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## Lost Chopper 'Brought Down By Taliban'

7:49pm UK, Thursday September 24, 2009

**Geoff Meade, defence correspondent**

A defence minister has confirmed to Sky News that a British helicopter lost in Helmand last month was brought down by the Taliban.



Aircraft was first to be brought down by Taliban in Helmand

The **RAF** has confirmed that it was the first time an RAF Chinook has been brought down by enemy fire in 27 years of service.

One of the twin rotor's two engines was knocked out by a shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) as the aircraft flew low over Kajaki at night on August 19.

With one engine ablaze, and a crewman wounded by shrapnel, the pilots were able to continue flying and landed over a mile away.

They were rescued and the aircraft destroyed on the ground by air strike to prevent it falling into enemy hands.

Equipment minister Quentin Davies said only new, more powerful engines trial-fitted to the downed aircraft allowed it to limp back.

"We had a Chinook attacked, struck by an RPG. The aircraft was able to fly two kilometres out of harm's way only because we'd fitted new engines," he told Sky News.

RPGs, a favourite weapon of the Taliban, are one of the helicopter crews' most feared threats.

"Most missions you'll come under fire. It's happened to me," said Flight Lieutenant Eleanor Lodge, a Chinook pilot with four tours of Afghanistan to her credit.

"With RPGs you don't know you've been targeted until you see the flash of the explosion nearby."

The new power plants are part of a **£400m programme to improve the lifting capacity of the Chinook fleet.**

The first will not be operational in Afghanistan until 2011.

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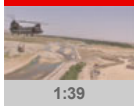
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Actually, there have been two brought down by enemy fire within the last two months. Both we're denied to the enemy by 500lb bombs dropped by US A10's

Posted By :Chris

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""We had a Chinook attacked, struck by an RPG. The aircraft was able to fly two kilometres out of harm's way only because we'd fitted new engines," he told Sky News."

Where is the proof and evidence to show that if an older engine was used it wouldnt have made it back?????? The whole craft was destroyed by an airstrike so how did this "minister" come to this conclusion. What evidence and proof does he have?

More made up rubbish, by a rubbish government.

Posted By :Simon

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Why does it take a month before this fact is provided to the public?

Posted By :Pete

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A clear indication that Talibans are the best Army in the whole world

Posted By :yusuf

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The Taliban was beaten until the americans gave them Stingers. there are still 150 of them left somewhere. It is time that the Alliance forces have a ground to ground Stinger type of shoulder rocket.

A lot of those RPG-7's were captured in Southern Angola and shared out by the South Africans to the mujahdins to fight the Soviets.

Posted By :Paul

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Can someone tell me why so many afgan males are trying to live in this country whilst British forces are being killed and maimed. Surely these immigrants should be assisting our armed forces by joining the Police or Afgan Army. What a shambles!!!

Posted By :brian

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