

Terminology

# Militants from Afghanistan clash with Pakistani forces

## Related developments

**Iraq attacks:** A series of bombings ripped through Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's western Anbar province, late Thursday, killing nine people and injuring at least 25, Iraqi officials said. The blasts in what was the heartland of the al-Qaida-led insurgency are a reminder of the danger still facing Iraq as it prepares for the departure of the remaining U.S. troops by the end of this year.

**NATO arrest:** NATO said Thursday it captured a senior al-Qaida operative and former Osama bin Laden associate Wednesday in Nahr Shahi, in Afghanistan's northern Balkh province. NATO did not identify the man or reveal details about his capture.

*Seattle Times news services*

In its military training there, Mullen said Islamabad remains committed to working with America, but it will take time to rebuild ties after the bin Laden raid.

ISLAMABAD — Islamist militants who flowed out of Afghanistan battled a second day with Pakistani security forces Thursday in one of the deadliest clashes on the Pakistan side of the frontier in months. Authorities said 63 people died.

Signaling a deepening of the rift with the United States, Pakistan's government issued a statement late Thursday voicing its "strong concern" about the battles. Pakistan's military had initially said the assault was the work of about 200 militants, but the government state-

ment put the number at between 300 and 400. It said the fighters "attacked villages and burned schools." The attack and Pakistan's reaction contradicted the U.S. narrative about the poorly defined and porous border. Typically, militant cross-frontier movements estimate in Pakistan border.