NATO gears for spring offensive

A newly confident NATO is preparing to take on the Taliban during the spring offensive. Since being deployed in the south of Afghanistan last summer, fierce fighting has cost the 37-nation International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) the lives of more than 190 of its soldiers

| Security threat level (Jan 2007) | |
|---|---|
| Highly volatile Extre | mely hostile 155 miles |
| Ring Road: \$1bn project to complete strategic two-lane highway remains 40% unfinished Mazar-i-Sharif Kunduz TAJIKISTAN | |
| 2 5 Ka | North West Frontier Province |
| Herat | Jole John H |
| AFGHANISTAN Ghazni | ⊚— Peshawar |
| | ☐ Islamabad |
| Farah © 10 © 9 | Waziristan Taliban "mini-state". Number of fighters estimated at between 4,000 and 10,000 |
| © Quetta Kandahar PAKISTAN INDIA Helmand Province | |
| TOP ISAF CONTRIBUTORS Troops | 5. Australia: Bamyam500 |
| 1. Italy: Based at Herat 1,950 | 6. Turkey: Wardak 800 |
| 2. Spain: Qala-e-Naw 550 3. Germany: Mazar-i-Sharif 3,000 Expected to send 20 <i>Leopard 2A6</i> | 7. United States: Kabul Extra 3,000 troops planned France: 1,000 |
| tanks to support Canadians at | 8. Netherlands: Tarin Kowt 2,200 |
| Kandahar. Will also deploy six Tornado reconnaissance aircraft | 9. Canada: Kandahar 2,500 Romania: 750 |
| to southern Afghanistan. Cabinet willing to send additional 500 troops | 10. Britain: Lashkar Gah 7,700 Includes extra 1,400 troops, backed |
| 4. Denmark: Fayzabad 400 Considering extra 200 troops | by armoured vehicles and helicopters, to be deployed by summer |
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