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Press TV

Italian soldier killed in Afghanistan explosion

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An Italian soldier has been killed and two others injured in a blast at a police training camp in the town of Adraskan in western Afghanistan.

The explosion took place on Monday in “an observation hut near a shooting range”, killing the 30-year-old soldier, Italian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The victim and the wounded soldiers belonged to the Police Speciality Training Team (PSTT).

Italy has 4,000 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance

Force, but is mulling over full withdrawal from the volatile country by the end of 2014.

Italy is among several NATO nations that have been hesitant to send soldiers to the restive southern and eastern areas of Afghanistan where the militants are most active and clash regularly with foreign troops.

At least 51 Italian soldiers have lost their lives during combat operations in Afghanistan, according to an AFP count.

The increasing number of military casualties in Afghanistan has caused widespread anger in the US and other NATO member states, undermining public support for the Afghan war.

More than a decade into the invasion of Afghanistan by the United States and its allies under the pretext of fighting terrorism, rampant violence continues to plague the war-weary nation.