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07/21/05 10:59 PM **US base in trouble, Rumsfeld to visit Kyrgyzstan and Putin signs law on Russian air base** [Post [293808029](#)]**Category:** News & Opinion (General) **Topic:** International Affairs**Synopsis:** Pressure on Washington comes amid moves by Russia to reinforce its longstanding presence in the stra**Source:** [Yahoo](#), [Novosti](#)**Published:** July 21, 2005 **Author:** none**For Education and Discussion Only. Not for Commercial Use.**

US base in trouble, Rumsfeld to visit Kyrgyzstan and Putin signs law on Russian air base (Updated)

Rumsfeld "will meet with the leaders of the republic of Kyrgyzstan," the Kyrgyz defence ministry said during the trip July 25 and 26, indicating that US aid would be on the agenda.

The pressure on Washington comes amid moves by Russia to reinforce its longstanding presence in the strategic region.

Rumsfeld to visit Kyrgyzstan for talks on disputed base: Kyrgyz ministry

BISHKEK (AFP) - US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld will visit Kyrgyzstan next week to discuss the future of a US airbase there, which the Kyrgyz president wants the Americans to vacate, officials said.

Rumsfeld "will meet with the leaders of the republic of Kyrgyzstan," the Kyrgyz defence ministry said during the trip July 25 and 26, indicating that US aid would be on the agenda.

However, a government official who asked not to be named told AFP that the future of the Ganci airbase, near the capital Bishkek in the Central Asian former Soviet republic, would dominate talks.

Kyrgyzstan's new leadership, which came to power in a March revolution, has called for a rethink on the future of the base, which was set up in 2001 for the invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Uzbekistan, another Central Asian ex-Soviet republic, has also called for reassessing the presence of the post-9/11 US base set up there.

The pressure on Washington comes amid moves by Russia to reinforce its longstanding presence in the strategic region.

Putin signs law on Russian airbase in Kyrgyzstan

MOSCOW, July 21 (RIA Novosti) - Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law on an agreement between Russia and Kyrgyzstan on the status of and the deployment conditions for a Russian airbase in Kyrgyzstan, the presidential press service said. The agreement was ratified by the State Duma, parliament's lower chamber, on July 8 and approved by the Federation Council, parliament's upper chamber, on July 13.

The Kant base, located 30km to the east of Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, has a former Soviet military airfield and training facility, taken over by Kyrgyzstan from the Soviet Union in 1992.

The Russian-Kyrgyz agreement, signed in September 2003, stipulates that the base is part of the Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which includes Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Russia has deployed about 500 military servicemen and several Su-27 Flanker fighters and Mi-8 helicopters to the base.

The U.S. military base at Manas, at the Kyrgyz capital's international airport, is a strongpoint in conducting the counter terrorist operation in Afghanistan. At the July SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana, Putin's proposal to set a deadline for foreign military withdrawal in Central Asia was unanimously approved by SCO members.

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