

# New front to U.S.-led war on terrorism

Up to 200 U.S. troops are to be deployed in the former Soviet republic of Georgia to help its military fight guerrillas linked to Osama bin Laden. The U.S. believes that al-Qaeda suspects from Afghanistan are hiding in the Pankisi Gorge, where Chechen militants are also known to be based

## U.S. military in Georgia:

10 UH-1H "Huey" helicopters – six intended to fly, four for spare parts

Six contractors and one military adviser training aircrew in Tbilisi



Georgia's president  
**Eduard Shevardnadze**

now admits Pankisi

Gorge harbours

numerous

terrorist

groups



**Georgia:** Aspiring NATO member, has forged close ties with U.S. since independence and Soviet collapse in 1991

**Russia:** Critical of U.S. involvement – regards Georgia as in its sphere of influence

Sources: U.S. Defense Department, Popperfoto

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