

**Deployment of force protection resources and capabilities to the CENTCOM AOR
May 24, 2019**

Attributable to Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan:

Today, I informed Congress that I approved the combatant commander's request for the deployment of additional resources and capabilities to the Middle East to improve our force protection and safeguard U.S. forces given the ongoing threat posed by Iranian forces, including the IRGC and its proxies. The deployment will include approximately 1,500 U.S. military personnel and consist of a Patriot battalion to defend against missile threats; additional intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft; an engineer element to provide force protection improvements throughout the region; and a fighter aircraft squadron to provide additional deterrence and depth to our aviation response options. The additional deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility is a prudent defensive measure and intended to reduce the possibility of future hostilities. I remain committed to ensuring U.S. personnel have the force protection resources they need and deserve.

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