

Pakistani officers killed in copter crash

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - A Pakistani major general and seven other military personnel died Wednesday in the crash of their helicopter in tribal South Waziristan. The state-owned Associated Press of Pakistan reported the craft crashed due to a technical fault and that a rescue team has been sent to the site near Tanai near the border with Afghanistan. The report said among those killed were Maj. Gen. Javed Sultan, two brigadiers, a lieutenant colonel, three captains and one non-commissioned staff member. The Press Trust of India reported Sultan was the general officer commanding for the Kohat region, one of the regions where Pakistani security forces have been battling to put down rising violence unleashed by pro-Taliban militants. The BBC reported the death of Sultan would further impact morale among the security forces, which have taken heavy casualties in their campaign against the militants. However, prior to the crash, the militants had informed they would scale down their fight against the military, the report said.

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