

## British Chinook helicopter deliberately destroyed in Afghanistan

A [Military Operations](#) news article  
30 Aug 09

**A British Chinook helicopter was deliberately destroyed by ISAF Forces at 1605 local time having sustained damage on landing approximately 10km East of Sangin at 0530 this morning, Sunday 30 August 2009.**

In addition to four crew members, the helicopter was carrying 15 soldiers from 2 RIFLES Battlegroup who were being inserted into the area as part of an ongoing security operation.

The crew and passengers were unharmed.

The aircraft is believed to have suffered a 'hard landing' and sustained damage to the undercarriage, nose and front rotor which subsequently made it unflyable.

The troops continued with the operation and the crew were extracted by one of the two other Chinooks also on the operation.

Despite all options being investigated, due to the location and the environment, the decision was taken that the aircraft could not safely be recovered and so it was subsequently destroyed by military personnel using explosives.

The cause of the incident is under investigation however there is no evidence to suggest that it was caused by enemy action.

Options for replacement of this aircraft are being considered and in the meantime assets from the joint ISAF helicopter force will be made available to ensure there is no loss of operational effectiveness.



A Royal Air Force Chinook over Afghanistan (Archive Picture) [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2006]

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## International Security Assistance Force: ISAF helicopter involved in incident in southern Afghanistan

International Security Assistance Force's Notes

Your note has been created.

**In this note**

No one.

### ISAF helicopter involved in incident in southern Afghanistan

Today at 9:14am

2009-08-RC/S/CA/006

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (August 30) – An ISAF helicopter was damaged when it landed on uneven terrain in southern Afghanistan on August 30.

All personnel aboard the helicopter were safely removed from the scene and there were no injuries.

ISAF forces later destroyed the helicopter to prevent it being exploited by insurgents. The incident is under investigation, but it is confirmed that hostile fire played no role in the incident.

Updated 6 hours ago

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**Paula** Thankful there were no injuries.  
4 hours ago

## UK Chinook damaged in Afghanistan

**A British Chinook helicopter has been deliberately destroyed after being badly damaged in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has said.**

The aircraft suffered what officials have called a "hard landing", while on operations near Sangin, Helmand province, on Sunday morning.

The Chinook suffered damage to the undercarriage, nose and front rotor, the MoD added.

The four crew and 15 soldiers from the 2 Rifles battlegroup were unharmed.

The Chinook had been carrying the troops to a site six miles (10km) east of Sangin at 0530 on Sunday.

Despite the damage to the helicopter, the soldiers carried on with their operation, while the crew were brought back by another Chinook involved in the mission.

The MoD said that because of where the Chinook had come down, and the environment it was in, it was not possible to safely recover the aircraft.

Military personnel with explosives deliberately destroyed the helicopter. The cause of the hard landing is under investigation, although it is not thought to have been caused by enemy fire.

The latest loss of an RAF Chinook follows the deliberate destruction of another in Afghanistan earlier this month. That aircraft suffered an engine fire, forcing its crew to make an emergency landing.

Questions have been raised about the number and availability of UK military helicopters deployed in Afghanistan - with some commentators blaming the government for not providing enough.

It has also been argued that the UK could reduce its casualty rate if more soldiers were ferried to operations by air, rather than riskier land routes.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/8229628.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/8229628.stm)

Published: 2009/08/30 15:41:23 GMT

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# UK troops blow up damaged helicopter in Afghanistan

Mark Tran

guardian.co.uk, Sunday 30 August 2009 21:58 BST

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The British government has been strongly criticised for leaving some troops in Afghanistan without proper equipment. Photograph: Sean Clee/PA

British troops in [Afghanistan](#) today deliberately destroyed a Chinook helicopter after it was badly damaged while landing about six miles east of Sangin, in Helmand province, early in the morning.

In addition to the four crew, the Chinook was carrying 15 soldiers from the Rifles regiment who were being airlifted into the area as part of a security operation.

A Ministry of Defence statement said the helicopter was damaged on the undercarriage, nose and front rotor, which "subsequently made it unflyable".

The crew and passengers were unhurt, and the troops continued with the operation and were later evacuated by one of two other Chinooks in the area.

It was decided that the £10m Chinook could not be safely recovered, so it was blown up in the afternoon. The MoD said there was no evidence to suggest that enemy action had been the cause of the damage.

Another RAF Chinook was deliberately destroyed in Afghanistan this month after an engine fire forced its crew to make an emergency landing.

British troops have been heavily involved in [military](#) operations in southern Afghanistan in Operation Panther's Claw, in the lead up to this month's presidential election.

The British government has been strongly criticised by generals and the opposition for leaving some of the 9,000 UK troops in Afghanistan without proper equipment, including helicopters which help troops to avoid roadside bombs.

The MoD said options for replacing the Chinook were being considered; in the meantime, aircraft from the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) would be available.

The RAF runs the largest fleet of Chinook helicopters after the US army, with 34 HC2s, six HC2As and eight HC3s, which have yet to enter operational service. The Chinook wing is based at RAF Odiham, in Hampshire.

The MoD declined to say how many Chinooks British forces had available to them in Afghanistan. Gordon Brown, who flew home from Afghanistan yesterday after a [surprise visit](#) to British troops in Camp Bastion, in Helmand, said their work there was essential to Britain's security. Amid waning public support as the number of British military

deaths has risen to 208, Brown used his visit to give the first insight into changes aimed at curbing the death toll among UK soldiers.

A source close to the prime minister suggested that talks with insurgents sympathetic to the Taliban, then aimed at persuading them to switch sides, now formed a key part of Britain's war effort, with "the more reconciliation, the better".

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From The Times

August 31, 2009

# British forces lose Chinook helicopter as it crash-lands in Helmand

Michael Evans, Defence Editor

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The British task force has lost a second Chinook helicopter within ten days. It crash-landed yesterday with 19 people on board.

The Chinook, with a crew of four, was ferrying soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Rifles battle group when it landed heavily, east of Sangin in northern Helmand, suffering severe damage to the undercarriage, nose and front rotor. None of the passengers or crew was injured.

The Ministry of Defence said that the Chinook was unflyable. "Despite all options being investigated, due to the location and the environment the decision was taken that it could not safely be recovered and so it was subsequently destroyed by military personnel using explosives," it said.

The troops continued with their planned operation and the crew was picked up by one of the two other Chinooks on the mission.

On August 19 a British Chinook being used to drop special forces soldiers came under enemy attack, causing one of the engines to catch fire. The pilot made an emergency landing and no one was hurt. Both Chinooks were reduced to scrap to prevent the Taliban gaining access to equipment on board.

The loss of two such valuable helicopters means that the British military now has only about 11 Chinooks to transport troops and supplies around Helmand. Eight Chinook Mk3s that were bought for the special forces are being reverted to ordinary utility helicopters at a cost of more than £90 million. However, the first of these will not be ready for operations in Afghanistan until next year.

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