



Large insurgent force attack U.S. troops

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A weekend attack on a military outpost in which nine U.S. soldiers died involved hundreds of insurgent fighters, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said. Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said at least 100 of the 400-500 militants who hit the base in Dara-I-Pech in Kunar province Sunday were killed, CNN reported Monday. However, a U.S. official told the U.S. network an estimated 200 insurgents took part with an unconfirmed number killed. Four Afghan national army soldiers also died and another 15 U.S. troops were wounded, CNN said. The rebels used homes, businesses and a mosque for cover, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force said. "It is quite common for them to attack our outposts," said NATO spokesman Mark Laity. "But this was a larger scale attack than normal. This was not a new tactic. They usually get defeated. We are very, very sad that we lost some people but again, their attempt to take that base failed."