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Taliban Claim They Recruited Afghan Soldier Who Killed NATO Troops

By John Glaser

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The Afghan Taliban said on Saturday [they had recruited the Afghan soldier who shot dead four French soldiers](#) a day earlier, seeming to confirm fears that insurgent groups have been infiltrating the NATO-trained Afghan army.



Afghan soldiers have been using their weapons on U.S. and NATO troops with growing frequency. [The Wall Street Journal](#), reporting in June on a leaked NATO document on the training mission in Afghanistan, said “the killings of American soldiers by Afghan troops are turning into a ‘rapidly growing systemic threat’ that could undermine the entire war effort.”

On Friday, France said it was [suspending its involvement in the training mission](#) because of the killings and said it could possibly lead France to withdraw its 3,600 troops from the mission sooner rather than later.

The rising incidence of [such “rogue” killings](#) has prompted concerns about the probability of a successful withdrawal from Afghanistan. A central goal of the mission is to [train an Afghan army](#), but so far [the army is made up of](#) illiterate criminals and drug addicts who sometimes attack NATO soldiers and quit in droves.