	75	62	t
Atlanta City	69	47	pc	59	45	s	Miami	81	69	pc	81	72	s
Baltimore	69	44	s	67	44	s	Millwaukee	53	45	sh	59	50	sh
Billing	54	40	pc	67	43	s	Minneapolis	65	51	r	62	52	sh
Birmingham	83	58	pc	80	62	c	Nashville	81	61	c	79	61	c
Boise	76	47	s	80	54	pc	New Orleans	80	67	c	77	67	t
Boston	53	42	c	54	43	pc	New York City	70	47	pc	67	48	s
Charleston, SC	88	58	s	82	59	pc	Oklahoma City	70	50	pc	73	52	t
Charleston, WV	63	53	pc	61	59	s	Omaha	67	47	pc	65	49	c
Chicago	62	50	c	66	54	sh	Philadelphia	75	48	pc	69	47	c
Cleveland	60	41	c	70	54	s	Phoenix	90	64	s	94	66	s
Dallas	76	61	pc	79	61	c	Portland, ME	54	37	sh	57	37	pc
Denver	48	31	c	57	34	c	Providence	59	42	c	59	40	c
Detroit	64	41	c	67	51	c	Raleigh	87	55	pc	75	52	s
El Paso	80	51	s	85	54	s	Rapid City	56	35	pc	60	37	c
Fairbanks	55	31	s	57	38	pc	Reno	80	48	pc	77	46	s
Fargo	59	46	pc	67	45	c	Sacramento	85	51	pc	81	54	pc
Honolulu	82	69	pc	83	71	pc	St. Louis	75	58	c	71	57	t
Houston	75	66	r	77	65	t	Salt Lake City	66	46	pc	73	47	s
Indianapolis	80	56	c	73	56	c	San Diego	80	61	s	78	61	s
Jacksonville	81	53	pc	84	59	pc	San Francisco	73	54	pc	71	57	pc
Kansas City	68	51	pc	68	48	c	Seattle	81	54	s	79	54	s
Las Vegas	87	63	c	90	65	c	Tucson	86	55	s	90	57	s
Little Rock	72	61	t	75	60	c	Washington, DC	81	50	pc	71	50	s
Los Angeles	86	58	s	82	58	s	Wichita	69	49	pc	71	51	t

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.