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## Security situation in Baghlan ‘precarious’

Dec 27, 2016

Taliban militants have established training centres and have increased their military activities in Dehna Ghori and Dand Ghori areas of northern Baghlan province, security officials said on Tuesday.

An Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander in Dand Ghori district, Hayatullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rebels had strengthened in the two areas compared to the past and had established military training centres there. The rebels were preparing for war, he believed.

“Taliban militants a few days ago conducted a military style operation in Dehna Ghori district’s Bibi Gehwara area. They used light and heavy weapons. Besides establishing military training centres, the Taliban are busy constructing concrete bunkers.”

Commander Hayatullah warned if the government did not decide about driving the Taliban from Dehna Ghori and Dand Ghori districts, they would capture Pul-i-Khumri city until spring.

Baghlan Security Council secretary Mohammad Hanif echoed commander Hayatullah’s account and said the security situation in Baghlan was worse than ever.

“The council has many times shared the issue with police and the governor, they promised operation to clear the two areas, but so far no practical step in this regard has been taken,” he said.

A trader, Haji Mohammad Kabir, said Taliban militants existed three kilometers away from Pul-i-Khumri city, the provincial capital. He said the government's silence was forcing all traders to shift their investments to other provinces.

Acting and deputy governor Abdul Qayum Niazi admitted the security situation was 'precarious' and said the presence of Taliban and security threats were among their major challenges.

"In order to resolve the issue, the governor and members of the provincial council have gone to Kabul

to discuss with officials plans for operations in Baghlan," he said. He said enough security forces were available in the province and they worked day and night.