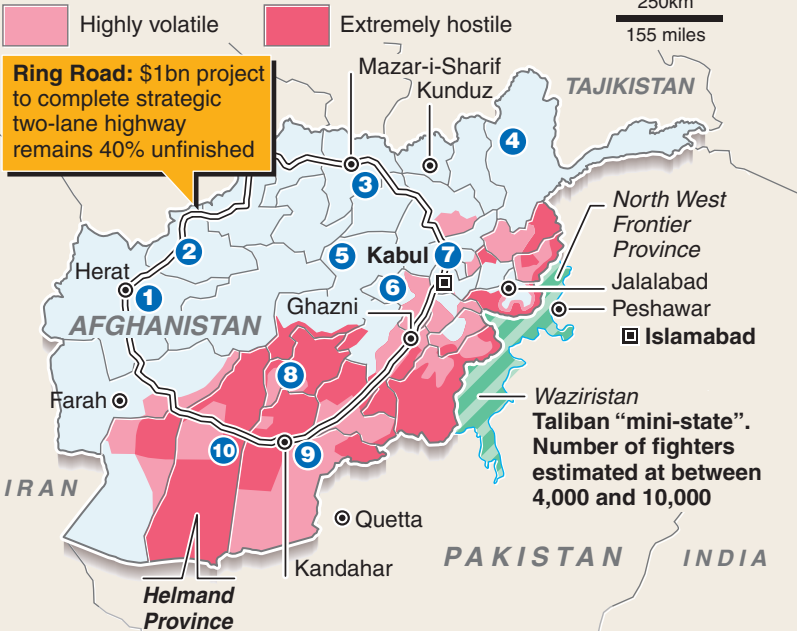


NATO gears for spring offensive

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)



TOP ISAF CONTRIBUTORS

	Troops		
1. Italy: Based at Herat	1,950	5. Australia: Bamyam	500
2. Spain: Qala-e-Naw	550	6. Turkey: Wardak	800
3. Germany: Mazar-i-Sharif	3,000	7. United States: Kabul	14,000
Expected to send 20 Leopard 2A6 tanks to support Canadians at Kandahar. Will also deploy six Tornado reconnaissance aircraft to southern Afghanistan. Cabinet willing to send additional 500 troops		France:	1,000
4. Denmark: Fayzabad	400	8. Netherlands: Tarin Kowt	2,200
Considering extra 200 troops		9. Canada: Kandahar	2,500
		Romania:	750
		10. Britain: Lashkar Gah	7,700
		Includes extra 1,400 troops, backed by armoured vehicles and helicopters, to be deployed by summer	