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3 US-led troopers killed in Afghanistan

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An unidentified gunman has shot dead three US-led foreign troopers enlisted by the NATO military alliance in southern Afghanistan.

The US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) issued a statement in Kabul on Sunday that said the attacker was in police uniform.

"An individual wearing an Afghan National Civil Order Police uniform turned his weapon

against International Security Assistance Force service members in southern Afghanistan today, killing three service members," it said, AFP reported.

An ISAF spokesman said the man was injured and detained after the attack, which occurred about 5:00 pm (1230 GMT), and is now under investigation. He added that ISAF was still unsure of whether the assailant was a police officer or not.

Further details regarding the forces' nationalities or the exact location of the attack are yet to be released.

Roadside bombs and IEDs are by far the most lethal weapons, the Taliban militants have used against Afghan forces and occupying foreign troopers over the recent years.

According to the independent website, *icasualties.org*, as many as 223 foreign troopers, mostly Americans, have lost their lives in Afghanistan so far this year.

A total of 566 US-led forces died in Afghanistan in 2011. However, 2010 remains the deadliest year for foreign military casualties, with a death toll of 711.

The high number of military casualties in Afghanistan has intensified opposition in the United States and other NATO member states to the US-led war in the violence-scarred country.

The war began in 2001. The offensives removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan, despite the presence there of about 130,000 US-led troops.