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Militant attacks kill 11 Afghan security force members

7/13/2014

At least 11 Afghan security force members have been killed in militant attacks across Afghanistan, officials say.

The deadliest assaults took place overnight in Afghanistan's eastern province of Laghman, when the militants attacked Afghan police and army checkpoints in Aliangar district, said Sarhadi Zwak spokesman for the provincial governor on Sunday.

He added that six police officers and one soldier lost their lives in the attack, while security forces killed 15 militants.

Militants also attacked a police checkpoint in the western province of Herat early Sunday morning, killing one police officer. According to Raouf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial police chief, officers killed four militants in the assault in Shindand district.

Another attack late Friday on a checkpoint in the district left three police officers dead, he noted.

The assaults came as three US-led NATO troops were wounded in a car bombing in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Saturday. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Taliban militants have stepped up their attacks against the Afghan government and foreign forces and civilians as part of their annual summer offensive. The Taliban has vowed to increase

attacks on Afghan forces and US-led troops, their bases, diplomatic missions and vehicle convoys before the drawdown of the US-led mission by the end of the year.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity remains despite the presence of thousands of US-led troops.

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