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# Alberta gives OK to 'Support Our Troops' decals

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**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
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**PAGE:** B5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest / Military Family Resource Centre director Colleen Rowe and Calgary Police Association president Al Koenig hold a "yellow ribbon checkstop" by the CPA's downtown headquarters to raise funds for military families and showing support for Canadian troops on Tuesday morning. ;  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
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CALGARY -- Alberta government employees will be able to slap Support Our Troops decals on their government vehicles after the provincial cabinet waded into the thorny issue Tuesday.

The Tory cabinet gave permission for Alberta sheriff's officers to choose whether to display the decals on their cruisers.

Service Alberta Minister Lloyd Snelgrove said the approval extends to any other government employee who wishes to put a Support our Troops decal on a government vehicle, but added it's up to the individual.

"No one is ordered to put on stickers," Snelgrove said after a cabinet meeting.

The provincial sheriffs requested last week that the decals be put on their vehicles.

Premier Ed Stelmach's spokesman said last week that Stelmach supported the request.

Politicians in cities across the country have juggled the Support our Troops issue like a hot potato. Military families and some politicians have called the stickers a simple sign of support for Canadian soldiers, while critics have derided them as government propaganda.

A similar debate in Toronto erupted in controversy in June after city staff directed the fire and Emergency Medical Services departments to remove the magnetic decals. Council later reversed the decision.

Ottawa has yellow Support Our Troops ribbons on the backs of its fire trucks. In June, Conservative MP Laurie Hawtorn gave 30 of the magnetic decals to Edmonton city council to place on city vehicles.

A few weeks ago, Calgary city council sidestepped the issue. It declined a donation of Support Our Troops decals to be put on city vehicles, but offered instead to sell them to raise money for a military family resource centre.

Despite Alberta's reputation as a bastion of conservatism and strong military support, one political scientist said the issue isn't necessarily a safe one for provincial and civic politicians.

"There's a lot of opposition to keeping the troops (in Afghanistan)," said Linda Trimble, a political science professor at the University of Calgary. "There (have) been a lot of deaths. I don't think Albertans are different from the rest of the country in feeling trepidation about this mission."

"Critiques of this (provincial) government have started to mount. They're vulnerable on a range of issues, and it's always surprising what kind of issue captures the public attention."

Calgary Herald

# Some military departments in 'personnel crisis,' gov't says

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**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Tim Naumetz  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
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OTTAWA — A government call for new recruitment videos for the Canadian Forces says some positions in the military are in a "personnel crisis."

But media relations officers with the Forces threw cold water on the description Tuesday, saying it was used in error. Those officials also denied the video production call or the demand for army recruits is related to Canada's substantial military deployment in Afghanistan.

A public works request for proposals to produce the 20 new videos was published this month.

The media officers said Tuesday whoever produced the request for the public works department mistakenly used a term that was created more than three years ago when the Forces were beginning a recruitment drive after years of downsizing.

"With e-mail and working with computers and that, it's just, rather than reinvent the wheel every time, sometimes it's easier just to take another document that you've been working with before and you just change the part that needs changing," said Capt. Holly Brown.

The request for bids advises potential production companies that more than half of the current recruitment videos do not reflect the realities and diversity of the jobs in the forces.

"Currently some trades/occupations within the CF are in a personnel crisis situation and steps must be taken to recruit candidates to fill these positions," the request for proposals says.

Asked if no Canadian Forces occupations were under-staffed to the point of crisis, Brown replied: "There may be, although we don't use that term personnel crisis; someone used it but that's not the official term."

Brown and Maj. Laurie Konnegiesser confirmed, however, the Forces do have a list of occupations so in need of filling that they are designed "red" and recruitment to them carries the highest priority.

The current version of that list includes armoured officers, artillery officers, armoured crewmen, artillerymen and infantrymen.

A retired army officer affiliated with the Conference of Defence Associations says a requirement for armoured officers and crew is logical because of the government's decision to beef up the Canadian battle



group in Afghanistan with Canadian Leopard tanks and borrowed tanks from Germany, while planning to purchase 100 second-hand tanks from the Netherlands. Canadian armoured soldiers were shifted to smaller armoured vehicles after a defence department decision several years ago to drop tanks from the Canadian arsenal.

Retired Capt. Peter Forsberg said a demand for artillery officers and gunners is also understandable because the Canadian Forces intend to expand the role of artillery in the army. "They are purchasing more artillery systems, and for that you are going to require more artillery personnel," he said.

The U.S. Marine Corps has loaned Canada seven ultra-modern 155-millimetre artillery howitzers for the Afghanistan mission, which Canadian troops used in support of the U.S.-British offensive against Taliban insurgents in Helmand province last spring, Forsberg said. The howitzers, which fire shells that are more than 15 centimetres in width, are noted for their pinpoint accuracy, he added.

Konnegiesser insisted the list of high-priority jobs — soon to be replaced with a new one — is unrelated to the Afghanistan mission or its demands for the army.

"Afghanistan is not affected by shortfalls because the low-priority jobs are the ones that go empty, which might be administrative positions in this headquarters that have nothing to do with artillery or putting boots on the ground in Afghanistan," she said.

# Gagetown residents prepare to welcome home troops

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**EDITION:** Final  
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**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** OROMOCTO, N.B.  
**SOURCE:** Canadian Press  
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Six months after they said goodbye to family and friends and left for a dangerous mission in Afghanistan, troops from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown were to begin returning to their home base in New Brunswick last night.

A small contingent of soldiers was expected on a flight into Fredericton. A larger group -- to be greeted by much fanfare -- is scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

"It's a huge sense of relief," said Fay Tidd, the mayor of the town of Oromocto, N.B., where the base is located.

"When the troops left, there was almost an eerie silence around. People weren't laughing and talking as much . . . Mothers and their children were in the stores shopping, but everything was quite subdued."

But the mass homecoming will be tinged with sadness. Seven soldiers from Gagetown were killed during the rotation.

Some members of the Van Doos returned home earlier this week after an eight-month tour. Friends and family greeted 85 of the Quebec-based soldiers at CFB Valcartier last Sunday. Another 2,000 soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment, also known as the Van Doos, are currently making their way to Kandahar.

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers and airmen have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

In Oromocto, virtually every utility pole, signpost and fence in the town of 9,000 has been decorated with yellow ribbons since the tour began.

Of the 2,500 Canadian soldiers involved in the latest rotation, about 650 are based at Gagetown. They were part of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

Ashley White of Douglas, N.B., was counting the hours until her husband, Cpl. Chris Lawrence, returns tomorrow. "I can't stop smiling," she said. "I'm unbelievably excited."

# Kabul won't meet Taliban demands; Body of second South Korean hostage found with gunshot wound to head

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**PAGE:** A5  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN  
**SOURCE:** Associated Press  
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South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed for U.S. help yesterday, but Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners, the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago. The group's pastor was killed last week.

The Taliban said more Koreans will die if its demands are not met by midday today. The militants have extended several previous deadlines without consequences, but killed 29-year-old Shim Sung-min on Monday after a deadline passed. His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

They were two of 23 South Koreans — 16 women and seven men — kidnapped while riding a bus July 19 on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. They are the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.- led invasion that drove the Taliban from power.

In South Korea, relatives and a civic group pleaded for more U.S. involvement, and the president's office used more diplomatic language.

"The government is well aware of how the international community deals with these kinds of abduction cases," the president's office said in an apparent reference to the U.S. policy of not negotiating with terrorists. "But it also believes that it would be worthwhile to use flexibility in the cause of saving the precious lives of those still in captivity."

President Hamid Karzai's spokes- person said officials were doing "everything we can" to secure the hostages' release, but that freeing militant prisoners was not an option.

"As a principle, we shouldn't encourage kidnapping by accepting their demands," said Humayun Hamidzada.

In March, Karzai authorized freeing five captive Taliban fighters for the release of an Italian reporter, but called the trade a one-time deal. He was roundly criticized by the United States and western countries for the move.

Kabul won't meet Taliban demands; Body of second South Korean hostage found with gunshot wound to head

# Afghan leaders want Canadians to stay

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Arif Lalani (from left), Afghanistan ambassador to Canada, Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar Province, and Ehsan Zia, minister of rural rehabilitation and development, urged Canada yesterday to keep its troops in Afghanistan. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**SOURCE:** Canadian Press

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

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The thought of troops going home may be appealing back in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout would result in the collapse of all the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, urged Canada yesterday to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future.

Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk now of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he told a news conference at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed.

"Certainly, it is my opinion but I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done. This is my message."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Canadian troops are scheduled to end their current mission in Afghanistan in February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he'll extend the commitment only with the consensus of Parliament.

That appears unlikely with the Liberals calling for an end to the combat role on schedule, and the NDP and Bloc Quebecois set against any extension.

Khalid said a great deal of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society.

More work is needed on the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

But the first priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

One of the hurdles faced by Canadian troops is getting the Afghan army properly trained, a task that Canadian commanders say will be key during the current phase of the mission.

The state of the Afghan police is also an issue. So far, the RCMP has overseen training for about 600 police officers in Kandahar province under the auspices of the provincial reconstruction team.

However, even those efforts haven't paid off completely.

The Afghan police operate at minimal levels and are still beset with corruption and abuse of their authority.

Khalid said the Afghan government is taking steps to improve their working conditions and reduce the level of corruption.

Arif Lalani, the Afghan ambassador to Canada, said the establishment of a well-paid, well-equipped and well-trained police force is "a crucial element" in making the country secure.

# Retired three-star general censured for 'deception' in friendly-fire death

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The U.S. army yesterday censured a retired three-star general for the chain of errors that followed the friendly-fire death in 2004 of army ranger Pat Tillman, a former pro football player.

It referred to a special panel whether retired army Lt.-Gen. Philip Kensinger should also have his rank reduced.

Army Secretary Pete Geren told a Pentagon news conference that Kensinger was "guilty of deception" and had deceived investigators.

"It's a perfect storm of mistakes, misjudgments and a failure of leadership," said Geren.

Kensinger, who headed army special operations, bore the brunt of the punishment. Nine other officers were criticized but not punished. The panel will decide whether Kensinger should be stripped of his third star.

Geren said he considered recommending a court martial but ruled it out.

"He failed to provide proper leadership to the soldiers under his administrative control. . . . He let his soldiers down," Geren said. "General Kensinger was the captain of that ship, and his ship ran aground."

Geren said that investigations have conclusively shown that accidental fire from U.S. troops was responsible for the death in Afghanistan of Tillman, who had walked away from a \$3.6-million US pro football contract to become an army ranger.

The army initially suggested that Tillman, who was 27, had been killed in a firefight with enemy militia forces. It then arranged a ceremony to award Tillman a Silver Star for bravery.

Geren said he could understand how the Tillman family and other Americans might reach the conclusion that there was a coverup. "The facts just don't support this conclusion," he said. "There was no coverup. "

# My uncle's last flight makes me think deeply about war

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: KENNETH COE; Photo: George Coe ;  
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My uncle, George Coe, was shot down over Holland on June 22, 1943. Statistically, George was not expected to survive that mission as he was on borrowed time -- one tour too many. He was 21 years old. Even when I was a child it surprised me that someone that young would be that far from home for reasons that really have to be found in the shadows of adventure and duty.

This brings up the thoughts that must have been in the minds of his mother and his wife, but not his son, George Junior, who never met his father. They are all dead now.

Family lore suggests that both my grandmother and her daughter-in-law held out hope for some time that his Lancaster preserved some survivors. The bombers were not designed for survival.

I have always taken Remembrance Days somewhat more seriously than many as I always thought first of Uncle George and then of the tens of thousands of other Canadian service personnel who either never came home or returned broken or tormented.

I listened intently to the stories of years of isolation from family, of risks beyond comprehension, of grief beyond repair and of the diminishing hope of returning to anything akin to a familiar life.

How could we ever put our sons and daughters into this cauldron without assuring ourselves that there is no acceptable alternative without this sacrifice?

When you visit the Vimy Memorial in France you can walk through some of the trenches and tunnels that thousands of terrified men were directed to await another assault against insurmountable odds. For several thousand killed, the generals credited themselves with either temporary or irrelevant gains measured in yards. I try to imagine the Uncle Georges slaughtered there.

Dieppe has special meaning to us who originated in Windsor, Ont. Our local lads were assigned to attack an impregnable shore defence. They were not expected to succeed. They were expected to attack and retreat and confirm that a beach attack requires more resources than were provided to them. They accomplished their mission. How many Uncle Georges were left on that beach or endured the next three years as prisoners-of-war?

Now more Uncle Georges and their sisters are assigned to a new theatre of war, and like the earlier ones, they go enthusiastically to perform tasks that not only put them in danger, but perhaps put them there with tasks and goals that may undervalue them. If you are going to put our children in a dangerous situation, then we have to be assured that the loss of any one of them — and that should be an extreme measurement — is essential to the community that sent them.

If Uncle George was 21 today, he could be serving as a soldier in Afghanistan, motivated, as he would be — and as I am sure his mates were, by altruism and adventure — to proudly serve his country.

He would be engaged in a different type of war though. George Sr. was trying to liberate Holland, France and other countries from a foreign occupation.

Our contemporary Georges may be trying to liberate a country from domestic forces that until just recently were sponsored by some of their present adversaries.

Would this be like Uncle George bombing Spanish cities during their civil war in the 1930s? Only Germany and Italy did that and they subsequently became our enemies.

I will continue to remember my Uncle George on Remembrance Day and every time a grey Airbus lands at CFB Trenton with another casualty.

The loss of each is forever. It never ends. What did a family and community lose forever when Uncle George perished in a flaming Lancaster? What have our communities lost each time our children fail to return from war? Do we diminish this loss by asking for more to follow?

If we don't question those who command, or if we punish those who do question those who command, or if we forgive those who did not question those who command we may again lose too much of our future.

We have traditionally followed those who lead and complied with their demands and perhaps we should more diligently question those who send our children into danger.

And, to Uncle George, R109811, warrant officer, RCAF, and all your brothers and sisters, before and after, we are indebted to each of you. I truly hope that your missions on those fateful days or nights were essential to the people who sent you.

Kenneth Coe is a resident of Waterloo. Second Opinion articles reflect the views of Record readers on a variety of subjects.



# Mixed military messages

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General Rick Hillier's assertion that Canadian troops will still be in the thick of the fighting in Afghanistan next February would have surprised no one except for one thing. That statement by Canada's top soldier basically contradicted what Canadian Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor said just a week before.

Only nine days ago, O'Connor reassured an increasingly worried Canadian public that Canadian troops would soon march out of Afghanistan's danger zone around Kandahar.

Come February, Canadian troops would be handing over most of the front-line fighting to the Afghan soldiers they are now training, O'Connor said. That would allow Canadian troops to be redeployed to a less hazardous part of that hazardous country. And that would presumably soothe the fears of a growing number of Canadians who think this country's intervention in Afghanistan has claimed too many Canadian lives for too little gain.

The main problem with O'Connor's hopeful prediction is that it is wrong. Even as he made it, the defence committee of the British House of Commons had released a report that said it will take years before the Afghan army has been trained well enough to take over from the international forces. This week, Gen. Hillier said much the same thing. "It's going to take a long while," to train the Afghans, he said. "We've just started the process."

The problem here is not Gen. Hillier's forthrightness. It is in Defence Minister O'Connor's shameless playing of politics. The country is split over Afghanistan, and this is an issue the government must face. But it will get nowhere by soft-selling a dangerous mission. The Conservatives need to level with Canadians. They have to do a better job explaining what this country is trying to achieve in Afghanistan. They must be forthcoming and honest in estimating what this will cost, in both human and financial terms. Battles have been lost before now because of confusing messages. The Conservatives need to know wars can be lost at home the same way.

# Child abuse rises after soldiers deploy to combat zone: study

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Incidents of child abuse and neglect among U.S. army families rise significantly when a parent is deployed to a combat zone, a study has found.

The study, which was funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, shows the overall rate of child abuse and neglect was more than 40 per cent higher while a soldier-parent was deployed for a combat mission than when he or she was based at home.

There is no similar data on Canadian military families, but experts say programs to help spouses and their children deal with separation have been ramped up over the last 15 years and intensified since the mission to Afghanistan began.

The U.S. study, published in today's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, compared the rates of child maltreatment among almost 2,000 army families in which confirmed incidents of child abuse or neglect had been reported.

Using 2001-04 army records, researchers looked at the number of incidents of child maltreatment while enlisted soldiers were at home and while they were away on a combat tour.

"The deployment had the greatest effect on the civilian wives that were left behind when their husbands went off to war," said co-author Sandra Martin, a professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina.

"For that particular group, when we analyzed the data, we found that the rate of child neglect increased almost four times amongst these women, and the rate of physical child abuse almost doubled."

Martin said the U.S. Department of Defense and the army have a variety of programs for their military families. "So they're working very hard to help these families deal with this. But the study suggests that we need to do more so we can help everybody."

# N.B. soldiers return from Afghan mission; First group arrived last night; larger contingent expected tomorrow at CFB Gagetown

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Six months after they said goodbye to family and friends and left for a dangerous mission in Afghanistan, troops from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown began returning to their home base late yesterday.

Two CF-18 jets raced overhead as a military Airbus touched down at the Fredericton Airport, while two-year-old Noah Burke chanted "Daddy, Daddy."

The sun was setting as the small contingent of soldiers arrived. A larger group — to be greeted by much fanfare — is scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

"It's pretty overwhelming," said Dale Burke as she held her son up to a window at the airport to see the arriving plane.

"I have so many emotions right now going through my head," she said. "It has been a long six months."

She was waiting to see her husband, Cpl. Chris Burke, and would have to wait just a bit longer while he cleared customs and was bused to the nearby base.

"It's a huge sense of relief," said Fay Tidd, the mayor of Oromocto, where the sprawling base is located.

"When the troops left, there was almost an eerie silence around. People weren't laughing and talking as much.... Mothers and their children were in the stores shopping, but everything was quite subdued."

But the mass homecoming will be tinged with sadness. Seven soldiers from Gagetown were killed during the rotation.

In Oromocto, virtually every utility pole, signpost and fence in the town of 9,000 has been decorated with yellow ribbons since the tour began.

Tidd said she expects they'll remain in place for the duration of the Afghan mission.

Of the 2,500 Canadian soldiers involved in the latest rotation, about 650 are based at Gagetown. They were part of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

"This particular rotation of Canadian soldiers in Kandahar has a lot to be proud of," said Lee Windsor, who specializes in Canadian army history at the University of New Brunswick.

N.B. soldiers return from Afghan mission; First group arrived last night; larger contingent expected tomorrow

"This is the third batch of Canadians we've sent into southern Afghanistan as part of the third round of NATO expansion and they accomplished a great deal. In fact, this has been a very historic six-month period in Canadian military history."

Windsor said the latest group was able to deliver on promises to rebuild parts of Afghanistan and bring aid to the residents of Kandahar province.

He said the nature of the latest mission meant troops had to travel further from their base, exposing themselves to more danger.

"They were far more at risk than other rotations have been, especially to improvised explosive devices and ambushes," said Windsor.

Ashley White of Douglas was counting the hours until her husband, Cpl. Chris Lawrence, returns tomorrow.

"I can't stop smiling," she said. "I'm unbelievably excited."

Unlike many of the spouses, White had a visit from her husband recently.

He arrived home on Canada Day in time for the birth of their first child, a boy, and White said it will be good to have her husband home again.

She said all the spouses have been supportive of each other during the entire mission.

"On the bad days, we come together a lot more ... we hold a lot of hands and cry more because that's all you can do. On the really good days, when people are coming home, we're really, really happy for each other."

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers and airmen have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Canadian military's job only 'half done'; Afghan minister urges Canada to maintain presence, says pullout would cause reconstruction efforts to collapse

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The thought of troops going home may be appealing back in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout from their country would result in the collapse of all the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, urged Canada yesterday to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future.

Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk now of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he told a news conference at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed.

"Certainly, it is my opinion but I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done. This is my message."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Canadian troops are scheduled to end their current mission in Afghanistan in February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he'll extend the commitment only with the consensus of Parliament. That appears unlikely with the Liberals calling for an end to the combat role on schedule, and the NDP and Bloc Quebecois set against any extension.

Khalid said a large amount of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society.

He pointed to further efforts needed with regard to the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

Canadian military's job only 'half done'; Afghan minister urges Canada to maintain presence, says pullout would

But the first priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

One of the hurdles faced by Canadian troops is getting the Afghan army properly trained, a task that Canadian commanders say will be key during the current phase of the mission. As well, the state of the Afghan police is also preoccupying the international community. So far, the RCMP has overseen training for about 600 police officers in Kandahar province under the auspices of the provincial reconstruction team.

# Canada's veteran bikers raise millions for charity; Ex-military men and women ride to honour their compatriots while donating to hundreds of charities and causes

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**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
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**PAGE:** B7  
**BYLINE:** Brock Harrison Kingston Whig-Standard  
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Paul (Trapper) Cane, a retired paratrooper left nearly crippled by a drop gone wrong, has owned his 2007 Harley Davidson and sidecar for three weeks.

His odometer just ticked past 10,000 kilometres.

"I spend as much time as I can in the saddle," said Cane, whose surname took on a cruel irony after he collided in the air with a fellow paratrooper in Petawawa, Ont. The 250-pound Cane, a sergeant with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at the time, snapped both his ankles and nearly his back when he smacked into the ground. He now relies on a cane to walk.

Cane spent two years in hospital while doctors performed 18 reconstructive surgeries on his legs and back, one of which was to amputate his right foot.

A tug on his right pant leg reveals a prosthetic foot and the type of grizzly scars one would incur in battle, not during training.

"Lying on your back for two years gives you a lot of time to think," said Cane. "All I could think about was getting back on my bike."

It's now 10 years later and Cane, who was told he'd likely never walk, let alone bike, again, can barely stay off his new hog.

In the last three weeks, Cane has travelled throughout Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces, visiting and riding with about a dozen satellite units of the uniquely patriotic motorcycle club he co-founded in Kingston, Ont., four years ago.

"What you see here is going on in 32 communities across Canada," said Cane, pointing out the window from inside a local Tim Hortons at a parking lot full of leather-clad bikers all wearing the same green-and-black patch.

"We served our country. Now we're serving our community," Cane said.

Cane is the national president of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Unit, known to members simply as

the CAV.

Started by Cane and three other former soldiers (two ex-PPCLI and two ex-Van Doos) in Kingston in 2003, the CAV now has 3,000 members in 32 units across the country, with units starting up in Nashville, Tenn., Tel Aviv, Israel, Warwickshire, England and Belfast, Ireland.

In the group's brief four-year existence, Cane says CAV riders have raised more than \$2 million for 627 charities and causes.

Essentially, its mandate is to provide financial support to charities, moral support to each other and the Armed Forces, and to have fun.

"Look around," Cane said. "Look at what's going on. Everyone's connecting with each other. Everyone's having a great time. That's what it's all about."

About half of the total CAV ridership are ex-military: men and women like Cane who served in uniform, mostly in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Another quarter are active soldiers, some of whom are currently in Afghanistan.

The remaining quarter are men and women who have never served a day in uniform.

They're civilians, like Kingston's Sherry Downes, who ride alongside the veterans as a show of support.

"I've sure never been over there, but they treat me just as if I'd done two tours of Afghanistan," said Downes, whose road name is Shadow. "We're a family."

For Brenda Buffett, who has had to endure several long stretches at home alone while her husband was serving overseas, the CAV means a sympathetic ear from other spouses who have been in her situation.

"We know it could have been us on that tarmac instead of the Tara Dawes of the world," said Buffett, who goes by Breen on the road, referring to the widow of Kingston's Capt. Matthew Dawe, killed July 4 in Afghanistan.

It started with a ride for prostate cancer in Kingston 2003. Cane, who by this time was relying on several medications to keep him out of a wheelchair, showed up alone, not expecting the meeting that would change his life.

Yannick Lebrun also showed up. Like Cane, Lebrun was forced into early retirement from the Armed Forces due to injury. Also like Cane, Lebrun loved to ride.

"He saw my PPCLI and Airborne Regiment patches and he knew," Cane said. "The military experience bonds us all and that bond lasts long after you turn in your uniform. I could see in his eyes what he wanted; he wanted healing."

Cane and Lebrun recruited two more former soldiers and the foursome began showing up at charity rides in the Kingston area. Eventually, they were noticed.

"People would say, 'Hey, there are those army guys' or 'Look, it's the Green Riders,'" Cane recalls. "I thought, 'Sweet Christ, we better come up with our own name before we get stuck with that one.'"

So began the CAV. Along with the name came a website, a 29-page constitution and a logo. Lebrun put up

Canada's veteran bikers raise millions for charity; Ex-military men and women ride to honour their19compatriots



the site, Cane drafted the constitution, but the logo is a relic.

The image of a dispatch rider wearing a helmet pulling back on a '40s-era motorcycle that now graces thousands of black leather vests across Canada once appeared on Second World War recruiting posters, Cane said. More than 700,000 motorcycles were produced for allied dispatch riders during the Second World War, according to the DND website.

After getting the image embroidered in 20-by-25-centimetre patches, Cane and his cohorts slapped them on their backs and rode. By the end of their first month, the CAV had 200 members.

Lebrun's website was also causing a stir. By the second month, [www.thecav.ca](http://www.thecav.ca) was registering 10,000 hits a day and Cane was fielding hundreds of e-mails from veterans wanting to set up chapters in their own communities.

But with expansion came conflicts. The CAV's ever-increasing visibility caught the eyes of several biker gangs and law-enforcement agencies.

Something had to be done to differentiate.

The first step was to eliminate the words "bikers," "colours" and "chapters" from the CAV lexicon. Instead, CAV riders became "motorcyclists," who wear "crests" and ride in "units."

"(Those terms) are associated with the biker outlaw world," Cane said. "We ride to honour the Armed Forces."

Crests include the CAV logo, the Canadian flag and individual unit flags. The exception is for Quebec units. They wear the fleur-de-lis instead of the maple leaf.

Units are named after Canadian battle honours rather than the cities they are in. This is to avoid more confusion with outlaw gangs, who often wear city names on their jackets to denote drug or organized crime territory. The Kingston unit, for example, is called Vimy. Some other units are Ypres (Calgary) and Paschendale (Gagetown).

Cane says the CAV's few brushes with biker gangs have been amicable.

"They respect us in an odd way," he said. "They know that it's because of us that they ride free."

The Vimy unit, with 88 members, is the CAV's largest. President Bill (Drifter) Truman has in fact organized an executive committee to help carry out the work of organizing and administering the unit.

Truman, a native Kingstonian who spent 33 years with the Royal Canadian Regiment, says unlike most CAV riders, he was reluctant to join.

The smallest unit is Scheldt in Yellowknife (named for a month-long battle in northern Belgium in the Second World War) with only four members.

Four years after that first ride in Kingston, the CAV now enjoys good standing in their communities. They've become a fixture at repatriation ceremonies at CFB Trenton, where the bodies of slain soldiers first land on their return to Canada.

Dozens of CAV riders attend each ceremony and line the street with their bikes as a show of support to the victims' families.

Canada's veteran bikers raise millions for charity; Ex-military men and women ride to honour their 20 compatriots

# Study finds abuse of children higher when one parent deployed

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Incidents of child abuse and neglect among U.S. army families rise significantly when a parent is deployed to a combat zone and the problem is greatest when women are left behind to keep the home fires burning, a study has found.

The study, which was funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, shows the overall rate of child abuse and neglect was more than 40 per cent higher while a soldier-parent was deployed for a combat mission than when he or she was based at home.

There is no similar data on child abuse for Canadian military families, but experts say programs to help spouses and their children deal with separation have been ramped up over the last 15 years and intensified since the mission to Afghanistan began.

The U.S. study, published in Wednesday's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, compared the rates of child maltreatment among almost 2,000 army families in which confirmed incidents of child abuse or neglect had been reported.

Using army records from fall 2001 to the end of 2004, researchers looked at the number of incidents of child maltreatment while enlisted soldiers were at home and while they were away on a combat tour.

"And over all these families we did find a 42 per cent increase in the rate of child abuse and neglect during times of deployment compared to non-deployment," said co-author Sandra Martin, a professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina.

"But what we found when we looked at that is really it seemed that the deployment had the greatest effect on the civilian wives that were left behind when their husbands went off to war," Martin said Tuesday from Chapel Hill, N.C.

"For that particular group, when we analyzed the data, we found that the rate of child neglect increased almost four times amongst these women, and the rate of physical child abuse almost doubled."

Neglect was defined as not providing adequate care for a child.

"It could be that you're not at home when the child is at home — if they're a young child — that you're not sending your child to school, that you're not taking them for health care when they need it," she said.

When it came to child abuse, Martin said the incidents included physical, emotional and sexual mistreatment.

While physical abuse rose noticeably with a spouse's deployment, sexual and emotional abuse levels stayed the same.

"We know that military combat deployments are very stressful for families and most families really deal with this very well," she said. "But for some families the stress is just too much and it translates into inappropriate parenting."

"We know certainly that everybody worries about a loved one who's deployed in a dangerous situation. And also if your spouse is away and you're home with the kids there's a lot more tasks to do, a bigger workload. So there's a lot of different stressors that these families undergo."

Lt.-Cmdr. Pierre Babinsky, a spokesman for the Canadian Forces, said there is no indication that child neglect or abuse is an issue among Canadian military families.

But Babinsky said there are a wide variety of programs and services available to soldiers and their families before, during and after deployment to combat zones.

# Soldiers welcomed with open arms

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**SECTION:** News;News  
**PAGE:** A1  
**BYLINE:** SHAWN BERRY berry.shawn@dailygleaner.com  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
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As a Canadian Forces Airbus carrying soldiers returning from Afghanistan landed, two-year-old Noah Burke pressed his face against the window at the Fredericton International Airport.

"Daddy come," he said.

The boy smiled, turning quickly to glance at his mother, Dale.

Noah's father, Cpl. Chris Burke, was among the first soldiers from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown to return home Tuesday night after a dangerous six-month mission in Afghanistan.

"I'm just overwhelmed with emotions," Dale Burke said earlier in the evening, shortly before two CF-18 fighter jets raced overhead, catching the attention of everyone in the airport as the military passenger jet landed.

"I'm excited, it's surreal," she said.

After six months of waiting, she still couldn't believe the day had arrived.

"I know it's the day. I know this is the 31st of July. But I still don't believe that this is it."

She later spotted a glimpse of her husband through the window as he was processed at customs.

As the sun set, about 20 soldiers dressed in desert fatigues disembarked from the plane shortly after 9 p.m. to go through customs.

Some boarded the plane again to continue on to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, located in Ontario. Local soldiers were transported to CFB Gagetown where they were reunited with loved ones at the base gymnasium.

About a dozen people watched from the airport's fence as the soldiers took their first steps on Canadian soil in months.

It's a scene that will repeat itself every second day until September as the military moves more than 2,000 soldiers out of Afghanistan and rotates in a new group from CFB Valcartier in Quebec.

A flight with 58 soldiers is due to arrive Thursday evening to larger fanfare.

A total of 1,150 members with The Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2RCR) battle group, were in Afghanistan.

Approximately 650 of them were from CFB Gagetown.

It's a homecoming that has been tinged with sadness though. Seven of the soldiers from CFB Gagetown were killed in Afghanistan.

Outside the airport, Muriel Aiken tied bows on the signposts lining the route back to the base.

"We've been told how much this yellow-ribbon campaign has meant, and I felt this was a good way to show support to our soldiers as they return," she said.

Almost every pole, post and fence in Oromocto has been decorated with a yellow ribbon since the mission began.

"It's a huge sense of relief," said Oromocto Mayor Fay Tidd.

"When the troops left, there was almost an eerie silence around.

People weren't laughing and talking as much ... Mothers and their children were in the stores shopping, but everything was quite subdued."

Lee Windsor, deputy director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society, said the soldiers have plenty to be proud of.

Windsor travelled to Afghanistan earlier this year for a first-hand view of the work Canadian soldiers were carrying out on the ground.

"This is the one where we finally have seen Canadian soldiers establish presence and bring security to a large portion of the main agriculture areas outside the city," Windsor said.

"Before this rotation, Canadian soldiers were confined to a very small area around Kandahar city."

While much of the media coverage out of Afghanistan has focused on the number of casualties sustained, he said, the real picture includes advancement in Afghanistan that hadn't been witnessed until this rotation.

The first two rotations were involved in heavy fighting in a surprise attack from about 1,500 Taliban soldiers.

This impeded, almost halted, the Canadian army's security and reconstruction efforts.

But this rotation has achieved stability not only in the city, but in many areas of Kandahar province, he said.

Former CFB Gagetown commander Ryan Jestin agrees. He said the progress was evident when he visited the troops a few months ago.

"I saw kids running around the streets in Kandahar city, I saw a lot of people that were working with Canadians on development," Jestin said. "I think the guys will take a great deal of pride in really giving that pillar of stability to the province."

However, by moving farther out of the city, the troops exposed themselves to more danger, Windsor said.

"They were far more at risk than other rotations have been, especially to improvised explosive devices and ambushes," said Windsor.

With files from Canadacast News Service and the Canadian Press.

# A plea to remain; Afghan leaders want Canadian soldiers to stay in their country

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** A7

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Martin Ouellet

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan

**ILLUSTRATION:** Arif Lalani (left to right) , Afghanistan ambassador to Canada, Asdullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar Province, and Ehsan Zia, Afghan minister of rural rehabilitation and development, attend a news conference in Kandahar Tuesday. Zia said all achievements in Afghanistan will collapse if Canada withdraws its troops too early. – Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 429

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The thought of troops going home may be appealing back in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout from their country would result in the collapse of all the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, urged Canada Tuesday to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future.

Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk now of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he told a news conference at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed. "Certainly, it is my opinion, but I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done. This is my message."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

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Work remains

Khalid said a large amount of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society.

He pointed to further efforts needed with regard to the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

But the first priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

One of the hurdles faced by Canadian troops is getting the Afghan army properly trained, a task that Canadian commanders say will be key during the current phase of the mission.

As well, the state of the Afghan police is also preoccupying the international community. So far, the RCMP has overseen training for about 600 police officers in Kandahar province under the auspices of the provincial reconstruction team.

However, even those efforts haven't paid off completely. The Afghan police operate at minimal levels and are still beset with corruption and abuse of their authority.

Khalid said the Afghan government is taking steps to improve their working conditions and reduce the level of corruption.

"We're looking at the question of salaries," he said. "Very soon, I think in the next month, they'll be getting double what they do now."

Arif Lalani, the Afghan ambassador to Canada, said the establishment of a well-paid, well-equipped and well-trained police force is "a crucial element" in making the country secure.

"The international community is clearly focused on it," he said.

"It's a project that will take another couple of years for us to see real and substantial results," he said.



# Soldiers' children suffering: U.S. study; Increase in abuse linked to deployment

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**PUBLICATION:** Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

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**PAGE:** B1

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Sheryl Ubelacker

**DATELINE:** Toronto

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"We know certainly that everybody worries about a loved one who's deployed in a dangerous situation.

And also if your spouse is away and you're home with the kids there's a lot more tasks to do, a bigger workload. So there's a lot of different stressors that these families undergo."

Lt.-Cmdr. Pierre Babinsky, a spokesman for the Canadian Forces, said there is no indication that child neglect or abuse is an issue among Canadian military families.

But Babinsky said there are a wide variety of programs and services available to soldiers and their families before, during and after deployment to combat zones.

Martin said the U.S. Department of Defence and the army also have a variety of programs for military families, including support groups for spouses, family counselling and respite care so the parent on his or her own can get a break from the kids.

"So they're working very hard to help these families deal with this," she said.

"But the study suggests that we need to do more so we can help everybody."

# Taliban kill second hostage; Threaten more Koreans will die if its militants aren't released

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A6

**SOURCE:** The Associated Press

**BYLINE:** Amir Shah

**ILLUSTRATION:** The body of South Korean hostage Shim Sung-min, 29, is carried by police after he was killed by Taliban militants in Ghazni province, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. (Rahamt Gul / AP); Shim Sung-min, one of the 23 South Koreans kidnapped in Afghanistan, is the second South Korean hostage killed by the Taliban. (AP)

**WORD COUNT:** 310

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan – South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed for U.S. help Tuesday, but Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners, the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago. The group's pastor was killed last week.

A purported Taliban spokesman, meanwhile, said some of the prisoners the militants want released are held at the U.S. base at Begrime, and the Al-Jazeera television network broadcast a video Tuesday reportedly of another Taliban captive, a German engineer.

The Taliban said more Koreans will die if its demands are not met by midday Wednesday. The militants have extended several previous deadlines without consequences, but killed 29-year-old Shim Sung-min on Monday after a deadline passed. His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

They were two of 23 South Koreans – 16 women and seven men – kidnapped while riding a bus July 19 on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. They are the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that drove the Taliban from power. In South Korea, relatives and a civic group pleaded for more U.S. involvement, and the president's office used more diplomatic language to prod the Americans. "The government is well aware of how the international community deals with these kinds of abduction cases," the president's office said, an apparent reference to the U.S. policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

"But it also believes that it would be worthwhile to use flexibility in the cause of saving the precious lives of those still in captivity."

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman said officials were doing "everything we can" to secure the hostages' release, but that freeing militant prisoners was not an option.

# Canada urged to continue Afghan mission; Country would crumble if troops left now, official says

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A6  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Martin Ouellet  
**WORD COUNT:** 389

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The thought of troops going home may be appealing back in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout from their country would result in the collapse of all the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, urged Canada on Tuesday to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future. Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk now of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he told a news conference at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed. "Certainly, it is my opinion but I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done. This is my message."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Canadian troops are scheduled to end their current mission in Afghanistan in February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he'll extend the commitment only with the consensus of Parliament. That appears unlikely with the Liberals calling for an end to the combat role on schedule, and the NDP and Bloc Quebecois set against any extension.

Khalid said a large amount of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society.

He pointed to further efforts needed with regard to the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

But the first priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

One of the hurdles faced by Canadian troops is getting the Afghan army properly trained, a task that Canadian commanders say will be key during the current phase of the mission.

As well, the state of the Afghan police is also preoccupying the international community. So far, the RCMP has overseen training for about 600 police officers in Kandahar province under the auspices of the provincial reconstruction team.

However, even those efforts haven't paid off completely. The Afghan police operate at minimal levels and are still beset with corruption and abuse of their authority.

Khalid said the Afghan government is taking steps to improve their working conditions and reduce the level of corruption.

# Tillman inquiry raps general

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** Neil A. Lewis The New York Times  
**WORD COUNT:** 480

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WASHINGTON – The U.S. army moved Tuesday to stanch the furor over the mishandling of the friendly fire death of Pat Tillman in Afghanistan by censuring a retired three–star general for errors and deceptions and apologizing profusely to the Tillman family and the public for "mistakes, misjudgments and a failure of leadership." Army Secretary Pete Geren outlined the results and recommendations of the seventh and what he said he expected to be the army's final investigation of the shooting death of Tillman, a former NFL player–turned–soldier, and its aftermath. The report asserted that there was no coverup of the shooting, which officials decided was a tragic battlefield accident and not a murder.

The report by Gen. William S. Wallace concluded that Lt.–Gen. Philip Kensinger failed to follow procedures requiring him to notify the Tillman family and top officials about the investigation into the possibility of friendly fire and then lied to two sets of investigators about when he knew that Tillman's death was caused by shots fired by fellow Army Rangers.

Geren agreed with the report's recommendation that Kensinger be censured and that a review board consider reducing him in rank to a two–star general.

Geren was unreserved in his criticism of Kensinger, who at the time of the shooting in April 2004 was the head of special operations for the army.

Geren said that at that time, Kensinger provided a report to the acting secretary of the army "that he knew to be false, which was his own sworn testimony," and that he failed to show leadership.

Tillman became a storybook figure when he decided to forsake a multimillion–dollar career in the National Football League, where he had been a star defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals, to enlist in the army after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

After his death in a remote canyon near the village of Magar, the army announced that he was killed in combat by Afghan militants, although many officers knew that he had been a casualty of friendly fire. The military waited nearly five weeks before telling his family he was not killed by enemy fire.

In addition to the actions taken against Kensinger, the army issued "memorandums of concern" to two brigadier generals, one retired and one active, and to three lower–ranking officers.

Another memorandum of concern was sent to a third brigadier general who was not directly involved in the reporting chain about the shooting death, but who failed to forward a report with a medical examiner's concerns about the bullet wounds. Because the medical report suggested the wounds may have been inflicted at close range, investigators questioned members of Tillman's unit as to whether he might have been resented enough for someone to try and kill him.

Although Geren said he hoped the latest actions would put to rest the suspicions and resentment surrounding the case, that is not likely to happen.

# U.S. army kids hurt by deployment, study finds

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A4  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Sheryl Ubelacker  
**WORD COUNT:** 390

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TORONTO – Incidents of child abuse and neglect among U.S. army families rise significantly when a parent is deployed to a combat zone and the problem is greatest when women are left behind to keep the home fires burning, a study has found.

The study, which was funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, shows the overall rate of child abuse and neglect was more than 40 per cent higher while a soldier–parent was deployed for a combat mission than when he or she was based at home.

There is no similar data on child abuse for Canadian military families, but experts say programs to help spouses and their children deal with separation have been increased over the last 15 years and intensified since the mission to Afghanistan began.

The U.S. study, published in today's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, compared the rates of child maltreatment among almost 2,000 army families in which confirmed incidents of child abuse or neglect had been reported.

Using army records from fall 2001 to the end of 2004, researchers looked at the number of incidents of child maltreatment while enlisted soldiers were at home and while they were away on a combat tour.

"And over all these families we did find a 42 per cent increase in the rate of child abuse and neglect during times of deployment compared to non–deployment," said co–author Sandra Martin, a professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina.

"But what we found when we looked at that is really it seemed that the deployment had the greatest effect on the civilian wives that were left behind when their husbands went off to war," Martin said Tuesday from Chapel Hill, N.C. "For that particular group, when we analyzed the data, we found that the rate of child neglect increased almost four times amongst these women, and the rate of physical child abuse almost doubled."

Neglect was defined as not providing adequate care for a child.

When it came to child abuse, Martin said the incidents included physical, emotional and sexual mistreatment. While physical abuse rose with a spouse's deployment, sexual and emotional abuse levels stayed the same.

Lt.–Cmdr. Pierre Babinsky, a spokesman for the Canadian Forces, said there is no indication that child neglect or abuse is an issue among Canadian military families.

But Babinsky said there are a wide variety of programs and services available to soldiers and their families before, during and after deployment to combat zones.



# "A huge sense of relief"; Gagetown welcomes home first wave of troops from Afghanistan mission

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A3

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Kevin Bissett

**ILLUSTRATION:** Soldiers disembark a military transport at Fredericton Airport Tuesday night. The first group of soldiers were returning to CFB Gagetown from Afghanistan. (Ray Bourgeois / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 295

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OROMOCTO, N.B. – Six months after they said goodbye to family and friends and left for a dangerous mission in Afghanistan, troops from CFB Gagetown began returning to their home base in New Brunswick late Tuesday.

Two CF-18 jets raced overhead as a military Airbus touched down at the Fredericton Airport, while two-year-old Noah Burke chanted "Daddy, Daddy."

The sun was setting as the small contingent of soldiers arrived. A larger group – to be greeted by much fanfare – is scheduled to arrive Thursday.

"It's pretty overwhelming," said Dale Burke as she held her son up to a window at the airport to see the plane.

"I have so many emotions right now going through my head," she said. "It has been a long six months."

She was waiting to see her husband, Cpl. Chris Burke, and would have to wait a bit longer while he cleared customs and was bused to the nearby base.

"It's a huge sense of relief," said Fay Tidd, the mayor of the town of Oromocto, where the sprawling base is located.

"When the troops left, there was almost an eerie silence around. People weren't laughing and talking as much. . . . Mothers and their children were in the stores shopping, but everything was quite subdued."

But the mass homecoming will be tinged with sadness. Seven soldiers from Gagetown were killed during the rotation. Of the 2,500 Canadian soldiers involved in the latest rotation, about 650 are based at Gagetown.

They were part of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

"This particular rotation of Canadian soldiers in Kandahar has a lot to be proud of," said Lee Windsor, who specializes in Canadian army history at the University of New Brunswick.

"This is the third batch of Canadians we've sent into southern Afghanistan as part of the third round of NATO expansion and they accomplished a great deal. In fact, this has been a very historic six-month period in Canadian military history."

Lt. Brian Owens, a spokesman for the base, said while only a handful of soldiers were expected Tuesday night, subsequent flights will arrive in Fredericton every second day until September.

# Soldier jailed for staying in bed while comrades under siege

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** Front

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** Chris Lambie Staff Reporter

**WORD COUNT:** 1128

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A Canadian soldier stayed in bed while insurgents attacked his forward operating base in Afghanistan last year.

A military judge sentenced Master Cpl. Paul Patrick Billard to 21 days in jail for his actions during the May 22, 2006, attack in Kandahar province.

"You displayed a total lack of discipline and a lack of respect for orders by remaining in bed, by refusing to don your helmet and your flak vest and by refusing to report to your assigned place of duty," Lt.–Col. Jean–Guy Perron, the court martial judge, said in his decision.

In the event of an attack, he was supposed to act as a stretcher–bearer and be part of the reserve force.

"You were aware there was an increased threat to the forward operating base and that the base was particularly vulnerable at that time because a large number of soldiers were absent from the base," Lt.–Col. Perron said.

Armed insurgents attacked the camp at 2 a.m. One of the attackers tried to fire a rocket–propelled grenade at one of the base's guard towers from about 50 metres away.

"The stand–to siren (warning soldiers to prepare to defend their position) and small–arms fire could be heard throughout the camp," Lt.–Col. Perron said.

"A guard returned fire and a patrol was dispatched to find the attackers. The stand–to lasted approximately one hour to 1 1/2 hours. At the start of the stand–to, other members of your living area urged you to get out of bed and tried to make you react appropriately to the alarm."

According to a statement of facts filed in the case, a corporal was donning his fighting gear when Master Cpl. Billard tried to discourage him by saying: "Where are you going and what for? You are a f– –ing flincher."

Other soldiers began urging Master Cpl. Billard to get out of bed, and he said: "You're all just flinchers."

""You don't have to get dressed. You're just f– –ing flinching."

When two of his comrades tried to roust Master Cpl. Billard by banging a locker loudly with a plastic tube, he replied: "I'm immune to that. I'm going to sleep."

Master Cpl. Billard did get out of bed at one point, "pulled on a pair of shorts, grabbed his pistol" and left his sleeping quarters to use the latrine.

"He returned and climbed back into bed," court documents say. "The stand-to ended a short time later."

The court martial judge said the soldier's conduct was "reprehensible" that day.

"It surely is not the conduct we expect of Canadian non-commissioned officers. Your duty is to follow orders and to ensure the welfare and discipline of your subordinates. You failed this duty miserably."

The 33-year-old soldier was born in York, Ont., and joined the army in St. John's, N.L.

Master Cpl. Billard pleaded guilty to the military charge of "neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline."

The prosecution withdrew another charge that "when ordered to carry out an operation of war (he) failed to use his utmost exertion to carry the orders into effect."

The judge's oral decision was delivered on July 6, just two days after six Canadian soldiers and a civilian Afghan interpreter died when the RG-31 Nyala patrol vehicle they were travelling in struck a bomb on a gravel road southwest of Kandahar.

"We are dealing with an offence that lies at the very heart of the concept of discipline and of our military justice system," Lt.-Col. Perron said. "This offence was committed in a theatre of operations in which combat and the threat from the enemy is an intricate part of daily life. The recent loss of six Canadian soldiers is a stark reminder of this fact."

"Discipline is one of the fundamental qualities that ensure mission success and the safety of our personnel and of our equipment. We are trained to perform our duties and are expected to execute those duties to the best of our abilities. We must also trust our comrades-in-arms to be up to the task to ensure mission success and ensure the safety of our troops."

Master Cpl. Billard monitored his radio throughout the incident to keep himself apprised of the tactical situation, court documents say.

"He came to the conclusion that the situation did not require his getting out of bed. His magazines were loaded with ammunition and his weapons were readied. Although he did not don his fighting order, it was readily accessible."

In a written version of his decision released this week, the judge said he did not buy that argument.

"I do not find that your monitoring of the radio has any bearing in this case," Lt.-Col. Perron said. "It is not up to you to decide which orders are applicable to you and when they are applicable. You, like any other soldier at that camp, had one important responsibility: Obey the orders and react in a manner that will ensure the safety of your comrades and the success of the mission." Master Cpl. Billard had been at the camp, which was not identified during the court martial for security reasons, for five months before the offence.

The judge said he was not provided with any evidence that would help explain the soldier's actions that morning.

"Although they appear out of character with your normal level of performance as described by your (personnel evaluation report), they seem to demonstrate that you failed in an environment and in a situation that is the ultimate test for a soldier," Lt.-Col Perron said.

"I am talking about meeting the ultimate challenge, that of demonstrating one's discipline and one's fortitude

on the battlefield. This egregious lack of self-discipline was compounded by your lack of leadership when you attempted to discourage a corporal from obeying the standing orders. You made conscious decisions throughout a stand-to that lasted over one hour with one objective in mind: the wilful disobedience of a critical standing order while the camp was under a direct threat from the enemy."

The prosecutor recommended a sentence of 10 to 21 days of detention. The defence suggested a severe reprimand and a fine of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The judge said his sentence must focus on primarily on general deterrence, denunciation and retribution.

"I would have considered a more severe sentence than what I am about to impose had it been proposed by the prosecution," Lt.-Col. Perron said before handing down the 21-day sentence, to be served at a military prison in Edmonton.

Master Cpl. Billard is now working as an image analyst in Ottawa. Job evaluations before and after the May 2006 occurrence describe him as "an excellent performer" with outstanding potential to progress in his trade. He was slated to be promoted to sergeant in January 2007, but that was delayed because of the charges.

Master Cpl. Billard has been released on bail pending a planned appeal of his sentence.

"With the greatest of respect, I think that's too harsh a sentence for a first offender in these circumstances," his lawyer, Lt.-Cmdr. John McMunagle, said Tuesday.

While the Defence Department paid for the soldier's defence, his lawyer must apply in writing to see whether the military will cover the cost of an appeal.

"If they don't find professional merit, then the client has to decide whether he's going to hire a private lawyer, which won't be me, to advance the appeal, or whether he's going to abandon it and just say, 'To hell with it,' and go to jail for 21 days," Lt.-Cmdr. McMunagle said.

There have only been a few Canadian courts martial stemming from incidents in Afghanistan, where Canada has about 2,500 troops.

( 'Your duty is to follow orders and to ensure the welfare and discipline of your subordinates. You failed this duty miserably.

# Afghan politicians want Canadian troops to stay

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** B8

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 303

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The thought of troops going home may be appealing back in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout from their country would result in the collapse of all the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, urged Canada on Tuesday to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future. Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk now of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he told a news conference at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed. "Certainly, it is my opinion but I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done. This is my message."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Canadian troops are scheduled to end their current mission in Afghanistan in February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he'll extend the commitment only with the consensus of Parliament. That appears unlikely with the Liberals calling for an end to the combat role on schedule, and the NDP and Bloc Quebecois set against any extension.

Khalid said a large amount of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society. He pointed to further efforts needed with regard to the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

But the first priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

# Conservative dilemma: how to engineer election no one wants; Harper, caucus meeting in Charlottetown

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**SECTION:** The Province/Canada

**PAGE:** A5

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 552

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his parliamentary caucus are to convene in Charlottetown today for three days of closed-door strategy meetings, confronted by a dilemma: How to engineer an election that almost no one in Canada wants – including most MPs on both the government and opposition benches – for another crack at a majority government.

With polls showing the Conservatives and Liberals stuck in a stagnant pool of popular support of about 30 per cent each, and with the economy rolling along happily, Harper's dream of a quick minority regime followed by a decisive, second-term majority appears out of reach.

"We might actually find ourselves here for a full term," says a rueful Myron Thompson, the Alberta Tory MP whose hope of retiring to the Rockies before the next election may turn out to be years away. Tim Powers, a Conservative campaign insider, says no matter how keen Harper was for only a short-lived minority regime, the party leadership has accepted, for now, that people want it to govern.

"This is the reality of our times," he says. "The public at large is comfortable with minority governments right now . . . there's no appetite for change, the economy is good, and when the economy is good and there is no single pressing domestic issue, people tend to want their politicians to focus on governing."

But how will Harper focus his government after exhausting the "five priorities" he set for himself two years ago?

"They're going to have to come up with a new plan," says Bill Casey, the Nova Scotia MP expelled from the Tory caucus this spring for refusing to support the budget because of the still-simmering dispute over Atlantic offshore petroleum revenues.

"They need a new set of policies that's going to reflect a direction for the country, because they've used up their five points and they need a plan."

Senate reform, including locally elected senators, could be one new priority, says Thompson – who says the Liberal-dominated Senate's "disgusting" decision this spring to hold up legislation passed by the Commons gives the Tories the perfect opening to press their case for democratic reform of the upper chamber.

Crime is another obvious political choice. Among the four pieces of legislation stalled by the Senate, the bill to impose mandatory prison sentences for gun crimes will only gain public support following this summer's shootings in Winnipeg and Halifax, and the tragic, cross-fire shooting of an innocent boy in Toronto.

Tax reform and tax fairness, along with another possible cut to the GST, are also good candidates for inclusion in a new Conservative priority list.

And whether the war in Afghanistan makes the list, the issue is certain to continue creating headlines, and headaches for the Conservatives, through the fall and winter.

"There's no escaping the issue of Afghanistan," says Peter McKenna, a political scientist at the University of Prince Edward Island, who says there will likely be at least a small group of protesters in Charlottetown, camped outside the hotel where the Tories are meeting, demonstrating against Canada's mission in Kandahar.

"We all know that in order for Harper to have a reasonable chance of forming a majority he's got to do better in Quebec," says McKenna. "But Afghanistan is a vote killer in Quebec, and will only make matters worse for the Tories in that province if (soldiers from the Quebec-based) Van Doos (regiment) start coming home from Kandahar in coffins."



# Gagetown troops head home from tour in Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

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**COLUMN:** In brief

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** OROMOCTO, N.B.

**WORD COUNT:** 92

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Six months after they said goodbye to family and friends and left for a dangerous mission in Afghanistan, troops from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown were to begin returning to their home base in New Brunswick late Tuesday. A small contingent of soldiers was expected on a flight into Fredericton. A larger group – to be greeted by much fanfare – is scheduled to arrive Thursday.

"It's a huge sense of relief," said Fay Tidd, the mayor of the town of Oromocto, N.B., where the sprawling base is located.

# First Canadian soldiers return to New Brunswick from Afghan mission

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 486

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“When the troops left, there was almost an eerie silence around. People weren't laughing and talking as much... Mothers and their children were in the stores shopping, but everything was quite subdued.”

But the mass homecoming will be tinged with sadness. Seven soldiers from Gagetown were killed during the rotation.

In Oromocto, virtually every utility pole, signpost and fence in the town of 9,000 has been decorated with yellow ribbons since the tour began.

Tidd said she expects they'll remain in place for the duration of the Afghan mission.

Of the 2,500 Canadian soldiers involved in the latest rotation, about 650 are based at Gagetown. They were part of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

“This particular rotation of Canadian soldiers in Kandahar has a lot to be proud of,” said Lee Windsor, who specializes in Canadian army history at the University of New Brunswick.

“This is the third batch of Canadians we've sent into southern Afghanistan as part of the third round of NATO expansion and they accomplished a great deal. In fact, this has been a very historic six-month period in Canadian military history.”

Windsor said the latest group was able to deliver on promises to rebuild parts of Afghanistan and bring aid to the residents of Kandahar province.

He said the nature of the latest mission meant troops had to travel further from their base, exposing themselves to more danger.

“They were far more at risk than other rotations have been, especially to improvised explosive devices and ambushes,” said Windsor.

Ashley White of Douglas, N.B., was counting the hours until her husband, Cpl. Chris Lawrence, returns Thursday.

“I can't stop smiling,” she said. “I'm unbelievably excited.”

Unlike many of the spouses, White had a visit from her husband recently.

He arrived home on Canada Day in time for the birth of their first child, a boy, and White said it will be good to have her husband home again.

She said all the spouses have been supportive of each other during the entire mission.

“On the bad days, we come together a lot more...we hold a lot of hands and cry more because that's all you can do. On the really good days, when people are coming home, we're really, really happy for each other.”

Lt. Brian Owens, a spokesman for the base, said while only a handful of soldiers were expected Tuesday night, subsequent flights will arrive in Fredericton every second day until September.

“We have to stage this over a number of weeks because we're actually moving 5,000 people,” said Owens.

More than 2,000 soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment, also known as the Van Doos, are currently making their way to Kandahar. The new rotation of troops assumes official command next month.

“The Valcartier soldiers will be going in, and our soldiers will be coming out, so it's quite a logistical evolution to move that many people,” Owens said.

Some members of the Van Doos returned home earlier this week after an eight-month tour. Friends and family greeted 85 of the Quebec-based soldiers at CFB Valcartier last Sunday.

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers and airmen have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Afghanistan says it will not free Taliban prisoners; hostage's body found

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE JUSTICE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 648

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) \_ South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed for U.S. help Tuesday, but Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners, the Tailbone's key demand to free the captives.

Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago. The group's pastor was killed last week.

A purported Taliban spokesman, meanwhile, said some of the prisoners the militants want released are held at the U.S. base at Begrime, and the Al-Jazeera television network broadcast a video Tuesday reportedly of another Taliban captive, a German engineer.

The Taliban said more Koreans will die if its demands are not met by midday Wednesday. The militants have extended several previous deadlines without consequences, but killed 29-year-old Shim Sung-min on Monday after a deadline passed. His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

They were two of 23 South Koreans \_ 16 women and seven men \_ kidnapped while riding a bus July 19 on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. They are the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that drove the Taliban from power.

In South Korea, relatives and a civic group pleaded for more U.S. involvement, and the president's office used more diplomatic language to prod the Americans.

``The government is well aware of how the international community deals with these kinds of abduction cases," the president's office said, an apparent reference to the U.S. policy of not negotiating with terrorists. ``But it also believes that it would be worthwhile to use flexibility in the cause of saving the precious lives of those still in captivity."

The civic group People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy questioned what South Korea had earned for helping Washington combat terrorism. Seoul has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq.

U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said there is regular contact between U.S. and South Korean officials on the standoff, but would not comment on specifics.

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman said officials were doing ``everything we can" to secure the hostages' release, but that freeing militant prisoners was not an option.

``As a principle, we shouldn't encourage kidnapping by accepting their demands," said Humayun Hamidzada.

In March, Karzai authorized freeing five captive Taliban fighters for the release of an Italian reporter, but called the trade a one-time deal. He was roundly criticized by the United States and western countries for the move.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, said eight prisoners must be released by midday Wednesday, and that some were held by the United States at Bagram.

“If the Kabul government does not release the Taliban prisoners, then we will kill after 12 o'clock,” Ahmadi said. “It might be a man or a woman ... It might be one. It might be two, four. It might be all of them.”

In South Korea, the slain hostage's father, Shim Jin-pyo, described his son as “chivalrous and warmhearted,” and wondered how the Taliban “could perpetrate this horrible thing.”

Kim Jung-ja, the mother of another hostage, said the United States should “give more active support to save the 21 innocent lives.”

In the minute-long video shown Tuesday on Al-Jazeera, a stocky man with blondish hair stood in a rugged mountainous area surrounded by masked Taliban fighters, some of them carrying automatic rifles and RPG launchers.

The man seemed to be speaking to a camera but there was no voice in the aired footage. Al-Jazeera broadcaster said he made an appeal to the German government to secure his release. The video also showed four Afghans whom it said were kidnapped with the German.

The broadcaster did not say how it obtained the video.

Two German engineers were reported kidnapped earlier this month by the Taliban. One of them, Ruediger Diedrich, 43, died in captivity under unclear circumstances. His body has been flown back to Germany for an autopsy. German media have identified the second man only as Rudolf B.

In Germany, foreign ministry spokesman Martin Jaeger criticized the release of the video and said the ministry was pressing efforts to secure the hostage's release.

Germany has 2,700 soldiers serving with the NATO-led force in Afghanistan.

# Suicide car bomber hits US-led coalition convoy in Kabul; up to 10 wounded

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 382

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) \_ A suicide car bomber blew himself up near a convoy of U.S. troops on the outskirts of Kabul on Tuesday, leaving up to seven civilians and three soldiers wounded, officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

In the aftermath of the attack, U.S. troops opened fire on police arriving at the scene, killing one policeman, officials and a witness said.

The bomber targeted the convoy outside Camp Phoenix, a U.S. base on Jalalabad road \_ an area frequently targeted by suicide bomb attacks.

A statement from the U.S.-led coalition said three Afghan civilians and three coalition service members were wounded.

Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Steele, a spokeswoman for NATO forces, said one foreign soldier suffered minor injuries in the attack and seven civilians were wounded. She would not disclose the nationality of the wounded soldier.

The differing casualty figures could not immediately be reconciled.

Ali Shah Paktiawal, head of police criminal investigations in Kabul, said that when he and his men arrived on the scene, someone opened fire on them, and one of his guards was killed.

“There was a misunderstanding between the forces present at the scene of the suicide attack this morning and new forces who were trying to get to the scene,” Interior Ministry spokesman Zemerai Bashary.

Ahmad Basir, who owns a shop about 200 metres from the blast site, said he saw U.S. soldiers open fire on the police as they arrived.

“When they were about to reach the blast site, about 100 metres away, suddenly the Americans opened fire on the police convoy,” Basir said. “Everyone on the street ran away to escape the shooting. I ran into my shop, too. I was afraid I’d get hit.”

A U.S.-led coalition spokesman said he didn’t have any details about the alleged shooting and would have to investigate before commenting.

Meanwhile, a purported Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujaheed, said the militant group was behind the attack, and he identified the suicide attacker as Mullah Ahmad. Mujaheed’s claim could not immediately be verified.

Separately in southern Kandahar province, the Taliban attacked a police checkpoint Monday night in Maiwand district, and the ensuing two-hour gun battle left three Taliban dead, including a senior commander, said provincial police chief Syed Agha Saqib. He said the police suffered no casualties.

Also Monday in northern Kunduz province, a suicide bomb attack killed one employee of the intelligence service, and wounded eight civilians, a policeman and three other intelligence personnel, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday in a statement.

# Retired three-star U.S. general censured in coverup after death of Tillman

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
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WASHINGTON (AP) \_ The U.S. army on Tuesday censured a retired three-star general for the chain of errors that followed the friendly-fire death in 2004 of army ranger Pat Tillman.

It referred to a special panel whether retired army Lt.-Gen. Philip Kensinger should also have his rank reduced.

Army Secretary Pete Geren told a Pentagon news conference that Kensinger was "guilty of deception" and had deceived investigators.

"It's a perfect storm of mistakes, misjudgments and a failure of leadership," said Geren in announcing his decision after an investigation into the death of the former pro football player.

Kensinger headed army special operations.

The general bore the brunt of the punishment. Nine other officers were criticized but not punished.

The panel will decide whether Kensinger should be stripped of his third star.

Geren said he considered recommending a court martial but ruled it out. "I looked at many factors," he said. Kensinger, he said, "compromised his duty."

"He failed to provide proper leadership to the soldiers under his administrative control. ... He let his soldiers down," Geren said. "General Kensinger was the captain of that ship, and his ship ran aground."

Geren said that investigations have conclusively shown that accidental fire from U.S. troops was responsible for the death in Afghanistan of Tillman, who had walked away from a US\$3.6 million pro football contract to become an army ranger.

The army initially suggested that Tillman, who was 27, had been killed in a firefight with enemy militia forces. The army then arranged a ceremony to award Tillman a Silver Star for bravery.

Geren said the death "was a tragedy ... this was an accident."

He said he could understand how the Tillman family and other Americans might reach the conclusion that there was a coverup. "The facts just don't support this conclusion," he said. "There was no coverup."

Still, he said, "We have made mistakes over and over and over, an incredible number of mistakes in handling this. We have destroyed our credibility in their eyes as well as in the eyes of others."

Geren cited "multiple actions on the part of multiple soldiers" in compounding the confusion that surrounded the death.



“There was never any effort to mislead or hide” or keep embarrassing information from the public, the army official said.

Even though Tillman died from friendly fire, he still deserved the Silver Star he was awarded after his death, Geren said.

Aside from his decision to censure Kensinger, Geren said that he was accepting recommendations by Gen. William Wallace, who conducted the investigation, for nine other officers.

These other officers included Brig.-Gen. Gina Farrissee, director of military personnel management at the Pentagon, and Lt.-Col. Jeff Bailey, the battalion commander who oversaw Tillman's platoon and played a role in the recommendation for his Silver Star. Both will receive memoranda of concern, Geren said.

Escaping any blame was Lt.-Gen. Stanley McChrystal, head of the military's Joint Special Operations Command. He oversees the military's most sensitive counterterrorism operations.

# At least 12 militants killed by troops in Pakistan's tribal region

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**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
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**WORD COUNT:** 338

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MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan (AP) \_ Government troops backed by helicopter gunships repelled an attack on a military checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing up to 12 militants, an army spokesman said.

Up to 40 militants attacked the checkpoint near Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal district, army spokesman Maj.-Gen. Waheed Arshad said.

“Our forces retaliated and returned fire, and destroyed their vehicles,” Arshad said. “According to the reports I have received, between 10 to 12 miscreants were killed.”

No soldiers were killed or wounded in the midmorning attack, he said.

Violence has surged across Pakistan since a bloody military raid three weeks ago to oust radical clerics and their followers from Islamabad's Red Mosque.

Most of the violence has been in the tribal belt along the border with Afghanistan. More than 300 people have died since July 3.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a key U.S. ally in the fight against terrorism, has come under increasing pressure from Washington to do more to combat Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in the tribal zone.

Rebels have stepped up attacks against security forces in North Waziristan in the past two weeks after scrapping a September 2006 peace deal with the government.

To the north, about 70 pro-Taliban militants seized control of a shrine and mosque in Mohmand, another tribal region, on Sunday and renamed it after the Red Mosque. Local officials on Tuesday sought the support of tribal elders to persuade them to leave without bloodshed.

In Islamabad, about 2,000 women demonstrated outside Islamabad's sprawling Faisal Mosque on Tuesday urging the government to enforce strict Islamic law.

In other violence in the northwest, a roadside bomb wounded six security force members driving near the northwestern town of Tank, said Zarin Mumtaz, a local police official. The army confirmed the attack and the casualties.

Near Miran Shah, suspected militants fired eight rockets before dawn at three military checkpoints, damaging a school dormitory nearby but causing no injuries, said a security official

Near Bannu, about 50 kilometres east of Miran Shah, militants kidnapped four paramilitary forces and seized their vehicle, two local security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists. Officials were trying to secure their release.

# Canada willing to send aid to Darfur; troops doubtful

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SOCIAL  
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**WORD COUNT:** 501

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ The federal government appears willing to send more humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged Darfur region of Sudan, but it's not saying if Canada will contribute troops to a peacekeeping mission approved Tuesday.

International Co-operation Minister Josee Verner, who's in charge of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), said the Conservative government has not yet been asked to contribute more food or soldiers to the international effort

“We are ready to respond to any requests in terms of humanitarian assistance,” she said following a news conference Tuesday to announce a separate aid commitment to Africa.

She deferred questions about troops to either Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor or Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, both of whom were unavailable.

Verner announced CIDA is setting aside \$125 million over five years for a UN-sponsored school food program, but the money will be spent in African countries other than Sudan.

A spokesman for MacKay said it will be a few days before the UN issues formal requests for support and until then the government wasn't going to speculate.

“Canada is already quite active in the region,” said Andre LeMay.

“What are they going to ask us for? We don't know.”

The UN Security Council approved plans Tuesday to send a peacekeeping force to Darfur. The resolution is co-sponsored by Britain and France and would see the deployment of about 26,000 troops in Sudan's western region.

When it's up and running later this year, it will be the international body's largest peacekeeping force.

Troops belonging to an African Union force have not been able to stop the violence said to have left 200,000 dead and two million homeless.

The resolution gives UN troops the power to use force to protect civilians and aid workers from violence. In addition, there is call for peace talks to proceed.

There are 31 Canadian Forces members currently serving in Sudan as part of a UN mission. Most of them are military observers deployed throughout the southern region of the country. Six soldiers serve as staff officers at UN Headquarters in Khartoum and El Obeid, Sudan.

Opposition parties have repeatedly criticized the Conservative government for not paying more attention to the crisis in Darfur. At the one point, the NDP even suggested Canadian troops be pulled out of fighting in Afghanistan and redeployed to Darfur as peacekeepers.

Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of defence staff, has said the army has its hands full keeping up with the Afghan deployment and doesn't have the troops to spare for missions elsewhere.

Verner said Canada spends \$59 million a year on aid to western Sudan, making it the third largest recipient of Canadian international aid. Afghanistan is the No. 1 recipient.

The executive director of the UN's World Food Program, Josette Sheeran, said no one should underestimate the contribution Canada has made to easing the suffering of people driven from their homes in Darfur.

“Our program feeds two million (people) a day in Darfur,” she said. “If we weren't there with the support of the government of Canada and others, those people would starve.”

Sheeran insisted the UN has seen some successes in the region which erupted in fighting in 2003. The agency believes it's been able to cut acute malnutrition by half.

She also praised Canada's separate renewal of its school food program. In the past, Canada has contributed to similar feeding programs in Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal and Tanzania, among others.

Sheeran says the pledge is important to help the UN agency plan for the long-term.

# Child abuse, neglect rises after U.S. soldiers deploy to combat zone: study

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**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE HEALTH INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL

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TORONTO (CP) \_ Incidents of child abuse and neglect among U.S. army families rise significantly when a parent is deployed to a combat zone and the problem is greatest when women are left behind to keep the home fires burning, a study has found.

The study, which was funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, shows the overall rate of child abuse and neglect was more than 40 per cent higher while a soldier-parent was deployed for a combat mission than when he or she was based at home.

There is no similar data on child abuse for Canadian military families, but experts say programs to help spouses and their children deal with separation have been ramped up over the last 15 years and intensified since the mission to Afghanistan began.

The U.S. study, published in Wednesday's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, compared the rates of child maltreatment among almost 2,000 army families in which confirmed incidents of child abuse or neglect had been reported.

Using army records from fall 2001 to the end of 2004, researchers looked at the number of incidents of child maltreatment while enlisted soldiers were at home and while they were away on a combat tour.

“And over all these families we did find a 42 per cent increase in the rate of child abuse and neglect during times of deployment compared to non-deployment,” said co-author Sandra Martin, a professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina.

“But what we found when we looked at that is really it seemed that the deployment had the greatest effect on the civilian wives that were left behind when their husbands went off to war,” Martin said Tuesday from Chapel Hill, N.C.

“For that particular group, when we analyzed the data, we found that the rate of child neglect increased almost four times amongst these women, and the rate of physical child abuse almost doubled.”

Neglect was defined as not providing adequate care for a child.

“It could be that you're not at home when the child is at home \_ if they're a young child \_ that you're not sending your child to school, that you're not taking them for health care when they need it,” she said.

When it came to child abuse, Martin said the incidents included physical, emotional and sexual mistreatment. While physical abuse rose noticeably with a spouse's deployment, sexual and emotional abuse levels stayed the same.

“We know that military combat deployments are very stressful for families and most families really deal with this very well,” she said. “But for some families the stress is just too much and it translates into inappropriate parenting.”

“We know certainly that everybody worries about a loved one who's deployed in a dangerous situation. And also if your spouse is away and you're home with the kids there's a lot more tasks to do, a bigger workload. So there's a lot of different stressors that these families undergo.”

Lee Windsor, deputy director of the Gregg Centre of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick, said there has been no similar study of Canadian military families on child mistreatment.

But Windsor said the Canadian Forces has become increasingly aware of and sensitive to the need to support soldiers and their families, particularly since the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia that began in 1992.

“That is not just a result of Afghanistan,” he said from Fredericton. “There's been a building demand over these last 15 years.”

As a result, the military has instituted programs and services for soldiers and families at bases across the country to deal with the stress of deployment before, during and after missions to combat zones.

As well, the federal government is funding five new clinics for military and police personnel suffering from service-related psychological injuries, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a condition that struck a significant number of soldiers posted to Bosnia, Windsor said.

“So there were a number of folks who came back injured quite badly in the mind, and it created demand and a need to do something in these communities to cope.”

Lt.-Cmdr. Pierre Babinsky, a spokesman for the Canadian Forces, said “we have no indication that there is any issue of maltreatment of children or anything related to that” among Canadian military families.

“We have a very good program to support our families in terms of just about every aspect of deployment \_ support in terms of mental health, stress, administration,” Babinsky said from Ottawa.

“It's important for us that our people deploying be in a position where they can concentrate on the mission rather than worry about what's going on back home. Therefore, we go to great lengths to offer very good support to our families.”

Frances Priest, the deployment support co-ordinator for the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) at CFB Petawawa, said she couldn't comment on possible child abuse or neglect, because “I just don't know.”

But Priest said MFRCs at bases across Canada help families deal with separations caused by deployment, offering support groups for spouses, family counselling and respite care so the parent on his or her own can get short breaks from the kids.

“I think our military families are a lot stronger and organized than has been portrayed in the past and there are lots of services and programs that help them to face the new realities,” she said from Petawawa, Ont.

“There are new realities and those are the sorts of things we're trying to adjust to,” she said of the Afghanistan mission, where about 2,500 Canadian troops are serving.

Martin said the U.S. Department of Defence and the army also have a variety of programs for their military families. “So they're working very hard to help these families deal with this. But the study suggests that we need to do more so we can help everybody.”

# Afghan police discover body of 2nd slain South Korean hostage

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) \_ Police in central Afghanistan discovered the body of a second South Korean hostage slain by the Taliban at daybreak Tuesday, officials said.

The victim's body was found in Arizo Kalley village in Andar District, some 10 kilometres west of Ghazni, said Abdul Rahim Deciwal, the chief administrator in the area.

The Al-Jazeera television network, meanwhile, showed footage that it said was seven female hostages in Afghanistan.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry confirmed Tuesday that 29-year-old Shim Sung-min's body had been found. The former information technology worker was volunteering with a South Korean church group on an aid mission to Afghanistan.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said senior Taliban leaders decided to kill the male captive Monday evening because the government had not met Taliban demands to trade prisoners for the Christian volunteers, who were in their 12th day of captivity Monday.

“The Kabul and Korean governments are lying and cheating. They did not meet their promise of releasing Taliban prisoners,” Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the Taliban, said by phone from an undisclosed location.

“The Taliban warns the government if the Afghan government won't release Taliban prisoners then at any time the Taliban could kill another Korean hostage.”

The Taliban commanders set a new deadline of noon Wednesday.

“If the Kabul government does not release the Taliban prisoners, then we will kill after 12 o'clock \_ we are going to kill Korean hostages,” Ahmadi said.

“It might be a man or a woman...It might be one. It might be two, four.”

“It might be all of them.”

Al-Jazeera showed shaky footage of what it said were several South Korean hostages. It did not say how it obtained the video, whose authenticity could not immediately be verified.

Some seven female hostages, heads veiled in accordance with the Islamic law enforced by the Taliban, were seen crouching in the dark, eyes closed or staring at the ground, expressionless.

The hostages did not speak as they were filmed by the hand-held camera.

The Taliban kidnapped 23 South Koreans riding on a bus through Ghazni province on the Kabul-Kandahar highway July 19, the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

The Taliban has set several deadlines for the Koreans' lives. Last Wednesday, the insurgents killed their first hostage, a male leader of the group.

The body of pastor Bae Hyung-kyu arrived back in South Korea on Monday, where the families of the remaining hostages pleaded for their loved ones' release.

Relatives have gathered at Saemmul Community Church in Bundang, just outside Seoul. They waited anxiously for developments \_ sharing prayers, meals and sleepless nights as they followed 24-hour television newscasts.

Relatives have gathered at Saemmul Community Church in Bundang, just outside Seoul. They waited anxiously for developments \_ sharing prayers, meals and sleepless nights as they followed 24-hour television newscasts.

Seo Jung-bae, 59, whose daughter and son were among the hostages, appealed to the Taliban.

“Please, please send my children back so I can hold them in my arms,” he said, fighting back tears in a plea to the captors.

“Our families are the same. Your family is precious, so is mine.”

Speaking from an emergency centre set up by the church, he said his children had travelled to the country to assist Afghans in need.

“They went there to help, thinking they (Afghans) are their friends.”

It's not clear if the Afghan government would consider releasing any militant prisoners.

In March, President Hamid Karzai approved a deal that saw five captive Taliban fighters freed for the release of Italian reporter Daniele Mastrogiacomo. Karzai, who was criticized by the United States and European capitals for the exchange, called the trade a one-time deal.

On Sunday, Karzai and other Afghan officials tried to shame the Taliban into releasing the female captives by appealing to a tradition of cultural hospitality and chivalry. They called the kidnapping of women “unIslamic.”

On Monday, South Korean officials changed their estimate of the number of women captives to 16, down from earlier reports of 18.



# 'Support Our Troops' decals not mandatory on Alta. province vehicles: Premier

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE POLITICS  
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**WORD COUNT:** 346

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EDMONTON (CP) \_ All Alberta government employees will be able to display "Support Our Troops" decals on provincially owned vehicles, but Premier Ed Stelmach said Tuesday it won't be mandatory.

Cabinet has decided that making the decals available to government employees is a good way to back Canadian troops in Afghanistan without endorsing the war itself.

"From my point of view and from my caucus, we're proud that we're supporting the troops. It's not supporting the war," Stelmach said.

He suggested the freedom to choose whether to sport one of the decals is part of what Canadian soldiers are fighting for in Afghanistan, and that's why the provincial government isn't making their display mandatory for provincially owned vehicles.

"Let's not get in deeper about mandatory, not mandatory," he said. "We're supporting the troops and are very proud of what they're doing and all Canadians are very proud.

"If there's any other reason where some may have a disagreement, that's part, I guess, of our society."

Earlier this month, Calgary city council voted down a proposal by Ald. Ric McIver to put "Support Our Troops" decals on city-owned vehicles.

Instead, council supported a motion by Mayor Dave Bronconnier to make the decals available to members of the public.

The union representing Calgary police officers teamed up Tuesday with the city's Military Family Resource Centre to hand out the yellow ribbon-style decals to downtown motorists.

The Canadian government has indicated the military will be in Afghanistan for at least the next few years, and the decals are a way to pay tribute to some of the good work Canadian soldiers are doing there \_ like building homes, immunizing children and purifying water, Stelmach said.

"The casualties of both men and women are substantially higher than anticipated, (but) it's really in support of those families," the premier said.

The decals are also a way to pay tribute to soldiers who've been horribly wounded, Stelmach suggested.

"I've sat with some of the soldiers that have come back and some have come back with loss of limb. Their lives will be changed forever."

Last month, city councillors in Toronto voted unanimously to keep the decals on fire trucks and ambulances for at least another year.

The issue ignited after Mayor David Miller backed a plan to have the stickers removed.

Public officials said they'd received calls from the public complaining about the decals, with some saying it appeared that the decals supported the war in Afghanistan.

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Canada pledges \$125 million in food relief for Africa

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
**KEYWORDS:** SOCIAL INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
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**WORD COUNT:** 102

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OTTAWA – The Conservative government is pledging \$125 million towards a United Nations school meals program for African countries.

International Co-operation Minister Josee Verner says the money will come out the Canadian International Development Agency's budget over the next five years.

The federal government has faced growing criticism for focusing much of its international attention on Afghanistan at the expense of other places, such as Africa.

Josette Sheeran, the executive director of the World Food Program says the donation makes Canada the third-largest donor to the organization.

Canada has contributed in the past to school feeding programs in Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal and Tanzania, among others.

Sheeran says the pledge is important to help the UN agency plan for the long-term.

(BN)

# Conservative–Caucus

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

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INDEX: Politics

OTTAWA -- The federal Tory caucus is talking strategy in Charlottetown this week.

Seldom–heard M–Ps will be able to speak up after 18 months of tightly scripted, top–down communication.

On Wednesday, cabinet ministers will brief the national group on developments in the areas of crime and security, environment and energy, and infrastructure.

Members will also break off to discuss regional issues.

The full group will meet Thursday to discuss a wide range of issues -- anything from riding concerns to Afghanistan, from government communications policy to future policy initiatives.

Harper's government seemed ready for a short sprint to a spring 2007 election.

But now it appears there won't be another vote until next spring at the earliest.

Some M–Ps say the party should do more than just attack the Liberals, waiting for the opposition party to implode.

Instead, they say the Tories need to come up with some fresh ideas and set some long–term goals if they want to stay afloat.

(CP)

LAK

# Tillman–Friendly–Fire

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**DATE:** 2007.07.31  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE JUSTICE  
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**WORD COUNT:** 124

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WASHINGTON — The U–S army has censured a retired three–star general for the chain of errors that followed the friendly–fire death in 2004 of Army Ranger Pat Tillman, a former pro football player.

It referred the matter to a special panel to determine whether retired army Lieutenant–General Philip Kensinger should also have his rank reduced.

Army secretary Pete Geren told a Pentagon news conference today that Kensinger had deceived investigators.

Kensinger, who headed army special operations, bore the brunt of the punishment, while nine other officers were criticized but not punished.

Geren said investigations have shown that accidental fire from U–S troops was responsible for the death in Afghanistan of 27–year–old Tillman, who had walked away from a 3.6– (m) million–dollar N–F–L contract to become an Army Ranger.

(AP)

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# Bush expresses his thanks for Canada's efforts in Afghanistan; Harper initiates a phone call to the White House in advance of hosting leaders' summit in Quebec

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**BYLINE:** Les Whittington  
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U.S. President George W. Bush expressed appreciation to Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday for Canada's efforts in the war in Afghanistan, the White House said.

"The president thanked the Prime Minister for Canada's steadfast support for the people of Afghanistan," Tony Snow, a presidential spokesperson, told reporters during a briefing on a telephone call between the two leaders.

The handling of Ottawa's military mission in Afghanistan is likely to be one of the thorny topics when Harper and his Conservative colleagues gather in Charlottetown today for a three-day caucus retreat.

Canadians are sharply divided in their support for the mission, and it is seen by many observers as a potential problem for the Tories in the run-up to an election that could come within the next year.

No one was available from Harper's office to inform the media of the details of the 20-minute call initiated by Harper yesterday morning. Instead, the PMO issued by email a three-sentence summary of the exchange between Harper and Bush. It made no mention of Afghanistan.

Yesterday's high-level chat was held in advance of the leaders' summit in Montebello, Que., on Aug. 20 and 21, where Harper will play host to Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon for private talks.

The summit, which will focus on efforts to streamline trade and post-9/11 security measures, is expected to attract thousands of protesters concerned about the Bush-led war in Iraq and what some see as a clandestine move toward closer continental integration.

Snow said Bush and Harper yesterday "briefly touched upon other issues related to the Western Hemisphere, including the importance of supporting President (Alvaro) Uribe of Colombia with approval of the free trade agreement with Colombia."

During a mid-July trip to Colombia, Harper stressed the importance of a free-trade deal between Canada and Colombia despite that country's record of human rights abuses and the fact that Uribe's government has been

Bush expresses his thanks for Canada's efforts in Afghanistan; Harper initiates a phone call to the White Ho

linked to paramilitary death squads.

"They also reviewed a range of bilateral issues including the situation with softwood lumber and implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, " Snow told reporters in Washington.

Canada has expressed concerns that the tougher border identification requirements under the travel initiative pose a threat to the Canadian economy.

# Soldier lay in bed during fight; Serviceman in Afghanistan gets 21 days in jail for failing 'miserably' to do his duty in attack

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A Canadian soldier stayed in bed while insurgents attacked his forward operating base in Afghanistan last year.

A military judge sentenced Master Cpl. Paul Patrick Billard to 21 days in jail for his actions during the May 22, 2006 night-time attack.

"You displayed a total lack of discipline and a lack of respect for orders by remaining in bed, by refusing to don your helmet and your flak vest and by refusing to report to your assigned place of duty," Lt.-Col. Jean-Guy Perron, the court martial judge, said in his decision.

Billard, who had been at the unidentified camp for five months, was to have been a stretcher-bearer and be part of the reserve force.

"The stand-to siren (warning soldiers to prepare to defend their position) and small-arms fire could be heard throughout the camp," Perron noted. The stand-to lasted more than an hour.

According to a statement of facts, a corporal was donning his fighting gear when Billard tried to discourage him by saying: "Where are you going and what for?" When two comrades tried to roust Billard by banging a locker, he replied: "I'm immune to that. I'm going to sleep."

The court martial judge called the soldier's conduct "reprehensible" that day.

"Your duty is to follow orders and to ensure the welfare and discipline of your subordinates. You failed this duty miserably."

The 33-year-old soldier was born in Ontario and joined the army in St. John's, Nfld.

Billard pleaded guilty to the military charge of neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline.

The judge's oral decision was delivered on July 6, two days after six Canadian soldiers and an Afghan interpreter died when the patrol vehicle they were in struck a roadside bomb near Kandahar.

Soldier lay in bed during fight; Serviceman in Afghanistan gets 21 days in jail for failing 'miserably' to do his



"It is not up to you to decide which orders are applicable to you and when they are applicable," Perron's ruling said.

"You, like any other soldier at that camp, had one important responsibility: Obey the orders and react in a manner that will ensure the safety of your comrades and the success of the mission."

The prosecutor recommended a sentence of 10–21 days of detention. The defence suggested a severe reprimand and a fine up to \$3,000.

Billard is to serve the 21–day sentence at a military prison in Edmonton.

Billard is now working as an image analyst in Ottawa. He has been released on bail pending a planned appeal of his sentence.

While the Defence Department paid for Billard's defence, his lawyer must apply to see if the military will cover the cost of an appeal.

There have only been a few Canadian courts martial stemming from incidents in Afghanistan, where Canada has about 2,500 troops.

Soldier lay in bed during fight; Serviceman in Afghanistan gets 21 days in jail for failing 'miserably' ~~66~~ do his

# Support for mission can grow, polls find; Backing for Afghan role gets a boost with talk of diplomacy, rights

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010111  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Finbarr O'Reilly Reuters Canadian Master Cpl. Mike McCauley greets an Afghan boy while on patrol with Afghan troops near Panjwaii in Kandahar province earlier this month. ;  
**BYLINE:** Allan Woods  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 444

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The federal government could significantly boost support for the Afghan mission if it were to emphasize diplomacy and human rights, according to opinion polling compiled over seven months for the Department of National Defence.

Of the 8,500 people contacted between September 2006 and March 2007, just 20 per cent said they "strongly support" Canada's fight in Afghanistan.

But that figure jumped 26 percentage points, so that almost half of all respondents registered their strong support, when those surveyed were told about Canada's diplomacy and development efforts, such as ensuring human rights for women and supporting democratic institutions.

Combined with those who said they "somewhat" backed a mission that is balanced between combat and aid, support topped out at 83 per cent, compared with 44 per cent who supported the mission without being prompted about the development work that is being done.

"Support (for the mission) increased significantly after hearing more about Canada's role," says a summary of the findings by pollster Ipsos Reid.

Nik Nanos, president of Ottawa's SES Research, said the government-commissioned survey is "standard ... technique for political campaigns."

"You start introducing content and you measure how you can move the dial," he said.

"Those numbers are indicative of where Canadians would be if the Conservatives managed to grab both shoulders of every Canadian in the country and say, 'I'd like to have a 10-minute conversation with you about what we're trying to achieve.' But that's not reality."

The poll, at a cost to taxpayers of \$104,575, is the latest to look at how to present Canada's military mission to a skeptical public. Others have warned the government against appearing too militaristic, presenting the mission as payback for the 9/11 terror attacks and aligning itself with the U.S. government. All have

Support for mission can grow, polls find; Backing for Afghan role gets a boost with talk of diplomacy and rights

underscored the fact that combat remains a tough sell in Canada.

Compounding the government's problem is the rising death toll – 66 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat – and difficulty showing how aid is improving the lives of Afghans.

Alex Morrison, head of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, said the challenge is how Ottawa can be honest about the military's role and still make it palatable to the public. The blame lies with previous Liberal and Tory governments that emphasized peacekeeping to such an extent that Canadian soldiers are now viewed as "simply a bunch of do-gooders," he said.

"The government (convinced) a heck of a lot of Canadians that our military weren't real military when, of course, they are and they're proving it in Afghanistan."

The poll was completed just ahead of a significant shift in the Conservative government's Afghanistan stance, marked by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's comments that the mission in Kandahar province will end in February 2009 unless a majority of MPs agree to keep the military engaged on the frontlines against the Taliban.

# **; South Korea and relatives of captive aid workers plead for their release as Afghanistan refuses to meet Taliban's demand that rebel prisoners be freed**

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010028

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Ont

**SECTION:** World And Comment

**PAGE:** AA01

**ILLUSTRATION:** Reuters Photo A hostage's relative falls yesterday in Seongnam, South Korea, at a news conference held to seek the captives' release. Two of the 23 original hostages have been killed. The Taliban is threatening to execute more. ;

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 45

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Reuters Photo A hostage's relative falls yesterday in Seongnam, South Korea, at a news conference held to seek the captives' release. Two of the 23 original hostages have been killed. The Taliban is threatening to execute more.

# O'Connor's optimism not helpful

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010282  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** PAUL BERTON  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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Is Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor being optimistic or just political? Does he really believe Canadian soldiers can start to pull back from combat operations on the front lines in Afghanistan by next spring?

Or is he trying to put a positive spin on the mission amid a growing debate at home about our role in the war-torn country?

If so, he's serving neither the debate nor the soldiers nor the citizens.

O'Connor's stated belief last week that Afghans could soon take on much of the combat operations now shouldered by Canadians on the front lines was suspect from the get-go.

To have that suspicion confirmed by none other than his second-in-command indicates trouble in the department.

General Rick Hillier, Canada's top military commander, said Sunday that O'Connor's plan to have the Afghan National Army take over the bulk of the dangerous work near Kandahar next winter would be a "significant challenge."

"It's going to take a long while. We've just started the process," said Hillier, who took pains to not contradict his boss. "We've just gotten the first soldiers in the south in the last few months here."

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# Taliban told: No release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010275  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 8  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHIM SUNG-MIN Murdered  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 184

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South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed for U.S. help yesterday, but Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners — the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago; the group's pastor was killed last week.

The Taliban said more Koreans would die if its prisoner release demands were not met by midday today. The militants have extended several previous deadlines without consequences, but killed Shim Sung-min, 29, on Monday after a deadline passed. His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

## RELATIVES ASK FOR HELP

In South Korea, relatives and a civic group pleaded for more U.S. involvement, and the president's office used more diplomatic language to prod the Americans.

"The government is well aware of how the international community deals with these kinds of abduction cases," the president's office said, an apparent reference to the policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

The civic group People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy said the U.S. was acting like it was watching "a fire across a river." KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Hostages made their own trouble Decent do-gooding Christians should leave Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708010479  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 25  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of JAMES LONEY Refused to slam captors  
**BYLINE:** PETER WORTHINGTON, TORONTO SUN  
**WORD COUNT:** 525

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What are Christian Korean women doing in Afghanistan anyway?

Haven't there been enough horrendous incidents involving missionaries, Christian activists, peace-at-any-price zealots in both Afghanistan and Iraq to dissuade others from plunging into the morass, ostensibly to do the Lord's work?

In too many cases, it's fallen to NATO or other soldiers, who risk their lives to rescue such people from their reckless courage, and refusal to recognize the dangers of their humanitarian selfishness. Especially women, foreign or not, who are Taliban targets.

## A DILEMMA

Presuming most are still alive, the Korean Christians held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan pose a huge dilemma for the Korean government, the struggling Afghan government of Hamid Karzai, the NATO troops trying to secure peace and reconstruction in that country.

The only ones in the catbird seat are the Taliban of Mullah Mohammed Omar (how come he's still surviving?) and the al-Qaida of Osama bin Laden.

A series of deadlines have passed in the Korean hostage case, with the Taliban demanding captured prisoners be released before they'll free the hostages. Meanwhile, they, the Taliban, are killing the male Koreans one at a time to encourage Kabul's capitulation.

No word at this writing whether the 18 Korean women are still alive.

Of all governments involved, none know better than the South Koreans the folly of cooperating with, or succumbing to, terrorist demands. Since 1953, South Korea has survived, lived and thrived under perpetual threat from North Korea, the world's most merciless and perverted regime.

The Taliban also have German hostages, whom they seem to be killing one by one.

While one has sympathy for anyone in Taliban (or al-Qaida) hands, one also cannot escape the conclusion that it is largely the fault of captives that they are in such a precarious and frightening situation.

In 2005, Canadian James Loney and four members of the Christian Peacemakers Team (CPT) in Iraq were kidnapped and held as hostages by something calling itself the Swords Of Righteousness Brigade. Before



being rescued by British SAS troops and Canadian JTF2 specialists, an American member of the CPT, Tom Fox, was murdered.

## REFUSED POPPY

The gratitude of those rescued manifested itself in Loney refusing to wear a poppy on Remembrance Day, and refusing to testify against his suspect captors later held by the Americans. A similar response came from Norman Kember, a British CPT member who was rescued.

Prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, peace-types made a big hullabaloo about chaining themselves to supposed targets in Baghdad to deter air strikes — but they cut-and-ran as soon as their demands were ignored and bombs fell.

The martyr complex exists among Christians as well as Muslim suicide bombers. Doubtless the Korean Christians exude sincerity, courage and probably forgiveness. But that's not the point. They shouldn't be there.

The Taliban are not Iroquois whom French Jesuits once felt faith-bound to rescue from paganism — and suffered torture and death as a consequence. Those were different times, and one would think we, or the church, would have learned a lesson.

Apparently not. Christian groups should be discouraged from dabbling in regions where their religious faith is not appreciated, and where others are required to risk their lives to save them when inevitably they are kidnapped, to be used as political bargaining chips.

On the other hand, the fact that peaceful, decent people like the Korean Christians are captured and killed by such as the Taliban, is more evidence why Canadian and NATO troops are needed in that country — not for the sake of hostages, but to help bring peace, security and a modicum of freedom to the Afghan people.

# A sweet reminder Troops to get water booster

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708010476  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 22  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Tracy McLaughlin, Sun Media Colleen Swider holds a photo of trooper Darryl Caswell son of pal Darlene Cuman. The women are sending water sweetener to Afghanistan.  
**BYLINE:** TRACY MCLAUGHLIN, SPECIAL TO THE SUN  
**DATELINE:** BRACEBRIDGE  
**WORD COUNT:** 207

---

There will be no cake and ice-cream at the Caswell residence this year.

Yesterday was trooper Darryl Caswell's 26th birthday but he won't be home for his planned surprise party because he was killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan June 11.

Caswell was the 57th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Instead of the party, his mother, Darlene Cushman, a special constable with OPP Bracebridge, went to the military cemetery in Ottawa to celebrate her son's birthday.

"It's devastating. It's unimaginable," said Colleen Swider, a friend of Caswell's mother.

## MET AT GROCERY

The two women met at the Gagnon's Your Independent Grocer store in Bracebridge where Swider works. Cushman proudly chatted about her soldier son and Swider shared her story about her nephew soldier, Greg White, who had his arm half blown off in Afghanistan a year ago.

A month before he died, Cushman sent her son a care package with Crystal Light single drink crystals for soldiers to mix with their yucky warm bottled water.

It was such a hit that she asked Swider if she could buy a case at cost to send to the soldiers.

On June 11, the grocery store manager, Guy Gagnon, called Cushman to say instead he would donate the case of Crystal Light.

Starting tomorrow Swider and the grocery store are kicking off a "Darryl's Light" campaign where they will ask customers to buy a case of Crystal Light at \$67.25 cost to ship to the soldiers in Afghanistan along with a personal card. Kraft Canada promises to match each donation.

The campaign will run Aug. 2-4 in Bracebridge. Or order at [www.bracebridgechamber.com](http://www.bracebridgechamber.com).

KEYWORDS=CANADA

# O'Connor's optimism not helpful

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010468  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 16  
**BYLINE:** – PAUL BERTON  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010463  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHIM SUNG-MIN Murdered  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 184

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010215  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 12  
**BYLINE:** PAUL BERTON  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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# Retired general censured over friendly–fire coverup

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010210  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of PAT TILLMAN  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 90

---

The U.S. army yesterday censured a retired three–star general for the chain of errors that followed the friendly–fire death in 2004 of army ranger Pat Tillman, a former pro football player.

It referred to a special panel whether retired army Lt.–Gen. Philip Kensinger should also have his rank reduced.

Army Secretary Pete Geren told a Pentagon news conference that Kensinger was "guilty of deception" and had deceived investigators.

The army initially suggested that Tillman had been killed in a firefight with enemy militia forces in Afghanistan. Investigators later discovered accidental fire from U.S. troops was responsible for his death.  
KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Taliban told: No release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010205  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHIM SUNG-MIN Murdered  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 184

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010362  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** PAUL BERTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 250

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# Ottawa doling out \$125M to Africa But it may not contribute to a 26,000–troop peacekeeping mission announced by the UN.

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010354  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 374

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The federal government appears willing to send more humanitarian aid to the war–ravaged Darfur region of Sudan, but may not contribute to a peacekeeping mission approved yesterday.

International Co–operation Minister Josee Verner, who's in charge of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), said the Conservative government has not been asked to contribute more food or soldiers to the international effort.

"We are ready to respond to any requests in terms of humanitarian assistance," she said following a news conference announcing a separate aid commitment to Africa.

She deferred questions about troops to either Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor or Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, both of whom were unavailable.

Verner announced CIDA is setting aside \$125 million over five years for a UN–sponsored school food program, but the money will be spent in African countries other than Sudan.

A spokesperson for MacKay said it will be a few days before the UN issues formal requests for support and the government will wait until then.

"Canada is already quite active in the region," Andre LeMay said. "What are they going to ask us for? We don't know."

The UN Security Council approved plans yesterday to send a peacekeeping force to Darfur. The resolution is co–sponsored by Britain and France and would send 26,000 troops to Sudan's western region. When it's up and running later this year, it will be the international body's largest peacekeeping force.

Troops belonging to an African Union force have not been able to stop the violence said to have left 200,000 dead and two million homeless.

The resolution gives UN troops the power to use force to protect civilians and aid workers from violence. In addition, there is a call for peace talks to proceed.

There are 31 Canadian Forces members currently serving in Sudan as part of a UN mission. Most of them are military observers deployed throughout the southern region of the country. Six soldiers serve as staff officers

Ottawa doling out \$125M to Africa But it may not contribute to a 26,000–troop peacekeeping mission announced

at UN Headquarters in Khartoum and El Obeid, Sudan.

Opposition parties have repeatedly criticized the Conservative government for not paying more attention to the crisis in Darfur.

At one point, the NDP even suggested Canadian troops be pulled out of fighting in Afghanistan and redeployed to Darfur.

Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of defence staff, has said the army has its hands full keeping up with the Afghan deployment and doesn't have the troops to spare.

Verner said Canada spends \$59 million a year on aid to western Sudan, making it the third-largest recipient of Canadian international aid. Afghanistan is No. 1.

The executive director of the UN's World Food Program, Josette Sheeran, said no one should underestimate the contribution Canada has made to easing the suffering of people driven from their homes in Darfur.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Kin of hostages appeal for help

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010352  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 149

---

South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed yesterday for U.S. help, but Afghanistan said it will not release insurgent prisoners, the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Earlier, Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the church group was seized nearly two weeks ago. The group's pastor was killed last week.

A purported Taliban spokesperson said some of the prisoners the militants want released are held at the U.S. base at Bagram, and the Al-Jazeera television network broadcast a video reportedly of another Taliban captive, a German engineer.

The Taliban said more Koreans will die if its demands are not met by noon today. The militants have extended previous deadlines without consequences, but killed 29-year-old Shim Sung-min Monday after a deadline passed.

His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

They were two of 23 South Koreans — 16 women and seven men — kidnapped while riding a bus July 19.

In South Korea, relatives pleaded for more U.S. involvement and the president's office used diplomatic language to prod the Americans. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Afghan chiefs urge Canadians to stay A pullout would mean the collapse of all the rebuilding work, the leading politicians insist. Deck

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708010351

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Martin Ouellet, CP CONCERNS OUTLINED: Arif Lalani Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, Asdullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, and Ehsan Zia, Afghan minister of rural rehabilitation and development, outline concerns that all achievements in Afghanistan will collapse if Canada withdraws its troops too soon.

**BYLINE:** MARTIN OUELLET, CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 355

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The thought of troops going home may be appealing in Canada, but two prominent Afghan politicians say a premature Canadian pullout from their country would result in the collapse of the work done to rebuild Afghanistan.

Rural Development Minister Ehsan Zia and Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, yesterday urged Canada to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan at least for the foreseeable future.

Zia said only about one-half of the required reconstruction effort has been accomplished after five years.

Any talk of a Canadian withdrawal is "premature," he said at the Kandahar base where Canadian troops are stationed. "I think it is too soon to talk of a redeployment from Afghanistan."

If Canadians did pull out, he said, "what has been achieved will collapse. It's very dangerous to leave because the job is half done."

Canada has about 2,500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants.

Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan.

Canadian troops are scheduled to end their mission in Afghanistan in February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he will extend the commitment only with the consensus of Parliament. That appears unlikely with the Liberals calling for an end to the combat role on schedule and the NDP and Bloc Quebecois set against any extension.

Khalid said a large amount of work remains to bring the country up to the minimum norms of civil society.

Afghan chiefs urge Canadians to stay A pullout would mean the collapse of all the rebuilding work, the leading

He pointed to further efforts needed in the education system, health care, governance and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment and sewers.

But the priority is "re-establishing security," a task that would be even more difficult without the presence of the army, Khalid said.

One of the hurdles faced by Canadian troops is getting the Afghan army properly trained, a task Canadian commanders say will be key in the mission.

The state of the Afghan police is also preoccupying the international community. The RCMP has overseen training for about 600 police officers in Kandahar province under the auspices of the provincial reconstruction team.

However, even those efforts haven't paid off completely. The Afghan police operate at minimal levels and are still beset with corruption and abuse of their authority.

Khalid said the Afghan government is taking steps to improve their working conditions and reduce the level of corruption.

"We're looking at the question of salaries," he said. "Very soon, I think in the next month, they'll be getting double what they do now."

Arif Lalani, the Afghan ambassador to Canada, said the establishment of a well-paid, well-equipped and well-trained police force is "a crucial element" in making the country secure. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# General rapped in Tillman death

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010803  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 37  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 174

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The U.S. army yesterday censured a retired three-star general for the chain of errors that followed the friendly-fire death in 2004 of army ranger Pat Tillman.

It referred to a special panel whether retired army Lt.-Gen. Philip Kensinger should also have his rank reduced.

Army Secretary Pete Geren told a Pentagon news conference that Kensinger had deceived investigators.

"It's a perfect storm of mistakes, misjudgments and a failure of leadership," said Geren in announcing his decision after an investigation into the death of the former pro football player.

The general bore the brunt of the punishment. Nine other officers were criticized but not punished.

The panel will decide whether Kensinger should be stripped of his third star.

Geren said he considered recommending a court martial but ruled it out. "I looked at many factors," he said. Kensinger, he said, "compromised his duty."

"He failed to provide proper leadership to the soldiers under his administrative control. ... He let his soldiers down," Geren said. "General Kensinger was the captain of that ship, and his ship ran aground."

Geren said that investigations have conclusively shown that accidental fire from U.S. troops was responsible for the death in Afghanistan of Tillman, who had walked away from a US\$3.6 million pro football contract to become an army ranger. KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Province reaches out to troops

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010782

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 20

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Darren Makowichuk, Sun Media Colleen Rowe, executive director of the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre, and Julie Gow, wife of Cpl. Matthew Gow, who will be deployed in August to Afghanistan, were handing out decals and taking donations yesterday in Calgary.

**BYLINE:** JEREMY LOOME, LEGISLATURE BUREAU

**WORD COUNT:** 275

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"Support Our Troops" decals will be made available to all Alberta government employees, Premier Ed Stelmach said yesterday, adding he can't see what the fuss is about.

He also said he personally thinks the Canadian troops are doing a good job in Afghanistan, but stopped short of endorsing the war.

Cabinet had to discuss the issue because of controversy in Toronto, where the city has flip-flopped on the issue, and in Calgary, where Mayor David Bronconnier has opposed the decals on city vehicles.

But Stelmach said Alberta supports the contention that you can support humanitarian efforts by the troops without necessarily supporting their combat role.

"They're working in very difficult conditions," he said. "And what they're accomplishing in Afghanistan, even though there's significant human cost ... if you look at the immunization programs, the purification of water, housing they're working on. It's all part of our world, and even though it's on a different continent, it's a renewed pride in the Forces and the work they are doing."

He also said that, for the same allowable differences of opinion, provincial employees won't be forced to display the magnetic decals on provincially owned vehicles.

"It's supporting our troops. It's not supporting the war but supporting our troops who have been assigned there," he said. "We're supporting the troops and we're very proud of the work they're doing."

Soldiers are risking death and incurring horrible injuries, such as losing limbs, to try to bring a free society to another part of the world, he said. But Stelmach stressed everyone has a right to their opinion – including those who oppose the combat role.

"All Canadians are proud, and if there is any other (issue) where some may have a disagreement, that's part of society. I'm really proud of the fact that we have such well-trained troops in Afghanistan."

**KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

# War takes toll at home Child abuse and neglect

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010780  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 20  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**WORD COUNT:** 143

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New research shows that incidents of child abuse and neglect among U.S. military families rise significantly when a parent is deployed to a combat zone.

The study shows that the overall rate of child abuse and neglect was more than 40% higher while a soldier-parent was deployed compared to when he or she was at home.

Researchers conducted the study by comparing rates of child abuse and neglect among nearly 2,000 U.S. army families while soldiers were at home and then while they were deployed between late 2001 and the end of 2004.

Lead author Deborah Gibbs says the findings were consistent regardless of parents' age, rank or ethnic background.

The greatest increase in the rate of child abuse and neglect occurred when soldier-husbands deployed and left mothers at home to care for the children.

There is no data on child abuse and neglect among the Canadian military, but experts say the Canadian Forces continue to ramp up programs to assist families as the mission in Afghanistan continues.

**KEYWORDS=**CANADA

# Taliban told: No release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010776  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 17  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHIM SUNG-MIN Murdered  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 184

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South Korea and relatives of 21 kidnapped Koreans appealed for U.S. help yesterday, but Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners — the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago; the group's pastor was killed last week.

The Taliban said more Koreans would die if its prisoner release demands were not met by midday today. The militants have extended several previous deadlines without consequences, but killed Shim Sung-min, 29, on Monday after a deadline passed. His body, with a gunshot wound to the head, was found along a road in Andar district.

## RELATIVES ASK FOR HELP

In South Korea, relatives and a civic group pleaded for more U.S. involvement, and the president's office used more diplomatic language to prod the Americans.

"The government is well aware of how the international community deals with these kinds of abduction cases," the president's office said, an apparent reference to the policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

The civic group People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy said the U.S. was acting like it was watching "a fire across a river." **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Brit army exits Ulster The security forces' 38-year mission in Northern Ireland comes to a close

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708010775

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 17

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Peter Morrison, AP A British Army soldier from the Royal Regiment of Scotland stands on guard inside Palace Barracks in Belfast yesterday. The army has formally ended its 38-year mission to bolster security in Northern Ireland.

**BYLINE:** AP

**DATELINE:** BELFAST

**WORD COUNT:** 309

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The British army marked a milestone of peacemaking yesterday as it formally ended its 38-year mission to bolster security in Northern Ireland.

The military's longest-running operation officially ended at midnight. But the symbolic moment came months after the reality — no British troops have been on patrol on Belfast streets for two years.

As of today, all 5,000 soldiers remaining in this long-disputed corner of the U.K. will be committed to training for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere overseas.

## IRA DEFEAT?

Analysts and ex-soldiers are debating whether British security forces defeated the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which waged a 1970-97 campaign to overthrow Northern Ireland by force. But all sides agree the IRA's 2005 decision to renounce violence and disarm has permitted British soldiers to beat their own retreat.

"We don't need them any more," said Chief Constable Hugh Orde, commander of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The central goal of the Good Friday peace accord of 1998 — a joint administration that includes the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party — was revived in May and has been operating harmoniously.

The other key goal, forging a police force supported on both sides of the community, is more than midway through a 10-year reform program. Catholic numbers in police ranks have more than doubled to 21%, and Britain hopes to transfer control of Northern Ireland security to local hands next year.

Two dissident IRA groups continue to plot attacks. But Orde and Lt.-Gen. Nick Parker, who commands the new "peacetime" army garrison, say the dissidents will be defeated by gathering intelligence, not by deploying troops.

"There are still places where, sadly, a very small number of people are determined to wreck all that has been achieved," Orde said. "We have to be very mindful of that threat."

The British army once had 106 bases and 27,000 troops in Northern Ireland, and had 44 bases here only two years ago. It expects to have just 10 by April.

"The change in the political and security reality of Northern Ireland since ... 2005 has been even more dramatic than we could have hoped," said Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Aid workers naive

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010772  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** MINDELLE JACOBS  
**DATELINE:** AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 442

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The disastrous outcome of the journey to Afghanistan of 23 South Koreans who wanted to make a difference should serve as a warning to other would-be do-gooders.

Lots of kind-hearted people pack their bags and head off to Third World countries to help out with whatever development project takes their fancy. Afghanistan, as anyone who's read a newspaper or watched TV over the past few years, is different.

The Kabul-Kandahar corridor is the most dangerous part of Afghanistan. Yet, incredibly, this earnest but unsophisticated Christian church group was riding a bus on that very route when they were kidnapped by the Taliban two weeks ago.

Is anyone on the planet surprised that they were abducted? What were these volunteer aid workers thinking? That they could freely travel around Afghanistan without putting their lives in danger?

It's unclear whether they had taken any security precautions, but if they did it certainly wasn't enough.

Two of the hostages have now been killed by the Taliban and more could very well die because the Afghanistan government has said it will not release Taliban prisoners to save the South Koreans.

And nor should the government release a bunch of terrorists to free the aid workers. That just encourages the Taliban to ratchet up the kidnappings.

It's an incredible tragedy for the families of the aid workers but it's also a lesson in how not to set foot in Afghanistan.

"I can tell you that travelling by bus without any kind of serious protection is naive. It's almost stupid," says Elsie De Laere, a California teacher who has been in Afghanistan six times since 2004 to train local teachers with the non-profit group Afghan Friends Network.

Every time the small group of American teachers was on the Kabul-Kandahar road, they were accompanied by police security – two cars in front and two behind. There were even helicopters overhead securing the area.

The group also took different routes to get to the school in Ghazni, south of Kabul, and had emergency numbers for the nearby U.S. army base.

"We go through great ... pains to be as safe as possible," says De Laere, 49.

Travelling unescorted is unheard of, she adds. "People who've worked there for many years say you just don't do that."

John Thompson, of the Mackenzie Institute, agrees. "You might as well drape yourself in fish guts and go swimming in shark-infested waters," he says.

"Whatever they were thinking, some basic precautions were evidently lacking."

Globalization has made the world more accessible but that doesn't mean the dangers have lessened, Thompson says.

"Almost anyone can go anywhere for any reason and so you can have a group of people who take it in their heads that they can do good without bothering to learn about local conditions."

De Laere says a U.S. military commander in Ghazni told her he finds it frustrating that the few aid groups in the area refuse protection because they fear it will damage their relations with local Afghans.

"He basically rolled his eyes and said, 'they're on their own,'" she recalls.

"I meet these gung-ho (westerners) once in a while that say, 'I can do this. We don't need anybody.' But their attitude is not a wise one in the eyes of many other organizations."

An aggravating factor, of course, is that the South Korean volunteers are evangelical Christians in a Muslim country. They put their lives on the line for God. I wonder if the surviving hostages still think it was worth it.

# O'Connor's optimism not helpful

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010768  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** PAUL BERTON  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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Is Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor being optimistic or just political? Does he really believe Canadian soldiers can start to pull back from combat operations on the front lines in Afghanistan by next spring?

Or is he trying to put a positive spin on the mission amid a growing debate at home about our role in the war-torn country?

If so, he's serving neither the debate nor the soldiers nor the citizens.

O'Connor's stated belief last week that Afghans could soon take on much of the combat operations now shouldered by Canadians on the front lines was suspect from the get-go.

To have that suspicion confirmed by none other than his second-in-command indicates trouble in the department.

General Rick Hillier, Canada's top military commander, said Sunday that O'Connor's plan to have the Afghan National Army take over the bulk of the dangerous work near Kandahar next winter would be a "significant challenge."

"It's going to take a long while. We've just started the process," said Hillier, who took pains to not contradict his boss. "We've just gotten the first soldiers in the south in the last few months here."

We're all aware that the best information in war tends to come directly from those closest to the fighting.

You'd think O'Connor would have consulted with his top general before wading into this.

Both are well aware of the debate raging across Canada about our role in Afghanistan in future.

The war there has claimed the lives of 66 Canadian soldiers and a diplomat since 2002, and there is no end in sight.

Support is waning and the pressure is mounting on Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the federal Conservatives to outline a clear exit strategy. The Canadian mission ends in February 2009, and Harper says he won't extend it without parliamentary consensus.

The debate is not helped by conflicting messages sent to troops and those of us at home.

Perhaps the first step in defining a clear exit strategy for Canadian troops in Afghanistan would be to define



an exit strategy for O'Connor himself from the cabinet.

# Troops' families cheer mass homecoming

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010695

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 22

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Ray Bourgeois, CP Dale and her two-year-old son Noah wait for her husband Cpr. Chris Burke at the Fredericton airport last night. The first group of soldiers were returning to CFB Gagetown from Afghanistan.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** OROMOCTO, N.B.

**WORD COUNT:** 112

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Six months after they said goodbye to family and friends and left for a dangerous mission in Afghanistan, troops from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown began returning to their home base in New Brunswick late yesterday.

Two CF-18 jets raced overhead as a military Airbus touched down at the Fredericton airport, while two-year-old Noah Burke chanted "Daddy, Daddy."

The sun was setting as the small contingent of soldiers arrived. A larger group — to be greeted by much fanfare — is scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

"It's pretty overwhelming," said Dale Burke as she held her son up to a window at the airport to see the arriving plane.

"It has been a long six months."

But the mass homecoming will be tinged with sadness.

Seven soldiers from Gagetown were killed during the rotation.

In Oromocto, virtually every utility pole, signpost and fence in the town of 9,000 has been decorated with yellow ribbons since the tour began. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Slacking soldier sentenced to jail time

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010694  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 22  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** HALIFAX  
**WORD COUNT:** 222

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A Canadian soldier who stayed in bed while insurgents attacked his forward operating base in Afghanistan last year has been punished.

Master Cpl. Paul Patrick Billard was sentenced to 21 days in jail for his actions during the May 22, 2006 attack in Kandahar province.

"You displayed a total lack of discipline and a lack of respect for orders by remaining in bed, by refusing to don your helmet and your flak vest and by refusing to report to your assigned place of duty," Lt.-Col. Jean-Guy Perron, the court martial judge, said in his decision.

In the event of an attack, he was supposed to act as a stretcher-bearer and be part of the reserve force.

"You were aware there was an increased threat to the forward operating base and that the base was particularly vulnerable at that time because a large number of soldiers were absent from the base," Perron said.

Armed insurgents attacked the camp at 2 a.m. One of the attackers tried to fire a rocket-propelled grenade at one of the base's guard towers from about 50 metres away.

"The stand-to siren (warning soldiers to prepare to defend their position) and small-arms fire could be heard throughout the camp," Perron said.

"A guard returned fire and a patrol was dispatched to find the attackers. The stand-to lasted approximately one hour to 1 1/2 hours. At the start of the stand-to, other members of your living area urged you to get out of bed and tried to make you react appropriately to the alarm."

There have only been a few Canadian courts martial stemming from incidents in Afghanistan, where Canada has about 2,500 troops. **KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

# O'Connor's optimism not helpful

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010679  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** PAUL BERTON  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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# Taliban told: No release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010674  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHIM SUNG-MIN Murdered  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 184

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The civic group People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy said the U.S. was acting like it was watching "a fire across a river." **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Tories show guts and back soldiers. Will Silly Hall wake up and do the same?

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**SOURCETAG** 0708010666  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 5  
**BYLINE:** RICK BELL  
**COLUMN:** Page Five  
**WORD COUNT:** 578

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Takes no time at all.

The provincial government decides yesterday morning to buy Support Our Troops decals for its 3,000 vehicles.

Employees using provincially owned wheels, including sheriffs, fish and wildlife officers, forest officers, conservation officers and correctional services staff, will be encouraged to place decals on their vehicles, though anyone objecting won't be forced.

Premier Ed says the decals are already popular with provincial government workers and he and his Tory MLAs want to back those in this country's uniform.

The move is more than the weaklings of Silly Hall manage to muster. They nix the same decals for city transportation.

"We're supporting the troops and are very proud of what they're doing and all Canadians are very proud."

The premier says the casualties overseas are much higher than anticipated and our soldiers are making "a huge effort" to help the people of Afghanistan. He mentions the families of those who serve. He speaks, as he has in the past, of those wounded.

"I've sat with some of the soldiers who have come back and some have come back with loss of limb. Their lives have changed forever."

Premier Ed says the war is Ottawa's call but he focuses on the mission's accomplishments coming with human loss. He speaks of studying Canadian history and seeing the nation's great reputation diminished in recent years.

"I believe we are recovering that reputation," he says.

Lloyd Snelgrove is the minister looking after provincial government vehicles and a man who calls it as he sees it.

"This is a no-brainer. It's just the right thing to do. These men and women are doing a job many of us would not have the guts to do. We need to keep in mind these are very special people who go out and make our lives better," says Lloyd, who expects little opposition on this issue.

"It's not about taking sides. It's not about Afghanistan. Some people will make this a George Bush issue. That's bull. The troops are doing a job and we support them. It's that simple.

"Some of the people over there are not coming home. It should strike a chord."

It sure strikes the right note at the Calgary Police Association HQ where people pull into the parking lot and more than 3,000 decals are sold.

In defiance of the stupid city policy, some decals go on police cars, ambulances, fire trucks and other city wheels.

Now we'll see. If the city doesn't slap wrists and start ripping support stickers off their vehicles, the city's rules are toothless and should be dropped for being not only stupid but unenforced.

If the municipal meatheads do come down on city staff with stickers on vehicles contact this page and all hell will break loose. Silly Hall looks to be taking a don't ask, don't tell approach.

Mutiny, what mutiny?

"They're not indicating they are going to take disciplinary action," says Al Koenig, the pull-no-punches police association prez, more than willing to mix it up.

"City council are elected to be the voice of the people and the voice of the people is loud and clear."

Bronco, can you now hear the people?

Colleen Rowe from the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre still has not heard any details on how the city is going to sell decals at its facilities. One can only hope the paper shufflers aren't too busy delaying people's permits to get on this job. Of the outpouring of support from Calgarians and the action of the Alberta government, Colleen is all smiles.

"This is big news and the troops in Kandahar will hear this news and I know they will be moved by it ... It's not just support from their families, not just their neighbours, not just the family resource centre. It's Alberta," says Colleen, who prefers provincial staff are encouraged but not compelled to drive with a decal.

So much for the decals not being, what's the mayor's word, tangible.

Andre Chabot, the east Calgary alderman who voted for decals on city vehicles, one of four who didn't park his brain, heart and voters' wishes at the council chamber door, says he expects some colleagues to switch sides if a vote occurs at the next council meeting, on the eve of 9/11.

"At least three vote changes," predicts Ald. Andre.

"Everybody is up in arms, upset with the mayor and too many people not thinking for themselves. Why did they vote against? For what purpose? To what end?"

Meanwhile, from inside the Bronco bunker, we await word from the mayor. KEYWORDS=CANADA



# Two South Korean hostages gravely ill: Taliban

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010030  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**COLUMN:** World Briefing  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 98

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan – Two women among 21 South Koreans held by the Taliban for nearly two weeks are so ill they could die, the militia said yesterday, a day after it killed a second hostage as talks stalled.

Taliban spokesmen have already said that 17 of the captives were ill. But two women are "very badly sick," the group's main spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, told AFP by telephone.

The extremist Islamic militia executed a 29-year-old hostage Monday and warned more would die if the government did not accept its demand for the release of Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails.

# Supporting troops OK with Alberta; Provincial employees will be allowed to decorate government vehicles with controversial decals

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010022

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Mikael Kjellstrom / CNS / Military Family Resource Centre director Colleen Rowe and Calgary Police Association president Al Koenig participate in a "yellow ribbon checkstop" in Calgary yesterday to raise funds for military families. The Alberta government announced later in the day that employees will be allowed to slap Support Our Troops decals on their government vehicles. ;

**DATELINE:** CALGARY

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 319

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CALGARY -- Alberta government employees will be able to slap Support Our Troops decals on their government vehicles after the provincial cabinet waded into the thorny issue yesterday.

The Tory cabinet gave permission for Alberta sheriff's officers to choose whether to display the decals on their cruisers.

Service Alberta Minister Lloyd Snelgrove said the approval extends to any other government employee who wishes to put a Support our Troops decal on a government vehicle, but added it's up to the individual.

"No one is ordered to put on stickers," Snelgrove said after a cabinet meeting.

The provincial sheriffs requested last week that the decals be put on their vehicles.

Premier Ed Stelmach's spokesman said last week that Stelmach supported the request.

Politicians in cities across the country have juggled the Support our Troops issue like a hot potato. Military families and some politicians have called the stickers a simple sign of support for Canadian soldiers, while critics have derided them as government propaganda.

A similar debate in Toronto erupted in controversy in June after city staff directed the fire and Emergency Medical Services departments to remove the magnetic decals.

Council later reversed the decision.

Ottawa has yellow Support Our Troops ribbons on the backs of its fire trucks.

In June, Conservative MP Laurie Hawtrey gave 30 of the magnetic decals to Edmonton city council to place on city vehicles.

A few weeks ago, Calgary city council sidestepped the issue. It declined a donation of Support Our Troops decals to be put on city vehicles, but offered instead to sell them to raise money for a military family resource centre.

Despite Alberta's reputation as a bastion of conservatism and strong military support, one political scientist said the issue isn't necessarily a safe one for provincial and civic politicians.

"There's a lot of opposition to keeping the troops [in Afghanistan]," said Linda Trimble, a political science professor at the University of Calgary. "There [have] been a lot of deaths. I don't think Albertans are different from the rest of the country in feeling trepidation about this mission.

"Critiques of this [provincial]government have started to mount. They're vulnerable on a range of issues, and it'— always surprising what kind of issue captures the public attention."

# **SOUTH KOREAN CAPTIVES Afghan officials recover body of second hostage**

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072130216  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**PAGE:** A11  
**BYLINE:** YOUSUF AZIMY  
**SECTION:** International News  
**SOURCE:** REUT AFP  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** ARZOO, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 243  
**WORD COUNT:** 263

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YOUSUF AZIMY Reuters News Service with a report from AFP ARZOO, AFGHANISTAN Afghan authorities yesterday recovered the body of a second South Korean hostage shot dead by Taliban kidnappers who threatened to kill more of their 21 captives if Kabul fails to free rebel prisoners by 3:30 a.m. EDT today.

The blood-stained body of the bespectacled man was dumped in a field of clover beside a road in Arzoo, a village about 10 kilometres from the eastern city of Ghazni.

"If the Kabul administration and Korean government do not give a positive reply to our demand about the release of Taliban prisoners by tomorrow [at noon local time], then we will start killing other hostages," Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said by telephone from an unknown location.

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman said bowing to Taliban demands would encourage more kidnapping, adding "we are doing what is the best for the interests of the hostages, and government." The victim was identified as Shim Sung-min, 29, a former employee of an IT firm who did volunteer work to help the poor. The abduction of the Koreans came a day after the Taliban had seized two Germans and five Afghans in nearby Wardak province.

The body of one of the Germans was found with bullet wounds, but the other German and four Afghans are still being held by the Taliban, who want Germany to pull troops out of Afghanistan.

Yesterday, Al-Jazeera broadcast a video of the German hostage pleading for his life.

**ADDED SEARCH TERMS:**

**GEOGRAPHIC NAME:** Afghanistan

**SUBJECT TERM:**strife; terrorism; kidnapping; hostages; murder; south koreans

**PERSONAL NAME:** Shim Sung-min

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Taliban

# AFGHAN MISSION Too soon for Canada to pull out, Kabul says

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072130215

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**PAGE:** A11 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** PAUL KORING

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 414

**WORD COUNT:** 424

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PAUL KORING KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Afghan forces are too weak to defend Kandahar and if Canada's heavily armed battle group were pulled out, efforts to rebuild the war-torn province would collapse, a senior minister in the Afghan government said yesterday.

"It's too early to talk of troop withdrawal," said Mohammed Ehsan Zia, Afghanistan's Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Fully aware of the debate in Canada over extending the duration of the Canadian military commitment, he said that if Canadian troops were to leave Kandahar now, then "what has been achieved will collapse." There has been a huge improvement in the security situation in Kandahar – once the heartland of the Taliban – since Canadian troops rolled south into the region early last year, Mr. Zia said.

Despite suicide attacks, roadside bombs, hostage takings and Taliban strikes on remote police outposts, the overall security situation is vastly improved, he said.

The minister, in Kandahar to announce 72 additional reconstruction projects ranging from small irrigation canals to major bridges, said greater security made it possible for the central government to extend its reconstruction efforts into hinterlands.

Sitting alongside Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan, Arif Lalani, and Kandahar Governor Asadullah Khalid at a news conference at the sprawling NATO base at Kandahar airfield, Mr. Zia said, "We are thankful to the Canadian government for their support, not only the money but also the military." Canada will pour \$39-million in development and reconstruction aid into Kandahar province this year and an additional \$100-million into Afghan national programs. Funds from both tranches will wind up in Kandahar in programs ranging from adult literacy to polio eradication to police training, mine clearing and dam building.

"When Canadians ask for the results, these are the results," Mr.

Lalani said. "As the military secures the space, then there is space for reconstruction." As the political debate heats up in Canada over the future and duration of the combat commitment, which is set to expire in 18 months, Afghan officials are at pains to point out how much they need both the military and redevelopment aspects of Canada's largest overseas initiative in decades.

Asked what he needed most, the governor said: "It's very difficult to choose after 30 years of war." Everything

– education, roads, water systems – needs rebuilding. "What we need most is security to allow for reconstruction," he said.

He also admitted that the police – underpaid, ill-equipped, corrupt and too often used as auxiliary soldiers – need a complete overhaul.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Kandahar; Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: defence; internal security; strife; reconstruction; foreign aid

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; Armed Forces

# THE AFGHAN MISSION: COURT MARTIAL Soldier jailed for staying in bed during attack

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072130172

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**PAGE:** A7

**BYLINE:** CHRIS LAMBIE

**SECTION:** National News

**SOURCE:** CP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Halifax NS

**WORDS:** 373

**WORD COUNT:** 360

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CHRIS LAMBIE Canadian Press HALIFAX A Canadian soldier stayed in bed while insurgents attacked his forward operating base in Afghanistan last year.

A military judge sentenced Master Cpl. Paul Patrick Billard to 21 days in jail for his actions during the May 22, 2006, attack in Kandahar province. The judge's written decision in the case was released this week.

"You displayed a total lack of discipline and a lack of respect for orders by remaining in bed, by refusing to don your helmet and your flak vest and by refusing to report to your assigned place of duty," Lt.-Col. Jean-Guy Perron, the court martial judge, said.

In the event of an attack, Master Cpl. Billard was supposed to act as a stretcher-bearer and be part of the reserve force.

"You were aware there was an increased threat to the forward operating base and that the base was particularly vulnerable at that time because a large number of soldiers were absent," Lt.-Col. Perron said.

Armed insurgents attacked the camp at 2 a.m. One of the attackers tried to fire a rocket-propelled grenade at one of the base's guard towers.

According to a statement of facts filed in the case, a corporal was donning his fighting gear when Master Cpl. Billard tried to discourage him by saying: "Where are you going and what for? You are a f— —ing flincher." When two of his comrades tried to roust Master Cpl. Billard by banging a locker loudly with a plastic tube, he replied: "I'm immune to that. I'm going to sleep." He did get out of bed at one point, "pulled on a pair of shorts, grabbed his pistol" and left his sleeping quarters to use the latrine.

"He returned and climbed back into bed," court documents say.

"The stand-to ended a short time later." The court martial judge said the soldier's conduct was "reprehensible" that day.

Master Cpl. Billard pleaded guilty to the military charge of "neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline." Mr. Billard is now working as an image analyst in Ottawa. He has been released on bail pending a planned appeal of his sentence, to be served at a military prison in Edmonton.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; professional misconduct; justice

PERSONAL NAME: Paul Patrick Billard

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces



# IN BRIEF Alberta okays troop decals on government vehicles

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072130104  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** KATHERINE HARDING  
**SECTION:** National News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Edmonton AB  
**WORDS:** 55  
**WORD COUNT:** 70

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Katherine Harding Edmonton Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach's cabinet decided yesterday to allow "Support our troops" decals on provincial government vehicles.

The move came after the Alberta sheriffs department requested permission to put the decals on their vehicles. Mr. Stelmach, who personally supports Canada's military efforts in Afghanistan, told reporters that the decals wouldn't be mandatory.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Alberta; Canada

SUBJECT TERM:political

PERSONAL NAME: Ed Stelmach

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# Forces deny 'personnel crisis'

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010025  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** B6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / The Forces had a display at the Calgary Stampede as part of recruitment efforts ;  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Tim Naumetz  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 368

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OTTAWA — A government call for new recruitment videos for the Canadian Forces says some positions in the military are in a "personnel crisis."

But media relations officers with the Forces threw cold water on the description Tuesday, saying it was used in error. Those officials also denied the video production call or the demand for army recruits is related to Canada's substantial military deployment in Afghanistan.

A public works request for proposals to produce the 20 new videos was published this month.

The media officers said Tuesday whoever produced the request for the public works department mistakenly used a term that was created more than three years ago when the Forces were beginning a recruitment drive after years of downsizing.

"With e-mail and working with computers and that, it's just, rather than reinvent the wheel every time, sometimes it's easier just to take another document that you've been working with before and you just change the part that needs changing," said Capt. Holly Brown.

The request for bids advises potential production companies that more than half of the current recruitment videos do not reflect the realities and diversity the jobs in the forces.

"Currently some trades/occupations within the CF are in a personnel crisis situation and steps must be taken to recruit candidates to fill these positions," the request for proposals says.

Asked if any Canadian Forces occupations were under-staffed to the point of crisis, Brown replied: "There may be, although we don't use that term personnel crisis; someone used it but that's not the official term."

Brown and Major Laurie Konnegiesser confirmed, however, the Forces do have a list of occupations so in need of filling that they are designated "red" and recruitment to them carries the highest priority.

The current version of that list includes armoured officers, artillery officers, armoured crew, artillery and infantry.

A retired army officer affiliated with the Conference of Defence Associations says a requirement for armoured officers and crew is logical because of the government's decision to beef up the Canadian battle

group in Afghanistan with Canadian Leopard tanks and borrowed tanks from Germany, while planning to purchase 100 second-hand tanks from the Netherlands. Canadian armoured soldiers were shifted to smaller armoured vehicles after a defence department decision several years ago to drop tanks from the Canadian arsenal.

# General lied about Tillman case: U.S. army

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010004  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D4  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 252

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The U.S. army Tuesday officially censured a retired three-star general for lying about the 2004 friendly fire death of army Ranger and former football star Pat Tillman in Afghanistan.

In what officials described as an unprecedented case, the army also reprimanded six other officers, including three other generals, for errors up and down the chain of command. But army officials said there was no evidence of a deliberate coverup by the military.

Tillman, celebrated as a hero for giving up a National Football League career to join the army after the Sept. 11 attacks, died April 22, 2004, from what the army initially said was enemy fire.

Senior officers quickly suspected he had been killed by U.S. troops but kept to the story of enemy fire for a month. Meanwhile, Tillman was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, one of the U.S. military's top awards for gallantry, in a nationally televised memorial service.

Army investigators later reported Tillman was killed by fellow U.S. soldiers who believed they were engaging enemy forces. Army Secretary Pete Geren said the followup to the shooting could not have been more poorly handled.

"There was a perfect storm of mistakes, misjudgments and a failure of leadership," Geren told reporters at a Pentagon briefing.

"But at no time did the army try to cover up the truth or deceive the American public about how Corporal Tillman died."

The army singled out for blame retired Lt. Gen. Philip Kensinger, who was head of Army Special Operations Command, saying he deceived investigators, made false statements and failed in his duty to inform the Tillman family about the nature of the soldier's death.

# Taliban sets deadline to save hostages

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010003  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Getty Images Photo / Two women attend a candlelight vigil Tuesday in Seoul calling for the safe return of kidnapped South Koreans in Afghanistan ;  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 382

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taliban set the government a new deadline of noon local time today to meet its demands in order to save 21 South Koreans, a day after a second hostage was killed and as a German one reportedly pleaded for his life.

The hardline Islamic militia wants the government to free at least eight Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails, a demand negotiators have rejected.

"If our demands are not met by then, we will start killing the rest of the South Koreans," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

The bloodied corpse of the second person to be killed since 23 were kidnapped nearly two weeks ago was found early today in the southern province of Ghazni, about 140 kilometres south of Kabul. The body was dumped in a field just off a main road, with his hands tied and bullet wounds to the head.

South Korea's foreign ministry identified the victim as Shim Sung–Min, 29, as the country reacted with outrage.

"The Korean government strongly condemns and urges an immediate end to these heinous acts of killing innocent people in order to press for demands that it can't meet," the presidential office in Seoul said.

South Korean media reports said Shim had quit his job at a Seoul IT company two months ago to become a teacher to the disabled at a Seoul church, which had then sent him to Afghanistan on an aid mission.

The body of pastor Bae Hyung–Kyu, 42, who had been leading the group on the mission to the risky south, was found in the same area last Wednesday.

In Cairo, the Arab League and Al–Azhar, the premier Sunni institution of learning, also condemned the killings and called for the immediate freeing of the remaining hostages, 16 of them women.

Ahmadi said late Tuesday two female hostages were gravely ill.

"Their condition is very bad. We don't have enough medicines — maybe they will die," Ahmadi said, pressing negotiators to agree to his organization's demands so the women could be released.

The South Korean government meanwhile called for "flexibility" to save the 21 captives.

But a spokesperson for President Hamid Karzai said the Taliban's demands should "as a principle" not be accepted.

If the government continued "responding positively to their request and to the demands of the terrorists, we'll face more problems," Humayun Hamidzada said. "This shouldn't become an industry," he said.

Five Taliban prisoners were freed from jail in March in a widely criticized deal that saved an Italian journalist kidnapped by the insurgent group.

Analysts warned that the exchange could encourage kidnapping by militants and criminals alike. Karzai vowed then that such swaps would not be repeated.

# Afghanistan will not trade prisoners for Taliban hostages

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010098  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / Afghanistan will not trade prisoners for Taliban hostages ;  
**DATELINE:** SEOUL, South Korea  
**SOURCE:** Hamilton Spectator wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 160

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Shocked by the killing of a second hostage in Afghanistan and weary from the 13-day-old crisis, South Korea yesterday urged the U.S. and Afghan governments to show "flexibility" over Taliban demands for the release of imprisoned militants.

But Afghanistan said for the first time it will not release insurgent prisoners, the Taliban's key demand to free the captives.

Meanwhile, the hostages' families in South Korea, above, continued their round-the-clock emotional vigils pleading for their loved ones' release.

Their fears mounted after Afghan police found the body of the second hostage slain since the Christian church group was seized nearly two weeks ago.

The group's pastor was killed last week.

A self-described Taliban spokesperson said the man was killed Monday because the Afghan government had not released the Taliban prisoners.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the militants would kill more hostages if Kabul did not release prisoners by noon today.

"It might be a man or a woman," Ahmadi told The Associated Press. "It might be one. It might be two, four. It might be all of them."

A total of 23 South Koreans — 16 women and seven men — were kidnapped while riding a bus July 19 on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

# Tory conundrum: How to get voters onside

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010054  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A15  
**COLUMN:** James Travers  
**DATELINE:** Ottawa  
**BYLINE:** James Travers  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 538

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Stephen Harper's summer is going well enough to warrant genuine bonhomie as the Conservative caucus meets this week in Prince Edward Island. In fact, the prime minister's cross-country and offshore travels are progressing so nicely that it will be hard for his party not to wonder how much better this season of soft ice and slow politics might have been.

If best-laid plans hadn't gone awry, Harper and the unstable alloy of old Reformers and remaindered Progressive Conservatives would now be enjoying the sweet aftermath of a second consecutive election victory. Sure, the majority that voters are reluctant to grant might have escaped them, but not an autumn return to Parliament with a fresh mandate, more control and a long respite before the next campaign.

Instead, this prime minister and his party are looking for answers to a perplexing question. Exactly what will push them through the trust barrier blocking growth?

Heaven knows Harper is trying everything. He's appealed to patriotism in the Arctic as well as Afghanistan, applied the poultice of federal defence dollars to regional wounds and polished a statesman's image even as he deflects foreign policy attention from Asia and Africa to Latin America and the hemisphere.

List, too, the March election budget bonanza and the relentless hammering of the old government by the no longer new, and what emerges is an ideologically different prime minister relying on familiar tactics. Except they're not working — at least not yet.

Conservative strategists remain optimistic that voters would overwhelmingly choose Harper over Stephane Dion. Polling that also defines the Conservative conundrum supports their conviction.

Given the Liberal leader's vague persona, it's not surprising so many Canadians think Harper is the better prime minister. What's startling is that the differential isn't pulling Conservatives close to a majority.

Arguably Harper's strength is his party's weakness. Strong leadership loses its appeal if voters resist following where Conservatives want to go.

That wasn't a problem when a prime minister growing fast into a complex job was busy with five modest priorities. It is now.



Sometime after the budget and a Quebec election that didn't deliver the overwhelming federalist victory Harper spent lavishly to secure, Conservatives ran out of momentum and ideas while stumbling over the Kandahar mission.

All were predictable. An obsessively controlling administration designed to self-destruct around the 18-month life expectancy of federal minorities is poorly suited to longevity. And mounting casualties were certain to erode support for an increasingly ill-defined mission Harper first explained with words too obviously borrowed from Uncle Sam.

Past performance and future prospects intersect this week in the doll's house capital Anne of Green Gables made an international destination. Halfway through a successful summer, the prime minister needs to reassure his party that he has a plan to free them from opinion poll stasis.

Its constituent parts are a refreshed agenda and a revised Afghanistan position that creates enough political space for new priorities to thrive.

One demands the room to manoeuvre that an expected late fall return of Parliament would provide; the other a cabinet shuffle to ease out an embarrassing defence minister increasingly at public odds with his top general.

Having missed the election off-ramp, the prime minister must calm Canadians about the ultimate destination and convince Conservatives they are still on route.

James Travers writes on national affairs.

[jtravers@thespec.com](mailto:jtravers@thespec.com)

# U.S. retired general censured over former NFL player's death; Investigation into friendly fire death of Pat Tillman expected to hear testimony from senior defence leaders

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010137  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** F8  
**KEYWORDS:** CANADIANS  
**DATELINE:** SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt  
**BYLINE:** Josh White  
**SOURCE:** Washington Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 334

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SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt – Army Secretary Pete Geren has censured a retired three-star general for misconduct in the investigation of the 2004 friendly fire death of former National Football League player and Army ranger Pat Tillman.

Geren also recommended that the general be evaluated for a possible demotion, an extremely rare move.

Geren announced Tuesday that he had censured retired Lt.-Gen. Philip R. Kensinger Jr.

after senior army officers determined that Kensinger lied to investigators about when he knew Tillman's death was a suspected friendly fire case. Investigators found that Kensinger was alerted to Tillman's fate days before he attended a nationally televised funeral service for Tillman, at which time family members believed the army's story that he had died attacking enemy forces in Afghanistan.

"Your failings compounded the grief suffered by the Tillman family, resulted in the dissemination of erroneous information and caused lasting damage to the reputation and credibility of the U.S. army," Geren wrote to Kensinger in a letter, which was released Tuesday.

Kensinger, who was the commanding general for U.S. Special Operations Command until his retirement in February 2006, argued against an administrative reprimand.

"Never did I lie or would I lie, deceive, or intend to obstruct or mislead in any fashion," he wrote in an official rebuttal.

Two one-star generals also received written punishments for their roles in the case. Geren said that although the case was "poorly handled" and regulations for notifying the family were not followed, there was never an effort to cover up Tillman's death or any conspiracy to mislead the public. Tillman's family continues to seek more information about the case.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is scheduled to hear testimony today about what senior defence leaders knew regarding Tillman's death. The committee expects testimony from former

U.S. retired general censured over former NFL player's death; Investigation into friendly fire death of Pat Tillman

defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld and several retired generals, including Gen. John Abizaid, then head of Central Command, and Gen. Richard Myers, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A committee spokeswoman said a subpoena was issued for Kensinger to appear but U.S. marshals had not been able to serve him.

# Afghanistan mission could last until end of 2010; While Harper government talks about a possible troop withdrawal in February 2009, Martin Liberals' original commitment was longer

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010049  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Ideas  
**PAGE:** A15  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** Bob Bergen  
**SOURCE:** Freelance  
**WORD COUNT:** 784

---

It's time Canadians stopped focusing solely on 2009 as a possible date for Canadian troop withdrawals from Afghanistan and started thinking about the end of 2010.

That is because there is a very serious gap in the thinking of those who would pull the Canadian Forces out of Afghanistan in February 2009 or, as the New Democratic Party wishes, now.

They ignore the fact that Canada pledged its full support for the Afghanistan Compact, a 2006 agreement between the Afghanistan government and the international community represented by more than 60 states and intergovernmental organizations, to help rebuild the war-ravaged country.

Ingrained like a watermark throughout the compact and related documents is the timeline date "end-2010." End-2010 is the date by which the Afghan government, with the help of the international community, is committed to achieve its benchmark of 70,000 fully trained and equipped Afghan National Army troops capable of meeting Afghanistan's security needs.

End-2010 is the date by which they are committed to achieve the benchmark of 62,000 fully constituted and professional Afghan national and border police.

End-2010 is the date by which they are committed to achieving their stated counter-narcotics capacity benchmarks; mine action and ammunition reduction targets; public administration reform, rule of law frameworks and human rights obligations; air transport, energy, water resource management; urban development; primary, secondary and higher education goals; health and nutrition benchmarks; and plans for agriculture and rural development, poverty reduction, and so on, in order to rebuild Afghanistan's society.

Progress is being made A remarkable string of success stories is found in the compact's Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board's first annual, but little-noticed, progress report released in May.

The Afghan National Army, which is key to the country's security, is well on its way to its benchmark of 70,000 troops with a strength of 37,015. An additional 12,044 are in training and 8,208 are being recruited annually, on track for 2010.

Afghanistan mission could last until end of 2010; While Harper government talks about a possible troop withdrawal in February 2009, Martin Liberals' original commitment was longer

As of March this year, the Afghan national and border police numbered 62,200, with the intention of raising their number to 82,000 — beyond the 2010 stated goal.

Since March 2006, stockpiles of 481,000 anti-personnel landmines had been destroyed, 132,080,792 square metres of land had been cleared and more than one million pieces of unexploded ordnance had been destroyed.

On the social side, there were 5.4 million students enrolled in schools, 35 per cent of whom are girls; 82 per cent of Afghans had access to basic health services and 6,121 community-development councils had been established.

In terms of infrastructure, 84 per cent of Afghanistan's 2,818 kilometres of ring road network is open with 59 per cent, or 1,983 kilometres, paved.

That is just one year into the Afghan Compact process and there are simply too many success stories documented to list here, but, as the report points out, numbers alone don't tell the whole tale.

The compact's goal is: "to improve the lives of Afghan people and to contribute to national, regional and global peace and security." Obviously, the picture in Afghanistan is not all rosy and difficult challenges lie ahead.

For example, a record number of poppy fields were eradicated, but poppy cultivation increased by a record 50 per cent and raw opium by 40 per cent, fuelling a corrupt narco-economy.

While the police have reached their recruiting benchmark, they remain largely corrupt and their loyalty is in question.

And, thanks to Pakistan's internal woes, the Taliban and al-Qaida have been able to reconstitute and retrain in its lawless tribal areas bordering southern Afghanistan, where the Canadians operate.

What does the Afghanistan Compact's 2010 benchmark mean for Canada? Only time will tell. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government sought and received a parliamentary mandate to extend the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan only until February 2009.

Liberal Leader Stephan Dion says the Liberals now will not support keeping Canadians in Afghanistan past 2009.

But, the Harper government's decision to put the mission's extension to a vote was far more than Paul Martin's Liberal government did when it arbitrarily deployed the Forces to Afghanistan to fight the remnants of al-Qaida and the Taliban alongside the Americans in October 2001.

Parliament's committee on national defence has recommended a parliamentary debate be held in 2008 on whether the mission should be extended past February 2009.

That debate is sorely needed because I think it would reveal the Liberals have a moral obligation to help Harper's government finish what the Liberals themselves helped start, in light of the new successes documented in the report.

As for the NDP, they would turn their backs on NATO and the Afghan government's achievements, pull out now and abandon Afghanistan to the Taliban, who recently kidnapped and threatened to kill 23 South Korean medical services volunteers unless Korea immediately pulls its 210 troops out of Afghanistan. Choosing between clear progress and Taliban-inspired anarchy, one would think, would be an easy choice. Bob Bergen

Afghanistan mission could last until end of 2010; While Harper government talks about a possible troop withdrawal

is a research fellow with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute (CDFAI) in Calgary ([www.cdfai.org](http://www.cdfai.org)). The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author

# Frankly speaking

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010037  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A14  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 225

---

Like a music traditionalist, our prime minister is not fond of disharmony. It probably wasn't fun being the aide who bore the news to Stephen Harper that Gen. Rick Hillier had disagreed with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor's claim that Afghan troops would soon be able to direct the battle against the Taliban.

But Harper's a smart man. It probably didn't take him long to see the positive in Hillier's frankness, even if it made his short-term political troubles with the over-matched O'Connor and the Afghanistan mission worse.

If Canada's chief of defence staff speaks his mind American-style when this prime minister wouldn't like it, then it is much harder for Canadians to dismiss Hillier's assessments as the party line when they sound like the sort of thing the Conservatives would like to hear.

In the same interview, for example, the general talked of the progress that is being made, even if training of the local army isn't likely to be finished by the time Canada's current commitment ends in 2009.

"We have a little frustration that perhaps Canadians don't see and understand many of the incredible things that are occurring ... All they've seen back here are detainees, casualties and that kind of thing, and all the great things that have been occurring just don't seem to be seen back here in this country."

# Military deny 'personnel crisis' cited in gov't video; Wrong term used in recruitment drive

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010020  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**KEYWORDS:** !@DATELINE=OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Tim Naumetz  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 232

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But military media relations officers threw cold water on the description Tuesday, saying it was used in error. Those officials also denied the video production call or the demand for army recruits is related to Canada's substantial military deployment in Afghanistan.

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"With e-mail and working with computers and that, it's just, rather than reinvent the wheel every time, sometimes it's easier to take another document you've been working with before and you just change the part that needs changing," said Capt. Holly Brown.

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Brown and Major Laurie Konnegiesser confirmed, however, the Canadian Forces have a list of occupations so in need of filling that they are designed "red" and recruitment to them carries the highest priority.

The current version of the list includes armoured officers, artillery officers, armoured crewmen, artillerymen and infantrymen.



# U.S. urged to be flexible, free S. Korean hostages

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010011  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**COLUMN:** World Digest  
**KEYWORDS:** ARMAMENTS; FAMILY REUNIONS; ASYLUM; NUCLEAR WEAPONS; NUCLEARREACTORS; PROPAGANDA; REUNIONS; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOOD SUPPLY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 100

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SEOUL, South Korea – Shocked by the killing of a second South Korean hostage in Afghanistan and weary from the 13-day-old crisis, South Korea urged the American and Afghan governments Tuesday to show "flexibility" over Taliban demands for the release of imprisoned militants. The government appeal — coupled with a growing frustration among South Koreans over what they say is a lack of co-operation from the United States — came hours after the Afghan police found the body of a second South Korean hostage.

# Tories to tie yellow ribbon on gov't fleet; Stelmach says province will supply decals; up to staff to use them or not

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010005  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A2  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Shaughn Butts, the Journal / Premier Ed Stelmach stands beside his car, which sports a Support Our Troops magnet, outside the legislature on Tuesday. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** DRIVERS & DRIVING  
**DATELINE:** EDMONTON  
**BYLINE:** Darcy Henton  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 526

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EDMONTON – Premier Ed Stelmach says he can't understand what the controversy is all about, but he's willing to support Canada's soldiers with yellow ribbon magnets on provincial government vehicles.

Stelmach said Tuesday the province will purchase Support Our Troops magnets and make them available to employees who drive the government's 3,000 vehicles.

But honouring the principle of freedom of expression that Canadian soldiers are fighting for, he's not forcing any civil servants to put the emblems on their vehicles.

"It's the choice of those that are driving the government vehicles, but we're making the stickers available," Stelmach told reporters. "One of the reasons our troops are in Afghanistan is fighting for those freedoms." In approving the move, Alberta will be going where other jurisdictions would not. The cities of Toronto and Calgary backed away from putting the yellow magnets on public vehicles after objections were raised about the Canadian Forces mission in Afghanistan.

"We're proud of the fact we're supporting the troops," Stelmach explained. "It's not supporting the war, but it's supporting our troops." The premier said he personally supports the Afghanistan mission. Casualties are higher than expected, but Canadian soldiers are doing some good in stabilizing the country, he said.

Stelmach said he has empathy for the soldiers and their families.

"I have sat with some of the soldiers who have come back. Some of them have come back with loss of limbs. Their lives will be changed forever." The car magnets, which sell for \$3.50 each, support soldiers' families because money raised goes to programs to help them cope, he added.

Stelmach said the biggest hurdle to be overcome will be finding enough magnets for the government fleet.

"They're quite popular and there may be some difficulty in acquiring sufficient numbers," he said.

A proposal to put the emblems on Calgary city vehicles was defeated last week by a 10–4 council vote.

Stelmach stepped into the fray when he said his government was considering putting the magnets on 80 sheriff vehicles. Sheriffs had asked if they could do it, said Service Alberta Minister Lloyd Snelgrove.

"I'm surprised it became a political statement," Snelgrove said. "By supporting our troops, we're not defending or supporting what they're doing in Afghanistan or other parts of the world. We're saying they're doing a darn good job on our behalf and we recognize that." Snelgrove said it's important for Albertans to think about the services the soldiers carry out on their behalf. "Whether it's helping out in disasters, whether it's peacekeeping or whether it's really armed conflict, I don't know how many people have the guts to sign up and do it." He said he didn't know why it was such a problem for other politicians, "but whatever the reasons they may have had, it certainly wasn't a really difficult choice for me." Snelgrove didn't criticize politicians elsewhere who shot down the idea. "That's what our soldiers are doing over there, is giving us the right to have different ideas." Agriculture Minister George Groeneveld said the yellow ribbons are "an endorsement of the guys that are out there."

"I just can't see sending people out and then not publicly supporting them back here," he said. "I think that's a crime, myself." [dhenton@thejournal.canwest.com](mailto:dhenton@thejournal.canwest.com)

# Editorial – Standing fast

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**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**PAGE:** A10

**SECTION:** Editorial Leaders

**WORD COUNT:** 456

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None The day after meeting with United States President George W. Bush, Britain's new prime minister, Gordon Brown, warned the United Nations that if today's world leaders fail to live up to their commitments, they would be remembered by history as "the generation that betrayed promises rather than honoured them." At the UN, Mr. Brown was speaking of the responsibility of rich nations to help poor nations in an international effort to "eradicate the great evils of our time: Illiteracy, disease, poverty, environmental degradation, underdevelopment." These are the kind of pious platitudes that Western leaders always preach in international forums, and which they occasionally try to live up to in their international aid efforts. But Mr. Brown's comments would have been more acute, more relevant, had they been expressed with the same clarity in a different and more useful context on Monday when he met Mr. Bush to discuss the war on terror, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the state of the Atlantic Alliance between Britain and the United States. What history will judge most harshly are promises broken in those engagements.

Mr. Brown did stand up there as well, although not perhaps quite so forcefully. Despite widespread speculation that he would distance Britain from U.S. foreign policy, particularly in Iraq, he reaffirmed his government's support for the special relationship that exists between Britain and the United States and which was the cornerstone of the foreign policy of former prime minister Tony Blair.

Observers noted that there was not the same warmth, not the open camaraderie, between Mr. Bush and Mr. Brown that there had been between Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair, but that is hardly surprising. The new prime minister is notoriously reserved — he is frequently described as "a dour Scot" — and Mr. Blair is notoriously ebullient.

There are also differences in the enthusiasm with which the new prime minister embraces the alliance with America. Mr. Brown pledged a continued commitment of British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan — the latter being good news for Canada — but that he is anxious for an exit strategy seems obvious; the war is hugely unpopular in Britain.

Like many Democrats in the U.S., many in Mr. Brown's Labour party want to get out of Iraq right away. There are suspicions that Mr.

Brown has at least some sympathy with those arguments, but his performance in Washington indicates that he understands that Britain needs to stay the course in Iraq and Afghanistan or be condemned as a nation that "betrayed promises rather than honoured them."

# Debate needed on extending Afghan mission

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** Bob Bergen  
**SOURCE:** Special to The Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 766

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It's time Canadians stopped focusing solely on 2009 as a possible date for Canadian troop withdrawals from Afghanistan and started thinking about the end of 2010.

That is because there is a very serious gap in the thinking of those who would pull the Canadian Forces out of Afghanistan in February 2009 or, in the case of the New Democratic Party, right now.

They ignore the fact that Canada pledged its full support for the Afghanistan Compact, a 2006 agreement between the Afghanistan government and the international community represented by more than 60 states and intergovernmental organizations, to help rebuild the war-ravaged country.

Ingrained like a watermark throughout the Compact and related documents is the timeline date "end-2010."

End-2010 is the date by which the Afghan government, with the help of the international community, is committed to achieve its benchmark of 70,000 fully-trained and equipped Afghan National Army troops capable of meeting Afghanistan's security needs.

End-2010 is the date by which they are committed to achieve the benchmark of 62,000 fully constituted and professional Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police.

End-2010 is the date by which they are committed to achieving their stated counter-narcotics capacity benchmarks; mine action and ammunition reduction targets; public administration reform, rule of law frameworks and human rights obligations; air transport, energy, water resource management; urban development; primary, secondary and higher education goals; health and nutrition benchmarks; and plans for agriculture and rural development; poverty reduction; and on, and on, and on in order to rebuild Afghanistan's society.

A remarkable string of success stories is found in the Compact's Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board's first-annual, but little-noticed progress report released in May indicating long strides toward those goals.

The Afghan National Army, which is key to the country's security, is well on its way to its benchmark of 70,000 troops with a strength of 37,015, an additional 12,044 in training and recruiting of 8,208 personnel annually on track for 2010.

As of March this year, the Afghan National and Border Police numbered 62,200 with the intention of raising their number to 82,000 which is beyond the 2010 stated goal.

Since March 2006, stockpiles of 481,000 anti-personnel landmines had been located and destroyed,

132,080,792 square metres of land had been cleared and more than one million pieces of unexploded ordinance had been destroyed.

On the social side, there were 5.4 million students enrolled in schools, 35 per cent of whom are girls; 82 per cent of Afghans had access to the Basic Package of Health Services and 6,121 Community Development Councils had been established.

In terms of infrastructure, 84 per cent of Afghanistan's 2,818 kilometres of ring road network is open with 59 per cent or 1,983 kilometres paved.

That is just one year into the Afghan Compact process and there are simply too many success stories documented over hundreds of pages in the Compact's progress report to list here, but, as the report points, our numbers alone don't tell the whole tale.

The Compact's goal itself is: "to improve the lives of Afghan people and to contribute to national, regional and global peace and security."

Obviously, the picture in Afghanistan is not all rosy and difficult challenges lie ahead.

For example, a record number of poppy fields were eradicated, but poppy cultivation increased by a record 50 per cent and raw opium by 40 per cent, fuelling a corrupt narco-economy.

While the police have reached their recruiting benchmark, they remain largely corrupt and their loyalty in question.

And, thanks to Pakistan's internal woes, the Taliban and al-Qaida have been able to reconstitute and retrain in its lawless tribal areas bordering southern Afghanistan where the Canadians operate.

What does the Afghanistan Compact's 2010 benchmark mean for Canada?

Only time will tell. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government sought and received a Parliamentary mandate to extend the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan only until February 2009.

Liberal Leader Stephan Dion says the Liberals now will not support keeping Canadians in Afghanistan past 2009.

But, the Harper government's decision to put the mission's extension to a vote was far more than Paul Martin's Liberal government did when it arbitrarily deployed the Canadian Forces to Afghanistan to fight the remnants of al-Qaida and the Taliban alongside the Americans in October 2001.

Parliament's committee on national defence has recommended a Parliamentary debate be held in 2008 on whether the mission should be extended past February 2009.

That debate is sorely needed because I think it would reveal the Liberals have a moral obligation to help Harper's government finish what the Liberals themselves helped start in light of the new successes documented in the Compact's progress report.

As for the NDP, they would turn their backs on NATO and the Afghan government's achievements, pull out now and abandon Afghanistan to the Taliban who recently kidnapped and threatened to kill 23 South Korean medical services volunteers unless Korea immediately pulls its 210 troops out of Afghanistan.

Choosing between clear progress and Taliban-inspired anarchy, one would think, would be an easy choice.

Bob Bergen is a research fellow with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute in Calgary. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author.

# 'Crisis' video stirs recruitment tiff

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**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C8  
**SOURCE:** Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 253

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A government call for new recruitment videos for the Canadian Forces says some positions in the military are in a "personnel crisis."

But media relations officers with the Forces threw cold water on the description Tuesday, saying it was used in error.

Those officials also denied the video production or the demand for army recruits are related to Canada's substantial military deployment in Afghanistan.

A public works request for proposals to produce the 20 new videos was published this month.

The media officers said Tuesday whoever produced the request for the public works department mistakenly used a term that was created more than three years ago when the Forces were beginning a recruitment drive after years of downsizing.

"With e-mail and working with computers and that, it's just, rather than reinvent the wheel every time, sometimes it's easier just to take another document that you've been working with before and you just change the part that needs changing," said Capt. Holly Brown.

The request for bids on the video campaign advises potential production companies that more than half of the current recruitment videos do not reflect the realities and diversity the jobs in the forces, speaking of a "personnel crisis".

Asked if no Canadian Forces occupations were under-staffed to the point of crisis, Brown replied: "There may be, although we don't use that term personnel crisis; someone used it but that's not the official term."

Brown and Major Laurie Konnegiesser confirmed, however, the Forces do have a list of occupations so in need of filling that they are designed "red" and recruitment to them carries the highest priority.

The current version of that list includes armoured officers, artillery officers, armoured crewmen, artillerymen and infantrymen.



# Taliban keep up the heat; 21 Koreans still captive

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Agence France–Presse / BEREAVED: The mother of the South Korean hostage killed by the Taliban in Afghanistan cries with her family in Seongnam, south of Seoul, Tuesday. ;  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 236

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan – Afghanistan's Taliban set the government a new deadline of noon today, local time, to meet its demands in order to save 21 South Koreans, after killing a second hostage.

The hardline Islamic militia wants the government to free at least eight Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails, a demand negotiators have rejected.

"If our demands are not met by then, we will start killing the rest of the South Koreans," Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

The bloodied corpse of the second person to be killed since 23 were kidnapped nearly two weeks ago was found early today in the southern province of Ghazni, about 140 kilometres south of Kabul.

The body was dumped in a field just off a main road, with its hands tied and bullet wounds to the head.

South Korea's foreign ministry identified the victim as Shim Sung–Min, 29.

"The Korean government strongly condemns and urges an immediate end to these heinous acts of killing innocent people in order to press for demands that it can't meet," the presidential office in Seoul said.

South Korean media reports said Shim had quit his job at a Seoul IT company two months ago to become a teacher to the disabled at a Seoul church which had then sent him to Afghanistan on an aid mission.

The body of pastor Bae Hyung–Kyu, 42, who had been leading the group on the mission to the risky south, was found in the same area last Wednesday.

In Cairo, the Arab League and Al–Azhar, the premier Sunni institution of learning, also condemned the killings and called for the immediate freeing of the remaining hostages, 16 of them women.

A Taliban spokesman said late Tuesday two female hostages were gravely ill.

# It's all in the brand

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13  
**BYLINE:** Richard Nimjean  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 641

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Canadians are very perceptive when it comes to political affairs. The latest example is the report in the July 25 Citizen that "Canadians are growing weary" of the slogan "Canada's New Government."

The slogan is an exercise in rebranding, a political strategy to remind Canadians that the state is not Liberal and to convince them that the Liberals are not "Canada's natural governing party."

Brand politics challenge democracy, with the emphasis on style and communication over substance and action. Branding strategies involve symbolic and political dimensions, changing how the government "looks" to the public, how it communicates with the public, and how it frames initiatives.

One danger is that the political world of a government can seep into the non-partisan world of the public service. Many federal government websites, including the main portal, are awash in a blue strikingly similar to the blue of the Conservative party's website. An aide to Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity, suggested that this was coincidental, reflecting the desire of bureaucrats to please the government.

However, trouble arose when some public servants were instructed to use the political descriptor "Canada's New Government" in departmental communications. A scientist was fired for ridiculing this policy, but a public outcry led to his reinstatement.

In brand politics, governments seek to manufacture an image for themselves in which they represent the national consensus.

The Liberals spoke of their ongoing commitment to "caring and sharing," reflecting the "Canadian way," yet during their most recent tenure in power, socioeconomic inequality actually increased. They hyped their green agenda even though Canada's environmental record worsened.

The Conservative government engages in similar tactics, for example framing the Afghanistan mission in terms of Canadian values. In 2006, Mr. Harper suggested that support for the mission was necessary because Canadians do not "cut and run." (Now, the federal government is being advised to avoid such language if it wishes to increase support for the mission, instead emphasizing issues like development and human rights, which are supposed to resonate with Canadians.)

Similarly, it is a traditional political strategy, when seeking to deflect criticism, to blame the previous government. Whenever Canada's poor environmental record is raised, the Conservatives react by blaming the Liberals.

Rhetorical strategies associated with brand politics worsen the quality of democracy while increasing citizen cynicism and dissatisfaction.

People demand action from governments, not explanations or justifications when goals or values are not achieved or realized.

Mr. Harper notes that Liberal governments often talked but did not act. However, this criticism could be levelled also at his "New Government." Accountability requires that governments act upon the desires and wishes of citizens and to be clear in their commitments. Polls suggest that Canadians' top priority is the environment, and yet Canadians have very low approval ratings of government environmental policies.

When Canadians elected the Conservatives, they expected a government that acted on its promises and did not engage in excessive spinning. However, the slogan "Canada's New Government," presumably intended to remind Canadians of the discredited Liberal regime, shows that it, too, practises brand politics.

Ironically, it reminds Canadians that their "new government" is not that different from Canada's "old" governments.

The lesson is clear: Governments, whether Conservative or Liberal, need to take responsibility for their decisions. No more blaming previous governments for current problems. No more empty celebrations of Canadian values. Governments should do what they were elected to do and avoid political posturing, or take the political fallout for not acting as promised.

Both the government and Canadians could benefit if the Conservatives were to abandon the slogan "Canada's New Government."

For Stephen Harper, voters might be more supportive of the government because they wouldn't feel as though they were subject to the government's political considerations, which differ from its responsibilities as government.

And if dropping brand politics reduces overall cynicism, and Canadian democracy is thereby strengthened, then everybody wins.

Richard Nimijean teaches in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University.

# You fight until you win

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010047  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**COLUMN:** David Warren  
**BYLINE:** David Warren  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 848

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So far as I can make out -- I am not writing from Iraq, but I do make an effort to follow the plot there -- the Americans are doing what they should have been doing all along. They are taking the battle to the Islamist enemy, or rather, enemies, both Shia and Sunni.

They are enlisting the help of tribal lords and other local allies against these enemies, de-emphasizing the grand "Marshall Plan" giveaways, and re-emphasizing small, visible, unbureaucratic improvements on that local scale. They have become less timid about inspections and searches, and thus have taken bigger risks of offending people, in the knowledge that providing better security is the only thing that will get them loved. They not only have more men now in theatre, but are using more proportionally up front and fewer in the rear. They are patrolling frontiers more pro-actively, and turning no blind eyes to suspicious incursions. By using different techniques in different districts, they are breaking the enemy's ability to camouflage.

It is a little known fact -- at least, to the western media -- that the vast majority of Iraqis cannot possibly want to live under the murderous tyranny of a relatively small number of Islamist psychopaths, of foreign inspiration, and will do everything except master the art of self-government to avoid it. What has changed, over the past few years, would seem to be the popular attitude towards the future, in Iraq. It contains more fear, and is therefore easier to harness towards such specific ends as finding Islamist terrorists and annihilating them.

A remarkable piece was published in the op-ed section of the New York Times on Monday. Remarkable not for its content (it told us what we should know), but for who wrote it: Michael O'Hanlon and Kenneth Pollack, two non-friends of the Bush administration. Having just returned from Iraq, they said they were struck by a turnaround in morale, that could only be attributed to the recent arrival of Gen. David Petraeus, and the general offensive he was charged to oversee. "The soldiers and marines told us they feel that they now have a superb commander; they are confident in his strategy, they see real results, and they feel now they have the numbers needed to make a real difference." The authors also cited statistical indications that the tide is turning.

Contrast this with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, back in Washington: "This war is lost. There's simply no evidence that the escalation is working."

Sen. Reid has a long history of seeing no evidence where there is plenty of evidence, and plenty of evidence where there is no evidence, but that is beside the point. He represents the core, Democrat "defeatist" constituency. That constituency is not something recently formed. The idea that any American enterprise (that doesn't involve the expansion of the welfare state) must necessarily be "another Vietnam," is, for these people, an article in a creed.

But remember the history. A previous generation of these Democrats first insisted on shoving their South Vietnamese allies aside, and trying to run the war for them; then of imposing all kinds of restraints on their battlefield commanders which, in aggregate, made victory impossible. And when they tired of the war, they abandoned the Vietnamese to their fate, with the additional Congressional touch of cutting off South Vietnam's supply of arms and ammunition. Finally, they just watched as the communist guerrillas from the jungle were replaced by North Vietnamese regulars in tanks, driving openly down the American-built highways to receive the surrender of Saigon.

It was a rout so ignominious, that it destroyed the credibility of the United States, probably adding 10 years to the life of the Soviet Empire. It inspired communist advances in Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and elsewhere; and, little appreciated at the time, Islamist advances overtly in Iran, and covertly throughout the Muslim world.

Such Democrats — not all Democrats, there were "Scoop Jackson Democrats" throughout the Cold War — complain that their Republican opponents "question their patriotism," when all they have done is advocate a policy of defeat and humiliation for the United States abroad. All I can add to Dr. Johnson's famous remark that "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," is the observation that traitors tend to be especially sensitive to the charge of treason.

There are background problems still not confronted. The Iraqi political order is nearly dysfunctional and there is little that can be done, about the sponsors of Islamist subversion in Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

But given the hard geopolitical fact that cutting and running from Iraq will be a catastrophe for the West on a scale even bigger than cutting and running from Vietnam, let's just keep fighting until we win.

David Warren's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday.

# Polio vaccination is how peace is built

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A11

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Pawel Kopczynski, Reuters / Canadian efforts in reducing child mortality, one of the most comprehensive of which is to eradicate polio, are sure ways to build peace in the world through humanitarian efforts. An Afghan refugee, above, receives polio drops from a Pakistani nurse. ;

**BYLINE:** Linda Bradley

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 284

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Re: Fighting polio, a drop at a time, July 29.

Don Martin's column on fighting polio in Afghanistan is the classic example of Rotary International and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) efforts to bring about peace in the world through humanitarian efforts.

Through Rotary's initiative in 1988 to eradicate polio in the world, and with the support of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the world is on the verge of eradicating polio. In 1988, polio was killing or paralysing 1,000 people a day in 125 countries. We now have only four countries, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria left, with less than 2,000 cases reported last year, and Rotary will not quit until it is totally eradicated.

But it takes aid workers to vaccinate these children, and thousands of Rotarians have travelled the world to immunize children, including me and my husband. In cases such as Afghanistan, it is safer to hire and also provides income for locals to vaccinate the children. However the Rotary clubs in Kabul, Jalalabad and Herat in Afghanistan are also involved. But without the generosity of CIDA, and private individuals who donate money, these lives can not be saved.

This is how peace is built -- by supplying fresh water to drink, food and shelter to those in need, and providing education for women in countries where their worth is not recognized, and demonstrating the dignity of mankind. Through CIDA, per capita, Canada is one of the most generous countries in the world to furthering the cause of peace, and this makes me proud to be a Canadian Rotarian.

Linda Bradley, Ottawa,

Past Rotary district governor

# Risks for peace

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010040  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**BYLINE:** William Baldwin  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 314

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Re: Misplaced Christian zeal, July 28.

I am disturbed by the cynicism of the Citizen editorial concerning the Korean hostages in Afghanistan. The editorial treats these dedicated humanitarian workers as if they were on a vacation.

I do not know the members of that particular group and therefore cannot testify to the amount of time they would have spent weighing the risks to themselves against the good they thought they could do. However, I have spent time in Korea and know something of the passionate commitment of the Korean church, Protestant and Catholic, to living out Christian values. The non-violent protest of March 1, 1919, against Japanese rule set the tone for a long struggle that has led to the vibrant democracy we see in South Korea today.

As a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams that were mentioned in the editorial, I am on more solid ground in replying to the rather ridiculous insinuations concerning our people who were captured in Baghdad in 2005. Our teams only go into places where they are invited by people on the ground, who, in all cases, are facing far greater risks than we are. Far from believing that "the more danger they were in, the more valid their work was," our teams have always paid careful attention to their own safety and the safety of those who work with them. Both in our training and in our on-going self-evaluation, we ask ourselves what risks are worth taking in view of the results we are achieving.

The fact is, that whether we think of the long struggle for justice in Korea or of the network of Jewish, Muslim and Christian peace activists of which we are a part in Israel – Palestine, people who are willing to take risks for peace with justice are making a difference.

William Baldwin, Ottawa

# Afghanistan: Taliban resets deadline after second execution

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010030

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.08.01

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A9

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Chung Sung-Jun, Getty Images / A young girl was among a large number of South Koreans who held a candlelit vigil yesterday in Seoul for the hostages held by the Taliban in Afghanistan. ;

**SOURCE:** Citizen News Services

**WORD COUNT:** 180

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The Taliban set the Afghan government a new deadline of 2:30 a.m. today Ottawa time to meet its demands in order to save 21 South Koreans, a day after a second hostage was killed and as a German hostage reportedly pleaded for his life. The hardline Islamic militia wants the government to free at least eight Taliban prisoners, a demand negotiators have rejected. "If our demands are not met by then, we will start killing the rest of the South Koreans," Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said. The bloodied corpse of the second person to be killed since 23 were kidnapped nearly two weeks ago was found early yesterday in the southern province of Ghazni, about 140 kilometres south of Kabul. The body was dumped in a field just off a main road, with hands tied and bullet wounds to the head. South Korea's foreign ministry identified the victim as Shim Sung-Min, 29.



# Children of soldiers sent overseas more likely to be abused, study says

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010019  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina  
**BYLINE:** Martha Quillin and Jay Price  
**SOURCE:** McClatchy Newspapers  
**WORD COUNT:** 419

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FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina – Sarah Galvin doesn't need a bunch of PhDs to tell her it's tough being left to care for two young children while her husband is deployed to Iraq for 15 months.

"I swear to God, they leave, and the whole world starts to fall apart," said Mrs. Galvin, whose husband, Dan, an army staff sergeant, has been away more than he's been home in 10 years of marriage.

So Mrs. Galvin wasn't surprised to learn that a team of North Carolina researchers has found that children of soldiers may face significantly higher rates of neglect and maltreatment when a parent is sent to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The parent left behind — usually a civilian mother — is most likely to mistreat or neglect the child.

The rate of child maltreatment jumped 42 per cent when a parent was deployed in a combat zone, according to the study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Moderate or severe maltreatment was about 60 per cent higher during deployment, and the rate of neglect was almost double.

Dolores Johnson, director of family programs for the army, said it's important to note that neglect, which can include unsanitary living conditions and lack of proper supervision, is not the same as physical or sexual abuse. "These are problems of omission rather than commission," Ms. Johnson said.

Two researchers each from RTI International in Research Triangle Park and the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill studied nearly 1,800 families that had at least one substantiated report of neglect or abuse and an enlisted soldier who deployed at least once from 2001 through 2004. The army commissioned the study.

The researchers were careful to say their results don't apply to all army families. "These families are a small part of the army," said Deborah Gibbs of RTI International's Children and Families Program. "We want to be the first to point out that army families do an incredible job handling the unbelievable stress of deployments."

Also, the researchers don't conclude that deployment causes abuse or neglect to happen in families where it otherwise would not, she said.

There are more than 200,000 U.S. army families with children under 18, Ms. Gibbs said. To come up with a group to best show how deployments affect child maltreatment, researchers examined families that, during the

study period, had at least one case of substantiated abuse or neglect and a soldier who deployed at least once.

The stress of deployment came home to Fort Bragg in 2002, when four soldiers — three of whom had recently returned from Afghanistan or Iraq — apparently killed their wives. Three also killed themselves.

# We're not in 'personnel crisis,' Forces say; Outdated wording used in request for bidders on recruitment videos

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**IDNUMBER** 200708010005  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** Tim Naumetz  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 389

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A government contract call for the Canadian Forces says new recruitment videos are required to attract young men and women to fill military occupations that are in a "personnel crisis."

But media relations officers say the description of a critical situation is a mistake — although they admit some occupations may actually be in a crisis — and deny the new videos are related to a "red" list of high-priority jobs to be filled that includes armoured, artillery and infantry troop positions.

Those officials also deny the video production or the demand for army recruits is related to Canada's substantial military deployment in Afghanistan. A Public Works request for proposals to produce the 20 new videos was published last month.

The media officers said yesterday whoever produced the request for the Public Works Department mistakenly used a term that was created more than three years ago when the forces were beginning a recruitment drive after years of downsizing.

With computers, "rather than reinvent the wheel every time, sometimes it's easier just to take another document that you've been working with before and you just change the part that needs changing," said Capt. Holly Brown.

The request for bids advises potential production companies that more than half of the current recruitment videos do not reflect the realities and diversity of jobs in the Forces.

"Currently some trades/occupations within the CF are in a personnel crisis situation and steps must be taken to recruit candidates to fill these positions," the request for proposals says.

It adds the new videos must "stress the values of loyalty, accountability, integrity, competence and professionalism" and be "modern, upbeat and up-to-date."

Asked if no Canadian Forces occupations were understaffed to the point of crisis, Capt. Brown replied: "There may be, although we don't use that term, 'personnel crisis'; someone used it, but that's not the official term."

Capt. Brown and Maj. Laurie Kannegiesser confirmed, however, the Canadian Forces do have a list of occupations so in need of filling that they are designated "red" inside the Defence Department and recruitment for them carries the highest priority.

We're not in 'personnel crisis,' Forces say; Outdated wording used in request for bidders on recruitment videos

The current version of that list — dated June 1, but still in effect — includes armoured officers, artillery officers, armoured crewmen, artillerymen and infantrymen.

Maj. Kannegiesser insisted the list of high-priority jobs is unrelated to the Afghanistan mission or its demands for the army. "Afghanistan is not affected by shortfalls because the low-priority jobs are the ones that go empty," she said.

# Taliban says it will kill more Korean hostages; Bowing To Militant Demands Not An Option, Karzai Says

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: AFP, Getty Images / Kim Mi-Ok, right, mother of a South Korean hostage killed by the Taliban, makes a tearful appeal yesterday during a news conference, at Seongnam, south of Seoul. ;

**DATELINE:** BUNDANG, SOUTH KOREA

**BYLINE:** Jon Herskovitz

**SOURCE:** Reuters

**WORD COUNT:** 435

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BUNDANG, South Korea – Sleeping feels like a sin for an exhausted Mr. Ryu Haeng-sik who looks after his two young daughters in suburban Seoul, waiting for word on his wife held by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

With news that a second kidnap victim has been killed, the strain is clear on Mr. Ryu and other relatives of the 23 South Koreans — 18 of them women — who were taken hostage south of Kabul nearly two weeks ago.

"It feels like my heart is being scorched. It's unbelievable how sinful I feel for just eating and sleeping," Mr. Ryu said.

"I feel like I'm in hell. I just wish it would all end," he said at the church which sent the group to Afghanistan.

Analysts said there is little Seoul can do to respond to the kidnappers who are demanding the Afghan government release Taliban prisoners in exchange for the hostages.

It has sent a special envoy to Kabul to try to help. But there are increasing calls in South Korea for the United States to intervene and help bail out an ally.

The kidnappers have already killed two male hostages. They threatened yesterday to kill more of the remaining 21 by noon local time today if their demands are not met.

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman said bowing to Taliban demands would encourage more kidnapping.

"We shouldn't encourage kidnapping by actually accepting their demands," Humayun Hamidzada told reporters. "If we keep on responding positively to the demands of terrorists, we will face more problems."

Taliban spokesman Yousuf said Afghan negotiators had not contacted the Taliban since the second hostage was killed on Monday and said the insurgents suspected the Afghan government and foreign troops were planning a rescue bid.

Any attempt to rescue the hostages by force would put the Koreans' lives at risk, he warned.

The victim was identified as Shim Sung-min, 29, a former employee of an IT firm who did volunteer work to help the poor.

Police recovered his body from Arzoo, 80 kilometres from where the group of 18 women and five men were seized near Qarabagh on the main road south from Kabul.

The distance between the two places undermines Afghan government claims to have the kidnappers surrounded.

Mr. Ryu said his wife, Kim Ryun-young, loved to teach children, which was why she joined 22 other volunteers from Saemmul Church, based in a suburb south of Seoul, on the trip to Afghanistan.

Family members have been gathering for the past 12 days since the kidnapping, watching TV news programs in windowless rooms at their church.

Tables have been set up for reporters at the five-storey church in a room where colourful pictures drawn by the children of parishioners hang on the walls.

The church sits in a commuter district of Seoul where steeples, some adorned with red neon crosses, interrupt a skyline of narrow apartment buildings standing like rows of dominoes.

Je Mi-sook said her brother, held in Afghanistan, donated as much of his time and money as possible to charity.

"It's heartbreaking to see the Taliban making these demands and putting lives at risk — when we are all the same human beings," she said.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; HOSTAGES

# A problem of communication; In a four-star universe, it's hard for Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor to outshine his popular general

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**PAGE:** A17

**COLUMN:** L. Ian MacDonald

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: JOHN MAHONEY THE GAZETTE / General Rick Hillier(front left) leads Afghanistan-bound troops into Molson Stadium last month. Hillier, a gifted communicator, is popular with his soldiers and with the public. ; Photo: MATHIEU BELANGER REUTERS / Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor chats with troops in Valcartier. He knows his department well, but he lacks Hillier's charisma. ;

**BYLINE:** L. IAN MACDONALD

**SOURCE:** The Gazette

**WORD COUNT:** 721

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The problem between Rick Hillier and Gordon O'Connor is that a four-star is working for a one-star.

As the chief of defence staff, Hillier is the only four-star general in the Canadian Forces. (This being Canada, of course, he actually wears four maple leaves, not four stars.) He reports to the Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, a retired brigadier turned defence lobbyist before his election as a Conservative MP in 2004.

Everybody understands and respects the chain of command. The chief of defence staff has operational command of the forces and is the government's chief adviser on military affairs. But political authority is vested with the minister and, ultimately, the prime minister.

This is a vital constitutional separation of powers, and it applies in all aspects of defence policy, from Arctic sovereignty, to procurement, to the mission in Afghanistan. Hillier represents the brass. O'Connor represents the boss.

Yet it isn't that simple. The Conservatives took office promising to renew Canada's military after a decade of neglect by the previous government. They also inherited the mission in Kandahar, a daunting task on the ground and a hard sell at home.

So there's an unusual emphasis on military affairs in the media. And any time there's a perceived difference of opinion between Hillier and O'Connor, that becomes a big story.

A four-star working for a one-star.

There's also a difference in style. As a retired general officer, there's no doubt that O'Connor knows his department well, possibly too well. But he's not very articulate, and that makes him ineffective as a messenger. Hillier, on the other hand, is something of a rock star, the country's best-known and most popular officer since John de Chastelain was chief of defence staff during the Oka Crisis.

A problem of communication; In a four-star universe, it's hard for Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor to out-

Since Hillier is such a good communicator, the government frequently makes him available for interviews. The potential downside is that the media are constantly looking to put Hillier and O'Connor on different pages.

Thus, when Hillier appeared on CTV's Question Period on Sunday, he said Canadian troops would be in a lead combat role in Kandahar "for a long while," appearing to contradict O'Connor's suggestion of the previous week that Canadian forces would shifting to a mentoring role of Afghan troops within six months.

This created a spate of second-day stories yesterday in which learned defence experts from the academic world speculated on yet another difference of opinion between the general and the minister, a situation that could not be tolerated much longer by the prime minister. Or as the Globe and Mail put it in a headline at its website yesterday: "PM warned on O'Connor-Hillier rift." The story also looped back to Hillier's recent comment dismissing the Conservatives' 2006 campaign promise to create more reserves to meet urban emergencies. This was the inspiration for the infamous Liberal attack ad about "soldiers in the streets of our cities." In any event, Hillier doesn't think much of it, and says we have sufficient strength in the reserves. That might well be, and his advice is important, but at the end of the day, it's not his call.

This isn't really about policy differences between Hillier and O'Connor. For the media, it's very close to becoming a game of gotcha. For the government, it's a communications-management issue. And on Afghanistan, there are a lot of players around that table, from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office, to Defence, Foreign Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and the RCMP.

On the terms of the mission, there may actually be room for both Hillier and O'Connor to be right. We are committed to Kandahar until 2009, and no one seriously suggests the Afghans will be able to provide for their own security before then. Yet we may be hoping to move to more of a support role before then. There is room for both perspectives.

There is no question removing Hillier as chief of defence staff. There might well be a question of O'Connor being moved out of defence in any cabinet shuffle before a new session of Parliament in the fall.

Harper regularly grades the performance of his ministers. In any assessment of O'Connor, communications would be one of his challenges. At some point, Harper might decide that the mission needs a new messenger.

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