

## Marine strike in Afghanistan kills 12 civilians

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Twelve Afghan civilians in a house died Sunday after mistakenly being hit by a U.S. rocket during the much-trumpeted offensive to clear the last Taliban stronghold in Helmand province, a loss of life that is likely to seriously undermine the operation and the American-led mission in the country.

After managing to avoid civilian casualties on the first day of the operation, which was declared a success, Sunday - day two - brought disaster.

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