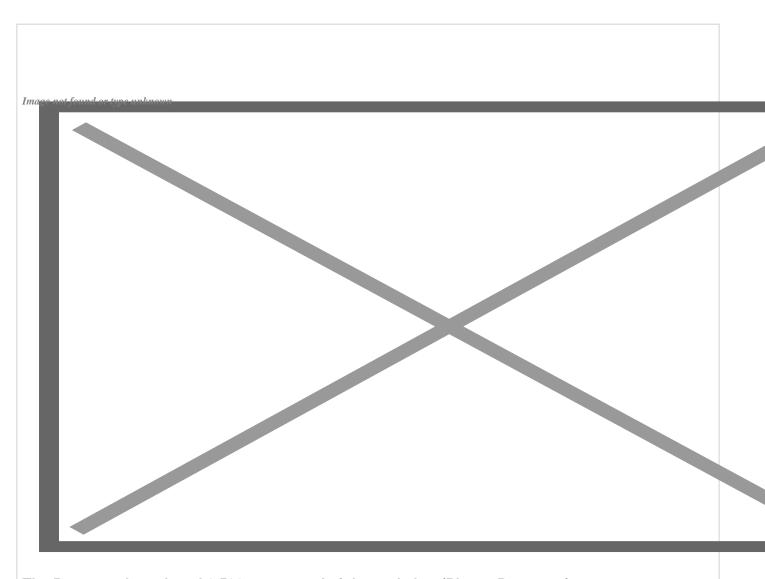
## Pentagon puts 8,500 troops on high alert as U.S. claims Russia is preparing to invade Ukraine



The Pentagon has placed 8,500 troops on heightened alert (Photo: Pentagon)

Washington, January 25 (RHC)-- The Pentagon has placed 8,500 troops on heightened alert to potentially deploy to Eastern Europe over concerns Russia may soon invade Ukraine. The U.S. and NATO allies have accused Russia of amassing 100,000 troops near the Ukrainian border, but Russia has denied it's planning an invasion.

This comes as other NATO nations are planning to send additional troops, ships and fighter jets to Eastern Europe.

On Monday, the Kremlin accused the United States and NATO of escalating tension in the region. Meanwhile, negotiations to resolve the crisis are ongoing, with officials from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany scheduled to meet in Paris on Wednesday.

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