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2 US-led soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

March 12, 2011

Two soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have been killed in southern Afghanistan in the latest spate of attacks against foreign troops in the country, reports say.

An initial statement released by ISAF on Saturday says one US-led soldier was killed by a roadside bomb and the other one lost his life in a separate incident in the volatile southern Afghanistan on Friday, a Press TV correspondent reported.

The identities of the soldiers were not released, but most of the troops stationed in southern Afghanistan are American.

Some 150,000 NATO troops are currently fighting in war-torn Afghanistan, with plans to stay in the country beyond 2014.

Last year was the deadliest of the nearly decade-long war for international troops, with more than 700 killed, compared to just more than 500 in 2009. In January, 31 American and other NATO troops were killed.

On Jan 6, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered an extra 1,400 Marines to southern Afghanistan in an attempt to fend off an anticipated spring offensive by Taliban militants returning from neighboring Pakistan.

The surge comes despite an earlier promise by US President Barack Obama to withdraw American forces from Afghanistan by July 2011.