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Press TV

ISAF chopper downed in Afghanistan

May 26, 2011

A helicopter operated by the US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has crashed in Afghanistan's southeastern province of Paktika.

The chopper was destroyed Thursday morning after it went down in Nikah district of the province, a Press TV correspondent reported.

A recovery force was sent to the site of the crash to retrieve the wreckage of the helicopter.

Meanwhile, the Taliban has announced that they successfully targeted the aircraft. Taliban militants claim to have shot down several NATO and ISAF drone aircraft and helicopters in different parts of Afghanistan.

The incident comes only two days after a NATO fighter jet crashed in Afghanistan's western province of Farah.

The aircraft reportedly belonged to French forces stationed in the troubled region.

At least 191 foreign troops have been killed in the war-ravaged Afghanistan so far this year.

Year 2010 remains the deadliest year on record for foreign military casualties with 711 reported killed. The number eclipsed the previous record of 521, set in 2009.

Hundreds of civilians have also been killed in US-led airstrikes and ground operations in various parts of Afghanistan over the past few months, with Afghans becoming increasingly outraged over the seemingly endless number of deadly assaults.

The growing death toll of Afghan civilians as a result of NATO and US military operations in the country has fueled tensions between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his Western allies.