

# *New Pentagon Chief Arrives in Afghanistan*

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Kabul, February 21 (RHC), -- New U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has arrived in Afghanistan on an unannounced visit to meet with the country's officials, a report says. The Saturday visit to the war-torn country marks Carter's first official trip since he took over the job on Tuesday.

Carter said that he plans to meet with Afghan and American officials to make sure "lasting" success is achieved as U.S. troops are withdrawing from the country. The U.S.-led foreign forces formally ended combat operations in Afghanistan in December, with only 13,500 troops remaining there in an advisory role.

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