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Putin Orders Russian Forces to Withdraw From Syria

By The Moscow Times

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President Vladimir Putin has ordered the withdrawal of "the main part" of Russia's forces in Syria, the TASS news agency reported Monday.

The pullout will begin on Tuesday, Putin told a meeting with Defense Minister Sergei Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, according to the report.

Putin was cited as saying that the withdrawal was a result of the "completion" of the Defense Ministry's objectives in the war-torn country.

Russia in September last year launched a military operation in Syria in the name of fighting Islamic terrorism there.

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