

Nato in Afghanistan

The Guardian, Tuesday 2 October 2012 21.00 BST

Your article and its headline online ([Nato withdrawal from Afghanistan could be speeded up, says Rasmussen](#), 1 October) misrepresent the [Nato](#) secretary general's views and statements. He made clear that any possible changes to our troop posture from now until the end of 2014 would come in the context of the Afghan forces taking the lead for security. Your article omitted this essential reference, while including a truncated comment on insider attacks which was not made in the interview, but in a separate press conference. It thus implied a link between the pace of redeployment and insider attacks, which the secretary general never made, while omitting the explicit link he made to the Afghan assumption of security responsibility. Contrary to your headline, he made very clear that all Nato nations and Isaf partners remain fully committed to our mission in [Afghanistan](#). Our goal is to hand over full responsibility for security to the Afghans. Our strategy is to build up the capacity of the Afghan security forces. Our timeline is to complete this transition by the end of 2014. The goal, the strategy and the timeline remain unchanged.

Oana Lungescu *Spokesperson, Nato*

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