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President Barack Obama told Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on Friday that the Pentagon can send as many as 1,500 additional ground troops to Iraq as part of the U.S. mission to fight ISIS.

That deployment would approximately double the American military personnel in place there. The Defense Department had until Friday a mandate to send no more than 1,600 troops, and had put 1,400 in the field already.

The White House also asked Congress for \$5.6 billion in new war funding, all while insisting that the U.S. military is not using ground forces in a combat role.

Instead, the administration continued to stress on Friday that American personnel would train, advise and assist Iraqi military and Kurdish forces fighting the ISIS terror army.



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Obama wants \$5.6 billion to send another



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Baghdad, where US military forces have been fighting over a checkpoint near Amerli, 100 miles north of



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A firm line with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was drawn by the militants and still



The US military has been fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria since 2014. The group has been fighting the US military and other forces in Iraq and Syria. The group has been fighting the US military and other forces in Iraq and Syria.





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teasing. The battle against ISIS has also seen Shiite militias take up arms against the



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During the 2014 campaign, Obama said he would send 1,500 more troops to Iraq to battle ISIS, but he also said he would not send ground troops. Obama's decision to send more troops to Iraq was seen as a move to show that the US was committed to fighting ISIS, but it also raised concerns about the potential for a ground war.