

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2011 6:28 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Afghan president: 31 Americans killed in crash (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 06, 2011 05:35 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Afghanistan; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Afghan president: 31 Americans killed in crash (AP)

KABUL, Afghanistan - (AP) Afghan President Hamid Karzai says 31 U.S. special forces and seven Afghan soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Wardak province.

It's the highest number of casualties recorded in a single incident in Afghanistan.

Karzai said in a statement on Saturday that he has sent condolences to President Barack Obama for the victims of the overnight crash.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility, saying their fighters downed the helicopter in a battle with NATO troops.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*