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# Parade to honour recent military veterans

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The Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade will honour veterans of Afghanistan and recent peacekeeping missions.

Maj. Paul Pickering, operations officer at Royal Highland Fusiliers in Cambridge, said this is the first time veterans will be honoured during the annual parade.

The parade Monday, Oct. 8, starts at Erb Street in downtown Waterloo at 8:30 a.m. and makes its way along King Street to Stirling Avenue in Kitchener.

Organizers are asking veterans to participate. The local Royal Highland Fusiliers and 48th Field Squadron Engineers are supporting the initiative.

# Making the case for a negotiated peace

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**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / An Afghan boy walks in the shadow of Canadian Sgt. John Nicholson of Dominion, N.S., earlier this year while on patrol near the village of Panjwaii. ; Photo: ERNIE REGEHR ;  
**BYLINE:** ERNIE REGEHR  
**SOURCE:** FOR THE RECORD  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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The talk about talks to end the war in Afghanistan is escalating, but are critics of the war jeopardizing the prospect for negotiations when they call for a pullback on the very military operations that are ostensibly needed to force the insurgents to the table?

Some months back, in a not for attribution briefing on Afghanistan, a Canadian military official observed that the Taliban are skilled at luring foreign forces into tactical military victories that actually become strategic victories for the Taliban. A new report from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on the situation in Afghanistan essentially confirms that admission – with significant implications for possible efforts to negotiate a ceasefire.

The secretary-general reports that the "multiple military successes" of the international security assistance force (ISAF) and the Afghan national army in the most dangerous and insecure parts of Afghanistan continue to be accompanied by declining security and declining support for the government of Hamid Karzai. Despite a significantly expanded ISAF, he says "access to rural areas of south and southeastern Afghanistan for official and civil society actors has continued to decline."

It used to be called winning the battle while losing the war.

Tactical military successes can lead to strategic setbacks for a variety of reasons, and in Afghanistan two important factors are the large numbers of civilian deaths that accompany some of the battlefield victories and the fact that those battles are won on behalf of a government that many find corrupt and hostile to their collective interests. The UN mission in Afghanistan recorded over 1,000 civilian deaths from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 at the hands of both pro and anti-government forces, and independent monitoring indicates that so far this year the majority of these are attributable to pro-government forces. In addition, the secretary-general says there exists in the Karzai government "a culture of patronage and direct involvement in illegal activities, including the drug trade, especially within the police force."

To achieve strategic success -- that is, a stable security environment and a government that earns the confidence of most Afghans -- Moon says the counter-insurgency effort will have to include "political outreach to disaffected groups." In other words, the disaffected community now confronted on the battlefield needs to be engaged through a serious negotiation/reconciliation process, hence Karzai's recently renewed call for negotiations.

But the growing momentum behind such calls is also generating cautionary voices, on two counts in particular. First, say some experts, even though negotiation is almost always appropriate in principle, such talks need to be pursued in situations in which the belligerents have real incentives to consider accommodation and compromise — in other words, the conflict must be ripe. Second, one incentive for belligerents to come to the table is provided by military pressure — in other words, a call for negotiations is, therefore, said to be incompatible with parallel calls for military withdrawal and thus an easing of military pressure.

Ripeness for negotiation generally flows from military stalemate — a situation in which neither side is moving toward victory and both sides are suffering. There is a reason experts call this a "hurting stalemate."

In Afghanistan, the government and its international backers have long said that this war cannot be won on the battlefield, but because the insurgency is still on the rise and is still gaining strength, some analysts argue that Afghanistan has not yet reached that hurting stalemate. Given their apparently growing strength, the insurgents are unlikely to regard themselves as on the run and under pressure to seek a negotiated compromise.

In fact, however, even if the insurgents consider their fortunes to be rising in the south, that does not lift them out of an overall stalemate. The Taliban cannot avoid the hard reality that their base is confined to the south and that they cannot credibly regard themselves on the ascendancy in the country as a whole. They have to understand that they face a long struggle and, even if successful in the south, they cannot expect to push beyond the Pashtun-dominated south and southeast and thus have to recognize that a larger role for the Pashtuns/Taliban in the country as a whole will only be achievable through negotiations.

The second point, the argument that negotiations should not be accompanied by an easing of military pressure, is relevant only if the tactical military victories of the government and its foreign backers actually produce strategic setbacks for the insurgents.

But if ISAF's military victories succeed mainly in building up resentment against the government and its international backers, it is doubtful that continuing military action will work toward more effective negotiations. Current military pressure works against the negotiating interests of ISAF and the government of Afghanistan if that military pressure generates more alienation than trust. Rather than ripening the conflict, it may just be producing more odorous compost.

In other words, instead of trying to kill more insurgents, and a lot of civilians in the process, the focus needs to be on the delivery of genuine security and consolidating gains through reconstruction and improved government services in those areas already held by the government, and then, from that base, to engage populations and combatants in insurgent-held areas in pursuit of a negotiated consensus in support of a new Afghan political alignment.

Ernie Regehr writes on peace and security issues. He is an adjunct associate professor of peace studies at Conrad Grebel University College and a fellow of the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo.



# Canadian soldiers honoured for bravery

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Two soldiers killed in Afghanistan are among 28 members of the Canadian Forces who have been honoured with bravery decorations.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard of Pembroke, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous Meritorious Service Cross, Government House announced yesterday.

Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam of Petawawa, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous mention in dispatches.

Girouard, who was killed a year ago, was honoured for "outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage" during his four months in Afghanistan.

"Throughout his tour of duty, up to the moment he was killed in action on Nov. 27, 2006, he led from the front, sharing the dangers and hardships associated with combat operations," the citation said.

"He contributed greatly to the battle group's fighting spirit, which led to the defeat of the enemy during Operation Medusa."

Gillam was honoured for his bravery in defending his observation post when it came under attack in October 2006.

"Without regard to his own safety, Sgt. Gillam immediately moved to a position from which he could identify and indicate the enemy position to the remainder of his patrol. He valiantly stood his ground and maintained suppressing fire until he fell to the enemy's fire.

"Sgt. Gillam's courageous actions and personal sacrifice during a devastating enemy attack contributed to saving the lives of his fellow soldiers through the rapid identification of the enemy position."

The Meritorious Service Cross "recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces."

OTHER SOLDIERS HONOURED

A mention in dispatches — marked by a small bronze oak leaf attached to a service medal — recognizes "valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service."

Capt. Hugh Llewellyn Atwell, Edmonton and Ottawa

Sgt. Sean Eldon Benedict, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax.

Cpl. Joshua Clyde Brophy, Petawawa, Ont. and Saint John, N.B.

— Warrant Officer Dominic Andre Joseph Chenard, Petawawa, Ont., and Sudbury.

Warrant Officer Darcy Dean Cyr, Shilo, Man. and Oshawa, Ont.

Master Cpl James Evans, Petawawa, Ont.

Master Cpl. Christopher Fernandez-Ledon, Edmonton and Cornwall, Ont.

Lieut. Nicolas Forsyth, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa.

Cpl. Gregory Gilson, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax..

Sgt. Darren Daniel Hermiston, Petawawa, Ont. and William's Lake, B.C.

Pte. Ryan Wilson Hunt, Petawawa, Ont., and Burlington, Ont.

Cpl. Michael William Kinsey, Petawawa, Ont. and Greenfield Park, Que.

Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman, Petawawa, Ont.

Cpl. Darren A. Lynch, Edmonton.

Master Warrant Officer Robert Joseph Montague, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa

Capt. Lee James Mossop, Quebec City and Saskatoon.

Sgt. Christopher John Michael Murdy, London, Ont..

Pte. Matthew O'Meara, Petawawa, Ont., and Wallaceburg, Ont..

Maj. Gregory A. Penner, Ottawa.

Cpl. Adam Kenneth Pizio, Petawawa, Ont. and Chatham, N.B..

Master Cpl Max Robert Smith, Petawawa, Ont. and St. John's, N.L..

Master Cpl. William Tiernay, Belleville, Ont., and Toronto

Cpl. Mark Todorovic, Toronto and Hamilton..

Sgt. Sergio Tomasi, Petawawa, Ont. and Thompson, Man.

Cpl. Michael Trubela, Petawawa, Ont.

Petty Officer (First Class) Paul Joseph Walsh, Shearwater, N.S. and New Glasgow, N.S..

# More global help needed to rebuild: Bernier

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global help yesterday in rebuilding Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of about 60 countries and international groups are commendable but a new high-profile envoy for the NATO effort should be able to attract more help and better co-ordinate efforts.

The UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," he said. "The Canadian government, my government, continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan. This is why Canada supports having a new, high-level UN special envoy in Afghanistan."

The envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister. Bernier has talked about the idea in about 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

"We built a strong case," he said after the 10-minute speech. It's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond.

Bernier, who used the meetings to ask for military and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, said the French government committed to putting more planes into the southern province of Kandahar and sending 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces.

In his speech, spoken mostly in French, Bernier said Canada is always striving to make a stronger contribution on the international scene.

But when it comes to Afghanistan, the UN, NATO and World Bank all have to work together. Without security, said Bernier, there's no way to ensure political stability.

Bernier, who became foreign minister in a cabinet shuffle in August, said Canada wants the UN to extend the stabilization mission in Haiti.

And he praised the UN Human Rights Council for holding a special session on Myanmar, the Southeast Asian country also known as Burma.

In Sudan, he said, peacekeeping missions are forming a security framework for durable peace. "The international community must demonstrate the political will to find new solutions."

# Afghan killed, child hurt when motorbike approached convoy

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**SOURCE:** Canadian Press  
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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokesperson called it an accidental shooting. It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokesperson for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies . . . they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family after the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers — Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesperson for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said in statement.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

Large red signs on the front of all military vehicles warn drivers to keep away.

When a vehicle approaches too closely, Canadian troops sound a warning alarm, followed by warning shots if the vehicle continues to advance.

The statement by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the patrol "experienced an equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system."

However, Canadian military officials said it is too early to determine whether an equipment malfunction was involved.

Bilodeau said members of the Canadian military will meet with the victim's family.

# 3 N.B. soldiers among posthumous honorees; Bathurst native Robert Girouard, killed in Afghanistan, awarded Meritorious Service Cross for 'outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage'

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Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam of Petawawa, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous mention in dispatches.

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"Throughout his tour of duty, up to the moment he was killed in action on Nov. 27, 2006, he led from the front, sharing the dangers and hardships associated with combat operations," the citation said.

"He contributed greatly to the battle group's fighting spirit, which led to the defeat of the enemy during Operation Medusa."

Gillam was honoured for his bravery in defending his observation post when it came under attack in October 2006.

"Without regard to his own safety, Sgt. Gillam immediately moved to a position from which he could identify and indicate the enemy position to the remainder of his patrol. He valiantly stood his ground and maintained suppressing fire until he fell to the enemy's fire.

"Sgt. Gillam's courageous actions and personal sacrifice during a devastating enemy attack contributed to saving the lives of his fellow soldiers through the rapid identification of the enemy position."

The Meritorious Service Cross "recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces."

A mention in dispatches — marked by a small bronze oak leaf attached to a service medal — recognizes "valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service."

The other recipients of a mention in dispatches:

- \* Capt. Hugh Llewellyn Atwell, Edmonton and Ottawa
- \* Sgt. Sean Eldon Benedict, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax
- \* Cpl. Joshua Clyde Brophy, Petawawa, Ont. and Saint John
- \* Warrant Officer Dominic Andre Joseph Chenard, Petawawa, Ont., and Sudbury.
- \* Warrant Officer Darcy Dean Cyr, Shilo, Man. and Oshawa, Ont.
- \* Master Cpl James Evans, Petawawa, Ont.
- \* Master Cpl. Christopher Fernandez-Ledon, Edmonton and Cornwall, Ont.
- \* Lieut. Nicolas Forsyth, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa.
- \* Cpl. Gregory Gilson, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax.
- \* Sgt. Darren Daniel Hermiston, Petawawa, Ont. and William's Lake, B.C.
- \* Pte. Ryan Wilson Hunt, Petawawa, Ont., and Burlington, Ont.
- \* Cpl. Michael William Kinsey, Petawawa, Ont. and Greenfield Park, Que.
- \* Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman, Petawawa, Ont.
- \* Cpl. Darren A. Lynch, Edmonton.
- \* Master Warrant Officer Robert Joseph Montague, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa,
- \* Capt. Lee James Mossop, Quebec City and Saskatoon.
- \* Sgt. Christopher John Michael Murdy, London, Ont.
- \* Pte. Matthew O'Meara, Petawawa, Ont., and Wallaceburg, Ont.
- \* Maj. Gregory A. Penner, Ottawa.
- \* Cpl. Adam Kenneth Pizio, Petawawa, Ont. and Miramichi
- \* Master Cpl Max Robert Smith, Petawawa, Ont. and St. John's, N.L.
- \* Master Cpl. William Tiernay, Belleville, Ont., and Toronto.
- \* Cpl. Mark Todorovic, Toronto and Hamilton.
- \* Sgt. Sergio Tomasi, Petawawa, Ont. and Thompson, Man.

3 N.B. soldiers among posthumous honorees; Bathurst native Robert Girouard, killed in Afghanistan, awarded



\* Cpl. Michael Trubela, Petawawa, Ont.

\* Petty Officer (First Class) Paul Joseph Walsh, Shearwater, N.S. and New Glasgow

# Afghan violence hits record levels; Unofficial death count this year passes 5,000

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Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, with an Associated Press count of insurgency-related deaths this year surpassing the 5,000 mark and a UN report finding that attacks have risen by 20 per cent.

A suicide attack yesterday on a police bus in western Kabul killed 13 officers and civilians, including a woman and her two children who boarded the vehicle seconds before the explosion, the health minister said.

It was the second bomb to rip the roof off a bus in the Afghan capital in four days, as insurgents turned up attacks against Afghanistan's security forces during a year of record violence.

A new UN report found that while 76 per cent of all suicide bombings in the country have

targeted international and Afghan security forces, 143 civilians were killed by those bombs through August. The report, released in New York last week, also found that Afghanistan has averaged 550 violent incidents per month this year, up from 425 last year.

An AP count of insurgency-related deaths, meanwhile, reached 5,086: the most deaths in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion to topple the Taliban. The AP counted some 4,000 deaths in 2006, based on reports from western and Afghan officials.

The AP tally counts more than 3,500 militants among the dead, but also more than 650 civilians killed either by militant violence or U.S. or NATO attacks. Almost 180 international soldiers have died in Afghanistan this year.

Insurgents have also launched a record number of suicide attacks (more than 100) and two bus bombings in Kabul since Saturday killed 43 people between them.

# More global help needed to rebuild Afghanistan; Cdn. foreign minister says international efforts commendable but UN envoy needed to attract more help

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**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C1  
**BYLINE:** THE CANADIAN PRESS  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Times & Transcript (Moncton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 344

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global help yesterday in rebuilding Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable but a new high-profile envoy for the NATO effort should be able to attract more help and better co-ordinate efforts.

The UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," he said.

"The Canadian government, my government, continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan. This is why Canada supports having a new, high-level UN special envoy in Afghanistan."

The envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

Bernier has talked about the idea in some 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

"We built a strong case," he said after the 10-minute speech. It's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond.

Bernier, who used the meetings to ask for military and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, said the French government committed to putting more planes into the southern province of Kandahar and sending 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces.

In his speech, spoken mostly in French, Bernier said Canada is always striving to make a stronger contribution on the international scene.

But when it comes to Afghanistan, the UN, NATO and World Bank all have to work together.

Canada's commitment to the mission is underlined by its values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, he said.

More global help needed to rebuild Afghanistan; Cdn. foreign minister says international efforts commendable but UN envoy needed to attract more help

"The challenges are great but the principles we defend are even greater."

And without security, said Bernier, there's no way to ensure political stability.

"Where anarchy reigns, there can be no health services or education. Economic development is impossible when chaos is all around."

Bernier, who became foreign minister in a cabinet shuffle in August, said Canada wants the UN to extend the stabilization mission in Haiti.

And he praised the UN Human Rights Council for holding a special session on Myanmar, the Southeast Asian country also known as Burma.

"In Burma, it is imperative to restore democracy and human rights. We expect the UN to be at the forefront of these efforts," Bernier said.

The prime minister usually addresses the annual General Assembly session.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper couldn't get on the roster last week on the day when U.S. President George W. Bush and other leaders spoke. He chose to speak to a special UN panel on climate change instead.

# Canadian convoy fires at Afghan motorcycle; 1 dead, 1 boy injured

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030048  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 334

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached.

A weapon went off. The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting. It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers — Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said in statement.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

Large red signs on the front of all military vehicles warn drivers to keep away.

When a vehicle approaches too closely, Canadian troops sound a warning alarm, followed by warning shots if the vehicle continues to advance.

# Canadian soldiers as drug officers may be only way to fight poppy crop

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030010  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** C8  
**BYLINE:** Michael Staples The military  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 419

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If Canada is to remain in Afghanistan until 2009, it is hard to do so without wading into that country's drug debate.

Although Canadian troops are not police officers, it's a role they may have to get used to in the quagmire of Afghanistan.

Last month, Canada and other countries agreed to increased operations in the war-torn region to counter drug production, heightening fears our troops were being drawn into controversial drug-eradication activities.

But how can it be avoided?

In August, the United Nations office on drugs and crime released its Afghanistan opium survey 2007.

As a result of the upsurge in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, global poppy cultivation rose by 17 per cent in 2007. Afghanistan's share of global cultivation is 82 per cent.

Afghanistan produced an extraordinary 8,200 tons of opium, becoming practically the exclusive supplier of the world's most deadly drug, 93 per cent of the global opiates market.

Experts in Canada and other countries say sale of these drugs fund the Taliban. If this is true, it is hard not to connect the dots between and get involved.

Cure one, and you cure the other.

But is it that simple?

Getting rid of the drugs is controversial for the simple reason poor farmers cultivate poppies, saying it's the only way they can make a living.

But according to the UN report, Afghanis in the southern region of the country where most of the growing is taking place could use their fertile land for other purposes.

"Opium cultivation in Afghanistan is no longer associated with poverty -- quite the opposite," said the report. "Hilmand, Kandahar and three other opium-producing provinces in the south are the richest and most fertile. They have now opted for illicit opium on an unprecedented scale, while the much poorer northern region is abandoning poppy crops."

As the UN points out, this is happening as a result of insurgency, greed and corruption.

As undesirable as it may be to have Canadian troops involved in drug eradication, getting rid of the crops makes sense, other than the risk it may damage soldiers' relationship with farmers, a critical source of intelligence.

"An astonishing 50 per cent of the whole Afghan opium crop comes from one single province: Hilmand. With just 2.5 million inhabitants, this relatively rich southern province has become the world's biggest source of illicit drugs, surpassing the output of entire countries like Colombia (coca), Morocco (cannabis), and Myanmar (opium) — which have populations up to 20 times larger, " notes the report.

What if this land was used for the development of agricultural commodities?

If Canadian soldiers are to be involved in the fight to eradicate opium crops in Afghanistan, the international community had better find a way to make Afghanistan's national drug-control strategy work.

The program is designed to encourage farmers to grow different crops, thus developing alternative sources of income for the locals.

We're playing a dangerous game in Afghanistan. Let's hope it works.

Michael Staples covers the military for The Daily Gleaner. He can be reached at staples.michael@dailygleaner.com.



# Letters | Common ground for yellow ribbon supporters, opposers

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**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** C7  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 1097

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Had the member of the Peace Coalition who started the campaign against yellow ribbons talked to older, more experienced peace activists before launching the campaign, she would have learned such a campaign would be insensitive, hurtful and beside the point.

I have been a peace activist since 1953, and I have no problem with yellow ribbons. I do think our government may be relying on the yellow ribbon movement to obscure the fact the government does not know what to do and is afraid to admit that whatever it does innocents will die, the attacked villages will become angrier and the solution to Afghanistan's problems do not lie in the hands of Canadians.

I am tired of hearing noble pronouncements from either side of the yellow ribbon debate. Who are we helping? Are we helping? How are we helping? What mistakes are we making? Why do we think what we are doing is useful?

It's about time we asked what we can realistically do. The answers will not be easy. Sometimes we do need armed peace keepers. But in what particular circumstances?

Actually, soldiers are not well supported by the government and we should urge the government to do better, especially when it comes to caring for its soldiers in sickness and old age and post injury.

I think it best to begin with listing things we likely all agree on: peacekeeping should be, at its heart, about stopping people from killing each other and protecting civilian infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, temples and mosques, etc.

Most of us recognize any government that depends on foreign money and foreign soldiers to keep it in power is not legitimate. And we can all agree nobody wants a lot of armed foreigners who do not speak the language or share the culture or the religion to order us about. And we can agree that weapons do not educate; they only destroy.

I think we also agree that if we leave Afghanistan things will get worse and the only people likely to get our government's protection will not be women and children. Perhaps we should lobby our government to accept refugees. But we should work through the culture and institutions that exist.

And perhaps we can also agree that the problems of Islam cannot be settled by the non-Islamics. And that there is no reason to believe that we can, by staying in Afghanistan, produce a wonderful government of the conquered or occupied by the conquered or occupied, for the conquered or occupied.

Some of us query the government's interest. There are other countries that treat their women quite as nastily, but with whom we do not interfere. Who or what is the government protecting in addition to the occasional hospital or girls' school?

And, a further question: are we really safer if we send our soldiers to the Middle East? I can't believe it makes our airplanes or train stations safer.

M. Travis Lane

Fredericton

Stop the music when smoke gets in your eyes

In regards to the smoking issue at the Aitken Centre, there was an easy way to solve the problem.

Why did they not turn up the house lights and stop the music?

Building manager Dave Morrell should have informed people to butt out or leave. The law should have been enforced instead of having people exposed to second-hand smoke.

I also would not attend a concert at the Aitken Centre if I thought I would have to sit in a blue haze. It's time for the security guards to step up to the plate instead of giving in to mob mentality.

M.M. Moore

Fredericton

Rumours of demise of quarter's caribou greatly exaggerated

It was with interest that I read the column of Michael Staples expressing concern about the endangered status of the majestic caribou on the reverse — or tails — side of Canada's 25-cent coin, Caribou missing from back of quarter a loss, Sept. 26 Daily Gleaner.

I feel compelled to offer some clarification, as well as some reassurance.

The coinage the Royal Canadian Mint produces for Canadian circulation contains designs which evoke Canada's history, culture and values. These designs include venerable icons of Canadiana such as the maple leaf, the beaver, the Blue Nose, the caribou, the loon and the polar bear.

For years, the heritage of our nation has been expressed through these timeless symbols but in truth, they tell only part of the Canadian story. Themes of special significance to Canadians or historical milestones also deserve commemoration on our circulation coins. It is for that reason the Royal Canadian Mint has proudly celebrated once-in-a-lifetime events such as the Millennium and the centennials of both Alberta and Saskatchewan on its 25-cent circulation coins.

We are similarly proud of our series of 25-cent circulation coins honouring the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. While these coins commemorate the rare and thrilling privilege of hosting an Olympic games, they are also permanent tributes to quintessentially Canadian sports such as curling and ice hockey.

We are also very pleased by the positive feedback of Canadians from coast to coast on this latest commemorative issue of circulation coins.

Rumours of the caribou's demise are being exaggerated by Staples. Instead, billions of these coins bearing this proud Canadian symbol continue to circulate and millions more are being produced in 2007, along with special commemorative issues.

Staples can rest assured the majestic caribou will endure on Canada's 25-cent circulation coins, but it will continue to do so in the company of themes and symbols which offer Canadians a unique opportunity to celebrate their rich heritage.

Christine Aquino

Director, Communications

Royal Canadian Mint

Treatment of soldiers shameful

It is with heavy heart that I write this letter today.

I cannot believe the Prime Minister of Canada can be so cold and uncaring for the countries' veterans who offered their lives in service to this country and for their widows.

Veteran Affairs Minister Greg Thompson said he fulfilled his promise and brought closure to the poisoning carried out at Camp Gagetown over many years. He did no such thing; he offered the biggest insult imaginable by cutting off compensation to the widows of those who died before an arbitrary date.

The statements Thompson made in Parliament when he was in Opposition were all forgotten when he beamed his big announcement in Fredericton.

Other countries have recognized the damage to the health of their soldiers during their service at Camp Gagetown. Our country carried out the poisoning but is in denial and refuses to take responsibility for their actions.

I could not bring myself to tell a military veteran that his life is only worth a one-time payment of \$20,000, and then only if he is dying.

If I had even the faintest idea this was the case in 1957 when I joined the Forces, rest assured, I would never have joined.

All of the potential recruits being urged to join the Forces to fight in Afghanistan should be fully aware of this government's attitude toward them. They wouldn't even pay for soldiers' funerals until they were shamed into it by one soldier's family.

Canadian soldiers cannot rely on their own government to do what is right for them and their families. This might make some people proud to be a Canadian, but it sure as hell doesn't include me.

Lorne Amos Sr.

Gray Rapids, N.B.

# Funeral procession a chance to pay respects to soldier

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030057  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Region  
**PAGE:** B1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Cpl. Nathan Hornburg's funeral is open to the public. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ANNUAL MEETING; SPECIAL MEETING  
**BYLINE:** Sherri Zickefoose  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 244

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Calgarians wishing to bid a final farewell to fallen soldier Nathan Hornburg will have a chance to pay respects at Thursday's funeral as well as along the funeral procession to Stampede Park.

The non-denominational service begins at 1 p.m. in Hall B of the Roundup Centre. It is open to the public, with seating for approximately 1,000 people.

Parking is free at the site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The procession will start at 11:50 a.m., from 17th Avenue and 40th Street S.E., and continue west along 17th Avenue, across Deerfoot Trail and onto Blackfoot Trail S. It will exit onto Ogden Road S.E. heading west, onto 26th Avenue S.E. and then along Dartmouth Road S.E. and onto 25th Avenue S.E. The procession will move north along Spiller Road S.E., and then east along MacDonald Avenue S.E. and 12th Avenue S.E. to 5th Street S.E., where it will turn south and enter Stampede Park at approximately 12:10 p.m.

After family members, seating priority at the Roundup Centre will be given to those who knew Cpl. Hornburg and his family, members of the military, emergency services and police, and veterans and the elderly

There will be no public interment following the service.

Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed Sept. 24 during a mortar attack in Afghanistan.

Hornburg, who was born and raised in the city, is the 71st Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan since 2002, and the third Calgarian.

When Hornburg's body was returned to Canada on Friday, he became the first fallen soldier to travel along the newly named Highway of Heroes between CFB Trenton and Toronto.

szickefoose@theherald.canwest.com

# Military calls shooting of brothers an accident; One boy dies after incident in Kandahar City

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030038  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 580

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Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at Kandahar Airfield were working Tuesday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan on Tuesday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics.

The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter who accompanied him and his uncle to the military hospital.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He may have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," one of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk. "That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals . . .

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country."

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doo battle group in the Panjwaii and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokeswoman Capt. Josee Bilodeau. She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police.

In a separate statement, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the shooting may have been the result of an equipment malfunction.

"It may or may not have been an equipment problem," said Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who is responsible for all supply convoys. "We may know better when the combat logistics patrol returns, but it is still out on the

road right now."

The soldier involved in the shooting was badly shaken and was taken off the convoy before it left Kandahar, the colonel said.

After the incident, patrol troops established a security cordon and administered emergency first aid. Afghan national police, who arrived quickly at the scene, took the two boys to Kandahar City Hospital before Sorkai was transferred a few hours later to the multinational hospital.

It was the first such incident involving Afghan civilians in several months.

Because of the high threat posed by suicide bombers driving trucks, cars, motorcycles and bicycles packed with explosives, Canadian troops on convoys are authorized to use force if they think they might be under attack. Twelve of the 71 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan have perished in suicide attacks.

"We take all mitigating measures we can," Bilodeau said. "There are frequent public service announcements on radio and television asking Afghans to keep their distance from our vehicles and each Canadian vehicle prominently carries red and white signs that state the same thing."

Canada would "normally take care of the family" if its soldiers are found to have been at fault, Bilodeau said. The compensation is believed to be approximately \$10,000.

Convoys of NATO vehicles have become so common in Kandahar over the past few years most Afghans immediately drive well to the side of the road to let them pass. When drivers don't give way, the usual procedure is to make hand signals demanding that they keep their distance.

If this has no effect, troops sometimes fire warning shots. They are ultimately authorized to use lethal force to protect the convoy.

# Canada calls for stronger UN presence in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030037  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Maxime Bernier;  
**KEYWORDS:** !@DATELINE=UNITED NATIONS  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 371

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Support was growing for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan Tuesday after Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree that the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hot spots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also -- and above all -- of the values Canadians hold dear," he said. "These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere."

The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops, and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who currently serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states.

"This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan."

Bernier said in an interview last week that Canada would like to see the appointment of someone of the stature of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has raised the profile of the quartet of powers (the UN, the U.S., the European Union and Russia) as their special envoy to the Middle East peace process.

Diplomats say it's unclear who first came up with the idea. However, Bernier and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were among delegates at a high-level, closed-door meeting on Afghanistan on Sept. 23 who suggested not only extending the special envoy powers, but also appointing someone who could increase

the profile of the office.

Bernier told delegates Canada is involved around the world because speaking about values is not enough. They must also be "protected and defended."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the summit last week, and representatives of more than 100 states delivered speeches ahead of Bernier.



# Public funeral for fallen soldier

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030093  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Westcoast News  
**PAGE:** B2  
**KEYWORDS:** WORLD WAR I; FUNERAL INDUSTRY; COURT  
MARTIAL  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 61

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CALGARY -- A thousand people are expected to pay their respects Thursday to fallen Calgary soldier Cpl. Nathan Hornburg.

"It will be a public funeral and there will be a military component," his father, Michael Hornburg, said.

Hornburg, 24, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed last month during a mortar attack in southern Afghanistan.

During a prolonged firefight with insurgents, Hornburg was killed by mortar shell fragments.

Hornburg was the 71st Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Public funeral for fallen soldier

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030077  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final C  
**SECTION:** Westcoast News  
**PAGE:** B2  
**KEYWORDS:** WORLD WAR I; FUNERAL INDUSTRY; COURT  
MARTIAL  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 60

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CALGARY -- A thousand people are expected to pay their respects Thursday to fallen Calgary soldier Cpl. Nathan Hornburg.

"It will be a public funeral and there will be a military component," his father, Michael Hornburg, said.

Hornburg, 24, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed last month during a mortar attack in southern Afghanistan.

During a prolonged battle with insurgents, Hornburg was killed by mortar shell fragments.

Hornburg was the 71st Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Afghan firefighters in B.C. for training

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030073  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final C  
**SECTION:** Westcoast News  
**PAGE:** B2  
**KEYWORDS:** FIREFIGHTERS; FIRE PREVENTION; FIRES;  
FOREST FIRES  
**DATELINE:** LANGFORD  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 81

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LANGFORD – Four Afghan firefighters will be brought to this Victoria suburb to learn to use donated equipment, rather than the more dangerous option of Langford firefighters going overseas to train them.

Security concerns have prevented local firefighters from travelling to Afghanistan, where \$400,000 worth of gear has just arrived for distribution.

Langford council Monday endorsed its fire department's plans to bring four senior Afghan firefighters to the Vancouver Island community. Those firefighters will then train their colleagues.

# Afghan firefighters to train in Langford; Donated equipment already sent to Kabul

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Westcoast News  
**PAGE:** B1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Firefighter JoshMontgomery with gear donated to Afghan firefighters. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** FIRES; FIREFIGHTERS; FOREST FIRES  
**DATELINE:** LANGFORD  
**BYLINE:** Bill Cleverley  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 380

---

LANGFORD – Four Afghan firefighters will be brought to B.C. to learn to use donated equipment rather than the more dangerous option of Langford firefighters going overseas to train them.

Security concerns have prevented local firefighters from travelling to Afghanistan, where \$400,000 worth of gear has just arrived for distribution.

Langford council Monday endorsed its fire department's plans to bring four senior Afghan firefighters to the Vancouver Island community. Those firefighters will then train their colleagues.

"When it comes down to it, it's a municipal initiative and we're looking for council to get involved in supporting the endeavour," Langford Fire Chief Bob Beckett said Monday.

The Langford fire department has cultivated a relationship with its counterparts in the war-torn country.

Three years ago, Beckett, Lieut. Geoff Spriggs and firefighter Dave Morse travelled to Kabul to help train Afghan firefighters to use donated items, including air cylinders, breathing packs, portable radios and a breathing air compressor.

Then in April 2006, Kabul district Fire Chief Atiqullah Mohammadullah came here.

The newly arrived equipment is the latest instalment in some \$720,000 worth of gear donated by fire services across Canada since 2003 through Can. S.A.F.E. — a cooperative effort of Langford Fire Rescue, the Colwood Rotary and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Invitations will be extended to four senior Afghan officers — two from the Kabul fire department and two from the Kandahar fire department to visit here. Langford Fire Rescue has raised \$13,000 to cover travel and accommodation costs, Beckett said.

In addition, Langford Mayor Stewart Young has extended an invitation to the Afghan ambassador to Canada, Omar Samad, to attend the Langford firefighters annual banquet in May.

The range of equipment donated through Can. S.A.F.E. (Canadians Sending Afghanistan Firefighting Equipment) and transported to Afghanistan by the Canadian Forces is varied.

"It's everything from turnout gear, helmets, boots, breathing apparatus, spare air tanks, a new compressor to fill the tanks, ladders and portable fire extinguishers," said Beckett.

More than 30 sets of golf clubs and bags, donated by a golf course on the Lower Mainland, have now arrived in Kandahar and the hope is to get them to the country's only golf course for a tournament Oct. 19, Beckett said. "I was taken back initially and thought this was absurd until I looked into it. ... There's a golf course in Kabul and they have tournaments. They teach children how to golf and they have tournaments to raise money for children's prostheses," he said.

# Military must learn to tell good guys from bad: report; Technology also needs boost, defence department says

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030016

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A6

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Canadian Press / Ahmed Zia, an injured 10-year old Afghan boy, is transferred from an Afghan civilian ambulance to a Canadian military ambulance to be treated at NATO's Multi-National Hospital. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** David Pugliese

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 539

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OTTAWA — The Canadian military must get to know the societies it is working in as well as broaden its technology if it is going to reduce civilian casualties and win hearts and minds both at home and abroad, a Defence Department report suggests.

It says a key challenge facing the Canadian army on future battlefields is the difficulty in determining who is a civilian and who is an insurgent.

"Perhaps the most significant vulnerability facing the CF/Army is the ability to distinguish between the 'good guys' and the 'bad guys,'" acknowledges the July 2006 study produced by the Defence Science Advisory Board. "This will be difficult to overcome, especially with the enemy indistinguishable from the general population."

The board is made up of civilian industry officials and scientists and advises the military on various technology matters. Their report, released to CanWest News Service under the Access to Information law, examines how insurgents might use low-technology techniques to challenge the army.

The killing of innocent civilians by coalition forces and insurgents in Afghanistan has been an ongoing controversial issue. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has warned that if such killings by NATO and U.S. forces continue, the coalition could lose the support of Afghans. NATO officials stress they try to avoid such casualties but point out insurgents do not hesitate to kill civilians.

On Tuesday, Canadian soldiers killed an Afghan civilian and wounded an eight-year-old child after the two approached a convoy in central Kandahar. It was later determined the civilians did not pose a threat to troops.

The advisory study warns that soldiers have to use a measured approach in counter-insurgency situations. If that isn't done, the army "may well lose the core battle for the 'hearts and minds' abroad and/or at home, especially if the predominant response is the traditional emphasis on firepower," it notes.

"The land force must stress detection rather than firepower in meeting low-tech counters, especially relative to the 'hearts and minds' campaign."

The science advisory report recommends the Canadian Forces put more emphasis on language skills, gathering intelligence and developing a knowledge of the societies it plans to operate in. It also recommends the army "adapt a range of non-military knowledge and technology, especially from the policing sector." Such equipment, which makes use of non-lethal means of dealing with individuals, may be of more value than precise lethal weapons, it points out.

The advisory board also recommends strict controls be put on access to local police and military uniforms, as well as to Canadian Forces uniforms.

There have been several incidents in Afghanistan where insurgents have worn either Afghan police or army uniforms during attacks.

In August, Taliban, wearing Afghan army uniforms, were able to approach a NATO forward operating base in the country's Nuristan province and then open fire on troops. Two Afghan soldiers were killed and 11 NATO soldiers wounded.

More work also has to be done on dealing with hidden explosive devices, in particular preventing the detonation of such booby-traps or using technology to set off those bombs before they can injure troops.

Military officials weren't available to comment on the report.

But the Canadian Forces has been putting more emphasis on improving its intelligence gathering and reducing incidents of civilian deaths in Afghanistan. Canadian soldiers have said they will often hold their fire if insurgents are moving or hiding among civilians.

# Bernier calls for global effort; 'No one country' can rebuild Afghanistan

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B5

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Beth Gorham

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**ILLUSTRATION:** bernier

**WORD COUNT:** 406

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" yesterday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts.

In the 10-minute speech delivered mostly in French to appeal to Quebec critics of Canada's role in Afghanistan, Bernier reminded them it's a UN-mandated mission and cast Canada's involvement there as a direct expression of Canadian values.

"Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear – values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law," he said.

"These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere," said Bernier, who also called on the UN to support the restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar – also known as Burma.

But the UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," said Bernier, who took over the foreign affairs portfolio in August.

"The challenge may be great, but the principles we're defending are greater still."

Promoting those values isn't enough, he said. "They must be protected and defended, particularly when they are under assault."

The speech was criticized as vague and one-dimensional by some, while others supported the idea of appointing a UN emissary for Afghanistan.

The special envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

Bernier talked about the idea in some 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

"We built a strong case," he said in an interview after his speech, but it's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond.



The idea has support from several countries including the United States, Norway, France and Spain.

Bernier also used the meetings to ask for more troops, equipment and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan.

The French government committed to putting more airplanes in the southern province of Kandahar and sending 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces, he said.

"Maybe in the near future, we'll see other actions by other governments," said Bernier, calling himself "realistic" about what Canada can expect.

"I think every country must share the risk."

Canada, under intense public pressure to leave Afghanistan when its current mission ends in February 2009, wants countries like France, Germany, Spain and Italy to allow their soldiers into combat zones to fight Taliban militants.

Combat is currently shouldered by Canada, the United States, Britain, the Netherlands and Australia.

Two-thirds of Canadians have said their soldiers shouldn't stay longer than the deadline. More than half have told pollsters they should get out even sooner. Quebecers are particularly opposed.

# Violence on rise in Afghanistan

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**COLUMN:** In brief

**WORD COUNT:** 76

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Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U.S.–led invasion, with an Associated Press count of insurgency–related deaths this year surpassing the 5,000 mark and a UN report finding that attacks have risen by 30 per cent. Meanwhile, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" yesterday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan.

# Soldiers killed in Afghanistan to receive posthumous honours

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A6  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 268

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OTTAWA – Two soldiers killed in Afghanistan are among 28 members of the Canadian Forces who have been honoured with bravery decorations.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard of Pembroke, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous Meritorious Service Cross, Government House said Tuesday.

Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam of Petawawa, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous mention in dispatches.

Girouard, killed a year ago, was honoured for "outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage" during his four months in Afghanistan.

"Throughout his tour of duty, up to the moment he was killed in action on Nov. 27, 2006, he led from the front, sharing the dangers and hardships associated with combat operations," the citation said. "He contributed greatly to the battle group's fighting spirit, which led to the defeat of the enemy during Operation Medusa."

Gillam was honoured for his bravery in defending his observation post when it came under attack in October 2006.

"Without regard to his own safety, Sgt. Gillam immediately moved to a position from which he could identify and indicate the enemy position to the remainder of his patrol. He valiantly stood his ground and maintained suppressing fire until he fell to the enemy's fire."

The Meritorious Service Cross "recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces."

A mention in dispatches – marked by a small bronze oak leaf attached to a service medal – recognizes "valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service."

Three of the recipients of mention in dispatches: – Sgt. Sean Eldon Benedict, Petawawa, Ont., and Halifax. – Cpl. Gregory Gilson, Petawawa, Ont., and Halifax. – Petty Officer (First Class) Paul Joseph Walsh, Shearwater and New Glasgow.

# Canadians shoot, kill Afghan man, injure boy; Military says gunfire was accidental

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A3

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**ILLUSTRATION:** Ahmad Zia, 12, was shot accidentally by Canadian troops in Kandahar on Tuesday.  
(DENE MOORE / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 390

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway. The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies . . . they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he had surgery.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old man was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers – Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

Large red signs on the front of all military vehicles warn drivers to keep away.

When a vehicle approaches too closely, Canadian troops sound a warning alarm, followed by warning shots if the vehicle continues to advance.

"There are a lot of mitigation measures we've put in place to avoid this sort of thing," Bilodeau said.

The statement by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the patrol "experienced an equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system."

However, Canadian military officials said it is too early to determine whether an equipment malfunction was involved.

# Global co-operation urged in Afghanistan; Bernier's speech to UN lauded by some, criticized by others as "incredibly vague"

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A3

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Beth Gorham

**ILLUSTRATION:** Canadian troops patrol near the police substation in Pashmul, Afghanistan, on Sunday.  
(Dene Moore / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 501

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WASHINGTON – Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" Tuesday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts.

In the 10-minute speech delivered mostly in French to appeal to Quebec critics of Canada's role in Afghanistan, Bernier reminded them it's a UN-mandated mission and cast Canada's involvement there as a direct expression of Canadian values.

"Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear – values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law," he said.

"These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere," said Bernier, who also called on the UN to support the restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar – also known as Burma.

But the UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," said Bernier, who took over the foreign affairs portfolio in August.

"The challenge may be great, but the principles we're defending are greater still."

Promoting those values isn't enough, he said.

"They must be protected and defended, particularly when they are under assault."

The speech was criticized as vague and one-dimensional by some, while others supported the idea of appointing a UN emissary for Afghanistan.

The special envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

Bernier talked about the idea in some 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

Global co-operation urged in Afghanistan; Bernier's speech to UN lauded by some, criticized by others as "incredibly vague"

It's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond. The idea has support from several countries including the United States, Norway, France and Spain.

Bernier also used the meetings to ask for more troops, equipment and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan.

The French government committed to putting more airplanes in the southern province of Kandahar and sending 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces, he said.

"Maybe in the near future, we'll see other actions by other governments," said Bernier, calling himself "realistic" about what Canada can expect.

"I think every country must share the risk."

Canada, under intense public pressure to leave Afghanistan when its current mission ends in February 2009, wants countries like France, Germany, Spain and Italy to allow their soldiers into combat zones to fight Taliban militants.

Combat is currently shouldered by Canada, the United States, Britain, the Netherlands and Australia.

Two-thirds of Canadians have said their soldiers shouldn't stay longer than the deadline. More than half have told pollsters they should get out even sooner. Quebecers are particularly opposed.

Paul Jackson, a political science professor at Concordia University, said Bernier's speech was "incredibly vague" and didn't include any measures for success in Afghanistan.

"Stability doesn't mean anything unless we define it. He doesn't define anything."

Jackson also questioned Canada's commitment to the values Bernier espoused, considering it hasn't supported the UN declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples and has rejected the Kyoto protocol to fight global warming.

The speech was also attacked by New Democrats as a missed opportunity to make Canada a world leader in peacekeeping and multilateralism.

'Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear – values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law.'

# Afghan killed, child wounded in incident with convoy

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** B8

**COLUMN:** Around the world

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 52

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured. A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.



# Canada seeks greater global will to share rebuilding burden

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** B8

**COLUMN:** Around the world

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** Washington

**WORD COUNT:** 82

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" Tuesday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts.

# Playing politics with foreign policy

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** Opinion

**PAGE:** A7

**COLUMN:** National Affairs

**BYLINE:** Travers, James

**DATELINE:** Ottawa

**WORD COUNT:** 548

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Talking to the enemy isn't sleeping with the enemy. It's an obvious distinction this federal government wilfully ignores every time it distorts foreign policy in the relentless pursuit of domestic votes.

Once a calm, respected voice in the diplomatic babble, Canada is now inclined to shout first and angrily. That's what it did when Palestinians exercised their democratic right to turf the corrupt, incompetent Fatah. That's what it's doing again in Afghanistan where the administration and insurgents are taking halting first steps away from civil war and toward political accommodation.

Canada's refusal to talk to Hamas or the Taliban is appealing. Both have histories and agendas this country rightly rejects. Opprobrium makes that perfectly clear and, to the extent of Ottawa's modest offshore influence, encourages better behaviour.

But lesser motives are top of mind for a prime minister and a Conservative government that sees international affairs through the prism of partisan politics. Ostracizing Hamas is mostly about breaking the connection between Jewish voters and the Liberal party. Rejecting the Taliban as a negotiating partner reinforces that tough image essential to a ruling party selling itself as standing up for Canada.

Those tactics serve Conservatives better than the country. As hard as it may be to grasp or even stomach, the rise of Hamas to power and the emergence of the Taliban as an interlocutor are small success stories within an otherwise relentlessly bleak global narrative.

Nurturing democracy is worthy work. It's also painfully slow and rife with trial-and-error that masks long-term progress with short-term setbacks.

Stephen Harper put his finger on one of the vexing problems in New York last week. Violent groups often morph into political parties to use democracy as just another weapon. That's particularly true where the ballot box question is pre-determined by loyalty to clan and sect.

Surprising themselves as well as Hamas, many Palestinians crossed that divide when, much like Canadians, they used their votes not so much to elect a government as to throw one out. But instead of rewarding the process or imposing the discipline of power on the winning party, Ottawa and, much more actively, Washington made sure the government couldn't effectively exercise its mandate or even provide security. The results are now sadly self-evident.

Afghanistan is just as complex, just as riddled with pitfalls. As a combatant Canada can't be an honest broker. And today's Taliban, unlike the one forced from power, is still too fissured and amorphous to bargain with a single, credible voice. Even so, with no military victory possible, it's as much in this country's interest to push for a political solution that includes insurgents – but not al-Qaida – as it is for Hamid Karzai to advance negotiations while his wearying allies are still there doing the fighting and strengthening the president's hand.

In Asia as in the Middle East, Harper's manoeuvring room is now limited by Conservative foreign policy impatience, unfortunate rhetoric and hunger for home applause.

By demonizing enemies and diminishing their importance to local solutions, the prime minister gravitated to the wrong side of potentially positive trends.

Voters will ultimately decide if stonewalling Hamas and the Taliban is better politics than foreign policy. But talking is a prelude to peace and peace is made between enemies.

James Travers is a national affairs columnist. Copyright 2007 Torstar Syndication Services.

# This is the time to make a stir

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** Lifestyles

**PAGE:** B2

**COLUMN:** Dav Net

**BYLINE:** Doyle, Damhnait

**WORD COUNT:** 432

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Canadians are gentle by nature, avoid controversy and, for the most part, would still do whatever the Queen says.

As a musician, I do not believe my place is in politics, yet my place as a songwriter is to observe humanity. Unless you want to keep writing songs about how good fish and chips is with dressing hidden underneath and gravy poured on top, you have to go out and experience the world or you will stagnate. That means facing your fears head on and investigating for yourself what is actually happening in the world.

At a lecture, I heard David Suzuki tell a story about how he was approached by an irate gentleman who was screaming at him, saying that global warming is a farce. The man listed off hundreds of websites which would substantiate his claim and Suzuki said something to the effect that, if one wanted to gather evidence showing the Earth is made out of chocolate Easter eggs, there would be a thousand websites supporting it.

In this age of the Internet, you have to be very wary about getting balanced information. If a website says one thing, you should Google the opposite.

For God's sake, never try and self-diagnose on the Internet. The next thing you know you'll be convinced you have rabies or something.

We Canadians have always been known for our love of story, song and conversation to keep us warm during the frigid nights. Why is it, then, when it comes to Afghanistan, everybody's talking and nobody's listening to each other? People are so sure they know what's right, their ears are clogged up tight. They are armed with things they've found on the Internet both for and against Canada's presence in Afghanistan.

The only thing I know is that nobody truly knows anything, not one little itty bit. It is only something the history books will decipher later – not a soul on Earth has all the information, it is simply impossible. When everything goes haywire, there is one simple rule to follow: be good to each other, to the courageous and brave men and women who are serving Canada, to the beautiful and dignified Afghani people and to those people who have a completely different opinion than you.

This argument is for the politicians in Ottawa, not for us. So the next time you find yourself locked in heated debate, buy a ticket to Ottawa and do something about it. Sometimes to make peace, you have to make a stir.

Damhnait (dav-net) Doyle is a St. John's-born, award-winning recording artist and author now living in Toronto. Check out her website at [www.dav-net.com](http://www.dav-net.com).

# Afghan killed, child wounded; Incident happened when motorbike approached Canadian convoy

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A14

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 312

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached.

A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway. The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers – Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said in statement.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism of foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

# Canada seeks to share burden

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A14

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** Washington

**WORD COUNT:** 143

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" Tuesday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts. In the 10-minute speech delivered mostly in French, Bernier reminded them it's a UN-mandated mission and cast Canada's involvement there as a direct expression of Canadian values.

"Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear – values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, he said.

# Investigation underway in Kandahar shooting

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**SECTION:** Provincial

**PAGE:** A2

**COLUMN:** International

**WORD COUNT:** 112

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway. The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.



# Afghan firefighters to train in B.C.; Langford firefighters continue to cultivate relationship with their Afghan counterparts

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030059  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Capital & Van. Isl.  
**PAGE:** B2  
**BYLINE:** Bill Cleverley  
**SOURCE:** Times Colonist  
**WORD COUNT:** 407

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Four Afghan firefighters will be brought to B.C. to learn to use donated equipment rather than the more dangerous option of sending Langford firefighters overseas to train them.

Security concerns have prevented local firefighters from travelling to Afghanistan where \$400,000 worth of gear has just arrived for distribution. The solution that Langford council has endorsed is its fire department's plans to bring four senior Afghan firefighters to B.C. Those firefighters will then train their colleagues.

"When it comes down to it, it's a municipal initiative and we're looking for council to get involved in supporting the endeavour," Langford fire Chief Bob Beckett said Monday.

The Langford Fire Department has cultivated a relationship with their counterparts in the war-torn country.

Three years ago, Beckett, Lt. Geoff Spriggs and firefighter Dave Morse travelled to Kabul to help train Afghan firefighters to use donated items including air cylinders, breathing packs, portable radios and a breathing air compressor. Then in April 2006, Kabul district fire Chief Atiqullah Mohammadullah came here.

The newly arrived equipment is the latest installment in some \$720,000 worth of gear donated by fire services from across Canada since 2003 through Canadians Sending Afghanistan Firefighting Equipment (Can. S.A.F.E.). It is a co-operative effort of Langford Fire Rescue, the Colwood Rotary and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Invitations will be extended to four senior Afghan officers -- two from the Kabul Fire Department and two from the Kandahar Fire Department to visit here. Langford Fire Rescue has raised \$13,000 to cover travel and accommodation costs, Beckett said.

In addition, Langford Mayor Stewart Young has extended an invitation to the Afghan ambassador to Canada, Omar Samad, to attend Langford firefighters annual banquet in May.

The range of equipment donated through Can. S.A.F.E. and transported to Afghanistan by the Canadian Forces is varied. "It's everything from turnout gear, helmets, boots, breathing apparatus, spare air tanks, a new compressor to fill the tanks, ladders and portable fire extinguishers," said Beckett.

The firefighters have also donated sporting equipment such as soccer balls, cleats and sweaters.

More than 30 sets of golf clubs and bags, donated by a golf course on the Lower Mainland have now arrived in Kandahar and the hope is to get them to the country's only golf course -- in Kabul -- for an upcoming tournament Oct. 19, Beckett said.

"I was taken back initially and thought this was absurd until I looked into it. ... There's a golf course in Kabul and they have tournaments. They teach children how to golf and they have tournaments to raise money for children's prostheses," Beckett said.

# Troops kill boy, wound brother; Accidental shootings a case of 'equipment malfunction,' NATO says

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030012  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Canadian Pool Photo / Ahmed Zia, 12, is transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in the country. ;  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 219

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield worked yesterday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan yesterday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. His condition was described as serious.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, 15, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He might have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone, they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," another of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk.

"That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals.

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was winding its way through Kandahar City.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokeswoman Capt. Josée Bilodeau.

She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police. NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the shooting was the result of an equipment malfunction.

# Send envoy to war-torn country, Bernier asks; U.S., Britain support foreign minister's idea

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030011  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Maxime Bernier addresses UN;  
**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 388

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UNITED NATIONS — Support was growing for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan yesterday after Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree that the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hot spots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also — and above all — of the values Canadians hold dear," he said.

"These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere."

The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent, with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states. "This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan."

Bernier said in an interview last week that Canada would like to see the appointment of someone of the stature of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has raised the profile of the Quartet of powers (the UN, the U.S., the European Union and Russia) as their special envoy to the Middle East peace process.

Diplomats say it's unclear who first came up with the idea. However, Bernier and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were among delegates at a high-level, closed-door meeting on Afghanistan on Sept. 23 who suggested not only extending the special envoy powers, but also appointing someone who could increase

the profile of the office.

"Secretary Rice expressed support for exploring this idea of a higher-level envoy and we're engaged in consulting with the UN and our partners -- Canada foremost among them -- on how such a position can be created," said Ben Chang, a spokesman with the U.S. mission to the UN.

# Police force frightens extremists: ambassador; That's why bombers are targeting officers, Canadian official says

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030010

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Ahmad Masood, Reuters / The wreckage of a police bus transported away after a suicide bomber killed 13 people — eight police officers, two children and three adults — in the Afghan capital of Kabul. More than 1,000 Afghan police officers have been killed in 18 months, reports say. ;

**DATELINE:** KABUL

**BYLINE:** Rob Shaw

**SOURCE:** Times Colonist; with files from Agence France–Presse

**WORD COUNT:** 750

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KABUL — Suicide bombers are increasingly attacking Afghanistan's fledgling national police force because they consider it a significant threat, says Canada's ambassador in Afghanistan.

Although the Afghan National Police force is often criticized as corrupt and poorly motivated, Ambassador Arif Lalani said in an interview yesterday they are making marked improvements with the help of countries such as Canada.

"I think what's happening is a realization on the part of the extremists that they're not as sure and strong as they used to be," he said yesterday at the Canadian Embassy in Kabul. "They are lashing out at the institution which is obviously threatening them the most, which is obviously law and order."

Recent reports estimate more than 1,000 Afghan police officers have been killed during attacks in the past 18 months.

Lalani's comments yesterday came just hours after another suicide bomber killed 13 people — eight police officers, two children and three adults — in the Afghan capital of Kabul. The bomber tried to board a bus, but the driver became suspicious, and shot the bomber first, an Interior Ministry spokesperson said. Nonetheless, the wounded extremist, who was strapped with explosives, still managed to detonate his payload. The blast ripped the roof and sides off the bus, leaving a bloody and gruesome mess on the street. Parts of seats were flung into nearby trees. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

It was the sixth suicide attack since Muslims began observing Ramadan in mid–September. Thirty people also died Friday when a suicide bomber targeted a military bus. And in June, a suicide attack killed 35 people, mostly police officers on a police bus in Kabul.

The Taliban attacks are just the latest challenge to hit the beleaguered police force — one of the most dangerous jobs in what is already one of the most dangerous combat zones in the world.

The Afghan government has acknowledged corruption in the ranks, as well as past problems paying officers their relatively low wages (around \$70 a month), has reduced morale. Some of the officers are in their early teens.

"There are people who say they are badly trained, they are badly disciplined, they don't want to do the job, but they are risking their lives and paying with their lives in many instances," said Lalani, who added he respects the sacrifice of the officers.

A properly trained, competent, Afghan police force is seen as a key requirement (along with stable government and a strong army) before the country reduces its dependence on international soldiers and security. Canada assists in training police, but earlier this year, high-ranking military officials estimated it could be as many as three years before a professional and competent police force is established. The country's blueprint for development, the Afghanistan National Compact, calls for a professional force of 62,000 police by the end of 2010.

The recent attacks have not pushed the training program backward, said Lalani. However, he and the government acknowledge training and improving the force is lagging behind expectations because the international community was late to make it a priority.

The Afghan government views the recent attacks as a sign of weakness in the Taliban, said Khaled Zekriya, director general of the division in the Afghan Foreign Ministry that works with Canada and the United States, among other countries.

Afghan insurgents consider police officers a legitimate target, although they generally try to avoid civilian casualties when possible, said Hekmat Karzai, director of the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies, and cousin to president Hamid Karzai.

"There's a serious strategy behind this," he said. "What is it? It is to deter people from joining the police sector."

He added: "It's way too early to see if it is working."

The ranks of the Taliban have been depleted in fighting NATO forces, and so they look to recruit new members while attacking the recruiting capability of their persecutors in the military and police, said Karzai, whose research centre produces independent reports and also trains staff at the Canadian Embassy.

In the meantime, the Taliban appears set to continue their decidedly simple strategy to fight policing in this country — kill off as many as you can to scare away the next batch of recruits.

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## REPORT FROM AFGHANISTAN

Times Colonist reporter Rob Shaw is in Afghanistan as part of a Canadian Forces regional media tour where he'll meet Canadian and Afghan officials, visit reconstruction projects and speak with soldiers. While in the country, Shaw is under escort by military officials. The military doesn't edit his stories, but has asked him not to divulge security information it deems sensitive.

He will file stories and photos during his trip that will appear in the paper and at [www.timescolonist.com](http://www.timescolonist.com)

# In close quarters en route to Kabul, there's lots of time to think

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030007  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3 / FRONT  
**COLUMN:** Report From Afghanistan  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / AFGHANFIREFIGHTERS GIVEN OUR GEAR, BUT THEY'LL BE TRAINED IN LANGFORD: Langford firefighter Josh Montgomery shows off the kind of donated gear that has just arrived in Afghanistan — \$400,000 worth of equipment. Four Afghan firefighters will be brought here to learn to use the equipment rather than the riskier option of sending local firefighters to train them in the war-ravaged nation. Story, B2 ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Rob Shaw  
**SOURCE:** Times Colonist  
**WORD COUNT:** 361

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KABUL — The military police officer was blunt: "If you have to puke, don't," he said. "Or, puke in your helmet."

And so, with those inspiring words still ringing in my ears, I boarded my flight to Afghanistan, yesterday. I waddled onto the deck of a Hercules transport aircraft, my shoulders slouched with what felt like the weight of a small child on top of me, but was in fact my green camouflage flak jacket. I'm told it can stop rounds from a Russian AK-47. But it mostly just made me sweat bullets.

On my head was the aforementioned helmet — both a noggin protector and, apparently, emergency barf bag.

I am happy to report, I kept my helmet clean.

Still, I would be lying if I did not say flying into a war zone was a sobering and unnerving experience. The Hercules is a dark, noisy aircraft full of exposed metal beams, long benches and bright pink webbing to hang on to. You feel a bit like sardines squeezed into a can.

There are four rows of seats, each facing one another, putting you so close to your comrades that you have a hard time raising your arms (almost impossible to do in a flak jacket anyway) and your knees are within inches of the person across from you.

The close proximity is why you can't puke on board a military aircraft flying into Kandahar — you would easily hit half a dozen other people.

The flight into Kandahar had a few combat manoeuvres, in the form of steep climbs, drops and hard corners. But it was mostly just hot and boring — I was stuck in a largely window-less cargo hold wedged up beside a bunch of other bored soldiers and journalists. It gave you lots of time to worry about whether someone was going to shoot your plane down and whether, in your subsequent obituary, any family members would tell



horribly embarrassing stories about your life.

After a brief stopover in Kandahar, the flight continued to Kabul where I, and five other Canadians journalists, disembarked. We then climbed into a convoy of vehicles to travel to the Canadian Embassy.

There had been two suicide bombings so far yesterday, and the Canadian Forces soldier in my vehicle, Maj. David Preaux was philosophical about their threat level.

"With those you cannot do anything," he said.

If it happens, it happens. Words, out here, you are forced to live by.

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# Selling the job of rebuilding

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**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**COLUMN:** David Ramsay  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** David Ramsay  
**SOURCE:** The Leader-Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 780

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KABUL — There is a concerted push by the federal government to convince Canadians that this country's involvement in Afghanistan is about much more than the sacrifices Canadian soldiers are making in the fight against the Taliban. Yes, security is important, but rebuilding the country is the real story now.

This public relations push comes as Canadians debate the future of Canada's role in Afghanistan — simply put, should we withdraw our troops and cut our losses, as some argue, or should we stay for the long haul and finish what we started?

That debate is among the reasons why I was invited to travel to Afghanistan with five other journalists from newspapers across Canada to see first-hand what is happening in the country. There is a full schedule of events and meetings planned for us over the next few days, from learning about development projects to talking to Afghani and Canadian officials about the state of the country and Canada's role in trying to make it a better place. Over the next few days, it is my intention to describe some of these projects and provide insight into what is happening in Afghanistan today.

Our first day in Afghanistan starts with a noisy and sometimes bumpy trip on a Hercules into Kabul. For federal officials, the timing of the start of our visit could not have been worse, since it is difficult to focus on aid projects when a suicide bomber steps onto a bus a few kilometres away and kills eight police officers, three adults and two children.

In another part of the city, we drive in a convoy of trucks specially fitted with bulletproof glass and reinforced steel doors. Accompanied by Canadian soldiers, we wear flak jackets (helmets were optional in the car, as are sunglasses we are told will stop a piece of shrapnel) and are asked not to talk and to look for anything suspicious. When asked what suspicious might mean in Kabul, we are told that odd behaviour would include a young man screaming as he moves towards us, clutching a wire and looking like he is more than a few pounds overweight. To say the least, reconstruction projects are not top of the mind as we dodge traffic and head towards the Canadian Embassy.

Still, even with today's tragic events — and the reality that such bombings have become more common in Kabul in recent weeks — Canadian and Afghani officials counter that suicide bombers are an indication of just how effective Canada and other nations have been in rebuilding Afghanistan.

A senior Afghani official argues that blowing up police officers shows just how weak the Taliban has become and says it is using its last tricks to disturb the psyche of the people.

The argument is a strong one, given that the Taliban cannot meet western might on the battlefield and must choose other ways to fight. A natural choice is the undermanned, underpaid and undertrained police force. If you kill police officers, you send a message that Afghans should choose less dangerous professions.

In an interview session Tuesday afternoon, Canadian ambassador Arif Lalani echoes a message that we've heard often since Friday, when we flew out of CFB Trenton, shortly after a repatriation ceremony was held for a young Alberta soldier.

Canadians need a fuller account of what is happening, he says, so that they can judge for themselves whether progress is being made. He adds that explosions might be the top story but are not the most important story.

There is a strong foundation for much of what the ambassador says. Five years ago, only 600,000 Afghan boys (no girls) attended school; now six million children are receiving an education (one-third of whom are girls). Also, eight out of 10 Afghans now have access to health care, an eightfold increase since 2001. There are other facts and figures that Canadian officials make available, all showing that since 2001, when the Taliban was driven from power, life for most Afghans has improved.

Still, as we are shown to our rooms Tuesday night (after our convoy made a hasty detour down the wrong way on a one-way street to avoid being too close to a crowded street), we are told there are occasional mortar attacks on the base where we are staying. We are instructed to put on our flak jackets and helmets and head immediately to the bomb shelter if we hear an incoming round. Progress is being made, but security, the Taliban, and terrorism remain a very real part of the story.

– Ramsay is the Leader-Post's Deputy Editor (Nights).

# Pride, tinged with sadness; Canadians who are being honoured for their part in fighting Taliban insurgents one year ago today recall two lost comrades, as Tony Lofaro writes.

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**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** City

**PAGE:** C1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Department of National Defence / Darren Hermiston of Petawawa, right, who received a Mention in Dispatches yesterday for gallantry and devotion to duty in combat, said: 'Your training really kicks in and you just react. You don't hear the rounds going over your head or anything like that.' ;

**BYLINE:** Tony Lofaro

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 588

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A year ago, Lieut. Nicolas Forsyth and Sgt. Darren Hermiston were deep in enemy fire on a roadside in Afghanistan, fighting to stay alive, rescuing other wounded soldiers who were caught in the ambush.

After the Taliban launched an attack of small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and rockets, two fellow members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Sgt. Craig Gillam, 32, and Cpl. Robert Mitchell, 40, were killed in the ambush in the Panjwaii district of Afghanistan.

Five other soldiers were wounded that day as a reconnaissance squadron was attempting to build an eight-kilometre road in the area.

Lieut. (now Capt.) Forsyth was hit by shrapnel and suffered flash burns to his arms in the incident, but he still managed to crawl along the ground, call in for reinforcements and pull wounded soldiers out of danger.

Sgt. Hermiston, who was nearby when the attack occurred, was among the first to respond and he, too, quickly jumped from his vehicle and came to the aid of his fellow soldiers.

Today marks the first anniversary of the ambush by the Taliban and the memory of that tragic day still lingers for the soldiers.

"I never thought about the anniversary before, but because of the attention that is being paid to it, I'll probably take a walk down memory lane," said Capt. Forsyth, 25, a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, who grew up in Ottawa and is stationed at CFB Petawawa.

"I'm definitely taking it as a day to remember the fallen comrades.

"It's never easy to lose soldiers, but I'm thankful that I was able to react in the way that I did. And, hopefully, I did save some lives. I think about it and I do get sad, but I also feel pride in myself (for helping out)."

Capt. Forsyth and Sgt. Hermiston were among 27 soldiers in honours announced yesterday by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean.

One soldier, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard of Pembroke, was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross posthumously.

The Mentions in Dispatches is a national honour created to recognize members of the Canadian Forces on active service and other individuals for valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service.

Recipients are entitled to wear a bronze oak leaf on the appropriate campaign or service medal ribbon. The awards ceremony is scheduled for later this month at Rideau Hall.

Sgt. Hermiston said the hit by the Taliban on the squadron was a big one and, as it turned out, very deadly.

"It's like watching an old war movie, everything just went grey, there was smoke everywhere," said Sgt. Hermiston, 38, who is from Williams Lake, B.C. and stationed at CFB Petawawa.

He said that, when he arrived at the scene minutes later, some of the wounded were being treated for their injuries and were sheltered from the danger. Capt. Forsyth took command of the remaining officers and getting them prepared for a counter-attack while reinforcements came to help.

"The main concern is, when you see a site like that get hit, you want to get there quickly and help," said Sgt. Hermiston, who was about 200 metres from the attack. "You don't really think when all this is happening. Your training really kicks in and you just react. Everything is a reaction and you don't hear the rounds going over your head or anything like that," he said.

It was only hours later when he returned to camp that he said he began to reflect on what he had just gone through. The gunfire lasted for about 30 minutes, but it felt like the battle went on "forever," he said.

Other Mentions in Dispatches recipients include: Capt. Hugh Atwell of Ottawa, Master Warrant Officer Robert Montague of Ottawa, Major Gregory Penner of Ottawa; Master Cpl. James Evans of Petawawa, Sgt. Craig Gillam of Petawawa, who was honoured posthumously; Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman of Petawawa, Cpl. Michael Trubela of Petawawa, and Master Cpl. Christopher Fernandez-Ledon of Cornwall.

# For the jihadists, Pakistan is the prize

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**COLUMN:** David Warren  
**BYLINE:** David Warren  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 858

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As one of my heroes, Horatio Nelson, once put it, with characteristic succinctness: "Never break the neutrality of a port or place, but never consider as neutral any place from whence an attack is allowed to be made."

This is a point long lost on the "liberal" intellectual, who, even after he has admitted the need for war in some material form (such as the incursion into Afghanistan after the events of 9/11), turns his mind to limiting the action. Mere words will easily persuade him that the battle stops at some artificial line, corresponding to a national border. The notion of "hot pursuit" is held under suspicion, or rather, denied. Any power that has not explicitly declared war against us, even if he is harbouring our enemy, must be taken as "neutral" if he gives his word. (Or, in the case of Saddam's Iraq, or Syria, or Iran, even if he doesn't give it.)

And so, every day, our troops fight and die against something in Afghanistan misleadingly called the "Taliban," or "al-Qaeda" — the local face of international Islamism — while this enemy enjoys sanctuary across the Pakistan frontier, and is supplied not only from there but from Iran, and with weapons that often came all the way from China.

Nominally, Pakistan is not a neutral at all, but an ally. Looking at the government of ex-General Musharraf ("ex" as of yesterday, by a constitutional lark, just as Vladimir Putin will soon be the "ex" President of Russia, in a paper charade), we might wish for better allies, but it is the nature of warfare and of life that you take what you can get.

The "neutrals" in this case are the growing number of districts in Pakistan's North-West Frontier, and stretching across Baluchistan, where Pakistan's army has concluded some sort of armistice, formal or informal, after being routed in the field by the Islamists. This, at least, is clear enough from information leaching out of a part of the world that has never exported very crisp information.

It would also seem clear enough that our Canadian and allied forces in Afghanistan are circumscribed, by the political pressure back home, to avoid a wider war. They are thus left fighting a purely defensive action, on behalf of otherwise defenceless Afghan civilians, in which "taking the battle to the enemy" can only mean finding and destroying his encampments within Afghanistan itself.

Yet as we surely discovered in Vietnam, a purely defensive war cannot be won. Especially when the prize is not the one we are defending — the strategic equivalent of Quang Tri, or Khe Sanh — but rather, Saigon. The "Saigon" of my analogy is Pakistan itself, and we have been slow to realize that the conquest of Pakistan is the enemy's principal objective. Afghanistan is a sideshow, and the enemy's efforts there are like those of the Viet Cong in the remoter Vietnamese countryside — essentially, hit and run.

That Pakistan is the prize should be self-evident. It is a ready-made nuclear power. While the country lacks Iran's huge oil and gas reserves, it has not been under the rule of crazy ayatollahs for the last 28 years, and is thus in fairly serviceable order to be used in the larger Islamist enterprise.

North and South Waziristan, Bajour, and Swat, are the districts that have been ceded to the Islamists by known accords, and from where Pakistan's army has withdrawn in poor order; but the trend is much broader, and the degree to which that army has proved inept is legitimate cause for alarm. Worse, there are questions about many officers' loyalties.

Meanwhile, a huge Islamist propaganda offensive is being directed against the Musharraf government — that is portrayed, fairly plausibly, as an American puppet regime — and daily terror strikes throughout urban and lowland Pakistan are reinforcing the message that the Islamists are irresistible, and must necessarily prevail. The opposition to them within Pakistan is deeply divided against itself, with the parties of Pervez Musharraf, Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, and others, playing political games that no country can afford under mortal threat. (There are some indications that at least Musharraf and Bhutto are considering an alliance, for which we can only hope and pray.)

Far from winding down our presence in Afghanistan, there is an acute need for us to gear it up. For it must sooner or later fall on the West to do what Pakistan's army can't: annihilate the Islamists in their bases across the Pakistan frontier.

The only conceivable alternative is to leave this job finally to India, another nuclear power. And whether the Pakistanis themselves understand that these are their ultimate alternatives — that the Islamists must be routed by them, or by the West, or by India, in descending order of attraction — is moot. For none of us can ultimately afford a nuclear Pakistan in the hands of the international jihad.

David Warren's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday.

# Technology, socialization key to cutting civilian casualties: report

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**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 546

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The Canadian military must develop a better knowledge of the societies it is working in as well as adopt technology from the policing sector if it is going to reduce civilian casualties and win hearts and minds at home and abroad, suggests a Defence Department report.

The report points out that one of the key challenges facing the Canadian army on future battlefields is the difficulty in determining who is a civilian and who is an insurgent. "Perhaps the most significant vulnerability facing the CF/army is the ability to distinguish between the 'good guys' and the 'bad guys'," acknowledges the July 2006 study produced by the Defence Science Advisory Board. "This will be difficult to overcome, especially with the enemy indistinguishable from the general population."

The board is made up of civilian industry officials and scientists and advises the military on various technology matters. Their report, released to the Citizen under the Access to Information law, examines how insurgents might use low-technology techniques to challenge the army.

The killing of innocent civilians by coalition forces and insurgents in Afghanistan has been an ongoing controversial issue. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has warned that if such killings by NATO and U.S. forces continue, the coalition could lose the support of Afghans. NATO officials stress they try to avoid such casualties, but point out that insurgents do not hesitate to kill civilians.

The science advisory study warns that soldiers have to use a measured approach in counter-insurgency situations. If that isn't done, the army "may well lose the core battle for the 'hearts and minds' abroad and/or at home, especially if the predominant response is the traditional emphasis on firepower," it notes.

"The Land Force must stress detection rather than firepower in meeting low-tech counters especially relative to the 'hearts and minds' campaign," the study adds.

The science advisory report recommends the Canadian Forces put more emphasis on language skills, gathering intelligence and developing a knowledge of the societies it plans to operate in. It recommends the army "adapt a range of non-military knowledge and technology, especially from the policing sector." Such equipment, which makes use of non-lethal means of dealing with individuals, may be of more value than precise lethal weapons, it points out.

The advisory board recommends strict controls on access to local police and military uniforms, as well as Canadian Forces uniforms.



There have been several incidents where insurgents have worn Afghan police or army uniforms during attacks. In August, Taliban, wearing Afghan army uniforms, approached a NATO forward operating base in the country's Nuristan province and opened fire on troops. Two Afghan soldiers were killed and 11 NATO soldiers wounded.

More work also has to be done to deal with hidden explosive devices, in particular preventing the detonation of such booby-traps or using technology to set off those bombs before they injure troops.

The Canadian Forces has been putting more emphasis on improving its intelligence gathering and reducing incidents of civilian deaths in Afghanistan. Canadian soldiers have said they will often hold their fire if insurgents are moving or hiding among civilians.

The military is also pushing ahead with various ways to counter improvised explosive devices. The majority of the 71 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have died from such explosives or from suicide bomb attacks.

# Bernier urges high-level UN help; Says Afghans need Blair-like envoy

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**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 291

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UNITED NATIONS – Support was growing yesterday for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan, after Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Mr. Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hotspots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also — and above all — of the values Canadians hold dear," he said. "These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere."

The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent, with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops, and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Mr. Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states. "This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan."

Mr. Bernier said in an interview last week that Canada would like to see the appointment of someone of the stature of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has raised the profile of the quartet of powers (the UN, the U.S., the European Union and Russia) as their special envoy to the Middle East.

# Canadian troops kill boy, injure brother; Shooting of pair on motorcycle 'an accident,' military says

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**PAGE:** A7

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Canadian Pool / Ahmed 'Sorkai' Zia is transferred from an Afghan civilian ambulance to a Canadian military ambulance at the gates to the main Canadian base in Afghanistan so that he can be treated at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield. Sorkai's brother was killed. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 466

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield were working yesterday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head, at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops in a Canadian combat logistics patrol.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan yesterday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter who accompanied him and his uncle to the military hospital.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by the patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He may have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone, they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," another of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, said at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk. "That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals ...

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country."

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doo battle group in the Panjwahi and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokeswoman Capt. Josée Bilodeau.

She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police.

In a separate statement,

Canadian troops kill boy, injure brother; Shooting of pair on motorcycle 'an accident,' military says 70

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the shooting was the result of an equipment malfunction.

"It may or may not have been an equipment problem," said Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who is responsible for all supply convoys.

"We may know better when the combat logistics patrol returns, but it is still out on the road right now."

The soldier involved in the shooting was badly shaken and was taken off the convoy before it left Kandahar, the colonel said.

It was the first such incident involving Afghan civilians in several months. Because of the high threat posed by suicide bombers driving trucks, cars, motorcycles and bicycles packed with explosives, Canadian troops on convoys are authorized to use force if they think they might be under attack. Twelve of the 71 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan have perished in suicide attacks.

"We take all mitigating measures we can," Capt. Bilodeau said. "There are frequent public service announcements on radio and television, asking Afghans to keep their distance from our vehicles, and each Canadian vehicle prominently carries red and white signs that state the same thing."

Canada would "normally take care of the family" if its soldiers are found to have been at fault, Capt. Bilodeau said. The compensation is believed to be approximately \$10,000.

# Court rejects Canadian's Guantanamo appeal

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**EDITION:** Final  
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**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 197

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WASHINGTON – An appeals court refused yesterday to reverse its decision to send the case of the only Canadian detainee at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo back to a military tribunal.

Lawyers for Omar Khadr, a suspected al–Qaeda member who was 15 when he was captured in Afghanistan in 2002, had asked the Court of Military Commissions Review to reconsider its Sept. 24 ruling. But the panel refused to reverse its decision to send the case back to military judge Col. Peter Brownback, who had thrown out the charges against Mr. Khadr in June by ruling that he had no jurisdiction.

Col. Brownback will hold a new hearing Nov. 8 at the base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In June, Col. Brownback dismissed all charges against Mr. Khadr on the grounds that he had only been designated an "enemy combatant," and so failed to meet the standard required for trial by military commission.

The Court of Military Commissions Review said the judge erred in ruling that a military tribunal had to determine that Mr. Khadr was an "unlawful enemy combatant." It said Col. Brownback should have decided whether Mr. Khadr was an unlawful enemy combatant based on evidence the prosecution was prepared to present.

# The Canadian Press picture advisory for Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 190

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The Canadian Press picture advisory for Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007. Daily coverage is provided by a combination of The Canadian Press staff and member papers. Entries with an estimated photo transmission time are staffed by The Canadian Press or Associated Press photographers, all other events are requested coverage by member papers.

## EAST

HALIFAX \_ Voters in the provincial riding of Cole Harbour–Eastern Passage to cast ballots in byelection.

## QUEBEC

MONTREAL \_ Justice Minister Rob Nicholson makes an announcement related to identity theft (1630)

MONTREAL \_ Marc–Boris St–Maurice, founder of Compassion Club, which dispenses therapeutic marijuana, opens new larger facility with wheelchair access. (1300)

MONTREAL \_ Retired general Romeo Dallaire is scheduled to begin testimony at the war crimes trial of Desire Munyaneza. (moved, sketches expected 1400)

## CENTRAL

OTTAWA \_ Public hearings into the bombing of Air India Flight 182. (1300)

## ONTARIO ELECTION

UNDATED \_ Premier Dalton McGuinty: Visits St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. (1500)

UNDATED \_ Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory at Sun Valley Grocery Store. (moved)

UNDATED \_ Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton makes campaign announcement with NDP Timmins–James Bay candidate Gilles Bisson .

## WEST

CALGARY \_ Woodland Cree First Nation to announce legal action against Alberta government. (1830)

Coverage has been arranged on the following Canadian activities outside Canada:

NEW YORK \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxine Bernier gives speech about Afghanistan to United Nations General Assembly. (moved)

CP PICTURES, Toronto

# Soldiers killed in Afghanistan to receive posthumous honours

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 342

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OTTAWA \_ Two soldiers killed in Afghanistan are among 28 members of the Canadian Forces who have been honoured with bravery decorations.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard of Pembroke, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous Meritorious Service Cross, Government House announced Tuesday.

Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam of Petawawa, Ont., has been awarded a posthumous mention in dispatches.

Girouard, who was killed a year ago, was honoured for "outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage" during his four months in Afghanistan.

"Throughout his tour of duty, up to the moment he was killed in action on Nov. 27, 2006, he led from the front, sharing the dangers and hardships associated with combat operations," the citation said.

"He contributed greatly to the battle group's fighting spirit, which led to the defeat of the enemy during Operation Medusa."

Gillam was honoured for his bravery in defending his observation post when it came under attack in October 2006.

"Without regard to his own safety, Sgt. Gillam immediately moved to a position from which he could identify and indicate the enemy position to the remainder of his patrol. He valiantly stood his ground and maintained suppressing fire until he fell to the enemy's fire.

"Sgt. Gillam's courageous actions and personal sacrifice during a devastating enemy attack contributed to saving the lives of his fellow soldiers through the rapid identification of the enemy position."

The Meritorious Service Cross "recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces."

A mention in dispatches \_ marked by a small bronze oak leaf attached to a service medal \_ recognizes "valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service."

The other recipients of a mention in dispatches:

\_ Capt. Hugh Llewellyn Atwell, Edmonton and Ottawa.

\_ Sgt. Sean Eldon Benedict, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax.

\_ Cpl. Joshua Clyde Brophy, Petawawa, Ont. and Saint John, N.B.

- \_ Warrant Officer Dominic Andre Joseph Chenard, Petawawa, Ont., and Sudbury.
- \_ Warrant Officer Darcy Dean Cyr, Shilo, Man. and Oshawa, Ont.
- \_ Master Cpl James Evans, Petawawa, Ont.
- \_ Master Cpl. Christopher Fernandez–Ledon, Edmonton and Cornwall, Ont.
- \_ Lieut. Nicolas Forsyth, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa.
- \_ Cpl. Gregory Gilson, Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax.
- \_ Sgt. Darren Daniel Hermiston, Petawawa, Ont. and William's Lake, B.C.
- \_ Pte. Ryan Wilson Hunt, Petawawa, Ont., and Burlington, Ont.
- \_ Cpl. Michael William Kinsey, Petawawa, Ont. and Greenfield Park, Que.
- \_ Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman, Petawawa, Ont.
- \_ Cpl. Darren A. Lynch, Edmonton.
- \_ Master Warrant Officer Robert Joseph Montague, Petawawa, Ont., and Ottawa,
- \_ Capt. Lee James Mossop, Quebec City and Saskatoon.
- \_ Sgt. Christopher John Michael Murdy, London, Ont.
- \_ Pte. Matthew O'Meara, Petawawa, Ont., and Wallaceburg, Ont.
- \_ Maj. Gregory A. Penner, Ottawa.
- \_ Cpl. Adam Kenneth Pizio, Petawawa, Ont. and Chatham, N.B.
- \_ Master Cpl Max Robert Smith, Petawawa, Ont. and St. John's, N.L.
- \_ Master Cpl. William Tiernay, Belleville, Ont., and Toronto.
- \_ Cpl. Mark Todorovic, Toronto and Hamilton.
- \_ Sgt. Sergio Tomasi, Petawawa, Ont. and Thompson, Man.
- \_ Cpl. Michael Trubela, Petawawa, Ont.
- \_ Petty Officer (First Class) Paul Joseph Walsh, Shearwater, N.S. and New Glasgow, N.S.



# Afghanistan veteran in critical condition after falling off ladder

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE JUSTICE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 103

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FLESHERTON, Ont. \_ A 52-year-old Ontario reservist who served in Afghanistan earlier this year was in critical condition in hospital Tuesday after falling off a ladder at home.

Provincial police say Mike Cottenden of Flesherton, southeast of Owen Sound, was airlifted to hospital in Toronto after the accident Monday.

Police say Cottenden and some friends were pruning a tree on his property and had tied a large limb to a truck so the branch could be easily pulled away.

But the limb catapulted backwards, causing Cottenden to fall more than five metres from a ladder onto the steps of his house.

He is a member of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters who served as a gunner for several months in Afghanistan. (CFOS)

# CTV News reports government plans to replace chief of defence staff

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 122

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TORONTO \_ CTV News reports the Tory government plans to replace Gen. Rick Hillier as chief of defence staff when his three-year term expires in February.

Quoting Conservative insiders, CTV says the charismatic Hillier has irked the government by outshining his political masters and undermining former defence minister Gordon O'Connor.

When the armed forces held a private farewell ceremony for O'Connor in Ottawa on Tuesday, Hillier showed up late.

CTV's government sources said that was another example of the general's disrespect for his political bosses.

Some military observers say removing the popular commander would be risky, especially during the war in Afghanistan.

CTV says potential successors include Vice-Admiral Drew Robertson and Maj.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, although insiders say Lt.-Gen. Walter Natynczyk is likely to get the top job because the prime minister likes him.

(CTV)

# CTV National News, Tuesday, Oct. 2

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 478

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OTTAWA \_ Gen. Rick Hillier's term as chief of defence staff expires in February 2008 and CTV reports Tory sources saying that his appointment will not be renewed because of his independent approach to leadership; Hillier was late for a ceremony held for former defence minister Gordon O'Connor on Tuesday, a move critics call an example of his disrespect for his political masters;. PICKED UP.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ An 18-year-old Afghan citizen was killed Tuesday by Canadian soldiers; he and his 12-year-old brother were shot while riding their motorcycle; military officials say the troops may have fired shots because the motorcycle came too close to their vehicle; it's not clear whether warning shots were fired; the incident is under investigation; if found at fault, the soldier in question could face a court marshall. CVD.

WINDSOR-DETROIT BORDER \_ Hundreds of Mexican and Haitian refugees have been flooding Canada through Windsor, Ont., as the United States is cracking down on illegal immigrants; Windsor is not a typical entry point for immigrants, resulting in strained public services in the city; the mayor says the federal government should be stepping in, though it has yet to do anything. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD PREVIOUSLY.

UNDATED \_ Former prime minister Jean Chretien was advised to stay at his home in Ottawa due to an illness, forcing cancellation of a Vancouver speaking engagement. CVD.

MAE SOT, Thailand \_ A United Nations special envoy meets the military junta leader of Myanmar; Burmese refugees have been flooding into Thailand looking for safety; people say they're worried about the monks who have been detained for leading pro-democracy demonstrations; reports say they've been sent to concentration camps. CVD.

MONTREAL \_ Retired general Romeo Dallaire testified at Canada's first war crimes trial. CVD.

UNDATED \_ An inquest begins into the deaths of Princess Diana and her partner Dodi Fayed; Fayed's father has always said the royal family was behind a plot to stop the two from marrying. CVD.

TORONTO \_ The coach of the New York Knicks, Isiah Thomas, was found guilty of sexually harassing a former colleague; the owner of the team has been ordered to pay the woman US\$11.6 million; the former colleague says she refused many advances and eventually was wrongfully dismissed; the owner, Madison Square Garden, says it plans to appeal the case. CVD.

GATINEAU, Que. \_ A dentist in Gatineau, Que., has lost his licence to practise after failing a French test; doctors and dentists in the province must prove they're able to communicate in the language in order to practise; Dr. Mahmoud Raisi passed the oral test, but failed the written test three times. NOT MATCHING.

HAMILTON, Ont. \_ Canadian scientists say all people need to prevent signs of aging is exercise, creatine and CLA, a substance found in meat and dairy that appears to reduce body fat. FEATURE.

The Canadian Press – Toronto

# Afghan killed, child wounded when motorbike approached Canadian convoy

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 459

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar Tuesday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

“While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity,” said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

“Why did they do this?” the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. “Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us.”

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery.

“We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can,” Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers \_ Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

“This incident is deeply regrettable,” McCord said in statement.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

Large red signs on the front of all military vehicles warn drivers to keep away.

When a vehicle approaches too closely, Canadian troops sound a warning alarm, followed by warning shots if the vehicle continues to advance.

“There are a lot of mitigation measures we've put in place to avoid this sort of thing,” Bilodeau said.

The statement by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the patrol “experienced an equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system.”

However, Canadian military officials said it is too early to determine whether an equipment malfunction was involved.

Bilodeau said members of the Canadian military will meet with the victim's family.

In similar cases in the past, surviving family members have been compensated in accordance with Afghan custom.

Last week, Afghans protested against international troops, including Canada, blaming them for the deaths of a religious scholar and his brother during a raid on a suspected insurgent's home.

The Canadian military says it was not involved in killing the two.

In February, two civilians were shot by Canadian soldiers under circumstances similar to Tuesday's.

Two others were shot the previous year when local vehicles failed to heed warnings and approached Canadian convoys.

# Canada seeks greater global will to share burden of rebuilding Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 754

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WASHINGTON \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" Tuesday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts.

In the 10-minute speech delivered mostly in French to appeal to Quebec critics of Canada's role in Afghanistan, Bernier reminded them it's a UN-mandated mission and cast Canada's involvement there as a direct expression of Canadian values.

"Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear \_ values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law," he said.

"These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere," said Bernier, who also called on the UN to support the restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar \_ also known as Burma.

But the UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," said Bernier, who took over the foreign affairs portfolio in August.

"The challenge may be great, but the principles we're defending are greater still."

Promoting those values isn't enough, he said. "They must be protected and defended, particularly when they are under assault."

The speech was criticized as vague and one-dimensional by some, while others supported the idea of appointing a UN emissary for Afghanistan.

The special envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

Bernier talked about the idea in some 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

"We built a strong case," he said in an interview after his speech, but it's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond.

The idea has support from several countries including the United States, Norway, France and Spain.

Bernier also used the meetings to ask for more troops, equipment and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan.

The French government committed to putting more airplanes in the southern province of Kandahar and sending 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces, he said.

“Maybe in the near future, we’ll see other actions by other governments,” said Bernier, calling himself “realistic” about what Canada can expect.

“I think every country must share the risk.”

Canada, under intense public pressure to leave Afghanistan when its current mission ends in February 2009, wants countries like France, Germany, Spain and Italy to allow their soldiers into combat zones to fight Taliban militants.

Combat is currently shouldered by Canada, the United States, Britain, the Netherlands and Australia.

Two-thirds of Canadians have said their soldiers shouldn’t stay longer than the deadline. More than half have told pollsters they should get out even sooner. Quebecers are particularly opposed.

Paul Jackson, a political science professor at Concordia University, said Bernier’s speech was “incredibly vague” and didn’t include any measures for success in Afghanistan.

“Stability doesn’t mean anything unless we define it. He doesn’t define anything.”

Jackson also questioned Canada’s commitment to the values Bernier espoused, considering it hasn’t supported the UN declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples and has rejected the Kyoto protocol to fight global warming.

The speech was also attacked by New Democrats as a missed opportunity to make Canada a world leader in peacekeeping and multilateralism. “This government has but one foreign policy vision – a military campaign in Afghanistan,” the NDP says.

But Naresh Raghubeer, executive director of the Canadian Coalition for Democracies, said Bernier’s challenge to the UN’s 191 member countries was important. “We hope that this initiative to have an envoy brings much needed focus to the region,” he told CTV.

Without security there, said Bernier, there’s no way to ensure political stability.

“Where anarchy reigns, there can be no health services or education. Economic development is impossible when chaos is all around.”

Bernier said Canada is always striving to make a stronger contribution on the international scene. But when it comes to Afghanistan, the UN, NATO and World Bank all have to work together.

He called on the UN to extend the stabilization mission in Haiti, where Canada has played a prominent role.

In Sudan, he said, peacekeeping missions are forming a security framework for durable peace.

And he praised the UN Human Rights Council for holding a special session on Myanmar.

On Tuesday, the council condemned the Myanmar government’s crackdown on opposition protests, urged an immediate investigation into the beatings, killings, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances.

“In Burma, it is imperative to restore democracy and human rights. We expect the UN to be at the forefront of

these efforts," Bernier said.

Canada has long had problems with the global body's human rights arm, complaining that some of the worst abusers are members.

"I will look at the future," Bernier said following the speech. "I think in the future the council will be more effective. I don't want to condemn past works."

The minister didn't raise Afghan President Hamid Karzai's call for negotiations with the Taliban. Bernier said earlier this week: "We hope the negotiations will only be conducted with individuals and organizations that will respect human rights and renounce violence."



# Global National News, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
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OTTAWA \_ Global News says government has been considering taking the penny out of circulation. NOT MATCHING IMMEDIATELY.

OTTAWA \_ Bank of Canada has intervened in financial markets for the fourth time since last Thursday, buying \$855 million worth of securities to defend its target overnight interest rate. CVD.

YANGON, Myanmar \_ While the UN moves to condemn Myanmar's violent crackdown of pro-democracy demonstrators, it is feared widespread atrocities may be taking place away from international view. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD.

NEW YORK \_ Jury finds that former NBA basketball star \_ and former Toronto Raptors executive \_ Isiah Thomas sexually harassed a former team executive but doesn't have to pay any punitive damages; but the panel also found Madison Square Garden and its chairman must pay \$11.6 million in damages. CVD.

MONTREAL \_ Former Canadian general Romeo Dallaire is testifying at the trial of a former Toronto resident who is accused of genocide in Rwanda. CVD.

UNITED NATIONS \_ Canada's new foreign affairs minister urges UN General Assembly to bolster international commitment to Afghanistan. CVD.

KANDAHAR \_ Afghan civilian killed and a 12-year-old boy wounded when Canadian troops fired on a motorcyclist who was approaching their convoy. CVD.

BASRA, Iraq \_ British Prime Minister Gordon Brown uses a surprise visit to Iraq to announce plans to withdraw a thousand British troops from Iraq by year's end. CVD.

TORONTO \_ Toronto man charged in the stabbing death of a pregnant woman; the woman's child also died and a second victim, the suspect's mother, was also stabbed. CVD.

VANCOUVER \_ Vancouver's controversial safe drug injection site is being allowed to stay open for at least another six months. CVD.

LONDON \_ Inquest opens into the deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi al-Fayed. CVD.

WASHINGTON \_ Blackwater, the U.S. company that provides security in Iraq, facing tough questions in Congress following the deaths of 11 Iraqi civilians last month. CVD.

UNDATED \_ Study suggests women who bottle up their anger are four times more likely to die of a heart attack. CHECKING.

The Canadian Press – Toronto

# The Canadian Press News Agenda for Wednesday, Oct. 3

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
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**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 1492

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**EDITORS:** Following is a list of news events for Wednesday, Oct. 3, moved as of 7 p.m. ET:

x—denotes wire, y—denotes picture, z—denotes graphics coverage.

Copy from other events based on merit and availability. All times local unless otherwise noted.

Queries about these events and stories in The Canadian Press report should be directed to the departments listed below (all phone numbers 416 area code):

Main Desk (National News) 507–2150

World Desk 507–2165

Sports Desk 507–2154

Ontario Desk 507–2159

Photo Desk 507–2169

Specials Desk (Syndicated Copy) 507–2152

IT Desk (Technical Trouble) 507–2099 or 800–268–8149

## WORLD

NEW YORK \_ Thomson Corp. investor day. Webcast at [www.thomson.com](http://www.thomson.com) (8:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Club Manhattan)

NEW YORK \_ William Blair and Company Small–Cap Growth Stock conference; AEterna Zentaris presents at 10:40 a.m. and 180 Connect at 12:40 p.m.

NEW YORK \_ Fertilizer company Hanfeng Evergreen presents at CIBC's World Market 2nd Annual Industrials Conference. Webcast at [www.veracast.com](http://www.veracast.com)

SAN FRANCISCO \_ International Petroleum Association of America symposium. Calgary's Challenger Energy presents at 14:40. Webcast at [www.chaenergy.ca](http://www.chaenergy.ca)

## ATLANTIC

CARDIGAN, P.E.I. \_ International conference on aquatic invasive species. Through Oct. 4. (Pascal Poirier Park, 10 Weldon St.)

x-FREDERICTON \_ New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham participates in live online chat with the Globe and Mail. (1 p.m.)

MIRAMICHI, N.B. \_ Inquest into the death of Christopher (Max) Comeau, 22, who died Aug. 3, 2006. He died after being hit by a Miramichi Police cruiser at about 11:30 p.m. while walking home. Through Oct. 3. (Rodd Miramichi River Hotel)

HALIFAX \_ Investiture ceremony for 2007 recipients of Order of Nova Scotia. Event will be broadcast live on internet. (11 a.m. at Red Chamber, Province House)

x-HALIFAX \_ Canadian Offshore/Onshore Technologies Association annual meeting, including keynote speeches by Premier Rodney MacDonald and a presentation by EnCana Corp. on its proposed offshore gas development project. (World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle Street)

## QUEBEC

QUEBEC \_ Quebec cabinet weekly meeting. (11 a.m. at Legislature)

QUEBEC \_ CanWEA's 23rd annual wind energy conference and trade show. Go to [ww.canwea.ca](http://ww.canwea.ca) for more details. (Hilton Hotel, 1100 Rene Levesque East)

ST-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU, Que. \_ Parti Quebecois caucus meets. (9 a.m. at Hotel Gouverneur, 725 Blvd. Seminaire Nord)

x-BONAVENTURE, Que. \_ Hearings continue into how immigrants should fit into Quebec society. (7 p.m. at Centre Bonne Aventure, 105 Ave. Grand-Pre)

MONTREAL \_ Human resources professionals conference: "Aim High." Through Oct. 4. (8:45 a.m.)

x-MONTREAL \_ Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day and Michael Fortier, the minister responsible for the Montreal region, news conference along with Quebec officials to make an announcement on crime prevention. (9 a.m. at 465 St-Jean St., Suite 803)

xy-MONTREAL \_ Retired general Romeo Dallaire continues his testimony at the war crimes trial of Desire Munyaneza. (9:30 a.m. at Rm. 5.01, Palais de justice)

MONTREAL \_ Court appearance for Gaetan Bisonette, charged with the murder of a popular Quebec actress, Denise Morelle, on July 17, 1984. (Montreal Courthouse)

## OTTAWA

OTTAWA \_ Statistics Canada releases 2006 employment insurance coverage survey. (8:30 a.m. at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca))

xy-OTTAWA \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier meets Afghan Education Minister Mohammed Hanif Atmar. Photo-op before meeting. (8:45 a.m. at Lester B. Pearson Bldg, 125 Sussex Dr.)

xy-OTTAWA \_ Public hearings into the bombing of Air India Flight 182. (9:30 a.m. at Victoria Hall, Bytown Pavilion, 111 Sussex Drive x-OTTAWA \_ Consumers Council of Canada and the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance news conference on national and provincial inequities in energy efficiency for houses. (10 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA \_ Civil society organizations and MPs hold news conference on violence in Burma. (10:30 a.m. at Room 130–S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

x–OTTAWA \_ Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier speaks at luncheon at U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy defence and security exhibition. (12 p.m. at Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr.)

OTTAWA \_ Walrus Magazine hosts debate on globalization. Roger Martin, dean of the Rotman School of Management, and Michael Byers, author of "Intent for a Nation," participate. (12 p.m. at National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin St., Panorama Room)

OTTAWA \_ The Places in Between author Rory Stewart speaks on democratic development challenges in Afghanistan. (7 p.m. at National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr.)

OTTAWA \_ Aerospace Industries Association of Canada 46th annual meeting concludes.

## ONTARIO

TORONTO \_ Canadian Tire Corp. investor conference; to be webcast at <http://investor.relations.canadiantire.ca> (8:30 a.m.)

TORONTO \_ Circuit board producer Firan Technology Group reports third–quarter earnings. Call 416–695–9748. (8:30 a.m.)

TORONTO \_ Ontario Securities Commission holds hearing on Limelight Entertainment, Carlos da Silva, David Campbell, Jacob Moore and Joseph Daniels . (OSC, 20 Queen St. West)

TORONTO \_ Inquest into death of Mykhaylo Yakymovych, 33, who died May 17, 2004, from injuries sustained on a construction site at a private residence. Through Oct. 5. (393 University Ave., 19th floor)

x–TORONTO \_ Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton news conference to speak on "right to know" legislation to ensure residents know when they are exposed to toxins. (9 a.m. at Old Glidden paint factory, 351 Wallace Ave.)

x–TORONTO \_ Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform news conference to discuss lack of factual information and widespread disinformation on mixed–member proportional voting system. (10:45 a.m. at Ontario legislature, front steps)

TORONTO \_ Canadian Journalism Foundation hosts panel discussion on reporting medical errors, featuring Dr. Wendy Levinson from Sunnybrook hospital, Virginia Flintoft, nurse and former cancer patient, Cancer Care Ontario CEO Dr. Terry Sullivan and Globe and Mail health reporter Andre Picard. (6:30 p.m. at George Ignatieff Theatre, University of Toronto, 15 Devonshire Pl.)

TORONTO \_ Campaign for Public Education holds debate for candidates in Don Valley West riding. (7 p.m. at Thorncliffe Public School, 80 Thorncliffe Park Dr.)

TORONTO \_ Ontario election debate moderated by Murray Campbell of the Globe and Mail. Party leaders not in attendance. Liberals to be represented by Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield; NDP to be represented by environment and energy critic Peter Tabuns; Green party to be represented by deputy leader Victoria Serda; Progressive Conservative candidate TBA. (7 p.m. at Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W.)

TORONTO \_ Top leaders and scientists from the international coatings industry hosts ICE 2007: Clean–Lean–Green. Through Oct. 5. (Metro Toronto Convention Centre)

TORONTO \_ Premier Dalton McGuinty speaks on upcoming election to members of the Empire Club of Canada and the Canadian Club. (Royal York Hotel, Concert Hall)

TORONTO \_ Investment Funds Institute of Canada annual leadership conference concludes. (Metro Toronto Convention Centre)

TORONTO \_ COPIC Energy Fall conference concludes.

x-UNDATED \_ Itinerary for Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton: makes campaign stop with Oshawa NDP candidate Sid Ryan (9:30 a.m., home of Ron and Diane Donelle, 155 Alma St., Oshawa); speaks at rally with NDP candidates (6 p.m., University of Toronto Mississauga, Blind Duck Grill, Student's Centre, 3359 Mississauga Rd. N., Mississauga).

UNDATED \_ Itinerary for Ontario Green party Leader Frank de Jong: discusses local issues with Nepean-Carleton Green candidate Gordon Kubanek (10 a.m., Watson's Mill, 5525 Dickinson St., Manitoak); meets with Green candidate Mark MacKenzie to campaign in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (1:30 p.m., Algonquin College, 315 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke); talks about education and green jobs for northern Ontario (7 p.m., Evelyn's Urban Cafe, 101B Worthington St. W., North Bay).

WINDSOR, Ont. \_ Federal Industry Minister Jim Prentice attends Canadian Manufacturing Hall of Fame awards dinner. (7 p.m. at St. Clair Centre for the Arts, 201 Riverside Dr. W.)

THUNDER BAY, Ont. \_ Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union and United Steelworkers release results of public forums on forestry crisis in northern Ontario. (10 a.m. at Valhalla Inn, 1 Valhalla Inn Rd.)

## PRAIRIES

SASKATOON \_ Saskatoon cardiologist Dr. Carlos Huerto on trial for defrauding federal and provincial governments. Through Oct. 12.

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. \_ Fifteen-year-old charged with second-degree murder in the death of Dean Josie, 18, who was found dead in a park in Prince Albert, to appear in court.

EDMONTON \_ Dallas-based Affiliated Computer Services preliminary hearing into charges it offered bribes to Edmonton police officers to get its photo radar contract with the city renewed. Through Oct. 14.

EDMONTON \_ Sentencing hearing for a 19-year-old accused, who pleaded guilty in 2006 to charges of first-degree murder in the slaying of Nina Courtepatte, 13, on an Edmonton-area golf course. He was 17 at the time and the hearing is to determine whether he should be sentenced in adult or youth court. (9:30 a.m. at Youth Court)

EDMONTON \_ Voir dire arguments in the case of Thomas Svekla, charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of prostitutes Theresa Innes, 36, and Rachel Quinney, 19. Through Dec. 20. (Court of Queen's Bench)

EDMONTON \_ Tobacco or Health Conference gives health professionals an opportunity to exchange critical knowledge for effective local, provincial and national tobacco control activities. (Shaw Conference Centre)

RED DEER, Alta. \_ Environmental groups including the Sierra Club, the Manitoba EcoNetwork and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, hold public forums on water management. (6:30 p.m. at Kerry Wood Nature Centre)

CALGARY \_ Trial of Robert Deer, charged with first-degree murder for allegedly hiring another man to kill Calgary financier Jack Beauchamp over a failed business deal. Through Oct. 5. (Court of Queen's Bench)

LAKE LOUISE, Alta. \_ Indian and Northern Affairs workshop on northern contaminants. Speakers include aboriginal leaders and internationally recognized scientists. Through Oct. 4. (Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise)

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

x-NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. \_ Defence continues in trial of accused serial killer Robert William Pickton. (10 a.m. at New Westminster Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER \_ Mineral explorer and developer Frontier Pacific Mining conference call on global operations update. (8 a.m.)

VANCOUVER \_ Three day Asia Pacific Forum on Mining and Minerals. (8:30 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel )

VANCOUVER \_ Grant Fralic, Robert Juker, Ramoncito Veijon, James Mader stand trial for first-degree murder in death of Jody Elliott. Through Oct. 8. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER \_ Fortuna Silver Mines annual meeting. (1:30 p.m. at Pan Pacific Hotel, 999 Canada Place)

The Canadian Press – Toronto

# CBC National News, Tuesday, Oct. 2

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TORONTO \_ Statistics Canada reports there has been an increase in the number of Canadians getting the flu vaccine; between 1997 and 2005, the number of Canadians being vaccinated rose from 15 to 34 per cent; but some public health experts are wondering if flu vaccines are covering the right people. CVD.

OTTAWA \_ Liberal Leader Stephane Dion plans to make changes within the Liberal party because of party infighting; hand-picked party director, Jamie Carroll, wrote to the party executive to ask that it endorse him in his position following what he called a public attack against him; he also said he feels entitled to damages, suggesting 12 to 18 months of pay; sources say Carroll will likely be forced out of his position; Dion said Tuesday that the party has to stick together. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD.

UNDATED \_ Former prime minister Jean Chretien cancelled a speech in Vancouver on Tuesday after he was told not to travel because of an illness; there is no confirmation on how serious this illness is. CVD.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ An Afghan citizen was killed Tuesday morning by Canadian forces; troops normally fire at all vehicles that come too close; the military is not saying that's what happened as it may have just been an accident, but it's under investigation; the victim's brother was also shot and was taken to surgery. CVD.

WASHINGTON \_ Head of Blackwater security called to answer questions Tuesday as the FBI is investigates civilian deaths in Iraq; Blackwater CEO Eric Prince took no responsibility for these civilian deaths. CVD.

UNDATED \_ Israel confirms that it launched an attack on Syria in September; Israel says it hit an unused military building. CVD.

UNDATED \_ Myanmar's junta chief meets with a United Nations envoy. CVD.

TORONTO \_ More than three-quarters of Canadians own a computer; when it crashes, technical experts often suggest buying a new one or spending a lot of money to fix problems that aren't there; out of 10 companies the CBC tested, only three found the right problem. FEATURE.

UNDATED \_ Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day orders an investigation into an exclusive story the CBC broadcast Monday night; Day said he will take disciplinary action where warranted on border guards who claimed they drank alcohol during training, and who acted inappropriately. CVD.

VANCOUVER \_ A 24-year-old homeless Vancouver man, Lorne Lapoleon, sent in an anonymous tip that there was a terrorist attack in the works in Canada; he was tracked down and charged by the RCMP for the false tip, but failed to show up for his trial; now, police forces are using YouTube to try to find him. CHECKING.

UNDATED \_ South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun went to North Korea Tuesday, the first in his position to do that; it is the second time a South Korean president has met with the North Korean president in more than 50 years; there were no meetings scheduled on the first day of the three-day visit. CVD.

UNDATED \_ Inquest opens into Princess Diana's death; it is expected to last six months and will look into reports that she was pregnant at the time of her death. CVD.

CHEMAINUS, B.C. \_ Two more Canadian lumber mills announced they need to shut down indefinitely, due to the high Canadian dollar; the industry accounts for \$40 billion in exports, three-quarters of which go to the United States and are therefore vulnerable to the high Canadian dollar; one mill owner wants Ottawa to provide tax cuts so the industry can be maintained. CHECKING.

The Canadian Press – Toronto



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**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 233

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^Media Advisory: Afghanistan Education Minister Visits Canada from Oc@<

October 02, 2007

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Oct. 2, 2007) – His Excellency Haneef Atmar, Afghanistan's Education Minister, will be in Canada for an official visit from October 2nd to 6th.

The visit begins in Ottawa, followed by stops in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Banff where he will meet with members of the academic and Non-Governmental Organization communities, government officials, business leaders, media, and members of the public. Minister Atmar will take this opportunity to share with Canadians the positive steps being made to improve access to education in Afghanistan.

Minister Atmar will participate in the following public events during his trip:

Wednesday, October 3< Event: Visit to Nepean High School< Time: 10:30 a.m to 12:00 p.m.< Location: 574 Broadview Avenue, Ottawa< Thursday, October 4< Event: Speaking engagement at the Montreal Council < on Foreign Relations< Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.< Location: Duluth Room, Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, Montreal< Event: Photo-op and media availability following NGO < stakeholder roundtable< Time: 3:30 p.m.< Location: Regatta Room, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto<

/T/

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Embassy of Afghanistan

Manizha Wodud

Media Relations

613-563-4223

Mr. Tamim Amini: 613-878-4223 (cell)

contactafghanemb-canada.net

OR

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Media Relations Office

819-953-6534

infoacdi-cida.gc.ca

bc-CCN-ON-CAL

INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,  
Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,  
homeland etc), Government – State

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NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

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^UNICEF Canada: Media Advisory-Afghanistan's Minister of Education in@<

October 02, 2007

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Oct. 2, 2007) – Media are invited to attend a public forum with His Excellency Mohammed Haneef Atmar, Minister of Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Nigel Fisher, President & CEO, UNICEF Canada and former Deputy Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Hosted by UNICEF Canada, the event is entitled The Building Blocks of a Country's Future: A Forum on Education in Afghanistan. The forum will be moderated by Dr. Raymond Theberge, Director General, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

The purpose of this forum is to discuss the state of education in Afghanistan today, what progress has been made, what challenges are facing the educational system, and how a sustainable education system can be built in the country.

**WHEN:** October 4, 2007, 2:30 – 3:30pm< **WHERE:** Westin Harbour Castle, Regatta Room, 1 Harbour Square Toronto,<

Media will be given an opportunity for interviews following the public Question Period.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Mohammed Haneef Atmar, Minister of Education, Afghanistan

In May 2006 Mohammed Haneef Atmar was sworn in as the Minister of Education after being approved by an overwhelming majority of the National Assembly. As one of the very few who has served in successive cabinets under President Karzai, he is equipped with valuable institutional experience and memory to take on the challenge of making available one of the most basic rights denied to a generation of Afghans – education.

Nigel Fisher, President & CEO, UNICEF Canada

Nigel Fisher joined UNICEF Canada as President & CEO on November 1, 2005. Prior to his appointment at UNICEF Canada, Mr. Fisher had served, since early 2002, in the capacity of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, first as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction in Afghanistan and, most recently, as Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services. Earlier, Mr. Fisher worked with UNICEF for over 20 years in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as at UNICEF headquarters in New York.

Dr. Raymond Theberge, Director General, Council of Ministers of Education

Dr. Theberge has been Director General of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) since June 2005. Dr. Theberge comes to CMEC from the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth, Manitoba, where he was Assistant Deputy Minister of the Bureau de l'education francaise. He is also a former Dean of

Education at St. Boniface College and holds a doctorate in linguistics from McGill University.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Media RSVP to:

UNICEF Canada

Karen Snider, Media Relations

(416) 482-4444 ext 831

Email: [ksniderunicef.ca](mailto:ksniderunicef.ca)

INDUSTRY: Professional Services – Non Profits

SUBJECT: CAL

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

# Top news stories and photo for Tuesday, Oct. 2.

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
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The Canadian Press suggests the following stories and photo for front–page consideration:

Top photo:

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, KANDX101 (Horizontal) Ahmad Zia, 12, who was shot accidentally by Canadian troops, is transferred by Canadian medics for treatment at the military hospital at Kandahar airfield.

Top stories:

## LIBERAL SHAKE UP: NATIONAL DIRECTOR GETS SHUFFLED IN BID TO MEND PARTY DIVISIONS

OTTAWA \_ Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is preparing to shake up his office, his shadow cabinet and top party brass in a bid to shore up his shaky leadership and put an end to internal party warfare. The departure of Jamie Carroll as Dion's hand–picked national party director will be chief among the changes to be unveiled later this week. Carroll, who is also the Liberals' deputy campaign director, is expected to remain part of Dion's inner circle in some capacity. 790 words. By Joan Bryden. BC–Liberal–Shakeup, 2nd Writethru.

## CANADA TO CRACK DOWN ON IDENTITY THEFT

MONTREAL \_ The federal government is cracking down on identity theft and bringing in new and tougher legislation this fall, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson announced Tuesday. 450 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. See CP Photos RYR102–103. BC–Identity–Theft.

## CANADIAN GUNFIRE KILLS AFGHAN, INJURES CHILD IN 'ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING'

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ A Canadian combat logistics patrol was on a resupply mission when a motorcycle approached the convoy in downtown Kandahar. A weapon went off and the driver of the motorcycle was shot dead and the passenger, a boy, was injured. It is unclear whether the shooting was a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway. 600 words. By Dene Moore. See CP Photos KANDX101–102. BC–Afghan–Cda–Civilian–Death, 6th Writethru.

The buzz...

## JURY RULES KNICKS COACH SEXUALLY HARASSED FORMER TOP EXEC, AWARDS US\$11.6M

NEW YORK \_ A federal jury decided Madison Square Garden and its chairman must pay US\$11.6 million in damages to former New York Knicks executive Anucha Browne Sanders in her sexual harassment lawsuit. The jury also found Knicks coach Isiah Thomas subjected Browne Sanders to unwanted advances and a barrage of verbal insults, but that he did not have to pay punitive damages. 462 words. By Tom Hays. See AP Photos. BC–NBA–Thomas–Lawsuit, 6th Writethru.

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^Governor General Announces the Award of a Meritorious Service Decora@<

October 02, 2007

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Oct. 2, 2007) – Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, announces the award of one posthumous Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division), as well as 27 Mentions in Dispatches for gallantry and devotion to duty in combat.

The names and citations of the recipients follow. Information on the Meritorious Service Decorations is found in Annex A, and on the Mentions in Dispatches in Annex B.

Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division)< Chief Warrant Officer Robert Michel Joseph Pembroke, Ont.< Girouard, M.S.C., C.D. (posthumous)< Mentions in Dispatches< Captain Hugh Llewellyn Atwell Edmonton, Alta. and Ottawa, Ont.< Sergeant Sean Eldon Benedict, C.D. Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax, N.S.< Corporal Joshua Clyde Brophy Petawawa, Ont. and Saint John, N.B.< Warrant Officer Dominic Andre Joseph Petawawa and Sudbury, Ont.< Chenard, C.D.< Warrant Officer Darcy Dean Cyr Shilo, Man. and Oshawa, Ont.< Master Corporal James Evans Petawawa, Ont.< Master Corporal Christopher Edmonton, Alta. and Cornwall, Ont.< Fernandez-Ledon< Lieutenant Nicolas Forsyth Petawawa and Ottawa, Ont. < Sergeant Craig Paul Gillam, C.D. (posthumous) Petawawa, Ont.< Corporal Gregory Gilson Petawawa, Ont. and Halifax, N.S.< Sergeant Darren Daniel Hermiston, C.D. Petawawa, Ont.< and William's Lake, B.C.< Private Ryan Wilson Hunt Petawawa and Burlington, Ont.< Corporal Michael William Kinsey Petawawa, Ont.< and Greenfield Park, Que.< Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman, C.D. Petawawa, Ont.< Corporal Darren A. Lynch Edmonton, Alta.< Master Warrant Officer Robert Joseph Petawawa and Ottawa, Ont.< Montague, C.D.< Captain Lee James Mossop Quebec, Que. and Saskatoon, Sask.< Sergeant Christopher John Michael Murdy London, Ont. < Private Matthew O'Meara Petawawa and Wallaceburg, Ont.< Major Gregory A. Penner, C.D. Ottawa, Ont.< Corporal Adam Kenneth Pizio Petawawa, Ont. and Chatham, N.B.< Master Corporal Max Robert Smith Petawawa, Ont. and St. John's, N.L.< Master Corporal William Tiernay Belleville and Toronto, Ont.< Corporal Mark Todorovic Toronto and Hamilton, Ont.< Sergeant Sergio Tomasi Petawawa, Ont. and Thompson, Man.< Corporal Michael Trubela, C.D. Petawawa, Ont.< Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Joseph Walsh, C.D. Shearwater< and New Glasgow, N.S.<

Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division)

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Michel Joseph Girouard, M.S.C., C.D. (posthumous)

Pembroke, Ontario

Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division)

Chief Warrant Officer Girouard was deployed in August 2006 as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Joint Task Force Afghanistan. Throughout his tour of duty, up to the moment he was killed in action on November 27, 2006, he led from the front, sharing the dangers and hardships associated with combat operations. He contributed greatly to the Battle Group's fighting spirit, which led to the defeat of the enemy during Operation MEDUSA. Chief Warrant Officer

Girouard's outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage brought singular credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

Captain Hugh Llewellyn Atwell

Edmonton, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Captain Atwell was deployed to Afghanistan in command of 7 Platoon, 'C' Company of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 1st Battle Group. On March 27, 2006, Captain Atwell's platoon received multiple and significant casualties when Forward Operating Base Robinson came under sustained attack from a numerically superior enemy force. Despite the traumatic losses, Captain Atwell led his platoon throughout the intense and sustained attack and directly contributed to the coalition victory. A month later, on April 28, his platoon engaged and defeated an approaching enemy force, and prevented the ambush of a combat logistics patrol.

Sergeant Sean Eldon Benedict, C.D.

Petawawa, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia

Mention in Dispatches

On September 3, 2006, members of 7 Platoon, Charles Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, engaged in a violent firefight in the Pashmul area of Afghanistan. At a critical moment in the battle, an anti-tank weapon struck one of the lead vehicles, killing several soldiers and wounding others. Sergeant Benedict immediately left the security of his own vehicle, exposing himself to intense small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire, and ran to the other vehicle to provide support until the firefight was won. His actions and leadership under fire were an inspiration to his fellow soldiers.

Corporal Joshua Clyde Brophy

Petawawa, Ontario and Saint John, New Brunswick

Mention in Dispatches

On October 14, 2006, Corporal Brophy, a member of the Commander's tactical group, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, dismounted from his vehicle under intense enemy fire to assist in the extraction of his vehicle that had become stuck in an irrigation ditch while countering an intense enemy attack near Ma'sum Ghar, in Afghanistan. Under heavy enemy fire, which threatened him, the vehicle and its occupants, Corporal Brophy worked diligently to rig towing cables to extract the exposed vehicle. His selfless and courageous actions helped save the crew and the vehicle, and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

Warrant Officer Dominic Andre Joseph Chenard, C.D.

Petawawa and Sudbury, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

On November 24, 2006, while serving with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan,

Warrant Officer Chenard's skilful leadership contributed to saving the lives of Allied soldiers. He led his quick reaction force into a decisive firefight to assist American Special Forces engaged by an overwhelming enemy force. He positioned his platoon vehicles into effective fire positions, provided cover for the removal of casualties, and used his own vehicle to recover the disabled vehicles. Warrant Officer Chenard's decisive actions under fire contributed to saving the lives of numerous soldiers and directly resulted in the successful withdrawal of the Americans.

Warrant Officer Darcy Dean Cyr Shilo,

Manitoba and Oshawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Warrant Officer Cyr was deployed with A-Battery, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 1st Battle Group, during Operation ARCHER Rotation 1. On March 28, 2006, while serving as the forward air controller for the Quick Reaction Force at Forward Operating Base Robinson, he left the compound under enemy fire to assess the tactical situation. Having difficulty relaying the casualty evacuation request to headquarters, Warrant Officer Cyr ran back inside the compound at great personal risk. His success in transmitting the casualty removal request contributed to the safe evacuation of three seriously wounded soldiers. His courage and dedication to duty were exemplary and brought honour to Canada.

Master Corporal James Evans

Petawawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Master Corporal Evans was deployed with the Health Services Support Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan. On September 4, 2006, his company's position was mistakenly attacked by a coalition aircraft resulting in more than 30 casualties. Despite being seriously wounded himself, he continued to provide first aid to his fellow soldiers. When his own injury was assessed as severe, he selflessly let other casualties move ahead of himself for evacuation. Master Corporal Evans' professionalism, devotion to duty and altruism following the devastating events of that day are inspiring examples of the strength of the members of the Canadian Forces.

Master Corporal Christopher Fernandez-Ledon

Edmonton, Alberta and Cornwall, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Master Corporal Fernandez-Ledon was serving as second-in-command of 2 Section, 7 Platoon, C Company when it was deployed as the Divisional Quick Reaction Force to the Forward Operating Base Robinson, Afghanistan. On the evening of March 27, 2006, a large enemy force launched an intense attack on the base. His section manoeuvred into a tactical position to reinforce the base and was able to hold off repeated attacks. In addition, on April 28, he led his platoon to engage and successfully defeat an enemy force preparing an ambush, while escorting a re-supply convoy. Master Corporal Fernandez-Ledon showed great professionalism and leadership and has become a source of inspiration for his soldiers.

Lieutenant Nicolas Forsyth

Petawawa and Ottawa, Ontario



#### Mention in Dispatches

Lieutenant Forsyth was deployed with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan. On October 3, 2006, his observation post was attacked by small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and rockets, killing and wounding many soldiers. Lieutenant Forsyth, himself debilitated by shrapnel wounds and flash burns, crawled headlong into effective enemy fire to report the ambush and to request reinforcements. Maintaining command, he assisted with the treatment of casualties and ensured the perimeter security was maintained. Lieutenant Forsyth's leadership under fire helped save the lives of his fellow soldiers and repel the enemy attack.

Sergeant Craig Paul Gillam, C.D. (posthumous)

Petawawa, Ontario

#### Mention in Dispatches

On October 3, 2006, Sergeant Gillam's observation post in Pashmul, Afghanistan, was attacked by enemy fighters firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from an unidentified location. Without regard to his own safety, Sergeant Gillam immediately moved to a position from which he could identify and indicate the enemy position to the remainder of his patrol. He valiantly stood his ground and maintained suppressing fire until he fell to the enemy's fire. Sergeant Gillam's courageous actions and personal sacrifice during a devastating enemy attack contributed to saving the lives of his fellow soldiers through the rapid identification of the enemy position.

Corporal Gregory Gilson

Petawawa, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia

#### Mention in Dispatches

Corporal Gilson was deployed to Afghanistan with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group. On October 3, 2006, his observation post, located in the Pashmul region, was attacked with small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and rockets. In the face of this devastating attack, Corporal Gilson maintained his composure while calming the wounded. Ignoring his own injuries, he continued to provide radio situation reports and adopted a fire position to repel further attacks. Corporal Gilson's actions and composure under fire reflect the highest standards of professionalism in combat.

Sergeant Darren Daniel Hermiston, C.D.

Petawawa, Ontario and William's Lake, British Columbia

#### Mention in Dispatches

On October 3, 2006, Sergeant Hermiston, serving with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, was among the first to come to the assistance of an observation post which had been attacked and was still under effective and sustained enemy fire. Without concern for his own safety, he quickly dismounted from his vehicle to assist in the treatment and extraction of the wounded. Sergeant Hermiston's completely selfless act under fire, imbued by quick thinking, courage and dedication, contributed to saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers.

Private Ryan Wilson Hunt

Petawawa and Burlington, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Private Hunt of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, is recognized for his courageous and distinguished service in Afghanistan. On November 21, 2006, Private Hunt's dismounted foot patrol triggered a pressure–plate–improvised explosive device, injuring the section commander and another soldier. Private Hunt immediately organized the section into a defensive perimeter, began applying first aid to the casualties and requested assistance from higher command. Private Hunt's initiative, which far exceeded what was expected of him, directly contributed to saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Corporal Michael William Kinsey

Petawawa, Ontario and Greenfield Park, Quebec

Mention in Dispatches

On October 3, 2006, an observation post in the Pashmul region of Panjwayi, in Afghanistan, came under effective and sustained enemy fire. In close proximity to the attack, Corporal Kinsey, a member of the responding mobile repair team, Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, immediately launched his vehicle into the enemy's kill zone in order to provide protective cover for the wounded. While under fire, he assisted in the removal and care of the most critically injured soldiers. Corporal Kinsey's quick thinking, courage and dedication contributed to saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers.

Master Warrant Officer Steven Lehman, C.D.

Petawawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

On October 3, 2006, while serving with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, Master Warrant Officer Lehman responded with great elan to an attack on an observation post in Pashmul that left numerous dead and wounded. Arriving shortly after the initial attack, Master Warrant Officer Lehman, while exposed in the hatch of his vehicle, immediately engaged the enemy with his pintle–mounted machine gun and directed the repositioning of the accompanying vehicles to shelter the wounded. Master Warrant Officer Lehman's quick and decisive actions under fire helped repel the enemy and contributed to saving the lives of many soldiers.

Corporal Darren A. Lynch

Edmonton, Alberta

Mention in Dispatches

Corporal Lynch served with 7 Platoon, C Company, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 1st Battle Group, when it was deployed as the Divisional Quick Reaction Force to the Forward Operating Base Robinson, Afghanistan. On the evening of March 27, 2006, while under enemy fire and with no ground cover, his section manoeuvred into a tactical position to reinforce the North gate. Despite sustaining a bullet wound to his leg, Corporal Lynch continued to engage the enemy. After the enemy was successfully repelled, and

with total disregard for his own injuries, he assisted with casualty care and evacuation. Corporal Lynch's selflessness, courage and dedication to duty have garnered great respect for himself and for the Canadian Forces.

Master Warrant Officer Robert Joseph Montague, C.D.

Petawawa and Ottawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Master Warrant Officer Montague, a member of the Commander's tactical group, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, is recognized for outstanding and valiant actions carried out on October 14, 2006, during operations in Pashmul. While under enemy fire, he left his own vehicle to assist in the extraction of an immobilized light armoured vehicle that was exposed to enemy fire. His leadership and courageous actions secured the safety of the vehicle and its crew and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

Captain Lee James Mossop

Quebec, Quebec and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Mention in Dispatches

Captain Mossop was deployed as the mentor to the company commander of the 3rd Company, 2nd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA). On October 10, 2006, his company was assigned to secure Route Summit in the Pashmul region of Afghanistan. For the next two weeks, the company endured repeated insurgent attacks, during which Captain Mossop demonstrated outstanding leadership, composure and resilience under fire that inspired the ANA soldiers to successfully ward off all enemy action. Captain Mossop's leadership directly contributed to the professional development of the ANA Company, and to Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Christopher John Michael Murdy

London, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Sergeant Murdy was deployed with the Force Protection Platoon of the National Support Element in Afghanistan. On August 29, 2006, he led his patrol through three consecutive enemy engagements including an ambush by a suicide bomber in a vehicle armed with improvised explosive devices. Exhibiting exceptional judgement and tactical expertise in each of the events, he successfully led his troops to safety. Sergeant Murdy's steadfast composure and combat leadership inspired his soldiers to confidently carry out their mission.

Private Matthew O'Meara

Petewawa and Wallaceburg, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Private O'Meara was deployed to Afghanistan with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group. On October 3, 2006,

his observation post, located in the Pashmul region, was attacked with small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and rockets. Despite being seriously hurt and exposed to continuous enemy fire, Private O'Meara maintained his composure while calming the injured and providing first aid. After confirming the security of the wounded, he adopted a fire position to repel further attacks. Private O'Meara's actions reflect the highest standards of professionalism in combat.

Major Gregory A. Penner, C.D.

Ottawa, Ontario

Mention in Dispatches

Major Penner is mentioned in dispatches for his courageous and selfless actions while serving as a United Nations (UN) military observer in Sudan. In November 2006, serious firefights in Malakal left 200 civilians dead and another 500 injured. Throughout the crisis, Major Penner volunteered to lead dangerous patrols and medical evacuations, with complete disregard for his own safety. During several volatile situations, his negotiation skills and calm demeanour helped prevent further escalations in the conflict. Major Penner's leadership and courage under fire throughout the Malakal crisis were critical to the effectiveness of the crisis action team and to the sustained UN presence in the region.

Corporal Adam Kenneth Pizio

Petawawa, Ontario and Chatham, New Brunswick

Mention in Dispatches

Corporal Pizio of the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, is mentioned in dispatches for outstanding bravery and professionalism during combat operations in Afghanistan. On January 1, 2007, in response to a mine strike on another detachment, he rapidly led his section through dangerous terrain in complete darkness to secure the scene and enable timely medical intervention to save a wounded comrade's life. His selfless bravery in the face of danger and his skilful application of complex navigation knowledge under extreme pressure reflect the highest standards of professionalism.

Master Corporal Max Robert Smith

Petawawa, Ontario and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Mention in Dispatches

Master Corporal Smith fought with Charles Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, during Operation MEDUSA. On September 3, 2006, although he was under enemy fire, Master Corporal Smith dismounted from his disabled vehicle to direct its recovery and maintained his position until ordered to withdraw. At great personal risk to himself, Master Corporal Smith then helped the wounded back to the casualty collection point where he assisted in the treatment of the casualties, and the evacuation and processing of those killed in action. Master Corporal Smith demonstrated exceptional professionalism in combat.

Master Corporal William Tiernay

Belleville and Toronto, Ontario

#### Mention in Dispatches

Master Corporal Tiernay was deployed with 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan. While conducting a forward combat patrol on October 14, 2006, the battle group commander's tactical headquarters came under intense enemy fire, immobilizing their vehicle. Master Corporal Tiernay dismounted the vehicle to assist in securing the area. Unfortunately, attacks by the enemy claimed the lives of two soldiers. His courageous actions prevented further casualties and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

Corporal Mark Todorovic

Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario

#### Mention in Dispatches

On October 14, 2006, Corporal Todorovic, a member of the Commander's tactical group, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, dismounted from his own vehicle under enemy fire in order to assist in the extraction of his commanding officer's light armoured vehicle that had become stuck in an irrigation ditch during an intense enemy attack near Ma'sum Ghar, in Afghanistan. Without regard for his own safety, he worked diligently to rig towing cables to pull out the exposed vehicle. His selfless and courageous actions helped save both the crew and the vehicle, and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

Sergeant Sergio Tomasi

Petawawa, Ontario and Thompson, Manitoba

#### Mention in Dispatches

Sergeant Tomasi demonstrated outstanding tactical prowess on September 9, 2006, when his Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, was targeted by enemy sniper fire while conducting a night patrol during Operation MEDUSA. Remaining calm and focused, he immediately established a section security perimeter, located the enemy, and successfully directed retaliatory fire from supporting light armoured vehicles and attack helicopters. His confidence and composure inspired his soldiers to continue their mission without fear or hesitation. Sergeant Tomasi's reaction to this perilous situation illustrates his professionalism, leadership and strategic acumen.

Corporal Michael Trubela, C.D.

Petawawa, Ontario

#### Mention in Dispatches

Corporal Trubela was deployed to Afghanistan with the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group. On October 3, 2006, his Pashmul region observation post was attacked with small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and rockets. Despite being wounded and exposed to continuous enemy fire, Corporal Trubela maintained his composure throughout the devastating attack. His leadership reassured the junior members of the patrol and calmed the wounded. Assisting the troop leader, he provided first aid to the critically injured and helped direct security of the scene to repel further attacks. Corporal Trubela's composure under fire reflects the highest standards of professionalism in combat.

Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Joseph Walsh, C.D.

Shearwater and New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

#### Mention in Dispatches

Petty Officer First Class Walsh is recognized for his courage and dedication to duty while deployed as 23 Field Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal chief within the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan. During Operation MEDUSA, in September 2006, he risked his life to assist combat engineers in clearing a section of Route Vancouver in the Pashmul region. He personally identified five improvised explosive devices and a 450 kg unexploded bomb within a 150-metre stretch of road, and systematically disposed of them. Petty Officer First Class Walsh's professionalism and commitment to his mission potentially saved the lives of many fellow soldiers.

#### ANNEX A—MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS

The Meritorious Service decorations include a military division and a civil division, with two levels each: a medal and a cross. The military division recognizes individuals for their outstanding professionalism and for bringing honour to the Canadian Forces and to Canada. The civil division recognizes individuals who have performed an exceptional deed or an activity that brought honour to their community or to Canada.

The Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division) recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces.

The Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner, according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces.

These decorations are an important part of the Canadian Honours System, which recognizes excellence. Meritorious Service Decorations honour either a single achievement or an activity over a specified period. The Meritorious Service decorations are open to both Canadians and non-Canadians.

Anyone may nominate an individual for the civil division of the Meritorious Service decorations, while military candidates are recommended by the Chief of the Defence Staff. Nominations and awards may be made posthumously, but nominations for activities that occurred prior to June 1984, the year in which the honour was first created, are not accepted.

#### ANNEX B—MENTIONS IN DISPATCHES

The Mention in Dispatches is a national honour that was created to recognize members of the Canadian Forces on active service and other individuals working with or in conjunction with the Canadian Forces for valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service. Recipients are entitled to wear a bronze oak leaf on the appropriate campaign or service medal ribbon.

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INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,  
Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,  
homeland etc), Government – State

SUBJECT: CNT

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

# Afghan violence spikes to record levels; unofficial death count passes 5,000

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 670

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KABUL, Afghanistan \_ Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, with an Associated Press count of insurgency-related deaths this year surpassing the 5,000 mark and a UN report finding that attacks have risen by 30 per cent.

A suicide attack Tuesday on a police bus in western Kabul killed 13 officers and civilians, including a woman and her two children who boarded the vehicle seconds before the explosion, the health minister said.

It was the second bomb to rip the roof off a bus in the Afghan capital in four days, as insurgents turned up attacks against Afghanistan's security forces during a year of record violence.

A new UN report found that while 76 per cent of all suicide bombings in the country have targeted international and Afghan security forces, 143 civilians were killed by those bombs through August. The report, released in New York last week, also found that Afghanistan has averaged 550 violent incidents per month this year, up from 425 last year.

An AP count of insurgency-related deaths, meanwhile, reached 5,086: the most deaths in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion to topple the Taliban. The AP counted some 4,000 deaths in 2006, based on reports from western and Afghan officials.

The AP tally counts more than 3,500 militants among the dead, but also more than 650 civilians killed either by militant violence or U.S. or NATO attacks. Almost 180 international soldiers have died in Afghanistan this year, including 85 Americans, a record pace. Last year about 90 U.S. soldiers died in Afghanistan.

Insurgents have also launched a record number of suicide attacks \_ more than 100 \_ and two bus bombings in Kabul since Saturday killed 43 people between them.

Four children were among the 13 killed Tuesday by a man wearing a pakul \_ an Afghan hat commonly worn in the country's north \_ and a shawl around the upper half of his body called a chador, said witness Amin Gul, who owns a metalworking shop next to the blast site.

``When the bus came, an old man got on, then a woman with two children, then the guy wearing the chador entered, and then a big boom," said Gul.

The seats in the front of the bus were covered in blood and small body parts, and workers washed blood from nearby trees after the attack. Ten people were wounded in the bombing, Health Minister Mohammad Amin Fatemi said.

Ahmad Saqi, a 20-year-old mechanic, said he helped put seven people in vehicles to take them to the hospital, and that several of the wounded had no legs.

``One woman was holding a baby in her arms, and they were both killed," Saqi said. ``Half of the woman's face was blown off."



The blast killed eight police officers, the mother, her two children and two other unaccompanied children who had been heading to a special school for handicapped students, Fatemi said. The children ranged in age from two to eight years.

“The woman's husband is working at the Health Ministry. How do we tell the father his wife and two kids are dead?” said Fatemi. “This attack goes against all of Islam. There is no reason to blow up Muslims, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. My message to these people: Please stop killing Muslims.”

Tuesday's explosion is the third attack in four months against police or army buses in Kabul.

On Saturday a suicide bomber wearing an army uniform blew himself up in an army bus, killing 30 people. In June a bomb ripped through a bus carrying police instructors in Kabul, killing 35 people, the deadliest insurgent attack since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

A U.S.-led coalition soldier was killed by gunfire Tuesday morning while conducting combat operations in the northeastern province of Kunar. Three other soldiers were wounded, the coalition said in a statement. The nationalities of the soldiers weren't provided, but most soldiers in eastern Afghanistan are American.

Militants in Kunar attacked a border security post, killing three police, said Zargun Shah Khaliqyar, the provincial governor's spokesman. It was not clear if the two incidents in Kunar were related.

The Afghan Defence Ministry, meanwhile, said Afghan and coalition soldiers battled insurgents in Uruzgan province on Sunday, killing 26 of the militants. There was no way to independently verify the claim.

# Afghan-Cda-Civilian-Death-Update (more on victims)

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 107

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- There is conflicting information emerging about what is being called the accidental shooting of two Afghan males by Canadian troops in Kandahar.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured.

The family said the victims were two brothers, one aged 18 or 19, and the other aged 12.

The two were on a motorcycle that approached a Canadian combat logistics patrol on a resupply mission to Canada's forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar.

The driver of the motorcycle was shot and the younger passenger injured.

It is unclear whether the shooting was a result of an equipment malfunction or human error.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

At the request of the family, the injured boy was transferred to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, for surgery.

The military says there will be an investigation.

(The Canadian Press)

# UN–Bernier–Update (adds details of speech)

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 120

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NEW YORK — Canada's foreign minister wants to see new, high-level U–N special envoy in Afghanistan.

In a speech today at the U–N headquarters in New York, Maxime Bernier says the U–N's role in Afghanistan is the world body's most important special, political mission.

He also said Canada continues to support the leadership role of the U–N in the war-torn country.

Bernier's speech at the headquarters was his first since being named foreign affairs minister in August.

Bernier said the special envoy's mandate and responsibilities are expected to be modelled after the role of Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

The proposed special envoy for Afghanistan is supposed to focus world attention on efforts to create security and development.

Bernier also spoke up against the violent crackdown on protesters in Myanmar and other issues around the world.

(The Canadian Press)

# INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 125

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UNITED NATIONS – Maxime Bernier has delivered Canada's speech at UN headquarters in New York for the first time as foreign affairs minister.

He has told the General Assembly that Canada conducts itself in the world according its values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

He says Canada supports the appointment of a high-level UN special envoy to focus world attention on international efforts to bring security and development to war-torn Afghanistan.

And he spoke up against the violent crackdown on protesters in Myanmar.

Bernier became foreign minister in a cabinet shuffle in August.

The annual speech to the General Assembly is often delivered by a country's prime minister. But Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in New York last week to address a special UN panel on climate change, leaving it up to Bernier to speak to the General Assembly today.

(The Canadian Press)

# Bravery–Awards

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 129

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OTTAWA — Two soldiers killed in Afghanistan are among 28 members of the Canadian Forces who have been honoured with bravery decorations.

Government House in Ottawa announced today that Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard of Pembroke, Ontario, has been awarded a posthumous Meritorious Service Cross.

Girouard, who was killed in November 2006, was honoured for "outstanding leadership, professionalism and courage" during his four months in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Craig Paul Gillam of Petawawa, Ontario, has been awarded a posthumous mention in dispatches.

Gillam was honoured for his bravery in defending his observation post when it came under attack in October 2006.

The Meritorious Service Cross recognizes a military deed or activity that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces.

A mention in dispatches \_ marked by a small bronze oak leaf attached to a service medal \_ recognizes valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service.

(The Canadian Press)

# BC–Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 103

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U–S–led invasion.

An Associated Press count of insurgency–related deaths has surpassed the five–thousand mark this year.

And a U–N report finds that attacks have risen by 20 per cent.

The A–P tally counts more than 35–hundred militants among the dead, but also more than 650 civilians killed either by militant violence or U–S or NATO attacks.

Almost 180 international soldiers have died in Afghanistan this year, including 85 Americans, a record pace, and 27 Canadians.

The U–N report, released last week, also found that Afghanistan has averaged 550 violent incidents per month this year, up from 425 last year.

Among today's violence — a suicide attack on a police bus in western Kabul killed 13 officers and civilians.

(The Associated Press)

# UN–Bernier–Update (more comments)

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 123

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NEW YORK — Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global help today in rebuilding Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that ``no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the U–N General Assembly in New York, Bernier says the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable.

But he says a new high–profile envoy for the NATO effort should be able to attract more help and better co–ordinate efforts.

The envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who's been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister.

In his 10–minute speech, Bernier also praised the U–N Human Rights Council for holding a special session on Myanmar.

He says it's imperative to restore democracy and human rights — and the U–N must be at the forefront of these efforts.

In Sudan, he says, peacekeeping missions are forming a security framework for durable peace.

(The Canadian Press)

# Afghan–Soldier–Funeral

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 70

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CALGARY -- A military funeral will be held Thursday afternoon in Calgary for Corporal Nathan Hornburg.

The 24–year–old reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment was killed last week in Afghanistan -- the 71st Canadian soldier to die in that country since our mission there began in 2002.

Hornburg was trying to put a track back on a tank when he came under mortar fire.

The non–denominational service will take place at the Roundup Centre and will be open to the public.

(The Canadian Press)



# TOR OUT YYY

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 275

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An Afghan man is dead and a child has been injured after an accidental shooting by Canadian troops in Kandahar city.

A Canadian combat logistics patrol was rolling through the city early today on a resupply mission, when a motorcycle approached.

Military officials say the driver was shot and his eight-year-old passenger was hurt.

But it's unclear whether it was an equipment malfunction, or human error.

Officials say the incident did not involve any enemy activity.

Soldiers immediately offered medical assistance and the victims were taken to hospital, where the 35-year-old man was pronounced dead.

An investigation is under way. (2)

(Afghan-Cda-Soldier-Funeral)

A military funeral will be held Thursday in Calgary for the 71st Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Twenty-four-year-old reservist Corporal Nathan Hornburg was killed last week west of Kandahar city.

He came under mortar fire while trying to put a track back on a tank. (2)

(Tainted-Blood-Verdict) (Audio: 03)

An Ontario Superior court judge has acquitted four doctors, including the former national medical director of the Canadian Red Cross, of criminal negligence in the tainted blood scandal.

A second trial for Dr. Roger Perrault is set to begin later this year in Hamilton.

He'll face several more criminal charges stemming from allegations that the Red Cross and senior officials failed to take adequate measures to screen donors.

Activists and the families of some of the tainted-blood victims say they're angry and baffled over the acquittals.

They say justice clearly hasn't been done. (2)

(NS-Dead-Couple)

Police still aren't commenting on reports that two people found dead in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia may be victims of a murder–suicide.

The bodies were found in a house last night.

Their names have not been released. (2)

(Koreas–Summit)

The leaders of North and South Korea are meeting for what's only the second summit between the two countries since the nation was divided after the Second World War.

It's a three–day summit in North Korea's capital.

Kim Jong Il (kim jawng eel) greeted South Korea's president today in Pyongyang (pyuhng–yahng) before thousands of cheering residents.

Roh Moo–hyun (noh moo–HYUHN') says he wants to ``hasten the slow march" to reconciliation. (2)

(BIZ–Apple Suit)

A New York woman is suing Apple computers.

She claims the company violated price discrimination laws when it lopped 200 dollars off the price of the iPhone within two months of the gadget's June debut.

The Queens woman is seeking one–(m) million dollars in damages. (2)

(NewsWatch by Karen Rebot)

# INDEX:International, Defence

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**DATE:** 2007.10.02  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 104

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – An Afghan man is dead and a child injured after an accidental shooting by Canadian troops in Kandahar city.

A Canadian combat logistics patrol on a resupply mission was rolling through the city at approximately 6:45 a.m. when a motorcycle approached.

Military officials say the driver was shot and the passenger injured but it's unclear whether it was an equipment malfunction or an accidental shooting. Officials say the incident did not involve any enemy activity.

Soldiers immediately offered medical assistance and the victims were taken to the local hospital.

A 35-year-old man was pronounced dead at hospital and an eight-year-old child was injured.

Military spokesman Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord says there will be an investigation into the incident.

(The Canadian Press)

# Forces probe 'regrettable' death; Civilian motorcyclist shot dead; young passenger undergoes surgery in Kandahar

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030077  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA01  
**BYLINE:** Bruce Campion-Smith  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 490

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The boy was pulled from the ambulance, wide-eyed and staring at the drama around him.

Hopeful signs for someone who had been shot in the head by a Canadian soldier.

The incident happened yesterday morning just west of downtown Kandahar as the motorcycle approached a Canadian logistics patrol travelling to a forward operating base.

A Canadian soldier fired at least one shot that killed the driver and wounded the boy.

Military officials described the shooting as "accidental." But it's not clear whether a weapon malfunctioned or human error is to blame.

"While the exact cause of the accident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," Canadian Forces spokesperson Josee Bilodeau said.

She said military police have launched an investigation.

A statement from the International Security Assistance Force (the NATO force in Afghanistan) said the patrol experienced an "equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge" from a weapon system.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, a spokesperson for Regional Command South, said in a statement. "ISAF will thoroughly investigate the circumstances."

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said he didn't think the shooting would hurt support in Canada for the mission.

"Canadians know why we are there, and it's a risky mission," he said in an interview from New York where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

"But we can be proud of our mission, and we're there to rebuild this country because the elected Afghan government asked us to be there with the international community."

The boy was initially taken to the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar city. But after an appeal by his family, he was taken by ambulance to the international military base at the Kandahar Airfield – and the sophisticated medical facility.

He underwent emergency surgery yesterday afternoon.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There were differing accounts of the ages of those involved. ISAF said a 35– year–old man was shot and an 8–year–old boy wounded. The family said the victims were two brothers – Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmed Zia, 12. The convoy was on a resupply mission to the base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed before his transfer. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

The incident comes at a time when feelings are running high about civilian casualties. Just last week, some 500 residents blocked a main route in Kandahar to protest the killing of a local religious leader and his brother by foreign troops.

Canadians denied any responsibility for the killings but admit their image suffered a blow when the protesters, some of them chanting, "death to Canada" and "death to foreigners" took to the streets.

The issue of civilian deaths – through shootings and bombings by coalition forces – has sparked anger, even from Afghan President Hamid Karzai who has urged ISAF to show restraint or risk losing the support of the population.

The Canadians have taken measures to educate the local population.

Afghan drivers are warned to steer well clear of the military convoys that speed through town. Large red signs displayed on the front of Canadian armoured vehicles tell drivers to pull over and stop when a convoy approaches.

In February, two civilians were shot dead by Canadian soldiers under similar circumstances.

With files from Les Whittington

and The Canadian Press

# Canada urges UN envoy for Afghanistan; In speech to General Assembly, Bernier envisions a diplomatic role similar to Blair's in Middle East

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030071  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA02  
**BYLINE:** Les Whittington  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 481

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Fresh from an attempt to rally United Nations support for the Afghanistan mission, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier is holding out the possibility that Canada's military activities in the country could continue beyond Ottawa's current commitment.

Even though all three opposition parties are against any move to prolong Canada's military operations in the high-risk southern region of Afghanistan, Bernier said it's too early to tell if the mission will expire as planned in early 2009.

"I don't know what will be the future of our mission because I don't know what will be the decision of Parliament on that. We'll see," Bernier said in an interview after urging the UN to create a special envoy for Afghanistan.

Addressing the General Assembly in New York for the first time, Bernier said an envoy with international stature is needed to raise awareness of the UN-mandated Afghanistan mission and co-ordinate security and development efforts by 60 countries active there.

In his speech, he quoted Prime Minister Stephen Harper's statement that the UN's role in Afghanistan is its "most important special political mission."

"The Canadian government, my government, continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier said. "This is why Canada supports having a new, high-level UN special envoy in Afghanistan."

The envoy's role would be similar to that undertaken by former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has taken a lead role in efforts to promote peace in the Middle East since leaving office this past summer. But it is not clear if UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will support Canada's suggestion for Afghanistan.

And he urged the international community to redouble attempts to bring an immediate end to "the daily litany of horrific violations of human rights in Darfur."

International efforts to halt years of killing in the Darfur region of Sudan have been thrown into doubt by a bloody rebel assault on peacekeeping troops there.

Canada urges UN envoy for Afghanistan; In speech to General Assembly, Bernier envisions a diplomatic role

"Yes, it's a big challenge and it's always a big challenge," Bernier said, speaking of Darfur, where an estimated 200,000 people have died.

Despite the assault on peacekeepers in Darfur over the weekend, he expressed hope that a planned joint peacekeeping force involving African Union and UN personnel could still bring about an early solution to the four-year-old conflict.

Bernier, who took over the foreign affairs portfolio in August, signalled that Canada's role in Afghanistan will continue to be a flashpoint when Parliament reconvenes later this month.

As a precondition for keeping the minority Conservative government in power, the Liberals, New Democrats and Bloc Quebecois are all demanding that Harper provide a clear indication in the throne speech Oct. 16 that Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan will end in early 2009.

But Bernier suggested yesterday that the government might only be willing to repeat its commitment to seek a consensus in Parliament on the future of the mission.

"We have a commitment as a country to be in Afghanistan until February 2009, " he said. "And the Prime Minister was very clear: he said that we need a consensus, we need a decision from Parliament on the future of the mission."

# Sultanali Sadat of Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030111  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Raise A Reader  
**PAGE:** L2  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Peter Wilson, The StarPhoenix / Mr. and Mrs.Sultanali Sadat and their children (from left) Anjilla, Rohina and Syed Amin ;  
**SOURCE:** The StarPhoenix  
**NOTE:** Interview with Sultanali Sadat  
**WORD COUNT:** 482

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1. How long have you been in Canada/Saskatoon? About seven years.
2. Where is your homeland? Afghanistan.
3. Why did you come to Canada? In 1998 under the Taliban regime we left Afghanistan in a very harsh way. It is really hard to explain, but by walking in the mountains for a very long time for about two months we eventually made our way to get out of the country and we got to Pakistan on Nov. 10, 1998. From there we were supported by Focus Humanitarian Assistant for a few months until I found a job. After two years there was another help from AKDN or Focus, I am not really sure which one, and they brought an application from the Canadian Embassy. They also helped us get ready for an interview and we were accepted to come to Canada. Because we did not have legal status in Pakistan for those two years, it was really hard to live or work.
4. What are things you like about your new life in Saskatoon? Peace, not worrying about our safety, and being able to work freely and happily. And it is great for the kids and their future.
5. What are things you don't like about your new life in Saskatoon? Being away from family members, parents, siblings, in such a way that we never thought of.
6. What are you doing in Saskatoon? Studying? Working? Working full-time and studying part-time.
7. How difficult has it been to adjust to a new culture? It is really difficult. It is hard to explain, but those people who have gone through it can feel it. It is very hard to adjust to a new culture, norms, values and, biggest of all, learning a new language in this age.
8. How difficult is/was it learning to read? Why? I had no difficulties to read or write, because I learned English when I was in Afghanistan. I taught English for some age groups when I was in Pakistan for Afghan refugees, but it is really hard for those who are illiterate in their first language and trying to learn and read English as a second, I can only imagine.
9. What types of things do you like to read? Favourite books? Authors? I read lots of books in Farsi, Dari and some Urdu. Most of those books are from Rumi, Khyam and from Naseer Khysrow Balkhi. Most of his books are about mystics and about the meaning of life and religion and health and the way of living. When I read English books, I read more about politics and religion, not specific authors.



10. What are the benefits of reading? To get to know what you don't know, learning about others around you and around the world.

11. How important to immigrants are reading programs such as the one the Open Door Society provides? It is really, really important. Every step you take you need to read something -- from buying groceries to finding an address and everything around it.

# Al-Qaida 're-emerging' in Pakistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030103  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D8  
**COLUMN:** World in Brief  
**DATELINE:** BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 135

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BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFP) — The U.S. military said Tuesday it expected al-Qaida to continue its "re-emergence" in sanctuaries in Pakistan's tribal areas from where it supported attacks in Afghanistan.

Sanctuary was provided to al-Qaida and Taliban rebels after Islamabad signed a peace deal with militants in an attempt to quell the unrest in its federally administered tribal areas in September 2006, a U.S. military official said.

The militants called off the deal in July this year after Pakistani security forces raided a radical mosque in Islamabad where rebels had massed. Dozens were killed in those raids.

"This area remains a support and sanctuary area for the insurgency (in Afghanistan) as results of those peace accords," U.S. Major Tim Williams.

He said Islamic rebels were likely to maintain their presence in those areas despite apparent efforts by Pakistani army to root them out.

# Afghan brothers killed, wounded by Canadians

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030101  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** C14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Eldaoud;  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 424

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield were working Tuesday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan on Tuesday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter who accompanied the boy and his uncle to the military hospital.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He may have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," another of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk. "That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals . . .

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country."

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doo battle group in the Panjwaii and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokesperson Capt. Josee Bilodeau. She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police.

In a separate statement, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the shooting was the result of an equipment malfunction.

"It may or may not have been an equipment problem," said Canadian Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who is responsible for all supply convoys. "We may know better when the combat logistics patrol returns, but it is still out on the road right now."

The soldier involved in the shooting was badly shaken and was taken off the convoy before it left Kandahar, Eldaoud said.

After the incident, patrol troops established a security cordon and administered emergency first aid. Afghan national police took the two boys to Kandahar City Hospital before Sorkai was transferred a few hours later to the multinational hospital.

Canada would "normally take care of the family" if its soldiers are found to have been at fault, Bilodeau said. The compensation is believed to be approximately \$10,000.

# Canada calls on UN to boost Afghan role; Consensus developing that enhanced powers needed to co-ordinate aid

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030100  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** C14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Getty Images Photo / Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier told the UN General Assembly that Canada's commitment to Afghanistan is about 'values Canadians hold dear' ;  
**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 487

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UNITED NATIONS — Support was growing Tuesday for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan after Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree that the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hot spots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also — and above all — of the values Canadians hold dear," he said. "These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere."

The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent, with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops, and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who currently serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states.

"This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan."

Bernier said in an interview last week that Canada would like to see the appointment of someone of the stature of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has raised the profile of the Quartet of powers (the UN, U.S., European Union and Russia) as its special envoy to the Middle East peace process.

Diplomats say it's unclear who first came up with the idea. However, Bernier and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were among delegates at a high-level, closed-door meeting on Afghanistan on Sept. 23 who suggested not only extending the special envoy powers, but also appointing someone who could increase the profile of the office.

"Secretary Rice expressed support for exploring this idea of a higher-level envoy and we're engaged in consulting with the UN and our partners -- Canada foremost among them -- on how such a position can be created," said Ben Chang, a spokesperson with the U.S. mission to the UN.

"The broad concept is one everyone has come together on . . . and if there is someone who can help in co-ordinating, as well as adding political oomph to (the position) to keep the international community's attention on Afghanistan, then that's a good thing."

Britain, which also has extensive military forces in Afghanistan, also favours enhancing the powers of the envoy post.

"We've been working on that and how it would look," said one official. "It takes a while to piece together."

Bernier told delegates Canada is involved around the world because speaking about values is not enough. They must also be "protected and defended."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the summit last week, and representatives of more than 100 states delivered speeches ahead of Bernier.

# Rebuilding Afghanistan trumps Taliban fight

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030031  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Local  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** David Ramsay  
**SOURCE:** Saskatchewan News Network; Regina  
Leader-Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 782

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David Ramsay of the Regina Leader-Post is one of five journalists from newspapers across Canada invited to Afghanistan to see first-hand what is happening in the country.

KABUL, Afghanistan — There is a concerted push by the federal government to convince Canadians that this country's involvement in Afghanistan is about much more than the sacrifices Canadian soldiers are making in the fight against the Taliban. Yes, security is important, but rebuilding the country is the real story now.

This public relations push comes as Canadians debate the future of Canada's role in Afghanistan — simply put, should we withdraw our troops and cut our losses, as some argue, or should we stay for the long haul and finish what we started?

That debate is among the reasons why I have been invited to Afghanistan. There is a full schedule of events and meetings planned for us over the next few days, from learning about development projects to talking to Afghani and Canadian officials about the state of the country and Canada's role in trying to make it a better place. During the next few days, it is my intention to describe some of these projects and provide insight into what is happening in Afghanistan today.

Our first day in Afghanistan starts with a noisy and sometimes bumpy trip on a Hercules into Kabul. For federal officials, the timing of the start of our visit could not have been worse, since it is difficult to focus on aid projects when a suicide bomber steps onto a bus a few kilometres away and kills eight police officers, three adults and two children.

In another part of the city, we drive in a convoy of trucks specially fitted with bulletproof glass and reinforced steel doors. Accompanied by Canadian soldiers, we wear flak jackets (helmets were optional in the car, as are sunglasses we are told will stop a piece of shrapnel) and are asked not to talk and to look for anything suspicious. When asked what suspicious might mean in Kabul, we are told that odd behaviour would include a young man screaming as he moves toward us, clutching a wire and looking like he is more than a few pounds overweight. To say the least, reconstruction projects are not top of the mind as we dodge traffic and head toward the Canadian Embassy.

Still, even with today's tragic events — and the reality that such bombings have become more common in Kabul in recent weeks — Canadian and Afghani officials counter that suicide bombers are an indication of just how effective Canada and other nations have been in rebuilding Afghanistan.

A senior Afghani official argues that blowing up police officers shows just how weak the Taliban has become and says it is using its last tricks to disturb the psyche of the people.

The argument is a strong one, given that the Taliban cannot meet western might on the battlefield and must choose other ways to fight. A natural choice is the undermanned, underpaid and undertrained police force. If you kill police officers, you send a message that Afghanis should choose less dangerous professions.

In an interview session Tuesday afternoon, Canadian Ambassador Arif Lalani echoes a message that we've heard often since Friday, when we flew out of CFB Trenton, shortly after a repatriation ceremony was held for a young Alberta soldier.

Canadians need a fuller account of what is happening, he says, so that they can judge for themselves whether progress is being made. He adds that explosions might be the top story but are not the most important story.

There is a strong foundation for much of what the ambassador says. Five years ago, only 600,000 Afghan boys (no girls) attended school; now six million children are receiving an education (one-third of whom are girls). Also, eight out of 10 Afghanis now have access to health care, an eightfold increase since 2001. There are other facts and figures that Canadian officials make available, all showing that since 2001, when the Taliban was driven from power, life for most Afghanis has improved.

Still, as we are shown to our rooms Tuesday night (after our convoy made a hasty detour down the wrong way on a one-way street to avoid being too close to a crowded street), we are told there are occasional mortar attacks on the base where we are staying. We are instructed to put on our flak jackets and helmets and head immediately to the bomb shelter if we hear an incoming round. Progress is being made, but security, the Taliban and terrorism remain a very real part of the story.



# Shooting probed Afghan shot dead by Canadians

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030230  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 23  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 370

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting. It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Later, at the request of the family, the wounded boy was transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery. "We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family after the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers — Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

## DRIVERS WARNED

International troops regularly traverse Kandahar city and its chaotic traffic en route to patrols throughout the province.

There are public service announcements in local media warning drivers to keep a safe distance from the heavily armed convoys, which have been targeted by suicide bombers and roadside bombs.

Large red signs on the front of all military vehicles warn drivers to keep away.

When a vehicle approaches too closely, Canadian troops sound a warning alarm, followed by warning shots if the vehicle continues to advance.

A statement by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the patrol "experienced an equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system." However, Canadian military officials said it is too early to determine whether an equipment malfunction was involved.

Bilodeau said members of the Canadian military will meet with the victim's family.

In similar cases in the past, surviving family members have been compensated in accordance with Afghan custom. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Canucks kill civilian Afghan boy also injured in 'accident' in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030437  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 26  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, THE CANADIAN PRESS  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**WORD COUNT:** 251

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An Afghan civilian was killed and a child injured yesterday in what a military spokesman said was an accidental shooting by Canadian troops.

A Canadian combat logistics patrol was on a resupply mission to Canada's forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when a motorcycle approached the convoy in downtown Kandahar.

The driver of the motorcycle was shot and the passenger, an 8-year-old child, was injured, a military spokesman said.

It is unclear whether the shooting was a result of an equipment malfunction or human error.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokesman for Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

At the request of the family, the wounded boy was later transferred via ambulance to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, where he underwent surgery.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

## SCATHING CRITICISM

The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an 8-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers, Esmatullah Zia, age 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win the support of the public in the fight against the insurgents.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a suicide bomber set off a blast in a bus carrying police officers in Kabul yesterday, killing or wounding at least 10 people in the second such attack in four days, police said.

Police recognized the attacker beforehand and tried to stop him, but the bomber was still able to detonate his explosives. KEYWORDS=CANADA; WORLD

# Afghan killed in mishap

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030128  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 20  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**WORD COUNT:** 159

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached and a weapon went off, killing the Afghan motorcyclist and injuring the passenger, a boy.

A military spokeswoman called it an accidental shooting. It's unclear whether the shooting happened because of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokeswoman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

## CONFLICTING INFORMATION

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting.

The military said a 35-year-old man was shot and an eight-year-old injured.

The family said the victims were two brothers -- Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation.

"This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said in a statement. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Military honours for three Edmonton soldiers

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030065  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Cityplus  
**PAGE:** B2  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**DATELINE:** EDMONTON  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 137

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EDMONTON – Three Edmonton-based soldiers were honoured Tuesday by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean for gallantry and devotion to duty in combat in Afghanistan.

The three were among 27 soldiers mentioned in dispatches. One posthumous Meritorious Service Cross also was awarded.

Capt. Hugh Llewellyn Atwell, commanding 7 Platoon, C Company of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, received a mention in dispatches for leading his platoon when Forward Operating Base Robinson came under attack on March 27, 2006. Despite sustaining heavy casualties, the platoon won the battle.

Master Cpl. Christopher Fernandez-Ledon was second in command of 2 Section, 7 Platoon, C Company at Forward Operating Base Robinson when the enemy force attacked the base.

Cpl. Darren Lynch was also honoured for his role in 7 Platoon's March 27 battle. Though wounded, Lynch continued to fight and helped evacuate casualties after the battle.

Recipients wear a bronze oak leaf on the appropriate campaign or service medal ribbon.

# 'They shoot us like goats,' grieving relative says; Afghan boys shot by troops protecting Canadian convoy

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**IDNUMBER** 200710030039  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Canadian Press / Ahmed Zia is transferred to a Canadian military ambulance at the Canadian base at Kandahar. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 264

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield were working Tuesday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan on Tuesday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He may have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," one of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk.

"That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals ...

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country."

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doo battle group in the Panjwaii and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokeswoman Capt. Josee Bilodeau.

She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police.



# UN address urges more Afghan aid

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030315  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** BETH GORHAM, CP  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 265

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global "political will" yesterday to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, telling the United Nations that "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile UN envoy for the NATO effort in Afghanistan would attract more help and better co-ordinate diverse efforts.

In the 10-minute speech delivered mostly in French to appeal to Quebec critics of Canada's role in Afghanistan, Bernier reminded them it's a UN-mandated mission and cast Canada's involvement there as a direct expression of Canadian values.

"Canada's commitment is not a function solely of our interests but also, and above all, the values Canadians hold dear — values such as freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, he said.

"These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere," said Bernier, who also called on the UN to support restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar — formerly known as Burma.

But the UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," said Bernier, who took over the foreign affairs portfolio in August.

"The challenge may be great, but the principles we're defending are greater still."

Promoting those values isn't enough, he said. "They must be protected and defended, particularly when they are under assault."

The speech was criticized as vague and one-dimensional by some, while others supported the idea of appointing a UN emissary for Afghanistan.

The special envoy's role would be modelled on Tony Blair, who has been promoting Mideast peace since stepping down as British prime minister. Bernier talked about the idea in several meetings at the UN last week.

"We built a strong case," he said after his speech, but it's not clear yet how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will respond. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Canadian military citing accident in Afghani's death

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030314  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** SUN MEDIA NEWS SERVICES  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 182

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

A military spokesperson called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokesperson for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, with an Associated Press count of insurgency-related deaths this year surpassing the 5,000 mark and a UN report finding that attacks have risen by 30 per cent.

A suicide attack yesterday on a police bus in western Kabul killed 13 officers and civilians, including a woman and her two children who boarded the vehicle seconds before the explosion, the health minister said.

It was the second bomb to rip the roof off a bus in the Afghan capital in four days, as insurgents turned up attacks against Afghanistan's security forces during a year of record violence. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Trained MDs foolishly ignored

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**SOURCETAG** 0710021188

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.10.02

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion

**PAGE:** A7

**BYLINE:** LYN COCKBURN, SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

**WORD COUNT:** 433

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Five thousand eight hundred for sure. Ten thousand four hundred probably. That's how many doctors Dr. Andrew Padmos, chief executive of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, says we'll be short by 2010.

Padmos told a national conference on Friday that this shortage is the biggest issue affecting Canadian health care today. He added that nothing will change unless governments expand medical school enrolment.

Well, doc, you're half right. It is a huge issue, but increasing enrolment in med school isn't the only answer.

The other half of the equation is an efficient, thorough yet speedy vetting of the thousands of foreign-trained doctors currently residing in Canada. Seven thousand of them at a conservative estimate. Many of these international medical graduates or IMGs are waiting in vain for an opening in residency, a requirement for licensing.

So where are they and what are we doing about them?

The answers are: driving cab and not nearly enough.

The more fortunate ones are doing medical research at universities or working for pharmaceutical companies. Some of the unlucky ones, particularly from war-torn countries such as Afghanistan, are on welfare.

What an unconscionable waste. What a tragedy for these doctors, and for the thousands of Canadians who can't find a family physician.

Sure we've taken baby steps and some of these new Canadians have managed to jump through the bureaucratic hoops. They're now fluent in English and they've passed the medical exams. It's that last hoop that stops them. Residency. There are few vacancies available to IMGs.

To be fair, some provinces have loosened the bureaucratic noose. For example, Ontario licensed 2,961 doctors in 2006 and 42 per cent were foreign-trained. That's about 1,243 doctors. Better, but not good enough since there are reportedly some 4,000 foreign-trained doctors in that province.

And Alberta now offers clinical assistant positions in which IMGs work under the supervision of Canadian doctors.

Great. But it's a drop in the medical bucket. And none of these piecemeal measures has helped my Chinese friend.

He, his wife and daughter came here eight years ago and are now Canadian citizens.

He graduated in medicine from Beijing University and all his documents are translated. He's passed the medical exams and he's applied for residencies all over Canada. To no avail.

He's got a good job as a medical researcher at a university where he now expects to stay for the rest of his working life. He likes his job, but he is just a little bored. And there are innumerable Canadians out there who wish he'd move to their little town which has no doctor. He would if he could.

"I'll go anywhere," he once said to me. "I'll go north, I'll go to a small town. I just need that residency."

But now, he has given up all hope of becoming a licensed physician in Canada.

I got an e-mail from him the other day in which he wrote about this and that. His English is very good (and so it should be, since I was one of his teachers!), but when he referred to his five-year quest for a residency, his language skills momentarily deserted him.

Referring to the innumerable bureaucrats he has dealt with over the years, he wrote: "They foolishled me."

There are some 7,000 foreign-trained doctors in Canada who may well believe government bureaucracy has made fools of them. And they're right.

# 'Accident' leaves Afghan man dead Shot fired from weapon in Canadian convoy in downtown Kandahar; accounts of incident differ

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030695  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 32  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached. A weapon went off.

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It's unclear whether the shooting happened as a result of an equipment malfunction or human error. An investigation is underway.

The Canadian combat logistics patrol was heading out on a resupply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred.

"While the exact cause of the incident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Capt. Josee Bilodeau, spokesman for the Canadian military contingent in Afghanistan.

Canadian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

There was conflicting information from the military and the family following the shooting. The military said a 35-year-old male was shot and an eight-year-old injured. The family said the victims were two brothers — Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmad Zia, 12.

Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, spokesman for NATO's Regional Command South, said there will be a full investigation. "This incident is deeply regrettable," McCord said in statement.

Civilian casualties have been a source of scathing Afghan criticism for foreign troops, and something the Canadian military has taken steps to avoid as it tries to win support in the fight against the insurgents.

Bilodeau said members of the Canadian military will meet with the victim's family. KEYWORDS=WORLD

'Accident' leaves Afghan man dead Shot fired from weapon in Canadian convoy in downtown Kandahar; acc 145

# Violence highest since invasion

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030694  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 32  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 160

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Violence in Afghanistan has spiked to its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, with an Associated Press count of insurgency-related deaths this year surpassing the 5,000 mark.

As well, a UN report concluded that attacks have risen by 20%.

A suicide attack yesterday on a police bus in western Kabul killed 13 officers and civilians, including a woman and her two children who boarded the vehicle seconds before the explosion, the health minister said.

It was the second bomb to rip the roof off a bus in the Afghan capital in four days, as insurgents turned up attacks against Afghanistan's security forces during a year of record violence.

A new UN report found that while 76% of all suicide bombings in the country have targeted international and Afghan security forces, 143 civilians were killed by those bombs through August. The report, released in New York last week, also found that Afghanistan has averaged 550 violent incidents per month this year, up from 425 last year.

An AP count of insurgency-related deaths, meanwhile, reached 5,086: the most deaths in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion to topple the Taliban. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Canada seeks more aid for Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0710030567  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 23  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS  
**WORD COUNT:** 135

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier called for more global help yesterday to rebuild Afghanistan, telling the UN "no one country can do this alone."

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Bernier said the efforts of some 60 countries and international groups are commendable, but a new high-profile envoy for the NATO effort would help attract more help and better co-ordinate efforts.

The UN's role in Afghanistan is the world body's "most important special political mission," he said.

Bernier has talked about the idea of a NATO envoy in some 30 bilateral meetings at the UN last week.

Bernier, who used the meetings to ask for military and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, said the French government committed more planes for the southern province of Kandahar and to send 150 more soldiers to train Afghan forces.

Bernier said Canada is always striving to make a stronger contribution on the international scene.

But he said when it comes to Afghanistan, the UN, NATO and World Bank all have to work together.

KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Canucks kill Afghan civilian

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**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 23  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 132

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A Canadian military convoy was rolling through downtown Kandahar yesterday when a motorcycle approached and a weapon went off.

The Afghan motorcyclist was shot dead and his passenger, a boy, was injured.

Capt. Josee Bilodeau, with the Canadian military in Afghanistan, called it an accidental shooting.

It's unclear whether the shooting happened because of equipment malfunction or human error.

An investigation has started.

"It is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said Bilodeau.

The Canadian combat patrol was on a re-supply mission to a forward operating base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred. Canadian soldiers immediately blocked off the area and offered medical assistance.

Afghan National Police arranged for the victims to be taken to the local hospital, where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle told CTV as he stood beside his nephew's bed at Mirwais Hospital.

"Canadians are acting like enemies . . . they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

Family said the victims were brothers, but the military said the dead man was 35-year-old and the boy eight years old.

The boy was later taken to the military hospital in Kandahar.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," said Bilodeau.

**KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Cops pin their support New police chief says yellow ribbons emblems voluntary

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710030527

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Stuart Dryden, Sun Media New Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson holds up one of hundreds of yellow ribbon pins that will be handed out for officers to wear in recognition of the Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

**BYLINE:** SHAWN LOGAN, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 309

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Calgary police officers will soon sport a dash of yellow as the city's new police chief has backed a voluntary program allowing officers to adorn their uniforms with "Support Our Troops" pins.

One day after being sworn in as the city's new top cop, Rick Hanson announced that rank-and-file officers will be allowed to pin the yellow ribbons on their lapels to show they back Canadian Forces abroad.

Hanson said there are close ties between Canadian soldiers and police officers, meaning it only makes sense to show solidarity.

"We've got a lot of respect for the military — they have been incredibly supportive of police when police have suffered a loss in the line of duty," he said.

"They are suffering losses in Afghanistan, and I think it's incumbent upon us that we individually show our support for the job they're doing."

Controversy has swirled around how city employees show support for troops after council shot down plans to adorn civic vehicles with yellow ribbon decals earlier this year.

The majority of rank-and-file cops defied the edict and put the decals on police vehicles anyway.

Hanson said the action by officers is now "water under the bridge," adding the voluntary pins will be a more tangible show of solidarity than vehicle decals.

"This is a quiet, personal token of respect," he said, noting his own father served in the Second World War and his great-uncle died in the First World War.

"I think each individual member should have the option of showing support in his or her own way, and I think the pins allow for that."

The announcement was made in conjunction with the Calgary Police Association.

Association president Al Koenig said he's thrilled officers will be able to show where they stand without fear of repercussions.

"We really felt that the police service — and certainly city hall — had turned their backs on them," said Koenig.

"We appreciated the high visibility on the vehicles, but when you actually see a member wearing one and you know that he or she was willing to put it on her uniform with the blessing of the commanding officer, I think it's probably even more meaningful."

With the move so early into Hanson's tenure, Koenig, who is also running as an alderman in the Oct. 15 municipal election, said the new chief "understands the hearts and minds of our members."

There are more than 1,600 officers on the Calgary police force. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# MISSION IN KANDAHAR: KILLING WAS THE SECOND IN TWO WEEKS

## Afghans' anger muted in fatal shooting by troops Canadian military orders independent probe after convoy's 'accidental discharge' kills a teenager and injures his 12-year-old brother

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**IDN:** 072760227  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**PAGE:** A17 (ILLUS)  
**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH  
**SECTION:** International News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 651  
**WORD COUNT:** 643

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GRAEME SMITH KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN The road where a Canadian soldier accidentally shot two Afghans yesterday morning had returned to normal by afternoon, as Kandahar avoided the kind of angry demonstrations that followed another killing last week.

Amid the jostle and clamour of ordinary traffic on the west side of Kandahar city, people at the scene of the shooting voiced a grim acceptance of the deadly mishaps that happen when heavily armed convoys make daily forays into Afghanistan's second-largest city.

"Please tell the Canadians to be careful on the road, because you make people very afraid," said Mohammed Kabir, 59, a money changer.

The voices were more emotional at the funeral for Esmatullah Zia, the teenager who died of gunshots to the head. In the village of Karam Kalacha, a northern suburb of the city, throngs of relatives and tribesmen gathered to bury the 18- or 19-year-old garage employee.

They declared the Canadians "enemies of Islam, and our enemies." But the reaction was far less raucous than the street protests that followed the shooting of two religious teachers in a village west of Kandahar last week. In that case, the mullahs had been shot dead in their bedrooms during an apparent raid by U.S. forces, and the villagers received no apology, no compensation and no statement from anybody taking responsibility for the killing.

The Canadian military and NATO made a greater effort at damage control in the aftermath of the latest incident. Press statements from both organizations quickly acknowledged an "accidental discharge" of a weapon had occurred at 6:45 a.m. Soldiers at the scene gave first aid to the teenager and his younger brother Ahmad Zia, 12, who had been struck by the Canadians' gunfire during their morning drive to work.

The shooting will be examined by the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service, and the military released few details of the circumstances because of the probe.

MISSION IN KANDAHAR: KILLING WAS THE SECOND IN TWO WEEKS Afghans' anger muted in fatal shooting

"Unfortunately, a motorcycle came near the convoy and a shot was fired, and the driver of the motorcycle died and a passenger was injured," said Captain Josee Bilodeau, a military spokeswoman. "For sure it didn't result from enemy activity. It was an accident." Afghan police initially took the injured boy to Mirwais hospital for treatment, but with a bullet wound in his head, the chances of his survival in the poorly funded local facility were not good.

The boy's family pleaded for help from the Canadians, who responded within hours. An ambulance took him to Kandahar Air Field, where he was allowed into the sophisticated military hospital. His head swaddled in bandages, he appeared to be conscious.

"This afternoon he was in surgery, so I don't know whether he's doing well, but for sure we are doing our best to provide him the best treatment we can," Capt. Bilodeau said.

Military officials from the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar city are also expected to negotiate a payment to help the family in the coming days.

"We have to stop this cruelty," Ghosudin, the boys' uncle, told a CTV News cameraman at the hospital. "The head of the [provincial] council and other elders have to take serious action; otherwise, we will hold another demonstration." Several locals in Kandahar complained that they have never seen a foreign soldier punished for any action that harmed a civilian.

"The Canadians are just saying 'sorry,' and they've killed so many people like this," said Akbar, 49, a businessman. "They say 'We will discipline our soldier,' but always we see zero results." But the launch of a CFNIS probe of the events does indicate that consequences are possible. An independent body, the CFNIS reports to the military's top police officer, the Provost Marshal, outside the operational chain of command.

"Our National Investigative Service is taking this very seriously," Capt. Bilodeau said. "There is an investigation ongoing, and we will know what happened."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: defence; strife; accidents; deaths

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# UNITED NATIONS Bernier sees progress made in Afghanistan

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**IDN:** 072760205

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** ALAN FREEMAN

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 395

**WORD COUNT:** 373

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ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA Acknowledging that international efforts in Afghanistan were facing "jolts of intimidation and violence," Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier yesterday insisted that progress has been made in improving the situation in the country.

In his first-ever address to the UN General Assembly, Mr. Bernier emphasized the need to establish security in Afghanistan as a precondition for economic development and progress on other fronts.

"Security is the crucial pillar on which everything rests, and long-term stability means the sustainable development of the country," said Mr. Bernier, who took over the Foreign Affairs portfolio in an August cabinet shuffle.

"There can be no reconstruction without security," he said. "Democracy and political stability cannot spread in a climate of terror.

"No health or education service can be provided where anarchy reigns. It is impossible to contribute to economic development where there is chaos." As expected, Mr. Bernier announced Canada's support for an appointment of "a new UN special envoy for Afghanistan." In meetings with 30 of his counterparts in New York last week, he had pressed for creation of the envoy's role.

There was no detail provided as to exactly what the envoy's responsibilities would be, but it's understood the main goal is to give renewed focus to the UN's co-ordinating role in the country.

The role has been compared to that of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who was recently appointed as special envoy to the Middle East.

Later, Mr. Bernier told reporters that Canada had "built a strong case" for the special envoy, but it is unclear how UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will respond.

In his 10-minute speech, delivered primarily in French, Mr. Bernier placed the emphasis on Afghanistan, where Canada has 2,500 troops stationed in the volatile south as part of the NATO-led stabilization force.

"Canada believes a united international community must support efforts to rebuild Afghanistan," he said. "No one country can do this alone." Turning to other world hot spots, Mr. Bernier advocated an extension of the UN stabilization force in Haiti and called for re-establishment of democracy and human rights in Myanmar,

also known as Burma.

He called on the UN Human Rights Council to hold a special session on the violation of human rights in Burma, and pressed for renewed efforts to stop rights violations in Darfur.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; foreign policy

PERSONAL NAME: Maxime Bernier

ORGANIZATION NAME: United Nations; Armed Forces

# PREPARING FOR A FALL VOTE: FEDERAL POLITICS

## Harper's campaign team speeds up election plans

### Conservatives perplexed by opposition threats to bring down government; but unlike last spring, many Tories would welcome a vote

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**IDN:** 072760063

**DATE:** 2007.10.03

**PAGE:** A16 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** BRIAN LAGHI

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 2187

**WORD COUNT:** 2145

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**BRIAN LAGHI OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF** The campaign team that helped lead Stephen Harper to victory 20 months ago plans to meet next week, ready to accelerate plans for a federal election that a lot of senior Conservatives can't believe the opposition is even considering.

"It's not logical to me," one cabinet minister told The Globe and Mail of opposition threats to bring down the government over the Oct. 16 Speech from the Throne.

"It's clear that the other parties have decided that one of the signs they want to send to the electorate is that they're tough and ready to drop 'em at a moment's notice. But I don't get it." Only one party, the minister said, has a real chance of improving its position in the House of Commons and it's his own. The stars, the Tories believe, are lining up in their favour.

In the past few days, the Liberal sabre-rattling has died down somewhat, with advisers telling battered Liberal Leader Stephane Dion to avoid an election by somehow letting the speech get approved.

Today's big shake-up in the Opposition Leader's office, with the expected departure of Jamie Carroll from the national director's job and the appointment of a new principal secretary, Johanne Senecal, to bring new leadership to the beat-up organization, won't do much to encourage Liberals to push the electoral button.

But if the opposition wants to force a vote, many Tories are welcoming it in a way they weren't last spring. The Liberals, they believe, are in deep confusion with a leader whose judgment is in question; the Bloc Quebecois is reeling from significant by-election losses; and the Tories are fresh off a big win in those same Quebec by-elections.

Moreover, the brain trust around the Prime Minister is coming to the conclusion that issues such as the war in Afghanistan and the environment have been neutered through careful political management, and that the stagnancy in the party's poll numbers is temporary.



"I think it would be a good time for the Conservatives to go – a favourable time," said Tom Flanagan, a close friend of the Prime Minister who acted as senior campaign adviser in 2006.

"But it's not within Stephen's power to call it, as we know, so the only way there can be an election is if the three opposition parties combine to defeat him." Mr. Harper is hemmed in from calling an election himself because of government legislation that mandates the next election be held in October, 2009. But if the NDP and the Bloc vote against the Throne Speech and if Mr. Dion believes he can't swallow the address because it would weaken Canadians' perception of him, then voters could be off to the polls in late fall. Furthermore, Mr. Harper has the luxury of deciding how provocative he wants to be in writing the speech.

If that should happen, senior Tories such as Mr. Flanagan believe that the Prime Minister will score well against a Liberal Leader who, he thinks, lacks communications skills and has an underdeveloped sense of political tactics.

Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Dion moved too slowly in laying out his demands on the Throne Speech, allowing the NDP and the Bloc to take control of the agenda by making their demands first.

"He seems to be more of a straight-ahead guy announcing an objective and pursuing it without thinking much of the twists and the turns and timing to get there," Mr. Flanagan said.

Tories note that Mr. Dion also has deep problems in Quebec, and the Conservatives feel bullish about capitalizing on them. Their recent by-election victory in Roberval is just one example of fortunes on the rise.

Goldy Hyder, a long-time federal Tory, said foreign affairs issues such as the government's position on Afghanistan, while arguably unpopular in Quebec, are not real vote-movers. Rather, Mr. Harper has positioned his party as a strong federalist option to the Liberals and is preparing the ground for future successes.

"I don't want the impression to be given that we're on the cusp of winning a majority of seats or anything like that," Mr. Hyder said. "What I'm saying is the trend is good, we're heading in the right direction." Peter Donolo, a partner with the polling firm the Strategic Counsel, agrees. Surveys suggest that a growing number of Quebecers believe that the country is on the right track.

But Mr. Donolo warns other issues could trip up Mr. Harper. For example, if the government fails to convince the public that it is taking the issue of the environment seriously, the left-of-centre vote could coalesce around Mr. Dion.

Still, unlike last spring – when a number of Tories urged caution toward a vote – many now think that the negatives that dogged the Prime Minister are being overcome. Those problems include Afghanistan and Mr. Harper's image as a controlling and opaque leader who would push the country to the right if he gets a majority government.

Campaign officials believe that Afghanistan is not a major ballot-box issue. The anti-Afghan vote, they note, is split among three opposition parties, and the Prime Minister has blunted Afghanistan as an issue by promising to hold a parliamentary vote on the future of the military mission next year.

"I think a lot of Canadians have also been convinced that Canada's role is going to change," a senior Tory said. "We're not going to be doing the same thing in 2009 that we are in 2008." That leaves the Prime Minister's personal style as one of the final hurdles the party must overcome. His calculating nature has shown up in the polls as one reason why Canadians may not trust him with a majority.

To that end, Mr. Harper predicted last week that, should there be an election, it would probably still result in a

minority.

While one Tory characterized the remarks as "speaking truth to power" others believe that, while Canadians say they want a minority, soothing words from the Prime Minister might just calm their nerves.

The fact remains, however, that the Conservatives continue to lag at around 33 per cent in the polls – about three percentage points below the 2006 election. That would suggest a reduced minority.

But the nagging inability to get the party into the low 40s – seen by many as the majority indicator – is not particularly worrisome, one senior Conservative said. The Tories' low-water mark in the last campaign was seen to be around 30 per cent. If it's now up to 33 per cent, then the Tories should be happy.

"There's a pretty strong feeling internally that Harper is a pretty good campaigner," the senior Tory said. "I'd be worried if we were dipping around 28 per cent, but we're not." With the talk of a vote increasing, election planning is also being stepped up.

Sources have told The Globe and Mail that the party's election planning committee will meet next week where the prospects for how to conduct a vote would almost certainly dominate.

Sources also say that some ministerial aides have been told to begin preparing response papers for the inevitable questions that will come from interest groups during a campaign. The party's massive election headquarters is also ready.

The last piece of the puzzle may well be the Speech from the Throne, and what Mr. Harper will include in it.

Senior Tories believe Mr. Harper could include new law-and-order legislation, while Mr. Flanagan thinks it will also likely contain a mention of tax cuts and a moderate plan to restrict Ottawa's role in spending money in areas of provincial jurisdiction. But a good number of Tories that include Mr. Flanagan think the Prime Minister will walk a fine line, crafting a speech that is conservative in content, but not so strongly ideological that it will scare Canadians.

That sort of temperate speech could provide the kind of exit strategy that somebody like Mr. Dion needs if he decides that the party just isn't ready to go to the polls.

Indeed, Liberal insiders are advising Mr. Dion to let the speech go through, even if he would lose a little face. Mr. Harper, they say, will soon be in the House of Commons, where the opposition can exploit his combative nature.

One way out might be to copy the Parti Quebecois. Last spring, Quebec Premier Jean Charest survived a budget vote when only three members of the PQ showed up to vote against it. The PQ still managed to register its concern with the budget, while staying away in enough numbers to ensure the government didn't fall.

\*\*\*\*\* What the pundits say A look at the upside and downside for each party of triggering a fall election.

**JILL MARZETTI** Former federal secretary of the NDP **The Upside:** Ms. Marzetti says the New Democrats are feeling a strong sense of political momentum at the moment after Thomas Mulcair's by-election victory for the NDP in the former Liberal stronghold of Outremont. "There's a huge level of enthusiasm. I think people know this was a breakthrough and that there is a different kind of politics happening in Quebec now. It is not the old sovereigntist-federalist paradigm." **The downside:** Ontario is an important province for the NDP but many party workers, including Ms. Marzetti, campaign for both the provincial and federal wings of the party. A fall campaign would mean asking the same people to keep campaigning after the Oct. 10 Ontario

election. "So I think there will be a little bit of a let down as we sort of regroup," she said.

**JOHN DUFFY** Former strategic adviser to prime minister Paul Martin, and a Principal at StrategyCorp.

**The Upside:** Mr. Duffy believes that triggering an election now might be advantageous because, over the medium term, Prime Minister Stephen Harper might be able to fix some of his foreign policy difficulties.

Moreover, the government's overall strategy of creeping moderation might find favour with the public if given time.

**The Downside:** The party's current capability to fight a national campaign is a concern and the public might not "give permission" for a fall election to take place. Moreover, it's unclear the Liberals could make material and lasting political gains.

**WILLIAM PRISTANSKI** Principal at Prospectus Associates and a former executive assistant to former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

**The Upside:** Mr. Pristanski believes the recent by-elections have demonstrated that Quebec voters, especially francophones, continue to distrust the Liberals and have rejected the separatist Bloc Quebecois.

If the opposition forces a fall election, Canadians will judge Mr.

Harper as a leader they can trust since his government has delivered on all five election commitments made during the previous campaign.

**The Downside:** The Prime Minister is constrained from forcing an election because new fixed-election date legislation prevents him from doing so.

Moreover, the government will set out an agenda in the Throne Speech for moving forward on many key issues that Mr. Harper would surely like to see completed.

\*\*\*\*\* **THE ROAD TO AN ELECTION** The key to whether Canadians head into their third election since 2004 this fall rests with whether the government's Speech from the Throne makes it through Parliament. Seen as a road map of the government's legislative intent, the speeches are usually general in nature, but the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois have already laid out substantial demands for their support.

Oct. 16 Throne Speech read by Governor-General Michaëlle Jean in the Senate chambers, likely in the evening.

Oct. 17 The government must schedule six days of debate on the speech, but is free to decide the timing of those days. However, substantial debate on Throne Speech usually begins the next day.

Oct 18 Typically, the first vote on the speech takes place two days after it is delivered. This means the government could fall as early as this day when MPs would vote on a Bloc Quebecois sub-amendment to the speech. If the government loses the vote, Prime Minister Stephen Harper could ask the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament and he could set an election date. The Prime Minister is free to announce whether votes on amendments will be confidence votes.

Oct. 22 If the government survives the first vote, a vote on the Liberal Party amendment to the speech would be held on the fourth day of the debate.

Oct. 24 If the government survives both votes, the actual Throne Speech is put to a vote on the sixth day of

debate.

Nov. 26 First possible date an election can be held if government falls on Oct. 18. Elections must take place on the first Monday after 36 days of campaigning.

Dec. 3 First possible date an election could be held if the government falls Oct. 22 or 24

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: government; elections; political; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper; Stephane Dion; Jill Marzetti; John Duffy; William Pristanski

ORGANIZATION NAME: Conservative Party of Canada; Liberal Party

# High-level envoy for Afghanistan required: minister

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**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN AID; WAR; DRUGS; FARMERS & FARMING;  
AFGHANISTAN;CANADA  
**DATELINE:** UNITED NATIONS  
**BYLINE:** STEVEN EDWARDS  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 227

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Support was growing for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan yesterday after Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree that the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hot spots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also – and above all – of the values Canadians hold dear," he said. "These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere."

The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops, and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who currently serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states.

"This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan."

# Boy killed, brother hurt by Canadians; Children on motorcycle came under fire from a combat logistics patrol

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**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CANADIAN POOL / Ahmed Zia, a 10-year-old Afghan boy, is transferred from a civilian ambulance to a Canadian military ambulance at the gates to the main Canadian base at Kandahar yesterday so that he could be treated at NATO's multinational hospital. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** MATTHEW FISHER  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 400

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Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield were working yesterday to save the life of an Afghan boy shot in the head at the same time as his older brother was killed by troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred from an Afghan to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan yesterday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter who accompanied him and his uncle to the military hospital.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He might have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," another of the boys' uncles, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service at Esmatullah's funeral which, according to Muslim custom, was held before dusk. "That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals.

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country."

The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doos battle group in the Panjwaii and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokesperson Captain Josée Bilodeau. She added that the "unfortunate incident" is under investigation by military police.

In a separate statement, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the shooting was the result of an equipment malfunction.

"It may or may not have been an equipment problem," said Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who is responsible for all supply convoys. "We may know better when the combat logistics patrol returns, but it is still out on the road right now."

The soldier involved in the shooting was badly shaken and was taken off the convoy before it left Kandahar, the colonel said.

After the incident, patrol troops established a security cordon and administer emergency first aid. Afghan national police, who arrived quickly at the scene, took the two boys to Kandahar City Hospital before Sorkai was transferred a few hours later to the multinational hospital.

# We need to know the enemy; Military must learn about Afghans. Defence Department report requires better understanding of civilians

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**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.10.03  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** DAVID PUGLIESE  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 464

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The Canadian military must develop a better knowledge of the societies it is working in as well as adopt technology from the policing sector if they are going to reduce civilian casualties and win hearts and minds both at home and abroad, suggests a Defence Department report.

The report points out that one of the key challenges facing the Canadian army on future battlefields is the difficulty in determining who is a civilian and who is an insurgent.

"Perhaps the most significant vulnerability facing the CF/Army is the ability to distinguish between the 'good guys' and the 'bad guys,' " acknowledges the July 2006 study produced by the Defence Science Advisory Board. "This will be difficult to overcome, especially with the enemy indistinguishable from the general population."

The board is made up of civilian industry officials and scientists and advises the military on various technology matters. Their report, released to CanWest News Service under the access to information law, examines how insurgents might use low-technology techniques to challenge the army.

The killing of innocent civilians by coalition forces and insurgents in Afghanistan has been an ongoing controversial issue. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has warned that if such killings by NATO and U.S. forces continue, the coalition could lose the support of Afghans. NATO officials stress they try to avoid such casualties but point out insurgents do not hesitate to kill civilians.

The advisory study warns that soldiers have to use a measured approach in counter-insurgency situations. If that isn't done, the army "may well lose the core battle for the 'hearts and minds' abroad and/or at home, especially if the predominant response is the traditional emphasis on firepower," it notes.

The science advisory report recommends the Canadian Forces put more emphasis on language skills, gathering intelligence and developing a knowledge of the societies it plans to operate in. It also recommends the army "adapt a range of non-military knowledge and technology, especially from the policing sector." Such equipment, which makes use of non-lethal means of dealing with individuals, may be of more value than precise lethal weapons, it points out.



The advisory board also recommends strict controls be put in place on access to local police and military uniforms, as well as to Canadian Forces uniforms.

There have been several incidents in Afghanistan where insurgents have worn either Afghan police or army uniforms during attacks.

In August, Taliban, wearing Afghan army uniforms, were able to approach a NATO forward operating base in the country's Nuristan province and then open fire on troops. Two Afghan soldiers were killed and 11 NATO soldiers wounded.

More work also has to be done on dealing with hidden explosive devices, in particular preventing the detonation of such booby-traps or using technology to set off those bombs before they can injure troops.

Ottawa Citizen

# Tories to replace Canada's top soldier

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CTV News reports the Tory government plans to replace General Rick Hillier as chief of defence staff when his three-year term expires in February.

Quoting Conservative insiders, CTV says the charismatic Hillier has irked the government by outshining his political masters and undermining former defence minister Gordon O'Connor.

When the armed forces held a private farewell ceremony for O'Connor in Ottawa yesterday, Hillier showed up late.

CTV's government sources said that was another example of the general's disrespect for his political bosses.

Some military observers say removing the popular commander would be risky, especially during the war in Afghanistan.

CTV says potential successors include Vice-Admiral Drew Robertson and Major-General Andrew Leslie, although insiders say Lieutenant-General Walter Natynczyk is likely to get the top job because the prime minister likes him.

# Boy shot in head by Canadian soldiers; Man also killed in 'accidental' shooting as soldiers react to motorcycle being driven toward convoy

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Dene Moore, the Canadian Press / Ahmed Zia, shot accidentally by Canadian troops is transferred to Canadian medics for treatment at Kandahar airport. ;  
**DATELINE:** Kandahar  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
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Young Ahmed Zia was pulled from the ambulance, wide-eyed and staring at the drama around him.

Hopeful signs for a boy who had been shot in the head by a Canadian soldier.

The incident happened yesterday morning just west of downtown Kandahar as the motorcycle approached a Canadian logistics patrol travelling to a forward operating base.

A Canadian soldier fired at least one shot that killed the driver and wounded Zia.

Military officials described the shooting as "accidental." But it's not clear whether a weapon malfunctioned or human error is to blame.

"While the exact cause of the accident is unknown at this time, it is clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," Canadian Forces spokesperson Jos e Bilodeau said.

She said military police have launched an investigation.

A statement from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) — the NATO force in Afghanistan — said the patrol experienced an "equipment malfunction, which resulted in an accidental discharge from a weapon system."

"This incident is deeply regrettable," Wing Commander Antony McCord, a spokesman for Regional Command South, said in a statement. "ISAF will thoroughly investigate the circumstances."

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said he didn't think the shooting would hurt support in Canada for the mission.

"Canadians know why we are there, and it's a risky mission," he said in an interview from New York where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

Boy shot in head by Canadian soldiers; Man also killed in 'accidental' shooting as soldiers react to motorcycle

"But we can be proud of our mission, and we're there to rebuild this country because the elected Afghan government asked us to be there with the international community."

The boy was initially taken to the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar City. But after an appeal by his family, he was taken by ambulance to the international military base at the Kandahar airfield — and the sophisticated medical facility.

The local ambulance drove into the main gates of the base, where it met a military ambulance and its crew. The boy was conscious and appeared alert as he was transferred from one vehicle to the other and then taken to the field hospital. He underwent emergency surgery yesterday afternoon.

"We're doing our best to provide him with the best treatment that we can," Bilodeau said.

There were differing accounts of the ages of those involved. ISAF said a 35-year-old man was shot and an 8-year-old boy wounded. The family said the victims were two brothers — Esmatullah Zia, who was 18 or 19, and Ahmed Zia, 12.

The convoy was on a resupply mission to the base at Ma'sum Ghar when the shooting occurred. The Canadian convoy immediately stopped, established a cordon and provided first aid, Bilodeau said.

The two victims were taken to the local hospital where the driver was pronounced dead.

"Why did they do this?" the injured boy's distraught uncle asked CTV News as he stood beside his nephew's bed before his transfer. "Canadians are acting like enemies ... they are not here to help. They are destroying us."

The incident comes at a time when feelings are running high about civilian casualties. Just last week, some 500 residents blocked a main route in Kandahar to protest the killing of a local religious leader and his brother by foreign troops.

Canadians denied any responsibility for the killings but admit that their image suffered a blow when the protesters, some of them chanting, "death to Canada" and "death to foreigners" took to the streets.

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# Canadians kill Afghan boy, injure brother

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CNS Matthew Fisher KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Surgeons at NATO's multinational hospital at the Kandahar Airfield were working Tuesday to save the life of an Afghan boy after troops charged with protecting a Canadian convoy injured the child and killed his older brother.

Ahmed "Sorkai" Zia, 12, was transferred to a Canadian ambulance at the entrance to Canada's main base in Afghanistan on Tuesday afternoon, assisted by Canadian, American and British medics. The boy was conscious, his head swaddled in bandages, but his condition was described as "serious," according to an Afghan interpreter who accompanied him and his uncle to the military hospital.

Sorkai was wounded when the motorcycle his brother, Esmatullah, was riding was shot at by a Canadian combat logistics patrol. Esmatullah died from a shot to the head. He may have been struck by the same bullet that wounded Sorkai, who was seated behind him on the motorcycle.

"Whenever they think they want to shoot someone they can. Nobody can ask anything about it," the boys' uncle, Haji Muhammad Eisah, told CanWest News Service. "That's why they shoot us like goats, like birds, like animals ...

"We don't expect them to kill our people, those Canadians, Americans and foreign people. It would be good if they left our country." The shooting happened as a group of Canadian vehicles was travelling through Kandahar City, bringing supplies to forward bases of the Van Doo battle group in the Panjwahi and Zhari districts of Kandahar province.

"It was clear that this was an accident and not the result of enemy activity," said military spokeswoman Capt. Josee Bilodeau, adding the shooting is under investigation.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement the shooting may have been the result of an equipment malfunction.

Canadian troops on convoys are authorized to use force if they think they might be under attack.

— CanWest News Service

# Canada seeks UN envoy to Afghanistan United States, Britain back push for stepped-up role in country

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CNS Steven Edwards UNITED NATIONS -- Support was growing for a stepped-up United Nations role in Afghanistan Tuesday after Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier used his maiden address to the world body to call for the appointment of a "high-level" envoy to the war-torn country.

The United States and Britain, among countries with leading roles in Afghanistan, say they agree the UN should have enhanced powers to co-ordinate aid and other help pouring in from more than 60 countries.

Bernier also used his address to say Canada's military and aid commitments to Afghanistan and other world hot spots aim to spread freedom, human rights and democracy.

"Canada's commitment is not solely a function of our interests, but also -- and above all -- of the values Canadians hold dear," he said. "These are the values underlying our presence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and elsewhere." The need for better co-ordination in Afghanistan has long been apparent with reconstruction and security responsibilities split between the 1,000-strong UN political mission in the country, the Afghan government, the NATO-led security force that includes Canada's 2,500 troops, and U.S.-led coalition forces.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who serves as UN envoy in the country, has many co-ordinating powers, but Canada has been part of an emerging behind-the-scenes consensus pushing for change.

"The government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan," Bernier told delegates of the UN's 192 member states.

"This is why Canada supports having a high-level special envoy for Afghanistan," Bernier said in an interview last week that Canada would like to see the appointment of someone of the stature of former British prime minister Tony Blair, who has raised the profile of the Quartet of powers (the UN, the U.S., the European Union and Russia) as their special envoy to the Middle East peace process.

Diplomats say it's unclear who first came up with the idea. However, Bernier and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were among delegates at a high-level, closed-door meeting on Afghanistan on Sept. 23 who suggested not only extending the special envoy powers, but also appointing someone who could increase the profile of the office.

Bernier told delegates Canada is involved around the world because speaking about values is not enough. They must also be "protected and defended." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the summit last week, and representatives of more than 100 states delivered speeches ahead of Bernier.

UN officials say there is no significance to the order. However, heads of state or government generally get to go first, while countries can also swap assigned speaking times, sometimes in an exchange of favours.

