

# U.S. to end military presence in Niger

April 20 (UPI) — The United States will withdraw more than 1,000 troops from Niger as the African nation deepens ties with Russia.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell met with Niger's Prime Minister Ali Lamine Zeine on Friday to formalize the end of the United State's military presence in the country.

The announcement comes a month after Niger's military junta revoked a 12-year-old security pact with Washington that allowed U.S. forces on Nigerian soil to combat Islamist terrorists in the region.

The withdrawal is expected to take place over the next few months.

Relations between Niger and the United States have deteriorated since last year when a military coup pushed out the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and installed the current junta.

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