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A US delegation led by General Joseph L Votel, Commander US Centcom, called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. #PakForcesExemplarySacrifices

The US Commander appreciated Pakistan Army's efforts for regional peace and stability.

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A press release issued here by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the COAS reiterated that peace in Afghanistan is vital for regional peace.

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Gen Bajwa said that Pakistan, despite constraints, had contributed to all efforts for regional peace and would continue to do so, it said.

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It added that geo-strategic environment, regional security and Afghanistan peace and reconciliation process were discussed in the meeting.

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Imran Khan underscored the need for normalising relations with all neighbouring countries to unleash the potential of regional cooperation.

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Prime Minister Khan noted that his economic team was constantly striving to evolve business-friendly policies for potential investors, which could be benefited by the US companies.

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In view of the historical linkages between Pakistan and the US, the two sides agreed to deepen the bilateral economic ties particularly in the context of trade and investment cooperation.

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The US lawmaker's trip to Pakistan comes as American officials have held several rounds of talks with Taliban representatives.

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They actually need to meet and come up with an agenda that will push a resolution to the war in Afghanistan,"

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the senator added. Graham — once a potent critic of Trump — has transformed in recent months into an ardent defender and influential ally of the president.

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He said by putting up fence on border with Afghanistan, Pak Army has fulfilled in 18 months a desire that the US had been having for 18 years.

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The senator's arrival also overlapped with an ongoing trip by US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has been shuttling around the region for months to build support for the peace initiative.

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Khalilzad was in Kabul last week and then flew to Pakistan where he also met with the prime minister Friday as news reports in Pakistan suggested Islamabad was open to hosting the next round of talks with the insurgents.

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The Taliban, however, have threatened to suspend the fledgling peace efforts, accusing Washington of changing the agenda of the talks and "unilaterally"

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adding new subjects. Graham's trip also comes after US officials announced in December that Trump intends to withdraw as many as half of the 14,000 US troops deployed in Afghanistan.

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The meetings are the latest in a flurry of diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing the Taliban to the table for negotiations with the Afghan government on ending the conflict which began with the US invasion in 2001.

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