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12 rebels killed, 15 civilians hurt in Achin clash

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Insurgents fired rockets at a joint Afghan-US military convoy in eastern Nangarhar province, sparking an hours-long firefight that left a dozen attackers dead and 15 civilians injured in the Achin district, officials said on Sunday.

The Saturday's clash broke out in the Shadal area, the district chief, Mualim Mashouq, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal said 12 attackers were killed and 10 others were injured when the joint forces retaliated. An Afghan soldier was also wounded in the fire exchange that lasted many hours, he said.

Chief doctor at the Ghanikhel Civil Hospital, Dr Rehman Gul, confirmed receiving 15 wounded people from the clash site, all civilians. Two of them who were serious have been referred to the provincial civil hospital in Jalalabad for further treatment.

As usual, the Taliban asserted responsibility for the attack, with the group spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claiming six foreign and eight Afghan soldiers were killed and another four were wounded in the gun battle. He confirmed injuries to only three fighters.