

British withdrawal from Iraq imminent

by UPI

LONDON -- The pullout of Britain's military contingent in Iraq is imminent as troops await the final order to withdraw, officials said in London Thursday.

The withdrawal, expected to be completed by the end of July, comes after six years of fighting and 179 British troop deaths, officials told the KUNA news agency.

A memorial service for the British war dead was conducted earlier Thursday at Basra airbase. The United States will take over Basra defense once the British leave.

U.S. troops plan to withdraw next year.

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