

50 militants killed in Afghanistan

by UPI

KABUL, Afghanistan -- NATO and Afghan forces said they killed more than 50 Taliban insurgents in southern Afghanistan in a 12-hour battle that ended Thursday. CNN, quoting a coalition statement, said the battle was in an area just north of the village of Qal'eh-ye Gaz in Helmand province. The militants are believed to be using the Musa Qala area in the region as a base of support. The coalition said the battle started after the militants attacked an Afghan patrol with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and small-arms weapons. Afghan and coalition forces returned fire and called in warplanes, which bombed 16 compounds described as having "the greatest concentration of insurgents," CNN said. The coalition said there were no reports of major injuries to civilians, Afghan security or coalition forces. Two days ago, Afghan and NATO troops launched another attack against the Taliban in the northeastern part of the same province, near where Thursday's fighting occurred. The coalition said more than 160 insurgents have been killed near Musa Qala since Sunday.

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