

Warsaw in Talks on Stationing US Military Warehouses in Poland

By **Sputnik**

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Poland is discussing the possibility of stationing of US Army equipment warehouses in the country with Washington, the Defense Ministry said in Warsaw on Sunday.

The Polish ministry also said on Twitter that Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak received assurances during his visit to Washington in May that a decision on stationing the warehouses would be taken soon.

.<u>@TomaszSiemoniak</u> W majowych rozmowach w <u>#Waszyngtonie</u> <u>#USA</u> uzyskałem zapewnienie, że decyzja niedługo zapadnie <u>#Pentagon</u>

— Ministerstwo Obrony (@mon pl) June 14, 2015

"We are currently discussing the prospect with the Americans. The subject was brought up during my recent meeting in Washington with US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter," Siemoniak told the Polish Press Agency on Sunday.

Varšava – polský ministr obrany <u>@TomaszSiemoniak</u>: americko-polské rozhovory o umístění amer. vojenští železářství (sklady) Brzy rozhodnutí

KrzysztofNakonieczny (@knakonieczny) June 14, 2015

Tomasz Siemoniak said that this move would strengthen US' presence in Poland and the region.

"It's been our longtime wish to have maximum US military presence in Poland and NATO's entire eastern flank as a whole," the Polish minister noted.

"The United States is working on a whole package of measures, above all on stationing heavy weapons in Poland and other countries. The Americans have already done this in Europe, for example in Norway... Moving soldiers around is not a problem, but you've got to have heavy weapons stationed in potentially dangerous areas. During our talks in Washington last month I received assurances that a decision on stationing the US military warehouses would be taken soon," Tomasz Siemoniak said.

In April, the defense ministers of Germany, Poland and Denmark confirmed their plans to expand NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast, based in the Polish city of Szczecin. NATO has been increasing its presence in eastern European allied countries and near Russia's border over the past year, straining relations between the military alliance and Moscow.

In February, NATO announced it would double its Response Force, stationed close to Russia in Eastern Europe, to comprise 30,000 military personnel.

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