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

Source: IISS

 Afghanistan
 3,500
 U.S.
 2,300

 Britain
 3,300
 Canada
 2,200



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Provinces UZBEKISTAN TAJIKISTAN targeted TURKMENISTAN 80km 50 miles Bagram: U.S. military HQ **AFGHANISTAN** Kabul URUZGAN **PAKISTAN** At least nine coalition troops killed in combat ZABUL since operation launched in mid-May. Around 550 people, mostly militants, IRAN Kandahar killed in same period Stronghold KANDAHAR **HELMAND** Coalition troops in of Taliban Afghanistan: 27,000, fiahters of which 19.500 from U.S.

Picture: Associated Press