

US-NATO Casualties in Afghanistan Soaring

45 Service Members Killed in October

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KABUL, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) — The casualties of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan is on rise as over 45 service members have been killed since the beginning of this month in militancy-ridden Afghanistan.

In the latest suffering the NATO-led ISAF in Afghanistan on Friday reported losing three soldiers in three separate incidents in Afghanistan's restive southern and eastern regions.

"An International Security Assistance Force service member died following Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan today (Friday)," the ISAF said in a press release on Friday.

Two other ill-fated soldiers were killed in Taliban insurgents' attacks in south and east of the war-torn Afghanistan.

A day earlier on Thursday five more NATO troopers were killed in IED blasts in the country's western region while two others lost their lives in Taliban-led attacks in south and eastern provinces where Taliban are active.

The birthplace of Taliban militants Kandahar, the scene of a joint ongoing Afghan and NATO forces operation and neighboring Helmand provinces have been regarded as insurgents' stronghold in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, the military alliance experienced a bloody day by losing six troopers who died in an IED blast in southern Afghanistan, while two other soldiers were killed on the same day in an insurgent attack elsewhere in the country.

IED is a simple weapon made off explosive devices and planted on roads to target Afghan and the well-equipped NATO-led troops.

Both the homemade device IED and suicide attacks have proved challenging and deadly for the military alliance since the start of the regrouping of Taliban militants in 2006.

Meanwhile, the military alliance avoided disclosing the nationalities of the victims by saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

In addition to IEDs strikes, a helicopter for which Taliban claimed of responsibility, crashed in eastern Kunar province on Oct. 12, according to an ISAF statement, left one soldier dead and six others injured.

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