WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has named retired four-star US Army general John Nicholson as the new commander of US forces in Afghanistan, a senior US defense official said on Friday.

The White House confirmed the move, which comes as the US is pushing to find a political solution to a war that has dragged on for almost 16 years.

Nicholson is expected to take over from US General John W Nicholson Jr who has been in charge of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan since August 2014.

He succeeds General John W Nicholson Jr, who has been in charge of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan since August 2014.

Nicholson is a seasoned battlefield commander with decades of experience in Afghanistan, where he previously served as the top US general.

He is also a well-respected figure within the US military, having served in a variety of high-profile roles in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Nicholson's appointment comes amid growing frustration in the US over the war in Afghanistan, with some lawmakers calling for a withdrawal of US forces.

However, President Trump has said he is committed to finding a political solution to the conflict.

The new leader will be tasked with overseeing the withdrawal of US forces as part of a deal with the Taliban, which has been in place since September 2020.

The deal called for the withdrawal of all US forces from Afghanistan by the end of May, but the US military has continued to extend its presence in the country.

Nicholson is expected to work closely with the Afghan government and other international partners to ensure a smooth transition.

He is also expected to focus on training and equipping the Afghan security forces, which have struggled to fight the Taliban in the absence of US assistance.

The appointment comes as US military officials have expressed concern about the growing complexity of the conflict, with the Taliban regaining ground in some parts of the country.

Nicholson's experience in Afghanistan and his reputation as a hard-nosed battlefield commander make him well-suited for the job.

He will be expected to work closely with the Afghan government and other international partners to ensure a smooth transition from the US military's role.

DC: The US State Department said on Friday that it was monitoring the situation in Afghanistan as the new leader takes over.

The department said it was concerned about the security situation in the country and hoped that the Taliban would continue to abide by the terms of the agreement with the US.

The department also reiterated its call for a political solution to the conflict, with a focus ona dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

The Afghan government has welcomed the appointment of a new leader and expressed confidence that the US military would continue to support the Afghan security forces.

However, some analysts have expressed concern about the potential for US forces to become embroiled in a new conflict as the transition from military to civilian control takes place.

The new leader will be expected to focus on ensuring a smooth transition and working with the Afghan government to achieve a political solution to the conflict.

The US military has a long history of involvement in Afghanistan, having been present in the country since 2001 as part of the US-led war on terrorism.

The new leader will inherit a complex and challenging environment, with the Taliban regaining ground in some parts of the country and the Afghan government facing significant challenges.

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