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Canadian officer killed in Afghanistan

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, June 3 (UPI) -- Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan shot and killed a Canadian soldier on foot patrol Tuesday in the volatile Panjwai district, military officials said.

Capt. Steve Leary, 32, was on foot patrol with Afghanistan National Army soldiers when gun battles broke out, Col. Jamie Cade, deputy commander of Task Force Kandahar told a Kandahar news conference.

Leary was airlifted to a medical hospital in Kandahar, but died of his wounds, the Globe and Mail reported.

Maj. Jay Janzen said coalition air strikes were called in, but wouldn't say if any insurgents were killed, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., reported.

Monday, four Canadian soldiers were wounded, one seriously, in two separate attacks in the Zhari District, about 20 miles west of Kandahar, the Canwest News Service said.

The most recent Canadian death in the NATO mission was killed May 6 in a roadside ambush, the report said.

Since 2002, 84 Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, 39 of whom were killed by roadside bombs, the CBC said.

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