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4 dead, chopper destroyed in Bagram attack

September 11, 2012

Four Afghan security personnel were killed and a helicopter destroyed during a rocket strike on the main US airbase in central Parwan province on Tuesday, the anniversary of 9/11 attacks on the US, an official said.

The rockets were fired from western part of the airport early in the morning, provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akram Baikzad, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the rockets landed near the helicopter at the heavily-fortified airfield at a time when Afghan and foreign troops were heading to Koh-i-Safi district for a security operation.

Three intelligence operatives and a policeman were killed in the attack, which wounded four more police officials, including Parwan Highway Commander Col. Mohammad Ghayas.

With the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) yet to comment on the incident, Baikzad said he had no information about foreign troop casualties.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the fighters had fired a barrage of rockets salvos at the base, inflicting casualties on a number of American troops. Afghan soldiers were also killed and some aircraft damaged, he concluded.

A day earlier, the United States handed control of the controversial Bagram prison and its 3,000 inmates to Afghan authorities.