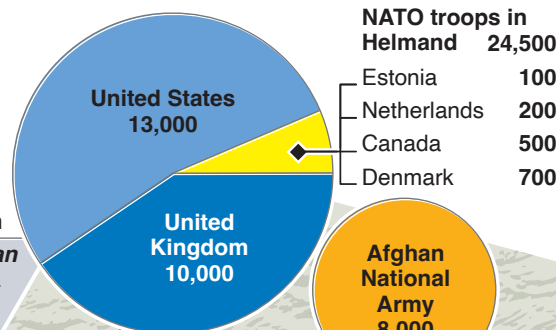


Afghan surge to counter insurgency

The number of international troops deployed in Afghanistan under U.S. and NATO command will increase to more than 140,000 in 2010. The reinforcements, which include about 30,000 U.S. troops and 7,000 from NATO countries, will be mostly deployed in the southern province of Helmand, the heartland of the insurgency



Helmand population 1,442,000

Surge will push troop levels from 16 to above 20 soldiers per 1,000 inhabitants – minimum required for counter-insurgency campaign

Insurgents 3,000 (est.)

Key locations in Helmand campaign

1. Quetta: HQ of *Quetta Shura Taliban* headed by *Mullah Mohammad Omar*. Helmand insurgency is resourced and directed by QST

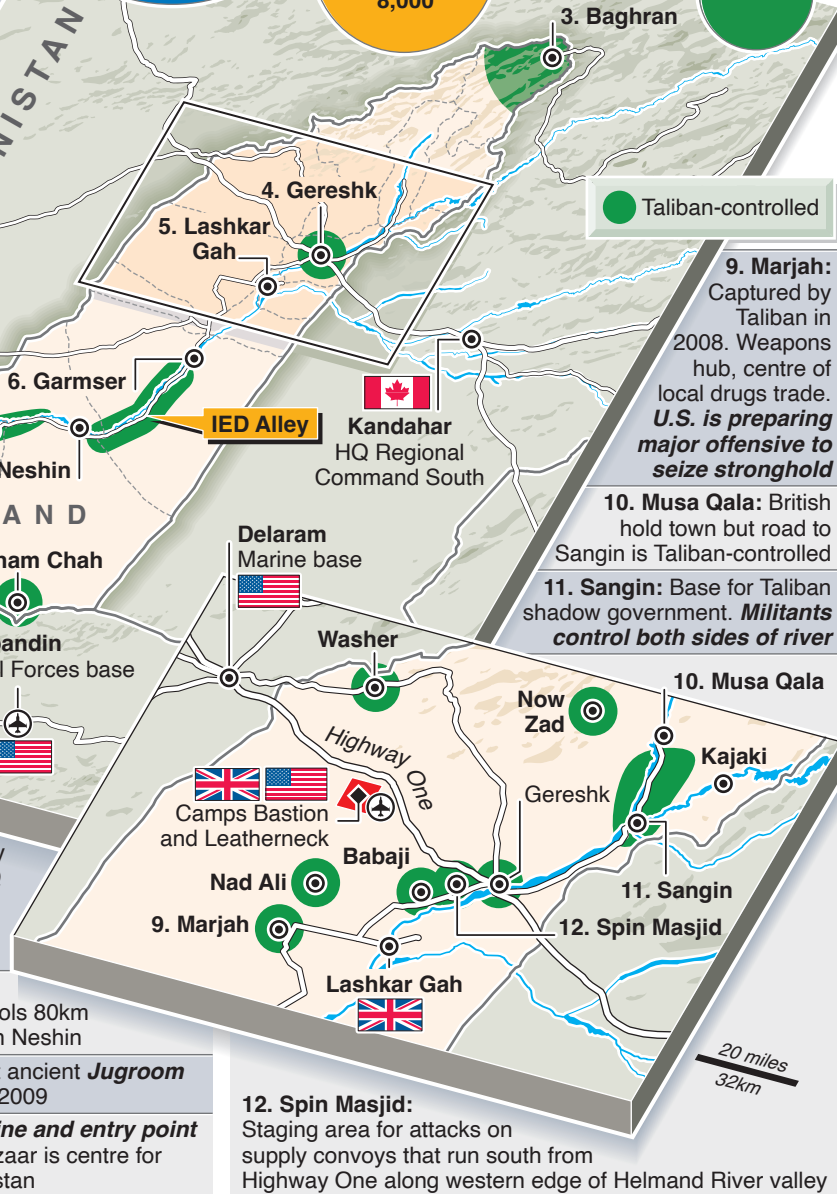
2. Shamsi: U.S. airbase in Pakistan used for *Predator* drone aircraft attacks in Helmand

3. Baghran: Taliban-controlled. Afghan and coalition forces rarely venture into area

4. Gereshk: *Economic centre of province*. Constant Taliban attacks within city and on Afghan National Army.

North and south of city heavily mined with IEDs to deter NATO patrols

Deshu Sanctuary for militants



Kandahar
HQ Regional Command South

Taliban-controlled

9. Marjah: Captured by Taliban in 2008. Weapons hub, centre of local drugs trade. *U.S. is preparing major offensive to seize stronghold*

10. Musa Qala: British hold town but road to Sangin is Taliban-controlled

11. Sangin: Base for Taliban shadow government. *Militants control both sides of river*

5. Lashkar Gah: *Capital of Helmand province*. Home of British Civil-Military compound, Afghan National Police HQ and governor's mansion. Attempted siege by Taliban in 2008. Targeted assassinations within city during 2009

6. Garmser: Militants forced out by U.S. Marines in 2009 but Taliban controls 80km main road between Garmser and Khan Neshin

7. Khan Neshin: Taliban stronghold at ancient *Jugroom Fort* captured by U.S. Marines in July 2009

8. Barham Chah: *Weapons supply line and entry point for Taliban fighters from Quetta*. Bazaar is centre for smuggling opium and heroin into Pakistan

12. Spin Masjid: Staging area for attacks on supply convoys that run south from Highway One along western edge of Helmand River valley