

Green Berets land in former Soviet republic

The first contingent of up to 150 U.S. troops has arrived 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:

50 Green Berets (special forces).
10 UH-1H "Huey" helicopters – six
intended to fly, four for spare parts

R U S S I A



*Georgia's president
Eduard Shevardnadze*



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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