

# *U.S. to Deploy 300 Military Personnel to Iraq*

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Washington, June 17 (RHC)-- U.S. President Barack Obama has announced plans to deploy about 300 U.S. military personnel back to Iraq amid a widening crisis. In a letter to congressional leaders, Obama said the force will “protect U.S. citizens” and be equipped for combat.

The Obama administration is reportedly weighing other options in Iraq, including drone strikes and the deployment of special forces to train Iraqi troops. The United States and Iran have spoken briefly about the crisis, but State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki ruled out any joint military action.

In their latest advance, Sunni militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria have attacked and briefly taken control of parts of the city of Baquba, less than 40 miles from Baghdad.

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