

# Major coalition offensive in Afghanistan

More than 11,000 troops are being deployed to attack militants in the southern mountains of Afghanistan, following the fiercest Taliban-led violence since the hard-line Islamic government was toppled in 2001 for harbouring Osama bin Laden after the September 11 attacks

## OPERATION MOUNTAIN THRUST

**Goals:** To establish permanent Afghan army presence in south.  
Set conditions for 6,000 NATO troops due to take command in Afghanistan from U.S.-led coalition in July-August

## TROOPS DEPLOYED

Afghanistan	3,500	U.S.	2,300
Britain	3,300	Canada	2,200

