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Press TV

Five Afghan policemen killed in militant attack

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Five Afghan policemen have been killed in an attack carried out by militants in Afghanistan's northern province of Jowzjan, Press TV reports.

Provincial police chief Abdul Aziz Izat said on Monday that the incident had taken place overnight when militants attacked a checkpoint in Toroghli village in Darzab district of the province.

The official said initial investigation shows that another Afghan policeman, named Dur Mohammad, had conspired with the militants in the attack.

"Dur Mohammad, who joined the Afghan National Police (ANP) recently, was a member of Taliban militants but surrendered to the government a couple of months ago," Izat said.

"Mohammad was suspected to be involved in the attack, since he has ... disappeared from the ANP post locat[ed] near the attack site and our police forces are searching to capture him," he added.

The Afghan police chief noted that the details of the investigation will be made public late Monday. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext of combating terrorism. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across the country despite the presence of thousands of US-led soldiers.

The US-led war in Afghanistan, which has caused record-high civilian and military casualties, has become the longest military conflict in America's history.

According to the website icasualties.org, a total of 396 US-led troops have lost their lives in Afghanistan so far this year.

The escalating human cost of the war is putting a great deal of pressure on NATO member states to withdraw their troops.