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18 soldiers, 20 rebels killed in Want Wegal fight

Jun 27, 2015

At least 18 security personnel and 20 militants have been killed during fierce fight for control of Want Wegal district in eastern Nuristan province, an official said Saturday.

Governor Hafiz Abdul Qayyum told Pajhwok Afghan News around a thousand Taliban stormed the district center and seized control of the district headquarters for few hours on Thursday night.

Security forces after heavy fight recaptured the district at around 4:00pm on Friday afternoon.

Eighteen security personnel including Afghan National Police (ANP), public order police and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 20 militants were killed during the firefight, he added.

The bodies of some militants were still lying on the scene, he said, adding that it was unclear whether foreign militants were among the Taliban fighters.

The district chief Rehmatullah said he arrived to the district center and hoisted Afghan National flag again there.

He added that the 17 policemen who were gone missing during the fight had now rejoined the force.

He said that militants also torched the houses of the district police chief and six civilians during the attack.

Taliban militants did not comment on losing control of the district.