

U.S. military chief visits Pakistan

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff visited Pakistan Tuesday to offer help in the fight against terrorists and domestic militants in tribal areas. Adm. Mike Mullen said he had brought no specific proposals but added the United States was willing to help in areas like training, transport helicopters and night-combat operations if requested by the Pakistani military, The New York Times reported.

The visit is Mullen's second in the past month, pointing to the importance the United States attaches to Pakistan in the fight against global counterterrorism, the report said. "This military-to-military relationship is really critical," the admiral was quoted as saying. He said his message to Pakistan was: "We are anxious to assist. Tell us where you need assistance." Mullen's visit comes at a time when the U.S. military's central command is reviewing a plan to send about 100 troops to help train Pakistan's Frontier Corps, which is involved in fighting rising violence in the tribal areas seen as haven for al-Qaida and Taliban militants, the report said. Britain's Guardian reported the United States will send dozens of military advisers to Pakistan this year to train its soldiers. This reportedly follows weeks of negotiations with Pakistan's new army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.

Â© 2008 United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

U.S. military chief visits Pakistan by UPI