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Arabs among 14 fighters killed in Farah

March 19, 2013

Three Arab fighters were among 14 insurgents killed in different security incidents in Khaki Safid and Bala Baluk district of western Farah province, an official said on Tuesday.

A clash erupted between the rebels and police during a poppy-eradicating campaign in the Ganj village of Khaki Safid, the district chief, Abdul Khaliq Noorzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Three associates of Taliban's shadow district chief Mullah Malik were killed in the encounter that left three policemen and Malik wounded. Police also seized one *rocket-propelled grenade (RPG)*, a *light machine gun* and two *Kalashnikovs*.

But Abdul Rahman Zhwandai, the governor's spokesman, denied police casualties and said Mullah Malik was a militant commander -- not a shadow district governor.

Elsewhere in the province, 11 militants, including three Arabs, were killed in operations by Afghan and coalition forces in the Ganjabad, Shawan, Arifabad and others areas of Bala Baluk, an Afghan army official said.

Abdul Rauf Rahmani added two guerrilla commanders were among the dead. One Public Order Police official and three Afghan soldiers were wounded in the clashes that led to the seizure of 80 kilograms of narcotics and two motorcycles.

One rebel commander Syed Akbar and his associate were captured alive and a Kalashnikov and two hand grenades were recovered from them, Rahmani said.