

Brown eyeing additional Afghanistan troops

by UPI

LONDON -- British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is prepared to send up to 1,000 additional British troops to Afghanistan, an official said Friday.

The unidentified official said the possible troop deployment was Brown's attempt to improve security efforts in Afghanistan in advance of the country's presidential election scheduled for August, The Guardian said.

More than 8,000 British troops are already in Afghanistan. The reinforcements could be deployed to the country's Helmand province to aid in anti-Taliban efforts.

The Guardian said Brown posed the proposed troop surge to U.S. President Barack Obama during a meeting on Wednesday.

Obama is focused on integrating civilian and military deployment in Afghanistan and finding a solution for the prevailing conflict in the region.

The Guardian said the U.S. leader is hopeful his efforts will lead to an influx of NATO forces into Afghanistan.

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