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Afghanistan blasts kill 3, injure 13

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Separate bomb attacks have killed three people and injured 13 others in northern and eastern Afghanistan, officials say.

Early on Thursday, a bomb attack in Sheberghan, the capital of the northern province of Jowzjan, injured a tribal elder, his two children, and eight other people, provincial police chief Abdul Aziz Ghairat told DPA.

Later in the day, two bombers struck a military base in the Nari district in the eastern province of Kunar in an attack, which also killed an Afghan security guard and injured two other security forces, provincial police chief Ewaz Mohammad Naziri said.

Thursday's attacks come as an international conference, attended by representatives from 30 countries and delegates from international organizations, is underway in the capital Kabul. The conference addresses security, combating terrorism, and drug trafficking.

Insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan, despite the presence of about 130,000 US-led forces in the war-torn country.

The United Nations announced on February 4 that 2011 was the deadliest year on record for Afghan civilians.

Overall, 3,021 civilians died in violence related to the war and 4,507 were injured in the year. Of the deaths, the UN attributed 77 percent to militant attacks and 14 percent to actions by US-led foreign troops and Afghan forces. Nine percent of the cases were classified as unknown.

The death toll reflected an eight percent increase compared to 2010 and was roughly double the figure for 2007.