

## 16 policemen killed in Afghanistan

by UPI

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A Taliban attack on a police check post in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar region killed at least 16 policemen, it was reported Monday. The BBC reported the attack occurred during the weekend in the Maywand district, and that it was launched by a "large group of militants." The report said the check post is near Highway 1, the country's main thoroughfare. Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Zamarai Bashari said the attackers came in a group but gave no details of casualties among them, said a report from Xinhua, China's government-run news agency. A resurgent Taliban insurgency has gripped Afghanistan, especially in the southern region, in the past year. The militants have been targeting security forces but hundreds of civilians also have died in the violence. Separately, Xinhua reported the Canadian defense ministry as saying a Canadian soldier was killed Monday when a vehicle in which he was traveling hit a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan. The incident occurred in Zhari District, west of Kandahar city. The report said four other Canadians were injured in the blast and were in good condition at a local hospital. Canada has 2,500 soldiers operating in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO forces there, the report said.

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