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Three Diggers shot dead

October 30, 2011

TEN Australian soldiers have been shot by a trainee Afghan soldier in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan.

Three Australian soldiers were killed, an interpreter also died and seven soldiers were injured in the attack at a morning parade yesterday.

The attack took place in the Nish District of Kandahar Province, at a forward operating base used by Australian troops to train the Afghan National Army.

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General Abdul Hameed, the commander of the Afghan National Army's 205th Corps, said an Afghan Army trainee opened fire on his Australian trainers, killing three of them as well as an Afghan interpreter. Nine others were wounded, General Hameed said, seven of them Australians.

"We don't know the cause of this shooting yet, and we are investigating," he said. "The soldier was not new, the first phase of his training was completed and he was in the second phase of his training."

Other Afghan soldiers killed the attacker, he said.

A total of 29 Australian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan up until August this year.

A suicide car bomber in the capital Kabul yesterday struck a US-run NATO bus in the southwest of the city, killing at least 14 people, mostly foreign forces.