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Grenade Depot Blast Kills 25 in Turkey

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Grenade Depot Blast Kills 25 in Turkey



Map of Turkey. Courtesy of CIA World Factbook.

Examiners continue investigating the 6 September 2012 blast that killed 25 soldiers and injured four more at a Turkish ammunition depot in the western province of Afyonkarahisar, Turkey.¹ The Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Dr. Veysel Eroglu, ruled out terrorism as a motive and said that a hand grenade was likely accidentally dropped as soldiers conducted a stock check at the depot, causing the explosion and ensuing blaze.²

The blast shattered windows in nearby homes, and civilians were encouraged to stay away from the area. Emergency

services initially found it difficult to access the scene due to scattered unexploded ammunition and a large fire that burned at the depot for several hours. The military also needed to carry out controlled explosions and cordon off areas for safety purposes before emergency services could reach the scene.^{1,3}

Haldun Solmazturk, a retired military officer, commented that the stock check should not have been conducted at night and that the number of soldiers who participated seemed higher than the number needed for a standard stock-checking procedure.¹ President Abdullah Gul called for a full investigation into the incident.²

Those wounded in the blast were sent to a military hospital, while a local school set up facilities to assist families and residents of the affected area.² The blast occurred late Wednesday evening, and the area was safe for residents to return to the next morning.

~Elisabeth Reitman, CISR staff

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Endnotes

1. "Turkey: 25 Killed in Ammunition Depot Blast." *Yahoo! News*, <http://news.yahoo.com/turkey-25-killed-ammunition-depot-blast-061847776.html>.
2. "Turkey grenade depot blast kills 25." *BBC News*. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-19499146>. Accessed 13 September 2012.
3. "Blast in Military Ammunition Depot Kills 25 Soldiers." *Sabah*. <http://english.sabah.com.tr/National/2012/09/06/blast-in-military-ammunition-depot-kills-25-soldiers-420099265349>. Accessed 13 September 2012.

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