

Germany extends U.S. anti-terror mandate

by UPI

BERLIN - Lawmakers in Germany voted Thursday to extend by one year its involvement in the U.S.-led effort against international terrorism. German lawmakers passed the mandate by 415 to 145, with 15 abstentions, to continue naval patrols off the Horn of Africa and pave the way for the deployment of German special forces to Afghanistan, Deutsche Welle reported Thursday. The move met opposition by some German lawmakers who accused the government of misleading the public regarding German combat operations in Afghanistan. "Just because Mohammed Atta planned his monstrous crime in Hamburg, there is no reason why Hamburg should go to war," commented parliamentarian Jurgen Trittin, referring to the Hamburg cell that was involved in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union Party defended the extension saying the move focuses resources on reconstruction and security measures in Afghanistan, Deutsche Welle said.

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