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NATO soldier shot dead in eastern Afghanistan

December 23, 2013

A service member of the coalition security forces was shot dead by militants in eastern Afghanistan on Monday.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) following a statement said, “An International Security Assistance Force service member died after direct fire attack by enemy forces in eastern Afghanistan today.”

The statement did not disclose further information regarding the exact location of the incident and nationality of the deceased soldier.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) generally do not disclose identities of the NATO soldiers killed in Afghanistan, saying, “It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.”

Monday’s death raises the number of coalition troops killed in Afghanistan so far this year to 157, according to icasualties.org which tracks the NATO forces casualties in Afghanistan.

A total of 402 ISAF troops were killed in Afghanistan in 2012, down from 566 fatalities in 2011 and 711 in 2010. A majority of the fallen troops were American and were killed in the country’s south, which is plagued by IED attacks on troops and civilians.

Last week, six U.S. service members were killed when their Blackhawk helicopter crashed in Shahjoi district of southern Zabul province.

ISAF said the cause of the crash remains under investigation but noted there were no reports of enemy activity at the time of the crash.