

Beat: News

Blast at Chinese ammunition depot kills 17 soldiers

-, 18.06.2014, 16:16 Time

USPA News - Seventeen soldiers were killed on late Tuesday afternoon when an accidental explosion tore through an ammunition depot in south-central China, state-run media reported on Wednesday, but few other details were immediately disclosed. The accident occurred at around 4:45 p.m. local time on Tuesday at an arsenal in Hengyang, the second-largest city in the country's Hunan Province.

It happened when service members were piling up ammunitions at the site, the state-run Xinhua news agency said in a brief report. There were no reports of civilian casualties in the explosion, which was described only as an "accident." China has the world's largest military force with a strength of approximately 2.2 million service members, but the military operates with a high degree of secrecy and few details about accidents are released. The government also controls information about terrorism-related incidents and plane crashes.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-2325/blast-at-chinese-ammunition-depot-kills-17-soldiers.html>

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619