

# Table of Contents

<u>Taliban, Koreans meet over hostages.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Army criticism mild in friendly fire case.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>India and Pakistan took different paths.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Letters to the editor   Bicycle helmets really do work.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Nott looking for hot start in Firecracker 150.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Dion in Moncton for meeting of the minds on war issues.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>LA JIRGA : UN VOEU PIEUX.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>AFGHANISTAN.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>LE DÉFI DE LEUR VIE.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>UN PAYS QUI MÉRITE QU'ON L'AIDE.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>CONFIDENCES D'UN SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>SOUTIEN AUX TROUPES.....</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>L'ARME SECRÈTE.....</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>listings religion listings religion listings religion listings religion.....</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Defence minister withering under barrage of bad publicity.....</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Canada not doing enough to fight AIDS worldwide, groups say; Lewis: More funding needed.....</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>World in brief.....</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Get ready to enjoy the RCMP Musical Ride.....</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Taliban, South Koreans meet over hostages.....</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Vancouver police support the troops.....</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Taliban, South Korean officials meet; Hold face-to-face negotiations over hostages.....</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Taliban sticks to hostage demands; Face-to-face talks seen as last hope to free South Koreans.....</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>U.S. will try Canadian as war criminal.....</u>	<u>42</u>

# Table of Contents

<u>White House security adviser urges return of military draft.....</u>	43
<u>Devil's Brigade vets forge bonds with new breed of special forces; Second World War commandos hold 61st reunion.....</u>	44
<u>Montreal La Presse fronts for Fri., Aug. 10, 2007.....</u>	46
<u>Taliban says no plans to kill hostages before meeting with Korean delegation.....</u>	47
<u>1st Writethru CP News Budget – Friday, Aug. 10, 2007.....</u>	48
<u>US–Afghanistan–Poppies.....</u>	49
<u>Camps of Smiles and Tears.....</u>	50
<u>Harper announces plans to tighten grip on Arctic; Military training centre, deep–water seaport among measures designed to bolster sovereignty.....</u>	51
<u>Heavy toll mars tribal talks on Afghanistan.....</u>	53
<u>Special forces vets forge links with today's troops.....</u>	55
<u>Voices, Now and then.....</u>	57
<u>Bucking 1980 boycott drew death threats.....</u>	59
<u>Soldier–reporters rewrite the rules; The pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to scare the mightiest military in the world, try wielding both at the same time. Dozens of U.S. soldiers have been filing stories and videos from the frontlines in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the process, they've rewritten the rules on combat coverage.....</u>	62
<u>S. Korea, Taliban meet face–to–face to discuss hostages; Mothers to visit Dubai in bid to get Arab help to release loved ones.....</u>	66
<u>British soldier killed during check of Afghanistan irrigation project.....</u>	68
<u>Ottawa pushed on global AIDS fight; Federal government must contribute substantially more money internationally, former UN envoy says.....</u>	69
<u>Brigade's tradition continues.....</u>	71
<u>Departed can be life of the party.....</u>	73
<u>Khadr will remain in U.S. prison.....</u>	76
<u>South Koreans, Taliban begin talks on hostages.....</u>	77

# Table of Contents

<u>Devil's Brigade vets old and new reminisce.....</u>	79
<u>PM expected to shuffle cabinet.....</u>	81
<u>A Harper cabinet shuffle or swapping chairs at king's court?; Once an important power-sharing device, cabinet today seems to matter less.....</u>	83
<u>Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave military post and try to share power.....</u>	85
<u>Taliban, S. Koreans holding talks over fate of hostages.....</u>	89
<u>Fight over Arctic heats up; Denmark makes its case for ownership of North Pole as Harper moves to fortify Canadian sovereignty.....</u>	90
<u>Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release.....</u>	93
<u>A soldier's story To know Afghanistan, a Canadian soldier must break through a wall of misconceptions.....</u>	94
<u>Love her or hate her, Bhutto is no fool.....</u>	96
<u>Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release.....</u>	98
<u>Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release.....</u>	99
<u>Devil of a graduation Storied brigade survivors approve newest commandos.....</u>	100
<u>A soldier's story.....</u>	102
<u>frontpage Brothers in arms Vets of famed Devil's Brigade pass torch to Canada's newest elite commandos.....</u>	104
<u>Moral code marks Afghans.....</u>	105
<u>Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release.....</u>	107
<u>Good news on Taliban.....</u>	108
<u>Reprimands slap on wrist.....</u>	110
<u>One Canadian soldier learns to adapt to the harsh realities of life in Afghanistan.....</u>	111
<u>Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release.....</u>	113
<u>Commandos from yesterday and today swap tales at reunion; Canadian and U.S. veterans of Second World War, Afghanistan and Iraq forge new ties.....</u>	114

# Table of Contents

<u>Police cars to show troop support; Graham announces stickers in last message as Vancouver police chief.....</u>	116
<u>South Koreans, rebels meet on hostage fate; Face-to-face meetings seen as 'one of last hopes' for 21 aid workers held in Afghanistan.....</u>	118
<u>Harper boosts Arctic claim; Prime minister announces multimillion-dollar investment in port and training centre.....</u>	119
<u>TOP OF THE WORLD.....</u>	121
<u>Canadian doctors have many choices.....</u>	123
<u>Canadians, Kiwis similar in many ways; Both prosperous countries could turn their backs on the world but they don't.....</u>	124
<u>Author goes in search of her Afghan heritage; She grew up in Canada, one of the world's richest countries, but her family came from one of the poorest.....</u>	126
<u>Pakistan's leader backed into corner; A nation in turmoil; Even supporters say increasingly that Pervez Musharraf has only himself to blame for eroding support.....</u>	129
<u>The politics of war ... on the Canadian battlefield; O'Connor, Hillier and pacifist Quebec at centre of debate over Afghanistan.....</u>	133
<u>SOUTH KOREAN CAPTIVES Taliban, South Korea meet to discuss hostages Representatives gather for face-to-face first talks over fate of abducted church group members.....</u>	134
<u>SUPPORTING THE TROOPS Police take up the yellow ribbon Campaign has been controversial in other cities, but chief says he's not worried.....</u>	136
<u>ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT Pakistan's military is all business As the political crisis deepens, a new book reveals just how powerful the generals really are. Sonya Fatah reports.....</u>	138
<u>TART: A SATIRICAL TAKE ON CURRENT EVENTS Hostage: It's a great role for a dedicated actress.....</u>	142
<u>Editorial – Pakistan blinks.....</u>	144
<u>Give me Blair or Bush over Ignatieff.....</u>	145
<u>Cruising back through history; Discovering roots on an Ottawa-organized klezmer boat trip.....</u>	147
<u>Going Out.....</u>	149

# Table of Contents

<u>Boycott aimed at government, not the Chinese.....</u>	161
<u>Bring troops home.....</u>	163
<u>United States. Military draft should be revisited, official says.....</u>	164
<u>Khadr to remain in Guantanamo, U.S. official insists; U.S. determined to see prosecution of Toronto-born terror suspect.....</u>	165
<u>'Carrying on the traditions' of the Devil's Brigade; Veterans took part in a special celebration of their achievements yesterday, writes David Pugliese from CFB Petawawa.....</u>	167
<u>PM announces millions for Arctic; Harper plans base, seaport as Denmark makes bid to own Pole... </u>	169
<u>Long-term planning for Cabinet; Comment; Firm Grip On Power Gives Conservatives Many Options.....</u>	172
<u>Taliban, south Koreans begin face-to-face talks over hostages.....</u>	174
<u>F I C T I O N.....</u>	175
<u>These films about Pakistan are as fiercely independent as the country.....</u>	177
<u>7 Quotes; "Things they said this week".....</u>	179
<u>Dubya is no Rambo.....</u>	181
<u>Rocket man and the new cold war.....</u>	182
<u>Successors honour Devil's Brigade; Special-ops veterans reunite at Petawawa.....</u>	186

# Taliban, Koreans meet over hostages

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face to face for the first time yesterday to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, an Afghan official said.

Taliban spokesperson Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council — Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah — travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began last evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said the Afghan official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information. He said four members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were also participating.

The Afghan and local governments did not immediately comment. The Interior Ministry spokesperson said he was not aware of a meeting taking place.

Ahmadi also said the Taliban would not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages until the face-to-face meetings have been held. Two men among the 23 South Koreans originally kidnapped have already been killed.

The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more hostages if their demands to release Taliban prisoners held by the Afghan government and the U.S. military are not met.

The Afghan government has said it will not release prisoners because doing so could encourage more kidnappings. Afghan authorities say talks with the Taliban are the best way to resolve the problem.

The local governor, Marajudin Pathan, has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity due to policy. Last month, the government banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan.

Ahmadi said the departure of Korean aid workers would have a "positive effect." He did not elaborate.

In South Korea, a spokesperson for the hostages' families said yesterday that the mothers of several hostages — five women and a translator — will travel to the emirate of Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release.

"The reason why we are sending women, especially mothers, to Dubai is that Islamic culture has more sympathy for women," said the spokesperson, Cha Sung-min.

The 23 South Koreans were abducted in the Qarabagh district of Ghazni province as they travelled by bus from Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar. The captives — volunteers from a church group who planned to do health work in Afghanistan — include 16 women and five men.

# Army criticism mild in friendly fire case

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Official reprimands issued to three high-ranking U.S. army officers are only mildly critical of their mistakes after the friendly fire death of Pat Tillman in April 2004 in Afghanistan, and at times praise the officers.

The army also said it would not include the reprimands in the officers' military records.

Tillman's death attracted widespread attention because he had turned down an NFL contract to join the military.

The military laid most of the blame on Philip Kensinger, a retired general who led army special operations forces. Kensinger was censured for "a failure of leadership" and accused of lying to investigators.



# India and Pakistan took different paths

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<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS / Members of India's National CadetCorps march in a torchlight rally in Ahmadabad last week, in ceremonies marking the nation's indepedence movement. ; Photo: ASHOK KAPUR ;
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India and Pakistan gained independence from British rule in mid–August 1947 and — 60 years later — it's time to reflect on their achievements and their problems, where the two nations came from, the paths they have chosen, and where they are now in terms of their development and international position.

Following a hasty British withdrawal from the Indian subcontinent, the two countries were born in violence. Thousands of innocent civilians died in communal carnage, millions moved from Pakistan to India, and visa versa, in a process of a massive involuntary migration. And the British partition of the region into two countries has been followed by war and diplomatic conflict between the two.

The violence grew out of a belief — widespread among Muslims and shared by the British rulers of India — that Indian Muslims were at risk living with a Hindu majority, and that a Muslim homeland and Western protection was needed to protect them. Muslim leader M.A. Jinnah, the architect of the Pakistani state, persuaded the British that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations, that they could not live together in post–British India, and that a separate state was the way to secure their future.

The theory bore little resemblance to reality. India had never functioned as a Hindu majority country even though Hinduism was its main religion, along with Islam, Budhism, Jainism, and Christianity. Since the 11th century the political, military and economic affairs of India were chaotic and subject to several waves of Muslim invasions from Afghanistan, Persia and Central Asia. The invaders became settlers and the rulers in India from 1526 until the mid– 1880s.

With the arrival of the East India Company's traders and British military men in India, beginning in the 1600s, a parallel commercial, military and political influence emerged under London's direction. The decline of the status of the Muslim emperors was followed by the rise of the British India empire, beginning in the mid–1800s until 1947.

Without a history of Hindu domination of the subcontinent, and given the prevailing political atmosphere and the fear of communal violence, India's leaders made it a point to emphasize the importance of a secular India — given that there were more than 150 million Muslims inside India, one of the largest Islamic groups in the world. The protection is in the Indian Constitution.

The belief in an inevitable Hindu–Muslim conflict led to wars between India and Pakistan, over Kashmir in 1947–48 and 1965, and over Bangladesh in 1971. Since the 1980s, there has been a state–supported campaign

by Pakistan to promote insurgency in various parts of India including an attack on the Indian parliament in 2002, and the Mumbai (Bombay) train bombings in 2006. But these wars and external interventions have been checked by Indian military action and international diplomatic pressure on Pakistan.

After the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, many international observers believed that Pakistani-inspired support of Taliban and al-Qaida should be checked. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has been under constant pressure by the U.S. to curb Pakistan-based terrorists. China, Pakistan's ally, has also criticized Islamabad publicly for its Jihadi training camps, out of concern over the spread of Islamic extremism into its border areas where significant numbers of Muslims live.

Moreover, Pakistan is preoccupied with the problem in Afghanistan and its internal extremism, so war with India is unlikely.

Pakistan's tragedy is that it put all its eggs in the basket of animosity with India and the Hindus, and it forgot to develop a formula and a process to establish internal democracy, to learn to share power among its constituents, and to organize regime change peacefully. For most of its history, it has been under military rule, and Pakistani politicians since the 1980s have functioned with the military's tolerance and support. Its military-civil relations are a matter of opportunism, not conviction about the value of democracy.

For years the military has been the biggest political force in Pakistan and now it controls its economy as well. Despite its powerful position in Pakistani politics, history has not been kind to the generals in Islamabad. Its theory of the Hindu-Muslim divide as the dominant element in the subcontinent and its belief that the army is the guardian of Pakistan and of Islam fell apart in 1971 when Bengali (then East Pakistani) Muslims revolted against West Pakistani exploitation of its revenue producing jute industry (along with other cultural and political grievances) for the benefit of the political and military masters in West Pakistan.

Today, the pattern of intra-Muslim revolt continues, with Baloch nationalists blowing up oil and rail links in western and southern Pakistan. The Pushtoons of Pakistan are allied to fellow Pushtoons in Afghanistan in a campaign to support the Taliban, and the strategic Sind province, with its vital Karachi seaport is unsettled.

So even if Musharraf and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto come together in a power sharing arrangement — as is widely rumoured — this is an alliance of two losers. Neither is committed to internal conflict resolution by political and peaceful methods and neither one has the capacity to deliver stability and peace to its people. Islamabad does not have a plan to deal with restive regional nationalities and it does not acknowledge their separate cultural identities and their economic and political demands.

By comparison, India's economic, military and diplomatic position in the region and in the world has grown. No doubt it had baggage. Jawahrahal Nehru's socialism irritated many Indians and Westerners, and a cumbersome and allegedly corrupt bureaucracy with a belief in state controls stifled economic and political life. As well, a leftist orientation toward Moscow and Beijing and an anti-U.S. orientation permeates Indian thinking because Washington is not viewed as a benign force in world affairs. Until the late 1990s this orientation handicapped India's search for international allies and economic growth.

India also has many serious problems – a large pool of rural and urban poor, insurgency in India's northeastern and central provinces, poor infrastructure, and a slow pace of internal economic reforms. India's progress has, nevertheless, been remarkable because of the nation's ability to self-correct and learn from its mistakes and develop the skills and the capacity to compete on different fronts.

Following the war with China in 1962, Indians recognized the importance of military and economic strength to deal with dangerous neighbours. Pakistan's hostility was dealt with by resorting to war and by diplomatic dialogue. But, it is significant that even during war, the lines of communication between Pakistan and India have always remained open.

The Indian government was slow to join the economic globalization process, waiting until 1991. India's information technology entrepreneurs showed the way, despite government restrictions, and the process of Indian economic reforms took off. Today, India boasts a nine per cent annual growth rate with strength in manufacturing, information technology, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, steel, automobiles and other high-skill and technology areas.

It is significant that India has a pool of millions of dedicated, well trained and politically skilled young people who can compete in various sectors of the global economy. They are the doers, compared to the talkers in Indian political parties and the procrastinators in the civil service.

When India became independent it was compared with Pakistan. Today, it is compared with China and other major powers in issues relating to economic growth, military strength, and internal governance within a system of law and a culture of peaceful change.

Because of his fixation with India, Pakistan's Jinnah, his nation's first governor general, argued that Pakistan could not afford the luxury of democracy — so its trajectory took the path of authoritarianism, first under the direction of its colonially trained civil servants and then its generals. As a result, the idea of democracy, the habit of discourse, and peaceful adjustment of political, economic and social conflicts has been shaky in Pakistan. And a self-correct mechanism is lacking.

Lately Pakistan has turned in a respectable performance, with economic growth approaching six per cent, but international political and business leaders rate it as one of the world's least stable countries — with the likes of Nigeria and Venezuela.

Pakistan is now in the category of a failing state, but because of its strategic location in a dangerous neighbourhood it must be propped up by Western aid and diplomatic support.

As such, the Indian story revolves around recent comparisons with China, while Pakistan must find a way to shed its India fixation and fix its domestic arrangements.

"The Indian story revolves around recent comparisons with China, while Pakistan must find a way to shed its India fixation and fix its domestic arrangements. "

Ashok Kapur is the co-author of a forthcoming book, *Government and Politics of South Asia*, and he is a distinguished professor emeritus, of the University of Waterloo.

# Letters to the editor | Bicycle helmets really do work

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On Aug. 6, my son Christopher took a terrible flip off his bike at Odell Park. He went face first into the ground.

I would like to take this chance to thank his best friend Travis Burns for being there with him, the gentleman whom, I believe, is John for calling 9–1–1, and the ambulance attendants.

Thanks also to the staff in the emergency room for taking such great care of him. They were very caring to both him and to us when we arrived at the hospital.

They were extremely passionate when it came to his little sister, Starla, who did not like the way her big brother looked.

They took her aside, talked to her and reassured her he was going to be OK.

Christopher is at home. His face will take some time to heal, his teeth will have to be repaired — both his wrists were sprained and he has a lot of road rash.

Most importantly, however, there are no neck or head injuries.

Helmets do work.

Please wear yours every time you are on your bike.

Also thank you to the caretaker at Odell, who locked up my son's bike after the accident.

Kathy and Brian Trefry

Fredericton

Stop wasting our money

Recently, the RCMP released a warning that Afghan heroin is making its way into Canada, and is becoming an increasing threat to our people.

Must we forget that coalition countries have occupied this territory since 2001?

These findings released by the RCMP are very interesting to those who understand the 2006 report numbers released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

This really should come as no surprise to anyone who has done their research. However, to those who have not, these findings will probably start up the shameful "fear factor" that governments are so fond of doing these days.

You see, by passively allowing this influx of heroin on the streets, it can create a sense of panic or urgency.

This, in turn, actively justifies a need for a more "martial law" like existence. And frankly, why would our governments not be justified?

The majority of Canadians are obviously living in fear.

One can judge the rate of fear by seeing society's ever-increasing need to try to control everything. Those addicted to this unjustified fear are left with no choice but to rely on our governments to restrict our civil liberties and implement more control over its citizens.

However, to rely on our governments to provide this false sense of security comes with a price. Just ask the American people how they feel about the Patriot Act, and the newly passed Eavesdropping Bill.

By the way, both of these American policies directly affect Canadians, as well.

Security gathered by scrutinizing the population is very demeaning to those who enjoy living a free existence with civil liberties. A better way would be to rehabilitate all the people who live in fear, to live a spiritual life free of dysfunctional performance.

It would also be refreshing to see our government spend more money rehabilitating those addicted to substances, and stop wasting ridiculous amounts of money in Afghanistan.

It may be wiser to spend the money to send everyone in the country a copy of John Bradshaw's "Healing the shame that binds you."

It may reach enough people to make a major impact on this highly dysfunctional society.

Call it a conspiracy or call it an ability to see the truth, whatever. Our coalition governments and militaries must be held accountable for the influx of heroin on the streets of major Canadian cities.

All of this nonsense could be stopped in Afghanistan, where more than 82 per cent of world opium production is growing. Only doing something about it here in Canada or any other country for that matter is simply absurd.

Trevor DeBlock

Windsor, Ont.

Creation of fund is a blessing

The announcement for the new Innovation Fund created by Kelly Lamrock and the government of New Brunswick was made recently at Park Street School.

The creation of this Innovation Fund is a blessing to dynamic and motivated schools, such as Park Street Elementary, which are dedicated to instilling the passion and the motivation to learn.

Often times, effective and inspiring ideas come from schools throughout the province but are often difficult to

initiate and share due to funding.

The Innovation Fund was created so that innovative schools could access necessary funds more easily through a grant, rather than going through the red tape and bureaucracy of the school boards. When innovative and creative ideas are proven effective, it is important to ensure that they are supported and shared.

Park Street Elementary School is proud to be the first recipient of this fund and will work hard to ensure those best practices be developed and followed.

T.J. Burke was a strong advocate for our community and he worked hard to deliver what the community asked for.

The Smart Board initiative was identified as a priority to the community and, through strong leadership and advocacy, Burke convinced the government that Park Street School was the right investment for the province.

He was approachable, he listened and he met with the community whenever asked.

For his efforts and leadership, we wish to extend our sincerest appreciation.

This is good news for all children of New Brunswick.

Paula Colter

Home and School President

Park St. School

Fredericton

New house is a surprise

I'd like to let your readers know that a Fredericton blind man is about to receive a brand new house and he doesn't even know it!

I'm his brother and my family has been raising money and organizing volunteers for months. This Aug. 29, before dozens of Fredericton volunteers, donors and the media, we will surprise my brother, Steven Porter, of Kelly's Court, with a brand new house that is currently under construction in Fredericton.

It will replace his 30-year-old mobile home.

The keys will be handed over to Steven and his wife, Lynn, on their 20th wedding anniversary at noon. I invite your readers to attend this blessed event.

For more information or to donate, call 452-6911 or visit The Steven Project website: [www.thestevenproject.ca](http://www.thestevenproject.ca).

Please remember, shhh..., this is a surprise!

God bless you.

Pastor Matthew Porter

Calvary Baptist Church

Miramichi, N.B.

There is much to celebrate

New Brunswick has much to celebrate and be proud about.

- \* Thousands appreciate events at Old Government House grounds.
- \* The Youth Orchestra was a smash hit in China.
- \* Government kept our ecological jewel, the Cape Jourimain Nature Centre open.
- \* The competency of David Hay and his negotiators in resolving the Orimulsion issue.
- \* The \$1.6 billion Potash plant to be built in Sussex.
- \* The economic potential for all New Brunswickers in the development of a nuclear plant, oil refinery and power transmission lines to United States.
- \* Moncton and New Brunswick was on the National stage with the hosting of Canada's provincial and territorial leaders and their important discussions revolving around provincial trade barriers, climate change, and a national energy transmission grid, etc.
- \* Shawn Graham has been on the road constantly doing a fantastic job selling the advantages of our province.

It is clear that creative thinking, and bold decisions can create endless possibilities.

New Brunswick is an underdeveloped gem.

Harold Phalen

Fredericton

# Nott looking for hot start in Firecracker 150

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Glyn Nott is looking to set off a firecracker and make some noise at New Brunswick International Speedway this evening.

The veteran of the Martin's Home Heating Sportsman Division is one of a handful of NBIS drivers in the mix for the prize money in the first annual Firecracker 150 sportsman race, the second leg of the Liteco Challenge.

Nott was the winner of the first leg held at River Glade Speedway near Moncton on the Canada Day weekend.

Tonight the cars from "The Glade" will come to the Geary woods to complete the second half of the challenge.

The card will see the first green flag fly at 6 p.m. and will feature a full night of action. The Coast Tire Street Stock Division will race to regular feature and the Atlantic Open Wheel class will make their first visit of the season to the Geary facility. The CARQUEST Pro Stock cars will remain in the garage, however, as they get the night off. While weather is not forecast to be an issue, if rain does come the card will have a rain date tomorrow at 2 p.m.

The Firecracker concept isn't totally new. It was actually supposed to happen last summer but the NBIS leg of the event was washed away by rain and could not be made up. This year, though, both ends of the head-to-head track duel looks good.

"We had a lot of fun down at River Glade," Nott said of his win in the first leg. "It was tough to get it done because of Mother Nature but the folks down there worked hard to get it in and managed. I know the drivers down there are looking forward to this weekend. Six of them are coming up for sure, I was told, and from what they were saying as many as 10 or 12 could actually make the trip."

The cars will run NBIS rules, as they ran River Glade rules back on July 1, which basically means the visitors will have to exchange their radios for in-car scanners. Other than that, they will have to adjust to the track itself.

"It's a different experience running down there," Nott said of the Glade's concrete walls ringing the asphalt. "It's a little intimidating to be honest. You have to be careful and respect the guys on the outside. You can't push up and they can't pinch down because if you go both cars are done for the day. But the day we raced there it went well. There were only two cautions. They show a lot of respect there."

It's been an interesting season for Nott, who sits sixth in the sportsman division season points standings. He's 46 points off the pace of leader and defending champion Brian MacNaughton.



Nott's had two big wins, though: the Martin's Home Heating 120 a month ago and, of course, the first Firecracker race.

"We've been having our usual luck in the points racing," Nott said. "It's kind of odd. We've been having some good runs in the longer races, but the weekly features it's still the same old stuff. We'll be having a good race and something will break, or we'll got caught up in a wreck. It's been a frustrating couple of years that way.

"I don't know why things seem to work out better in the longer runs, but I hope it keeps up for this week."

Nott admits that stories that circulated through the winter that he was on the brink of selling his car were true, but he was only mulling things over really.

"We put it up for sale, we would have sold it," he said. "Being in the military you never know what's around the next bend for you in your career. They have plans for you and you go where they say. The whole situation in Afghanistan was a little uncertain at the time and there were some family issues with my mom. But we decided to go at least one more year.

"It's one year at a time, but it's like that for a lot of guys out in Geary."

The last week has been a good one for Nott and just about everybody at Camp Gagetown with the return of troops, many of them friends of Nott, from the Afghanistan mission.

"Every couple of days we get another plane load of guys home, it's great," Nott said. "There are other guys from Quebec going over to replace them so we are thinking of them, but it's always good to see your friends coming home safe. Next week (NBIS) is having that military night and we're looking forward to that."

# Dion in Moncton for meeting of the minds on war issues

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110048  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**SECTION:** News;News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**BYLINE:** KATE WRIGHT wright.kate@dailygleaner.com  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 178

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Liberal Opposition Leader Stephane Dion will be in Moncton on Tuesday to participate in a round table on military issues.

The discussion will be held at Dieppe City Hall and will be led by Richmond Hill MP Bryon Wilfert.

Moncton–Riverview–Dieppe MP Brian Murphy and Beausejour MP Dominic LeBlanc will also participate.

Murphy said many Liberal MPs were interested in learning more about the social and economic impacts of war on families and felt hosting a round table in Moncton would benefit the region.

The MPs will be joined by local experts Mike Dawson of the Moncton Military Family Resource Centre, Lee Windsor, deputy director of The Gregg Centre for the Study of War & Society at the University of New Brunswick, and Lou Cuppens, president of the New Brunswick Aerospace and Defense Association.

Murphy said the panel won't be speaking specifically about the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Rather, the round table will focus on support services that can be provided for family members back home.

"We need to sit and listen and hear about the impact our presence abroad is having and how we can make things better," he said.

The meeting will also focus on health benefits for injured veterans and services for spouses.

While in the region, Dion will be taking part in Acadian Day celebrations in Caraquet on Wednesday.

# LA JIRGA : UN VOEU PIEUX

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110083  
**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Nouvelles  
**PAGE:** 59  
**BYLINE:** AFP  
**DATELINE:** KABOUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 89

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KABOUL — (AFP) La " jirga de paix", une assemblée coutumière inédite de 700 leaders tribaux, religieux et politiques d'Afghanistan et du Pakistan réunis à Kaboul pour lutter efficacement contre les talibans et Al-Qaïda dans les deux pays risque de rester sans effet, selon les analystes. Mais les liens des deux côtés de la frontière pourraient s'en trouver resserrés, la communication entre tribus améliorée et un partenariat rendu efficace, jugent certains. !@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN

# AFGHANISTAN

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110081

**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

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**SECTION:** Nouvelles

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. PHOTOS LE JOURNAL Ancien fief des talibans, les troupes québécoises ont été déployés dans la région de Kandahar, l'une des plus dangereuses d'Afghanistan. 2. Une patrouille prête au départ avec en arrière-plan son véhicule RG-31. De gauche à droite: caporal Pierre-Luc Fontaine, caporal Daniel Cloutier, sergent Jonathan Desmarais et caporal Tyler Patnode. 3. Le caporal Carl Perrier-Ménard et le caporal-chef Martin Forgues sont membres de la Force de protection de l'Équipe provinciale de reconstruction basée à Kandahar.

**COLUMN:** À LA UNE

**WORD COUNT:** 4

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# LE DÉFI DE LEUR VIE

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110078

**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Nouvelles

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Le caporal–chef Pierre–Luc Fontaine indique la température moyenne en ce moment à Kandahar. Une chaleur comparable à celle ressentie devant une porte de four ouverte, souligne le caporal–chef Martin Forgues. Les soldats doivent s'y adapter, en plus d'absorber le choc culturel. 2. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Des enfants afghans réagissent au passage d'une patrouille de l'Équipe provinciale de reconstruction. 3. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Le caporal Pierre–Luc Fontaine, du Royal Montreal Regiment, photographié en plein travail sur le terrain.

**BYLINE:** MARILOU SÉGUIN LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

**WORD COUNT:** 330

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Martin Forgues veut aborder la dimension humaine du travail des soldats québécois déployés à Kandahar

Alors que le regard des Québécois est tourné vers l'Afghanistan, un soldat déployé à Kandahar chroniquera dès aujourd'hui et à tous les samedis dans Le Journal de Montréal afin d'offrir aux lecteurs un point de vue inédit de la vie des troupes sur le terrain.

Le Montréalais Martin Forgues, 26 ans, sert présentement comme commandant adjoint d'une section d'infanterie de dix soldats au sein d'un peloton dont la tâche est d'assurer la sécurité de l'Équipe provinciale de reconstruction, basée à Kandahar.

Célibataire et sans enfant, le caporal–chef Forgues dit être soutenu à 100% par sa famille et ses amis, même s'ils sont au courant des dangers inhérents à cette mission.

"À grande échelle il y a beaucoup de travail à faire, c'est sûr, mais si notre contribution peut au moins améliorer le quotidien de la population locale ne serait-ce qu'un brin, une part du travail est déjà accomplie", dit-il.

Dans sa nouvelle chronique, le jeune homme du 22e Régiment de Valcartier présentera un potpourri d'anecdotes et de faits marquants qui sortent des reportages habituels.

"J'aimerais surtout aborder la dimension humaine des soldats sur le terrain, montrer aux gens qu'avant tout, chaque soldat est un être unique, qui a sa propre histoire", dit-il.

Après la Bosnie, l'Afghanistan

Le caporal–chef Forgues a pris une pause dans ses études en journalisme et sciences politiques à l'Université Concordia pour être déployé en Afghanistan.

"Je crois sincèrement que la mission canadienne dans sa forme actuelle est pleinement justifiée et qu'elle fait des progrès. On le remarque ici sur le terrain et les Afghans avec qui je parle le confirment", dit-il.

Né à Montréal, Martin Forgues a joint les Forces au terme de sa première année au Cégep régional de Lanaudière à l'Assomption où il étudiait en sciences humaines. C'était en 1999.

"J'ai joint les Forces afin d'obtenir un boulot étudiant qui sortait de l'ordinaire, confie-t-il. Pour plusieurs raisons, j'ai décidé de partir avant la graduation et comme j'étais réserviste au sein de l'armée, j'ai sauté sur l'opportunité de participer à une mission en Bosnie", ajoute-t-il.

Qu'en a-t-il retenu? "Qu'un pays qui a la volonté de se reconstruire peut le faire, mais que l'aide de la communauté internationale est indispensable ", dit Forgues.

EN COLLABORATION AVEC PHILIPPE-ANDRÉ PIETTE

mseguin@journalmtl.com !@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN

# UN PAYS QUI MÉRITE QU'ON L'AIDE

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110063

**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal

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**SECTION:** Nouvelles

**PAGE:** 2

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. PHOTO LE JOURNAL Le caporal–chef Nicolas Chagnon, croqué sur le vif par le caporal–chef Martin Forgues alors qu'il prodigue les premiers soins à un jeune Afghan.  
2. feu.

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**COLUMN:** CAPORAL–CHEF MARTIN FORGUES\COLLABORATION SPÉCIALE  
—afghanistan@journalmtl.com

**WORD COUNT:** 657

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Il y aura bientôt un mois que je suis débarqué à Kandahar et, dans plusieurs sens, je suis toujours en train d'arriver. Malgré toute la préparation que nous avons vécue durant les dix longs mois d'entraînement qui ont précédé le déploiement, rien n'aurait pu nous aider à absorber le choc culturel que nous avons encaissé.

Ces trois premières semaines en sol afghan furent pour moi et mes coéquipiers québécois une difficile période d'adaptation.

Tout ce qu'on prenait pour acquis à la maison nous a soudain semblé si fragile.

L'eau, qui est non potable sauf si elle est embouteillée et importée des Émirats Arabes Unis.

La chaleur, qui est comparable à celle ressentie devant une porte de four ouverte, à la différence qu'on n'a d'autre choix que de rester planté devant elle.

Le fait de vivre avec cette menace fantôme en permanence, comme en témoignent les nombreux coups de feu qui retentissent au loin presque chaque jour.

Et la nourriture, qui est abondante et variée, mais limitée à un régime de pain, de riz et de thé pour ces locaux qui travaillent dans le camp...

## LES PRÉJUGÉS TOMBENT

Malgré tout, nos premiers contacts avec les Afghans, dont la culture et la vie sociale sont aux antipodes du mode de vie occidental, ont été très cordiaux.

Plusieurs préjugés à leur sujet sont tombés au fil des jours.

Au lieu de gens aux moeurs arriérées et remplis de rancœur envers l'étranger, j'ai rencontré des gens généreux, hospitaliers à leur façon et honnêtes comme peu de gens le sont.

À l'exemple de ce vieil homme, un charpentier qui, malgré son apparente pauvreté et le fait qu'il nous sache grassement payés et nourris, partage sans hésitation un grand morceau de pain chaque matin.

Cette scène quotidienne, d'apparence banale, est devenue pour moi un symbole du rapprochement mutuel que nous tentons d'établir avec ce pays qui, après tant d'années de guerres souvent intestines, mérite une chance.

## LA FIERTÉ

Tous ces changements m'ont fait beaucoup penser aux événements qui se sont bousculés avant que mes coéquipiers et moi-même nous nous retrouvions en sol afghan.

Le départ de mon cher Montréal et de mon cher Québec, d'abord. Une entrevue impromptue en direct à la radio, ensuite. Un dernier vendredi soir dans la métropole, bien arrosé et en excellente compagnie. Un dernier dimanche, jour du déploiement, en compagnie de la famille et des proches, dans le garage du 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Régiment. Deux cents militaires, gonflés à bloc, prêts à relever le défi que leur a imposé leur pays.

Une atmosphère lourde, néanmoins, comme si une violente collision émotive s'était produite entre notre excitation (la mienne, ainsi que celle de mes confrères et consoeurs) et la peine plus que palpable qu'éprouvent nos proches de nous voir partir pour une période de sept mois.

Malgré la tristesse engendrée par cette séparation, c'est néanmoins un sentiment de fierté qui prend maintenant toute la place.

\* \* \*

## SUR LE TERRAIN

### Pas ponctuels

Les moeurs sociales afghanes sont très différentes des nôtres. Par exemple, il est de bon ton ici d'arriver en retard à un rendez-vous. La raison est, du moins pour eux, fort simple : si vous arrivez à l'heure, vous ne laissez pas tout le temps à votre hôte de préparer pleinement votre arrivée. Si vous arrivez trop à l'avance, on croira que vous ne faites pas confiance à votre hôte.

### Le secret de l'âge

Bien que les infrastructures administratives gouvernementales s'installent lentement mais sûrement, beaucoup d'Afghans ne connaissent pas leur véritable date de naissance, et ils calculent leur âge en fonction de leur... chapeau! Comme ici un couvrechef dure en moyenne dix ans à son propriétaire, il est commun d'entendre un Afghan se donner un âge qui, de notre point de vue, est relativement douteux.

### Plume Latraverse

Comme la compagnie que nous remplaçons venait elle aussi du Royal 22e Régiment, elle avait déjà commencé à enseigner des rudiments de langue française aux interprètes afghans. Quelle ne fut pas notre surprise d'être accueillis par une myriade de mots dans une langue qui se rapproche davantage du vocabulaire de Plume Latraverse que de celui de Molière...

### Leçon d'humilité

Plusieurs membres de la police nationale afghane, avec qui nous travaillons étroitement, ont combattu soit durant l'occupation soviétique, soit contre le régime taliban. Ils forment donc un corps qui a l'expérience des combats. Une bonne leçon d'humilité pour la plupart d'entre nous qui, malgré un degré d'entraînement élevé, n'avons jamais connu notre baptême du !@MOTSCLES=UNE NOUVELLE CHRONIQUE À LIRE TOUS LES SAMEDIS

## UN PAYS QUI MÉRITE QU'ON L'AIDE



# CONFIDENCES D'UN SOLDAT QUÉBÉCOIS

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**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. PHOTO LE JOURNAL 2,02\$ + TAXES -- ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE 2,42\$ --  
ÉDITION PROVINCIALE 2,33\$ + TPS + TVQ -- FLORIDE 3,25\$US Montréal --  
Samedi 11 août 2007 -- Vol. XLIV No 58 -- 288 pages PHOTO D'ARCHIVES  
PHOTO PC

**WORD COUNT:** 19

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Afghanistan– nouvelle chronique exclusive pages 2 à 4

Elvis: 30 ans après

L'héritage du King, son influence sur nos artistes

Des cuisines à faire rêver

Nadal ne l'a pas eu facile– Coupe Rogers

# SOUTIEN AUX TROUPES

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**PAGE:** 10  
**DATELINE:** PC  
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PC — La police de Vancouver rejoindra d'autres corps policiers en apposant un message de soutien aux troupes canadiennes en Afghanistan sur l'arrière de ses voitures. Il s'agit d'un appui pour que ces Canadiens puissent rentrer en santé.

# L'ARME SECRÈTE

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**SOURCETAG** 0708091186  
**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Weekend  
**PAGE:** W20  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. 9 photos d'archives 2.  
**BYLINE:** DENIS TREMBLAY LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL  
**COLUMN:** STARS  
**WORD COUNT:** 1078

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## JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

Justin Timberlake a succombé à une faiblesse chère à beaucoup de célébrités: avoir son propre restaurant. Arnold Schwarzenegger et Robert De Niro, pour ne citer que ceux-ci, l'ont fait. Ainsi donc, Justin Timberlake, avec ses amis de collège Trace Ayala et Eytan Sugarman, a ouvert son premier établissement. Ça s'appelle Southern Hospitality. Et l'on y sert des spécialités du sud des États-Unis: côtes levées, poulet frit, écrevisses, etc. Mais le chanteur a une arme secrète: une formidable tarte aux pacanes. Il la doit à une femme de 64 ans, Sadie Bomar, qui ne peut rien refuser au jeune chanteur. Et pour cause, il s'agit de sa grandmère. Par ailleurs, Queen Latifah ouvrira d'ici la fin de l'année un fast-food à Southbeach. Ce sera une franchise de la chaîne Fatburger.

## PARIS HILTON

### Le t-shirt

Ces jours derniers, Paris Hilton s'est pavanée avec un long t-shirt sur lequel un non moins immense portrait d'elle-même était imprimé. Ce qui a fait dire à l'animateur de talk-show Jimmy Kimmel: "Comme ça, si elle se perd, elle saura toujours qui elle est." Son collègue David Letterman n'est pas en reste. Commentant le récent achat d'un chien par Britney Spears, il a eu ces mots: "Britney Spears voulait un chien? Elle s'est achetée un chien, un chien de 3000 \$. À ce prix-là, la bête est aussi chauffeur désigné et gardienne d'enfants." Il est vrai que la jeune femme a bien besoin de l'un et de l'autre. Commentant la prochaine visite du pape à New York, il a dit: "Bonne nouvelle: après son discours aux Nations unies, il doit faire un

exorcisme live à The View."

## CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

### Le golf

Michael Douglas l'a souvent déclaré en entrevue: de savoir sa femme amateur de golf a été une heureuse révélation. Le bonheur se poursuit. Catherine Zeta-Jones et son mari jouent au golf presque tous les jours. Aux Bermudes, où ils passent la majeure partie de l'année, ils vont reconduire les enfants à l'école. Puis ils se dirigent au club voisin, où ils jouent le maximum de trous avant de reprendre les enfants pour le repas du midi. Mais une fois par semaine, Catherine Zeta-Jones parcourt les allées avec sa "gang de filles". Le golf devient alors un prétexte à rire et à partager, à la fin de la journée, un repas et une bouteille de vin.

## MICK JAGGER

### Satisfaction garantie

Il n'y a pas de petits profits et de mauvais contrats quand il s'agit des Rolling Stones. Le groupe a touché la bagatelle de 5,5M\$US pour un récital privé de une heure et vingt minutes. Si on calcule bien, ça fait 67000 \$US par minute. Le spectacle était payé par la Deutsche Bank, qui avait réservé pour l'événement le Musée catalan d'art moderne, à Barcelone, en Espagne. La banque voulait ainsi remercier ses cadres les plus méritants. Ce qui a fait dire à un Mick Jagger hilare: "Merci de nous avoir embauchés et de partager avec nous une partie de vos bonis." Bref, les Stones étaient diablement satisfaits. Avec un tel cachet, le contraire eut été étonnant. Par sûr, par contre, que les employés aient apprécié l'allusion à leurs bonis...

## SIENNA MILLER

### Mauvaise expérience

On ne reprendra plus Sienna Miller à recevoir un ou une journaliste chez elle. Au tout début de sa (jeune) carrière, elle avait invité une journaliste chez elle pour conclure une entrevue commencée dans un restaurant. Quelle ne fut pas sa surprise en consultant l'article, quelque temps plus tard, d'y lire qu'elle était une jeune fille désordonnée qui ne savait pas tenir maison. Bref, on y parlait davantage du désordre de son appartement et de la vaisselle sale sur le comptoir que de son talent. Sienna Miller a juré que l'on ne la reprendrait plus à recevoir un reporter chez elle. Elle a par contre beaucoup de plaisir avec Interview, film qu'elle vient de tourner avec Steve Buscemi.

## JOHN TRAVOLTA

### On poursuit

Pas facile, de vivre aux États-Unis sans avoir un procès en cours. Ça n'arrête pas. Tiens: John Travolta poursuit les propriétaires d'un aéroport privé d'Ocala, en Floride, d'avoir menti à la Federal Aviation Administration, l'an passé. Ce qui a eu pour conséquence de lui en interdire l'accès. Selon ce rapport, les pistes ne permettaient pas l'atterrissage d'un Boeing 707. "Faux", prétend l'acteur. Par ailleurs, Steven Seagal réclame 450000 \$US au cabinet d'avocats Loeb Loeb pour surfacturation. Plus grave: Mariane Pearl, veuve de Daniel Pearl, assassiné par des terroristes en 2002, poursuit la Habib Bank, au Pakistan, pour complicité de meurtre. Selon la poursuite intentée par Mme Pearl, qu'Angelina Jolie a personnifiée au cinéma, la banque aurait fourni des services financiers aux terroristes. À suivre...

## WINONA RYDER

### Bonnes et mauvaises nouvelles

Pas toujours facile, de fuir les projecteurs de l'actualité. Surtout quand on est une célébrité. Et ce, peu important les événements. Winona Ryder se rappelle avoir fait la une de certains journaux à cause de son vol à l'étagère, alors que les ruines du World Trade Center étaient encore chaudes des attaques du 9/11. En juin dernier, Paris Hilton tentait de faire oublier son mini-séjour en prison en rappelant que "des femmes et des hommes mouraient en Irak et en Afghanistan". Britney Spears ne comprend pas qu'on ait beaucoup parlé, en 2004, de son bref mariage avec Jason Alexander, alors que nous parvenaient des photos de Mars. Et la starlette Shanna Moakler se demande pourquoi on a accordé plus d'importance à sa bagarre dans un bar avec Paris Hilton plutôt qu'aux essais nucléaires en Corée du Nord. Ainsi va la vie.

## ANGELINA JOLIE

## Déçue

Pas facile, de surmonter un échec commercial. C'est ce qui arrive, ces temps-ci, à Angelina Jolie. On dit que la comédienne a été très affectée par l'échec de *A Mighty Heart*, d'après le livre de Mariane Pearl. Angelina Jolie croyait beaucoup en ce film dans lequel elle s'est beaucoup impliquée. Pour se remettre de tout ça, la comédienne et son mari se sont offert des vacances dans le sud de la France. Le clan Jolie-Pitt a loué le château de Menthon, un beau domaine à 13818 \$ par semaine. Le couple avait avec eux leurs enfants. Mariane Pearl était aussi avec eux. Angelina Jolie et Brad Pitt ont fait, entre autres activités, de longues promenades en moto sur les charmantes petites routes du voisinage. Ils montaient chacun leur machine, évidemment.

\* \* \*

" Je ne laisse pas couler le robinet quand je me rase le poil des jambes. "

– Cameron Diaz et l'environnement

# listings religion listings religion listings religion listings religion

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**SECTION:** The ticket

**PAGE:** E15

**COLUMN:** Religion

**WORD COUNT:** 745

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Please submit information at least 14 days before the date of publication to [listings@thewhig.com](mailto:listings@thewhig.com). Include the name of the religious organization sponsoring the event, the location and the name and phone number of the person submitting the information. For more information on how to submit a listing, visit [www.thewhig.com](http://www.thewhig.com). The left-hand side of the page has a section called Community Listings-The Ticket.

## CONCERTS/PLAYS

Aug. 26, 7 p.m.: Don Lawson and friends perform at a benefit concert at Inverary United Church for Jessie Arthur, a 14-year-old who is battling cancer. For details, phone 613-353-2413.

## MEALS/DANCES/ SOCIALS/SALES

Today from 5 to 7 p.m.: Trinity United Church, in Verona hosts a fish fry. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Verona Festival Hospitality Tent for \$12 or \$6 for children 12 and under.

Tomorrow, 4 p.m.: Olivet United Church on City Road 32 hosts its annual pork barbecue. Cost is \$12 for adults, and \$6 for kids six to 12.

Aug. 20 to 24, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.: God's Amazing Race takes place at First Baptist Church, 110 Sydenham St., for boys and girls ages four to 12. For details, phone 613-548-7166.

Aug. 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m.: A fish fry catered by Mike Mundells takes place at Cookes-Portsmouth United Church, 200 Norman Rogers Dr. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For details, phone 613-542-4545.

Aug. 25, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Garage sale takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cataraqui United Church, 965 Sydenham Rd.

Aug. 26, 9 to 10 a.m.: Queen Street United Church, 221 Queen St., hosts a free community pancake breakfast. Everyone is welcome. For details, phone 613-542-3818.

Aug. 26, 5 p.m.: St. Luke's church in Camden East hosts a pig and corn roast. Music will be provided by the Seymour Doolittle Band. Freewill offering. For more information, phone 613-378-2457.

Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Chalmers United Church, 212 Barrie St., has a parking lot garage sale.

## SPECIAL SERVICES/ EVENTS/REQUESTS

Tomorrow, 11:15 a.m.: The Ecumenical Church Service in McMullen Park in Verona is sponsored by the Verona Festival and features lay representatives from the local churches and a special ceremony to honour

Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

Tomorrow, 4 p.m.: An ecumenical service with Alfred Netto and the Messenger Music Group from North Gouverneur takes place at Half Moon Bay, located at the southeast end of Bostwick Island, about three kilometres southwest of Gananoque. Most worshippers remain in their boats during the service. For people needing a ride, boat pickup takes place at the PUC dock across from the Gananoque Municipal Marina.

Sept. 9, 11 a.m.: Conway United Church on Highway 33 has its 125th anniversary service with guest speaker Rev. Bruce Hutchinson.

#### WEEKLY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Every Monday (except holidays) at 7:30 p.m., the Calvary United Church Hall, 45 Charles St., hosts a euchre night at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$3. Phone 613-548-7602 for details.

Mondays and Thursdays, noon to 2 p.m.: The Storehouse of Hope at Kingston Alliance Church, at the corner of Bath and Palace roads, offers food and clothing. Phone 613-546-2143 for details.

The Emmanuel United Church, 63 Factory St. in Odessa, has a sharing centre open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Donations of quality used clothing, shoes, books, toys and small household items are welcome during business hours or by calling 613-386-7125.

Tuesdays, 7 p.m.: Kingston Standard Church, 1185 Sunnyside Rd., holds weekly youth groups for students in grades 6 to 12. To register, call 613-542-1323 or e-mail [kcsyouth@sympatico.ca](mailto:kcsyouth@sympatico.ca).

Tuesdays and Wednesdays; A gospel walk and stretch takes place at the Kingston Gospel Temple, 2295 Princess St., between 10 and 11 a.m. Phone Dee at 613-389-6540 for details.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.: FunFit aerobics takes place at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church, 4080 Bath Rd. Call Janice at 613-384-3181 for details.

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.: FunFit ball takes place at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church, 4080 Bath Rd. Call Janice at 613-384-3181 for details.

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon: Westbrook United Church, 3526 Princess St., hosts a craft group.

Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.: Seniors meet at Westbrook United Church, 3526 Princess St., for cards and conversation.

Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.: St. Mary's Parish Community offers lunch, bridge, euchre, board games and friendly conversation to all denominations in the community. For details, call 613-546-5521.

Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon: Westbrook United Church, 3526 Princess St., holds a clothing depot. Donations welcome.

Thursdays, 1 to 3:30 p.m.: Adult Rendezvous Club hosts bridge, euchre, line dancing and board games at St. Paul the Apostle Parish Hall, 1111 Taylor-Kidd Blvd. For details, call 613-384-2195.

St. Peter's Anglican Church, 4333 Bath Rd., hosts a euchre night every second and fourth Friday of the month starting at 7:30 p.m. Call 613-548-9490 for details.

Last Saturday of every month: A farmers' market takes place at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 8012 Loyalist

Pkwy. (Highway 33), from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### EDUCATION/CONFERENCES

Aug. 13 to 17: A vacation Bible school takes place at Calvary Bible Church, 395 Nelson St., for kids ages three to 12. Admission is free. Sessions run each day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Pre-register by phoning Loreen at 613-384-6567.



# Defence minister withering under barrage of bad publicity

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<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)
<b>DATE:</b>	2007.08.11
<b>SECTION:</b>	Editorial page
<b>PAGE:</b>	8
<b>BYLINE:</b>	Taylor, Scott
<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier (left) and Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor deny they're rivals.
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	622

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Ever since the Conservative Party held its summer retreat in Charlottetown, the word has been out that Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is about to be shuffled from his post. While Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to formally pull the plug on O'Connor at a special cabinet meeting this coming week, the media have already begun writing his obituary.

What is evident in the self-congratulatory tone of the editorials is that the press corps see this as their victory. The adjective "embattled," which was so often used to describe O'Connor in recent months, came as a result of the media themselves jumping on every miscommunication uttered by the minister and turning it into a feeding frenzy.

Unfortunately, O'Connor did not have the quick-witted charisma necessary to spin his way out of such situations and his clumsy attempt at damage control was akin to ladling chum to hungry sharks. To be fair to O'Connor, he came into a difficult portfolio at a crucial stage for the long-neglected Defence Department. The Harper minority government inherited a burnt-out military already committed to a controversial campaign in Afghanistan. The Conservatives broke open the piggy bank and announced more than \$17 billion in long-overdue acquisition projects last summer and promised to flesh out the ranks of the forces by an additional 13,000 regular personnel.

Unfortunately, most of those purchases will not enter service for years to come and the military has already had to take an "appetite suppressant" concerning its rapid recruiting goals. With so many of our soldiers already committed to combat operations in Central Asia, there simply isn't enough manpower left over to fully staff the training depots.

O'Connor is certainly not to blame for this. Decades of budget cuts, personnel reductions and political interference in the procurement process have left our military in a similar state to that of a half-starved man: Even if you lay a smorgasbord at his feet, he is too feeble to successfully digest more than a few mouthfuls at a time.

As for the miscommunication over the handling of detainees in Afghanistan, there is no question that O'Connor seemed to be blindsided by his own department on a number of occasions.

As a former general, O'Connor came to the minister's post with a tremendous wealth of experience in the military.

As a former senior officer, he knew all too well how the brass view their temporary political masters. Rather than acting as a mere figurehead eagerly trying on different uniforms and being flown about in CF-18 fighter jets while the military took care of themselves, O'Connor intended to grab the bull by the horns. Alas, that

bull's name was Gen. Rick Hillier, undeniably the most popular chief of defence staff in Canada's short history.

From the outset, both Hillier and O'Connor denied they were engaged in a power struggle for control of the military steering wheel. However, so often and so vehemently have these men denied the rift that it must actually be true.

Initially, O'Connor had professed he would focus on the Conservative Party's election platform of having a "Canada First" defence policy focusing on the Arctic.

Hillier, however, had two hands solidly on that wheel and his course was set squarely on Afghanistan.

For the past year, it seemed that Harper was prepared to let Hillier have his lead.

However, as the casualties continued to mount and Canadian support for the mission steadily declined, the Conservatives suddenly started talking "exit strategy" from Afghanistan and announced the purchase of Arctic patrol vessels.

What remains to be seen is who will replace O'Connor at DND. This is traditionally a portfolio that all too often chews up and spits out the incumbent.

And that was before Rick Hillier entered the arena.

– Scott Taylor is the editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine and a member of the Osprey Writers Group. Comments can be sent to [writersgroup@ospreymedia.ca](mailto:writersgroup@ospreymedia.ca).

# Canada not doing enough to fight AIDS worldwide, groups say; Lewis: More funding needed

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A9  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Sheryl Ubelacker  
**WORD COUNT:** 414

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TORONTO – Canada's commitment to the global fight against HIV–AIDS remains woefully inadequate, says a coalition of advocacy groups, marking the one–year anniversary of the international AIDS conference in Toronto.

The Canadian Coalition for Youth and HIV–AIDS in Africa, which includes the country's chapters of CARE, Plan, Save the Children and World Vision, called on the federal government Friday to step up funding for programs to battle the pandemic that has killed 25 million people and infected 40 million more since 1981.

Stephen Lewis, former UN envoy for AIDS in Africa, said that while the number of people receiving antiretroviral drugs to control their infection has risen in the last year – to 2.2 million from 1.6 million a year ago – "we are losing the battle against the virus."

For every person who began such treatment in 2006, another six people contracted HIV, he said.

"AIDS is a vexing catastrophe in Africa and a looming ominous presence in China, India, Russia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. This is not a virus that will go away."

Millions of people are desperate for treatment but still have no access to life–sustaining antiretroviral medications, said Lewis. "Many of them die. All of them who die will die unnecessarily."

Canada, he said, has not responded robustly enough to the global health crisis, which is decimating communities and families in developing countries, leaving 14 million children orphaned.

"Where is Canada? Where is Canada's voice? Why are we somnambulant on these issues?" Lewis asked.

"What we need is a government with a voice that spends rather less money on defence and armaments, whether it's Afghanistan or elsewhere, and rather more money on the human condition. And that requires leadership from the present government, which frankly does not exist."

In an e–mail, Richard Walker, a spokesman for International Co–operation Minister Josee Vernier, countered that the government is "playing a leadership role in ensuring a comprehensive and integrated global response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic" by providing about \$190 million a year.

The last federal budget, earlier this year, reaffirmed the government's commitment to double overall international assistance from the 2001 level by 2010, the e–mail stated, bringing Canada's international assistance to \$4.4 billion by 2008–09.

Last year's federal budget provided \$250 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, bringing Canada's total commitment to the fund to \$550 million, Walker said in the e-mail.

Dave Toyce, president and CEO of World Vision Canada, said Ottawa has a chance to "get back on track" at next month's meetings to discuss replenishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Last year, Canada contributed \$200 million in funding, Toyce said, "but we need to do a whole lot more."

# World in brief

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A8  
**WORD COUNT:** 709

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ROANOKE, Va. (AP) – Two days before the Virginia Tech massacre, witnesses saw a suspicious man in a hooded sweatshirt and found exit doors chained shut in the building where Seung Hui Cho later killed 30 people, police said Friday.

Cho chained most of the exits of Norris Hall before firing 174 rounds of ammunition in just more than nine minutes there, but investigators said they had no indication he was the person who had chained the exits the first time.

"It would be speculation to suggest that he was practising locking the doors," state police Supt. Col. Steve Flaherty said in the first update on the investigation in months.

Police did not learn of the April 14 incident until after Cho killed 25 fellow students and five faculty members in four Norris Hall classrooms April 16, state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said. Police would not say who reported seeing the man, or who found the door chained. SEATTLE (AP) – A woman attacked a karaoke singer belting out Coldplay on Thursday night, telling him he "sucked" before she pushed and punched him to get him to stop singing, bar staff said.

The man was singing Yellow when it happened.

"It took three or four of us to hold her down," bartender Robert Willmette said.

When she was escorted outside, the 21-year-old woman "went crazy," Willmette said, throwing punches at him and others, including an off-duty police officer.

After treatment for injuries, the woman was booked into the King County jail for investigation of assault. She was also held on a warrant issued for a previous theft charge. DEKALB, Illinois (AP) – A monster truck performing stunts in front of an auto parts store plowed into a crowd of spectators, injuring at least nine people, officials said.

Two people, including a mother and one child, were in serious condition at local hospitals, authorities said. The seven others were treated and released by Thursday night.

The demonstration, part of a monster truck tour sponsored by NAPA Auto Parts, featured the truck driving over and crushing four cars. The oversized trucks derive their name from the modifications which owners carry out to the bodies, including raising the chassis and installing massive tires.

"After its third or fourth attempt of rolling over the cars, and getting back down to the street, it appeared to have lost control and at that point careened off to the left into part of the crowd that was watching the event," said city manager Mark Biernacki.

The 44-year-old truck driver did not appear to be injured, Biernacki said. GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) – Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face for the first time Friday to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, an Afghan official said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council – Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah – travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began Friday evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said the Afghan official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information. He said four members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were also participating.

Ahmadi also said the Taliban would not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages until the face-to-face meetings have been held. Two men among the 23 South Koreans originally kidnapped have already been killed. LONDON (AP) – British authorities were testing for a new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease Friday, after cattle in a herd grazing several kilometres away from an initial cluster of cases were suspected of falling ill, raising fears the virus is spreading uncontained.

Chief Veterinary Officer Debby Reynolds said cows in a second area of the southern England county of Surrey had shown "mild clinical signs of infections," announcing that a new three kilometre exclusion zone had been set up around a farm previously unlinked to the outbreak.

Though the case is unconfirmed, Reynolds said the outbreak was a "developing disease situation," renewing worries of a repeat of scenes in 2001, when seven million animals were killed and incinerated on pyres. Britain's agriculture and rural tourism industries were devastated.

# Get ready to enjoy the RCMP Musical Ride

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**SECTION:** Community

**PAGE:** C5

**COLUMN:** Crapaud Tidings

**BYLINE:** MacDonald, Marion

**WORD COUNT:** 747

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The RCMP Music Ride, to take place in Crapaud, will be a day of recognition for the RCMP and military personnel who serve our country at home and abroad.

During the opening ceremonies at the Crapaud Exhibition grounds on Aug. 18, we will recognize the men and women who serve our country in the military and police services at home and abroad.

Guests of honour will be Cpl. Tyler Coady, who was wounded while serving in Afghanistan. Accompanying Coady will be Barry Mellish, father of Frank Mellish, who died in the service of his country in Afghanistan.

They will be flanked by two RCMP officers who have served abroad with the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

Prior to the beginning of the Musical Ride, the public can see some of the equipment and vehicles used by the RCMP to serve us.

On display in the Crapaud Actiplex will be booths displaying the commercial crime section, recruiting section, Crime Stoppers, a command post trailer, the national sex offender registry, drug awareness display, forensic identification (CSI for kids) and more. Gates will open at 11 a.m. with the Musical Ride beginning at 2 p.m. The RCMP horses will be stabled in the agriplex on the Crapaud Exhibition grounds, arriving on the afternoon of Aug. 16 and departing on the morning of Aug. 20. The public is invited to come and see the horses and riders between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. while the horses are on site.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet police officers, get a better understanding of how they serve and protect us on a daily basis and find out where police officers are serving with the United Nations around the world. And anyone who is interested in a career in the RCMP can come out and visit the recruitment section booth.

Parents can bring the kids and let them be a detective in the kids CSI section.

Come out and be part of the RCMP 75th anniversary celebrations. Tickets can be purchased at Harvey's General Store, the South Shore Pharmacy, Anna's Country Kitchen, the Red Rooster Restaurant in Crapaud and Ceretti's store in Borden–Carleton.

Admission is adults, \$7 (for age 19 and up), students, \$5 (for age six to 18) and free for preschoolers. Proceeds will go towards improving the Crapaud Exhibition Grounds to better serve the Island community.

The winners of the Rising Star Competition at the Crapaud Exhibition were Grand Star, the dance group Triple D with Rachael Duncan, Allana Lee and Shelby Lynn Dalizel. First-place winner was violinist Rennee Dahan; in second place was Dance Dreams with Arron Waite and Sonja Walker; in third place was an instrumental selection by Katelyn and Kyle Gill.

A pancake breakfast and bake sale for the Free Church Foreign Missions will be held at the Argyle Shore Community Centre on Aug. 18, 9–11 a.m.

There will be a country breakfast at the Canoe Cove School today, 8–11 a.m., sponsored by the Canoe Cove Community Association to help with maintenance of the old school house.

The Merry Pop–ins Childcare will hold its parents information evening on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m. All parents and interested parents are welcome.

Pre–school starts Wednesday, Sept. 5. The centre will be running two pre–school programs for three– and four–year–olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

For more information on day care, pre–school or before– and after–school programs, call 658–2560.

There will be a community wedding shower for Tim Howatt and Erin MacPhail on Sunday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., at the home of Nancy and Allison Howatt, Crapaud.

The Victoria Farmers Market, featuring organic produce, crafts and wares, fairly traded coffee and prepared foods is held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., by the lighthouse in Victoria.

The New Dominion ceilidhs with music by Courtney Hogan and friends continue at the Afton Hall Route 19, Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m., until Sept. 9.

The Thrift Shop at St. John's Anglican Church, Crapaud, will have a change of hours on Aug. 25, and Sept. 1. The shop will be open 1–3 p.m., instead of 2–4 p.m. due to weddings taking place at the church.

The Summer Island lectures at the Victoria Playhouse continue on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 3–4 p.m. The speaker will be David Sisam, an architect from Toronto and a long–time P.E.I. summer resident. His topic will be who's shore is it – an uncertain future of the P.E.I. coastal landscape. Everyone is welcome.

A meet and greet for Tab and Michele Howatt will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the home of Arnold and Shirley Howatt, 299, Branch Rd. Tryon.

To contact Marion MacDonald regarding upcoming events or column suggestions for Crapaud Tidings, write P.O. Box 115, Crapaud, COA 1J0, or call her at 658–2028 or e–mail [mmacdonald61@eastlink.ca](mailto:mmacdonald61@eastlink.ca). Material for her column must be submitted by Monday at noon of the week prior to publication.



# Taliban, South Koreans meet over hostages

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**SECTION:** Deaths/World

**PAGE:** B11

**COLUMN:** Around the globe

**SOURCE:** AP

**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 149

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face for the first time Friday to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, an Afghan official said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council – Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah – travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began Friday evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said the Afghan official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information. He said four members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were also participating.

# Vancouver police support the troops

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A10

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** Vancouver

**WORD COUNT:** 110

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Vancouver police are joining with officers across the country to add "Support Our Troops" decals to the back of their cars.

Police Chief Jamie Graham says the move isn't about ideology or politics, but supporting the safe return of Canadians fighting in Afghanistan.

The stickers already grace vehicles in Alberta and Ontario.

The decal debate has sparked controversy in both Calgary and Toronto, with many saying city employees and vehicles shouldn't be taking a stand on Canada's military efforts.

But Graham says he's thinking about the mothers and fathers of soldiers serving overseas and hopes the gesture provides them some small comfort.

Two Vancouver police constables are about to be stationed in Afghanistan as members of a reserve unit joining the more than 2,000 Canadian troops there.

# Taliban, South Korean officials meet; Hold face-to-face negotiations over hostages

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

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**SECTION:** International

**PAGE:** C8

**SOURCE:** AP

**BYLINE:** Rahim Faiez

**DATELINE:** Ghazni, Afghanistan

**ILLUSTRATION:** Afghan journalists are seen filming the closed gate of the Afghan Red Crescent Society of Gazni province west of Kabul, behind which two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met for face-to-face negotiations Friday. The talks are taking place on the fate of 21 hostages from the Asian country, the first in-person contact of the three-week-old crisis, an Afghan official said. – Photo by The Associated Press

**WORD COUNT:** 387

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face for the first time Friday to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, an Afghan official said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council – Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah – travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began Friday evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said the Afghan official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information. He said four members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were also participating.

The Afghan and local governments did not immediately comment.

The Interior Ministry spokesman said he was not aware of a meeting taking place.

Ahmadi also said the Taliban would not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages until the face-to-face meetings have been held.

Two men among the 23 South Koreans originally kidnapped have already been killed.

The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more hostages if their demands to release Taliban prisoners held by the Afghan government and the U.S. military are not met.

The Afghan government has said it will not release prisoners because doing so could encourage more kidnappings. Afghan authorities say talks with the Taliban are the best way to resolve the problem.

The local governor, Marajudin Pathan, has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity

due to policy.

Last month, the government banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan.

Ahmadi said the departure of Korean aid workers would have a "positive effect." He did not elaborate.

In South Korea, a spokesman for the hostages' families said Friday that the mothers of several hostages – five women and a translator – will travel to the emirate of Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release.

"The reason why we are sending women, especially mothers, to Dubai is that Islamic culture has more sympathy for women," said the spokesman, Cha Sung-min.

The 23 South Koreans were abducted in the Qarabagh district of Ghazni province as they travelled by bus from Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar.

The captives – volunteers from a church group who planned to do health work in Afghanistan – include 16 women and five men.

# Taliban sticks to hostage demands; Face-to-face talks seen as last hope to free South Koreans

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110034  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A16  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Lee Jae-Won, Reuters / Protesters in South Korea demand the U.S. negotiate with Taliban insurgents for the safe return of 21 Koreans kidnapped in Afghanistan. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; ASYLUM  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Mohammad Yaqob  
**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 410

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Taliban militants met face-to-face with South Korean officials late Friday to negotiate the release of 21 hostages held in Afghanistan since mid-July, the militia and Afghan officials said.

The meeting between the rebels and the South Koreans has been seen as one of the last hopes for the South Korean aid workers, 16 of whom are women, seized in turbulent southern Ghazni province on July 19.

The hardline insurgents have already shot dead two of their male hostages to pressure the government to release Taliban prisoners, and have threatened to kill the others if their demands are not met.

"At 6:15 p.m. today, the face-to-face talks between the South Korea delegation and a two-member Taliban team started in the city of Ghazni," Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

"Our demands are the same and will not change," he said, adding that the two Taliban representatives had travelled under a government guarantee of safe passage.

"As long as there are negotiations, the hostages will be safe with us," Ahmadi said.

But a Taliban commander involved in the crisis has reportedly warned that more hostages could die if talks with the South Koreans fail.

A senior Afghan security official said on condition of anonymity that the talks were ongoing late Friday in Ghazni, 140 kilometres south of the capital Kabul.

"The Afghan government is providing security for the talks and are present only as observers," he said.

The International Committee for the Red Cross said it was involved in the process as an intermediary. However, the South Korean embassy in Kabul refused to confirm the talks had begun.

The spokesman for the Ghazni provincial government, Shirin Mangal, said the talks were being held in a regional office of the Red Cross under government security.

He would not say when they had started but said there was no particular outcome so far.

Kabul, backed by Washington, has steadfastly refused to agree to the Taliban demand for the release of jailed militants, and Seoul said it is powerless to bring about a prisoner release.

While publicly insisting they would only accept the release of certain male prisoners in Afghan jails, the Taliban said this week they might release some of the women hostages if Afghan women were released from U.S. custody.

The U.S. military in Afghanistan said it had no female prisoners.

Unconfirmed media reports said the South Koreans had offered the rebels a ransom payment, which the Islamist extremist group is reported to have accepted in previous negotiations for foreign hostages.

Government negotiator Mahmood Gailani said last week that any negotiations for the release of the Korean aid workers could only be about money as the government was firm in its stance that no prisoners could be released.

President Hamid Karzai's administration came under heavy criticism when it freed five important Taliban fighters in exchange for an Italian journalist, whose two Afghan colleagues were beheaded.

# U.S. will try Canadian as war criminal

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110033  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Omar Khadr;  
**KEYWORDS:** CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM; MURDERS; CONSPIRACY; CRIME; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**BYLINE:** Norma Greenaway  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 278

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The Bush administration won't ask Canada to take back Toronto-born terrorist suspect Omar Khadr as part of its efforts to reduce the population at the controversial Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, a U.S. government spokesman said Friday.

The American government is determined to bring Khadr to justice in the United States, said Jeffrey Gordon, a spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department.

"Omar Khadr is facing trial by military commission for murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, material support to terrorism," Gordon said. "He's alleged to have killed a U.S. medic with a grenade. He is facing trial by (U.S.) military commission and we believe he must be held accountable for his actions."

Gordon said the Canadian government has not requested Khadr's transfer to Canada because it understands the 20-year-old is among the Guantanamo detainees whom the U.S. government intends to try for war crimes.

On Thursday, Bush told a news conference his stated goal of closing down the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay was proving difficult, in part, because the government was having trouble getting some countries to take back their detained nationals. He also expressed sympathy for their position.

"This is a fairly steep order," he acknowledged. "A lot of people don't want killers in their midst, and a lot of these people are killers."

Khadr, captured six years ago, is the lone Canadian held at Guantanamo.

Human rights groups have urged Harper to bring him home, but Foreign Minister Peter MacKay has made clear the government has no plans to protest U.S. plans to put Khadr on trial.

The U.S. military alleges Khadr threw a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer during a firefight in southern Afghanistan in July 2002.

It also accused Khadr of spying on U.S. forces, planting roadside bombs, and training with al-Qaeda following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

# White House security adviser urges return of military draft

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110032  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 249

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A top U.S. military officer in charge of co-ordinating the U.S. war effort in Iraq said Friday that it makes sense to consider a return of the draft to meet the U.S. military's needs.

Lt.-Gen. Douglas Lute, who serves as a White House deputy national security adviser, said the all-volunteer military is serving "exceedingly well" and the administration has not decided whether or not it needs to be replaced with a draft.

But in an interview with National Public Radio, Lute said, "I think it makes sense to certainly consider it, and I can tell you, this has always been an option on the table."

"But ultimately, this is a policy matter between meeting the demands for the nations security by one means or another," he said.

Dana Perino, a White House spokeswoman, played down the general's remarks.

"The President believes an all volunteer military serves the country well and there is no discussion of returning to a draft. General Lute's comments are consistent with the President's stated policy," she said from Kennebunkport, Maine.

The United States did away with the draft in 1973 near the end of the Vietnam War.

The U.S. military has preferred an all-volunteer force because it has allowed it to recruit better educated, more motivated troops for a high-tech force.

But commanders worry that repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan will break the force.

"As an army officer, this is a matter of real concern to me," Lute said.

"Ultimately, the American army, and any other all-volunteer force, rests with the support and the morale and the willingness to serve demonstrated by . . . our young men and women in uniform," he said.

"And I am concerned that those men and women and the families they represent are under stress as a result of repeated deployments," he said.



# Devil's Brigade vets forge bonds with new breed of special forces; Second World War commandos hold 61st reunion

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110023  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Mike Carroccetto, CanWest News Service / Second World War veterans offer a commemorative special ops coin Friday to new JTF2 grads at CFB Petawawa. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES  
**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 622

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The old and new of Canada's special forces came together on Friday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War—era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa — about 167 kilometres northwest of Ottawa — as part of events for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of who have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the United States.

"It's marvelous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Saturday morning.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning itself a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established its legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade.

CANSOFCOM, includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted in to a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machine guns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, Mich., said military life appears pretty much the same as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he explained as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of military parachuting.

Canadian Special Operations Regiment commander Lt.-Col. Jamie Hammond said both the special operators of today and the veterans of the Devil's Brigade have a commitment to excellence. "These people share a common bond," Hammond said.

The regiment is designed to take on its own missions or support Joint Task Force 2, the military's counter-terrorism and special forces unit. The military acknowledged last fall that the regiment, based in Petawawa, had deployed troops to Afghanistan, but it has not released details of its operations. JTF2 has also been operating in Afghanistan for a number of years.

Hammond said although the weapons have changed, the special operators of today undergo the same high level of training that Devil's Brigade veterans went through.

"It's all the same physical set of demands," he explained after reviewing some of the old training regimes. "If my guys were alive back then they would have volunteered for that organization and vice versa."

Charlie Mann, a Devil's Brigade veteran from Kincardine, Ont., said he sees a lot of his own unit in the current special operations forces. What has changed is the equipment and aircraft, said the 85-year-old. "The equipment is a lot more compact and the aircraft much larger," said Mann.

# Montreal La Presse fronts for Fri., Aug. 10, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.08.10  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 38

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ABOVE FOLD:

OTTAWA (Staff) \_ CSIS spies helping Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. (Main elements covered previously).

BELOW FOLD:

MONTREAL (Staff) \_ Quebec is considering slapping a 20-cent tax on plastic bags. (Picking up).

PHOTO:

MONTREAL (CP, Paul Chiasson) \_ A diving Rafael Nadal.

GASPE (Le Soleil) \_ Floods in eastern Quebec.

MAJOR PLAY:

OTTAWA \_ Isabelle Rodrigue on Arar, A-12.

TORONTO \_ Gary Norris on Magna, Biz-8.

CP MONTREAL

# Taliban says no plans to kill hostages before meeting with Korean delegation

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**DATE:** 2007.08.10

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 301

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) \_ The Taliban said Friday it will not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages it is holding until planned face-to-face meetings have been held with a delegation from the East Asian country.

The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more of the captives they seized July 19 if their demands are not met, though negotiations appear to have bogged down in recent days.

Taliban and South Korean officials have agreed they want to meet for talks to break the deadlock but have not been able to agree on a location both sides consider safe.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said negotiations on a location were continuing by phone.

“Until we sit for face-to-face negotiations with the Koreans, we have no plans to kill any Korean hostages,” Ahmadi said.

The South Korean government issued guidelines for its aid organizations saying they must leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity due to policy.

Last month, the government banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan.

Authorities will decide whether they can return to the country after “the situation settles down,” the official added.

Ahmadi said the departure of South Korean aid workers would move forward negotiations with the Taliban.

“The pulling out of Korean aid workers will have an effect on our negotiation process because pulling out of Koreans from Afghanistan is part of our demand. It will have a positive effect,” he said, without elaborating.

The 23 South Koreans were abducted July 19 in the Qarabagh district Ghazni province as they travelled by bus from Kabul to the southern city Kandahar. Two of the captives have been executed by the Taliban.

There has not been a breakthrough in negotiations more than three weeks into the hostage ordeal. Afghan authorities say talks with the Taliban, who have demanded the release of Taliban prisoners, are the best way to resolve the problem.

The captives \_ volunteers from a church group who planned to do health work in Afghanistan \_ include 16 women and five men.

# 1st Writethru CP News Budget – Friday, Aug. 10, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.08.10  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 305

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Here are the CP coverage plans as of 15:00 EDT. The editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

WASHINGTON \_ A Louisiana stockbroker charged with sending threatening e-mails to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty plans to plead not guilty. Lloyd Tiller, 59, is due in U.S. district court for an arraignment Aug. 29. His lawyer, Martin Stroud, says Tiller is a well-respected broker in Shreveport. 500 words. By Beth Gorham. BC-US-Flaherty-Threats, 1st Writethru.

GHAZNI, Afghanistan \_ Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials are meeting face-to-face for the first time to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, an Afghan official said. A Taliban spokesman says the government in Kabul gave written guarantees that the two militants would be safe. 650 words. BC-Afghanistan, 2nd Writethru.

HUNTINGTON, Utah \_ A tiny microphone lowered deep into a coal mine picks up nothing from six missing miners, a crew of veterans and novices that includes a "tough kid," a hardworking immigrant from Mexico and "a sweet guy." Some had been digging coal for years. One had been on the job just a few weeks. Four days into the ordeal, their families anxiously await word of their fate. 700 words. By Jennifer Dobner. See AP Photos. BC-Utah-Mine-Collapse, 3rd Writethru.

UNITED NATIONS \_ The Security Council votes unanimously to expand the UN role in Iraq and opens the door for the world body to promote talks to ease Iraq's sectarian bloodshed. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says he hopes to organize a meeting of foreign ministers from the region at UN headquarters in late September. 800 words. By Edith M. Lederer. See AP Photo. BC-UN-Iraq, 1st Writethru.

See also:

\_ BC-Iraq, 1st Writethru.

# US–Afghanistan–Poppies

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**DATE:** 2007.08.10

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 116

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WASHINGTON — The United States has announced a new strategy to fight Afghanistan's soaring poppy production.

Diplomats have been linking the resurgence of the Taliban militia to increased narcotics revenues.

The U–S initiative will vastly expand rewards for cutting poppy production and increase punishments for those who fail to do so.

Under the program, up to 60 (m) million dollars U–S will be offered over five years in development aid to local Afghan officials to bolster anti–poppy efforts.

Afghanistan now accounts for more than 90 per cent of the world's total crop, up from 70 per cent in 2000 and 52 per cent a decade earlier.

The U–S is already spending more than four–hundred (m) million dollars to curb poppy crops. It has succeeded in eliminating crops in some areas while failing to decrease total production.

(CP)

abl, sw

# Camps of Smiles and Tears

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**DATE:** 2007.08.10  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE SOCIAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 83

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CLARKSVILLE, Ohio — By day, children at Camp Graham in southwestern Ohio laugh and play.

At night by the campfire, it's a different story.

All the campers' parents are U-S soldiers dodging bullets and bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One child says being at the camp comforts her because she can break down and cry instead of trying to hold it in.

Beyond typical camp activities, the kids get a taste of how their parents live overseas.

In a mock deployment, kids at a similar camp in New York received simulated inoculations.

They did callisthenics and were lectured on cultural differences in Iraq.

The program has tripled in size since it began in 2004.

This summer nearly four-thousand kids age seven to 18 will attend one of 36 camps across the U-S.

The camps are funded by private groups and are free of charge.

(APB)

mcw

# Harper announces plans to tighten grip on Arctic; Military training centre, deep-water seaport among measures designed to bolster sovereignty

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110116

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** D10

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Fred Chartrand, Canadian Press / Prime Minister Stephen Harper is greeted by Arctic Rangers yesterday as he arrives in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, joined by Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor. Harper announced plans to set up a new military training centre in the Arctic. ;

**BYLINE:** Randy Boswell and Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 854

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper made two major funding announcements yesterday to boost Canada's sovereignty in the resource-rich North as Denmark's science minister claimed his country has a strong case for ownership of the North Pole.

"Canada's new government understands that the first principle of Arctic sovereignty is: Use it or lose it," Harper said in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, as he announced that the community, about 600 kilometres from the magnetic North Pole, will be the site of a new \$4-million military training centre. The centre is to be manned by up to 100 Canadian Forces personnel at a strategic site along the Northwest Passage.

Harper also confirmed that the government will spend \$100 million to build Canada's first deep-water Arctic seaport at Nanisivik, on the northern tip of Baffin Island. The port would be key to shipping through the Northwest Passage, which is expected to provide a summer sea route to Asia within decades as global warming melts the ice floes.

The two initiatives will "benefit communities throughout the region by creating jobs and opportunities and enhancing the safety and security of the people who live here." And, along with a 900-person boost to the Canadian Rangers' 4,100-member patrol, the investments will "significantly strengthen Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic."

Meantime, however, Danish Science Minister Helge Sander was announcing that recent findings by his country's researchers suggest "Denmark could be given the North Pole."

His assertion comes on the eve of a Danish-led research expedition to the Arctic and amid intensifying interest among all northern nations in securing shipping and seabed rights in the oil-rich region around the North Pole.

The joint Danish-Swedish expedition, which will carry one Canadian scientist, will have its path cleared by a chartered Russian icebreaker. Its aim is to cement Denmark's claims to extended seabed territory north of Greenland, an island controlled by Denmark, Sander said in a Danish television interview.



Sander said "preliminary investigations done so far are very promising," suggesting the disputed Lomonosov Ridge — a 1,500-kilometre undersea mountain range that runs past the Pole between Siberia and North America — is a geological extension of the northern coast of Greenland.

"There are things suggesting that Denmark could be given the North Pole," he said.

Canadian scientists, however, believe the Lomonosov Ridge could be seen as a continuation of Ellesmere Island, giving Canada a strong counterclaim against potential Russian and Danish land grabs.

In Ottawa, the Danish ambassador to Canada, Poul Kristensen, told CanWest News that "it's no secret that Denmark, on behalf of Greenland" has interests in Arctic resources and "of course, potentially, we can make claims."

While scientists from the five polar nations continue to collaborate on research aimed at mapping the Arctic sea floor, the governments of Canada, Russia, the U.S., Denmark and Norway remain at odds over an area thought to contain one-quarter of the planet's untapped petroleum reserves.

Earlier this month, Russia ruffled feathers by dropping a Russian flag on the North Pole seabed at the end of a deep-sea expedition to claim the mineral riches of the Arctic.

Yesterday, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre called Russia's move "show business more than political reality," adding that: "What is important is that the Russians follow the international legal regulations in force, as they are doing."

When it comes to potential Arctic oil, "we are speaking of values in the billions," said Denmark's Kristensen, "and therefore the area, of course, is of interest to us."

University of B.C. professor Michael Byers, Canada's leading expert on Arctic sovereignty, said in an interview that "all the other Arctic countries are fully committed to claiming the maximum amount of seabed to which they're entitled under the law of the sea convention."

Byers added that "chartering the Russia icebreaker is a particularly inspired move and should send a strong signal to Ottawa" to make sure this country does everything possible to "secure all the seabed that is rightfully ours. The only thing holding us back right now is a lack of political will."

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the five polar nations could acquire huge swaths of Arctic sea floor if they can prove the claimed areas are linked to their continental shelves.

Canada and Denmark have been collaborating over the past two years to gather data on the Lomonosov Ridge. Russia claimed ownership of the ridge in 2001, but the UN sent its scientists back to the Arctic to gather by 2009 more evidence to support the claim.

Canada has until 2013 to submit its territorial claims, but the federal scientist leading the sea floor studies, Jacob Verhoef, said earlier this week there's a chance the research mission could be in jeopardy because of the tight deadline, strained resources and unpredictable Arctic ice conditions.

On Thursday, a top U.S. climate researcher announced that the Arctic ice cover is shrinking faster this summer than at any time since reliable satellite images of the polar cap became available in 1979.

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who has been under fire over his handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, joined Harper for the announcement, despite repeated calls from the opposition for him to be fired or demoted in a cabinet shuffle expected next week.

Harper announces plans to tighten grip on Arctic; Military training centre, deep-water seaport and 50 measu

# Heavy toll mars tribal talks on Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110033  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 326

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KABUL (AFP) — Fresh fighting across Afghanistan left at least 45 people dead yesterday, including a British soldier, as a council of Pakistani and Afghan tribal leaders debated ways to end extremist violence in the region.

On a day of bloodshed that marred the "peace jirga" in Kabul, Taliban members ambushed a joint Afghan and NATO army convoy, sparking a firefight that killed seven Afghan soldiers and 20 terrorists, the Defence Ministry said.

Five "important" Taliban commanders were among the dead, Defence Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi told AFP. "The militants ambushed our convoy," said Azimi, adding that the army called in NATO warplanes to bomb Taliban positions after the attack.

Eight Afghan army vehicles were destroyed, he said.

Elsewhere in western Afghanistan yesterday, tribal villagers repelled an attack by Taliban fighters in a battle that left five rebels and two civilians dead.

Dozens of Taliban attacked the village of Nal in the western province of Farah, but the locals resisted, provincial police chief Abdul Rehman Sarjang told AFP.

Fighters for the Taliban, the Islamic extremists who governed Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, regularly try to overrun remote areas of the country and already control several districts in the south.

Meanwhile, a British soldier serving with the NATO–led International Security Assistance Force was killed while on patrol in southern Afghanistan's flashpoint Helmand province.

Another British soldier was wounded in the incident, the British Defence Ministry said. The soldiers were part of a patrol checking on a nearby irrigation project when the attack occurred.

The fighting comes as about 700 Afghan and Pakistani tribal elders, religious clerics, parliamentarians and other figures — many from the troubled border area — met for a second day yesterday on the Taliban and al–Qaeda threat.

The four–day meeting is expected to come up with a common approach to rooting out the extremists, although analysts say it is unlikely to have much impact.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who abruptly called off an appearance at the opening day of the jirga

on Thursday, has now agreed to address the closing session of the conference, his Foreign Ministry said late yesterday.

# Special forces vets forge links with today's troops

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110020  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Second World War Devil's Brigade veterans Delbert Stonehouse, right, and Bill Story, rear, offer a commemorative special ops coin to new Joint Task Force 2 graduates during a reunion event at CFB Petawawa. ;  
**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 423

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CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. -- The old and new of Canada's special forces came together yesterday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War-era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa -- about 167 kilometres northwest of Ottawa -- as part of events for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of who have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the U.S.

"It's marvellous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa this morning.

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The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

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CANSOFCOM, includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted in to a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machine-guns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

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# Voices, Now and then

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110232  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** Sports  
**PAGE:** S04  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 211

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Members of Canada's 1980 Olympic team reflect on forfeiting their chance to compete in Moscow:

"The thing that really bothered me the most was that we were taking a stand against the invasion of Afghanistan but the Afghani athletes competed in Moscow. "

Jay Triano, basketball

"I was very vocal at the time. I thought, 'Hey, if we're going to make a world statement and stop these s.o.b.'s, then okay.' . . . I regret it today, completely, 100 per cent."

Gord Singleton, cyclist

"It was a disappointment because that was to be my last Olympics and I thought it would have been a really wonderful way to end."

Yvonne Mondesire, 400m/800m runner

"I'm not a big political person but what did it accomplish? Nothing."

Joe Meli, judoka

Though Canada's decision to boycott the Moscow Summer Games was largely endorsed, there was some dissent in 1980:

"Should Canadian athletes participate in Moscow, they will do so without the moral or financial support of the government of Canada."

Former external affairs minister Mark MacGuigan

"The whole foundation of amateur sport has been shaken. The essence of competition and training is to keep striving with the Olympic Games as the ultimate goal. No alternate competition can replace that."

Canadian swim coach

Deryk Snelling

"By this time, even the bull-headed and itchy-footed members of the Canadian Olympic Association must have the message. Canada does not want them strutting down the running track at Moscow, in the parade of

Olympians, while their gracious Soviet hosts are shooting down the neighbours in Afghanistan."

Toronto Star sports columnist

Milt Dunnell

# Bucking 1980 boycott drew death threats

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110222  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** Sports  
**PAGE:** S01  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Larry Macdougall for the toronto star Former Olympic pentathlete, and now businesswoman, Diane Jones Konihowski, right, plants a kiss on her daughter Jana on her wedding day. ;  
**BYLINE:** Mary Ormsby  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 886

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First came the obscene phone calls. Next, the hate mail. Then the tsk– tsking media questioned her patriotism. The death threats were the worst, though.

All Edmonton's Diane Jones Konihowski did was ask why a far-away military incursion ended up costing 212 Canadian Olympians a trip to the 1980 Moscow Summer Games.

"My mum phoned me and said, 'Oh, everybody's calling you a Communist,'" said Canada's most successful pentathlete, who'd been training in New Zealand when the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan triggered the infamous U.S.–led Olympic boycott.

"This was a hot topic and I had gone against the grain."

Back then, that hot topic politically polarized nations to such extremes it produced the largest Games boycott in history, a forfeiture Canada – and its Olympic organization – quickly embraced to support U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who was staring down the former Soviet Union in the final stages of the Cold War.

But would Canada ever boycott again? Chris Rudge, chief executive officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee, says no.

"I could see the government wanting to do that again," Rudge said. "But we don't need (government support) to go to the Games."

Twenty-seven years later, the vilification of a young Olympian for questioning government motives seems, by today's standards, naive and sadly ironic. Even though Canadian soldiers are fighting and dying in Afghanistan and even though the newest civil rights villain on the world stage is China – home to the 2008 Beijing Olympics – this smoldering set of political circumstances has no impact on the nation's current crop of Olympians.

"The Canadian Olympic (organization) back then was not in the financial position we're now in," said Rudge, who is married to former diver Janet Nutter whose only Olympic opportunity was in 1980.

"We take virtually no government money – about \$400,000 of our \$20–million–a– year budget comes from the government. ... We would at least have the fiscal autonomy to say, 'You may not want us to go to the



Games but our attendance at the Games is not a political activity and it's not dependent on your sanction – we're going and you may or may not like it."

Several attempts to contact federal sport minister Helena Guergis were unsuccessful.

Fiscal independence wasn't the case in 1980. The federal government and the Olympic Trust controlled the Olympic budget – and both endorsed the Moscow snub.

Four days after former external affairs minister Mark MacGuigan announced on April 22, 1980 that Canada would support the U.S. in forgoing the Games, the Canadian Olympic Association (as it was then called) voted 137–35 to endorse the boycott.

Although in theory, Canadian athletes were free to compete as individuals, participation was unrealistic with no financial, logistical or diplomatic support.

Particularly galling to some was that the Soviets, who'd rolled into Afghanistan in December of 1979, just two months later were welcomed by the United States to compete in the Lake Placid Olympics with no repercussions. In addition, in Canada, there was finagling not to exclude hockey players and figure skaters from international events that included Soviet participation.

Marathoner Jerome Drayton was angry that no options, such as moving the Games to another country, were explored.

"There were other alternatives but an Olympic boycott was expedient," Drayton told the Star the day of MacGuigan's announcement.

Gold-medal contender Jones Konihowski had vowed to pay her own way and in May, received a personal invitation from Moscow organizers to compete. But after weighing the vitriolic backlash from the public and media (she was lampooned in a Star editorial cartoon, egotistical and crying), Jones Konihowski reluctantly declined.

"I'd had death threats and I had to turn (the invitation) down because I really feel I wouldn't have gotten out of the country alive," said the Calgary businesswoman, now 56.

Death threats. Then delirium.

Four years later, Canada had its best-ever medal showing at the Los Angeles Games, thanks in part to a retaliatory Soviet-led withdrawal. Four years after that, Canada, the U.S. and the Soviets – who still occupied Afghanistan – competed together at the 1988 Seoul Games.

So, what did the tit-for-tat Olympic boycotts actually achieve?

Indisputably, two consecutive Summer Games were gutted of their greatest talent, athletes who'd spent most of their young lives aiming at this performance pinnacle. For many, it was their only chance at Games glory.

For the 1980 Canadians, they will likely be the only Olympians to be crushed by governmental pressure. While that is heartening for contemporary athletes, it's additional anguish for those like Gord Singleton, winner of seven world championship cycling medals – but no Olympic hardware.

"We achieved nothing and we were completely used as pawns," said Singleton.

"The regret I have is that I never won an Olympic medal and I could have."

Roger Jackson, a long-time Canadian Olympic executive, cast a COA vote in 1980 to side with the government. In hindsight, he said boycotts have no "really useful message."

"The cynics would say the Moscow boycott was purely farcical because it maybe stopped some cultural dance groups or stopped sport but (it) didn't stop the trading of hard goods and all kinds of other things the government could have if it had been more serious," said Jackson, a rowing gold medallist at the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

"If Canadians had to vote again, they'd have more concerns and be a little bit more independent in their thinking."

Rudge agrees, saying solving political crises – such as protesting the Chinese Communist government's rule in Tibet – by making Olympians stay home is folly.

"If we truly believe as Canadians that from a perspective of principle that we should take a stand on things as we did with Afghanistan ... then those principles should be applied to a much broader palette. To make athletes, because of their visibility at the epitome of their life's pursuit, pawns and sacrificial lambs because of their profile is terribly unfair."

# Soldier-reporters rewrite the rules; The pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to scare the mightiest military in the world, try wielding both at the same time. Dozens of U.S. soldiers have been filing stories and videos from the frontlines in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the process, they've rewritten the rules on combat coverage

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**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Ont

**SECTION:** Ideas

**PAGE:** ID01

**ILLUSTRATION:** ILLUSTRATION BY RAFFI ANDERIAN TORONTO STAR  
getty image Colby Buzzell served in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. His posts have achieved wide acclaim, winning the Blooker Prize for best book that began as a blog. But Buzzell's writings have infuriated his former employer, the U.S. Army. getty image Colby Buzzell served in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. His posts have achieved wide acclaim, winning the Blooker Prize for best book that began as a blog. But Buzzell's writings have infuriated his former employer, the U.S. Army. ;

**BYLINE:** DANIEL DALE

**SOURCE:** Toronto Star

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 1393

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In August 2004, one of former U.S. Army Specialist Colby Buzzell's superiors scolded a reporter for "endangering operational security."

In a vivid dispatch from Mosul the correspondent had described the confusion and horror of a fierce Iraq firefight between black-clad insurgents and Buzzell's besieged battalion. To the commander's dismay, he had mentioned that the Americans ran low on water during the fight and detailed the steps soldiers took to find new ammunition.

Now, in his base office, the commander held a printout of the story – heavily marked with red pen – and demanded an explanation from the offending journalist.

U.S. Army Specialist Colby Buzzell.

Embedded reporter? Try combatant-reporter. To national acclaim and his superior's fury, Buzzell had chronicled the battle on his blog, CBFTW.

That is: Colby Buzzell F – The World.

"I heard and felt the bullets whiz literally inches from my head, hitting all around my hatch making a 'Ping' 'Ping' 'Ping' sound," Buzzell wrote. "All of the (sic) sudden all hell came down around us, all these guys, wearing all black, a couple dozen on each side of the street, on rooftops, alleys, edge of buildings, out of windows, everywhere, and started unloading on us..."

The pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to frighten the mightiest military in the world, try wielding both at the same time.

Using the Internet-enabled laptops that are now as common on their bases as cigarettes, dozens of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq have become war correspondents themselves. Few Canadians have done the same (see sidebar). In the sleepy on-base hours between missions, they share their stories directly with the world, unfiltered by the biases of the "mainstream media" many of them distrust.

In turn, the Pentagon appears to have developed a distrust of its own – subjecting soldier-writers to strict new regulations and unwanted scrutiny that will get worse, some of them complained, after the Army concluded this week that a private writing for The New Republic had invented three stories of soldier misbehaviour.

Buzzell, 30, was one of the first soldier-correspondents to face the military's wrath. In the world of military blogs, he is both typical and atypical.

He joined the Army in 2002, served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004, and left the Army in 2005.

Typical: He started his blog, in part, because he was bored when he wasn't out fighting; he started his blog, in part, because he was unhappy with the way professional journalists were covering the war.

Atypical: He thought those journalists were being too friendly to the not-always-honest military.

"I saw that a lot of times they would just cut and paste what the Army press releases would say," he says from his home in San Francisco. "And sometimes the Army press releases aren't accurate – and from what I saw, the media wasn't too interested in finding out whether they were true or not."

Buzzell is a rare military-blogging bird, though.

Only a "really, really, really, really small" percentage of military blogs are anti-war, prominent "Blackfive" blogger Matthew Currier Burden says.

Burden, a veteran of the first Gulf War and the editor of The Blog of War, a book of blog posts from Iraq and Afghanistan, says blogging soldiers don't necessarily support the Bush administration. But the 39-year-old, who left the Army Reserve in 2001, says "they're proud of what they do" – and they're dismayed when they don't see their accomplishments noted in the mainstream press.

"I was in Ramadi in 2005, which was clearly pretty violent, but typically when we went out it was totally not violent at all," says former Sgt. Steve Bogucki, 23, who served in Iraq in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and blogs as "Educated Soldier." "We just went around and talked to the people. And that's really what you didn't see in the media."

"We were in northern Iraq, and you would think from watching the news that the entire war was going on in Baghdad, and it was a complete disaster, there were dead bodies everywhere, that it was a slaughter," says current Army medic Sgt. Ernesto Haibi, 40, who served in Iraq in 2004 and who blogs at "A Candle In the Dark." "But a lot of people didn't realize there were things going on in other places – there were worse things going on in other places, and there were better things going on. Regardless, there were things going on all over the country, and they weren't being reported."

Soldier-reporters rewrite the rules; The pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to scare the mightiest

Michael Hedges, a long-time war correspondent who made four trips to Iraq for the Houston Chronicle, says most media outlets have essentially abandoned the country. In recent months, he says, the number of U.S. reporters there has sometimes dwindled "into single digits."

"The consequences of too few voices spread too thin: There's an imposition of too few views on what the American public is seeing," says Hedges, now the managing editor of the Washington, D.C., Examiner. "You've got a few organizations driving the perception of the war. That's never been healthy."

The U.S. military, he says, is itself frustrated that so few reporters are reporting from Iraq. "I've had top commanders say to me, 'We want you over here. We want other reporters over here.' I've had them say to me, 'There are only 11 American reporters here right now. What's the problem?' I think the Pentagon would be delighted if 100 reporters landed in Baghdad tomorrow."

But the Pentagon hasn't appeared delighted with the appearance of more than 100 soldier-reporters from its own ranks.

New Army "operational security" rules, issued in April, say no blog entry can be posted before it is checked for sensitive information by soldiers' superiors.

One thing on which pro-war Burden and skeptical Buzzell can agree: The rules are ridiculous.

"If I want to say, 'Hey Mom, I had a great meatball sandwich today,' my commander's going to read it? That's not going to happen," Burden says.

In comments to the media – after a "big stink" raised by Burden, whose site receives more than 10,000 visits a day, and other military bloggers – Army public affairs officials have since backed away from the new rules. But they continue to be formal policy, and they continue to be mocked by current and former blogging members of the military.

"We write, 'We went on a raid last night,'" Haibi says. "That's what we write: 'We went on a raid last night.' We don't say who 'we' is, we don't say where it is. It's not like we say, 'Yesterday we hid in Echo Tango 12345 on the second floor looking for Abdul bin-Hassan, but we didn't find him.' If what we write is op-sec, then we all need to stop breathing."

The Army did not respond to a request for comment on its policy – but its detractors are happy to explain it. Buzzell thinks the Pentagon believes no Iraq news is good Iraq news. If it can stifle military blogs, it can better control the flow of information to the public. Haibi says military commanders fear a negative public reaction to the harsh men-at-war truths that military blogs depict.

Plus, if you don't let soldiers write anything without your approval, you don't let them write about the cruelties they claim to have witnessed or perpetrated. Last month – and continuing into this week – military bloggers raised another big stink when Scott Thomas Beauchamp, an Army private writing as a "Baghdad Diarist" for The New Republic, a liberal magazine, claimed to have seen fellow troops deliberately running over dogs in their fighting vehicles, wearing the skull of a child for laughs, and mocking an Iraqi woman whose face was disfigured by an explosive device

Nonsense, military bloggers responded. Soldiers in Iraq would never laugh at a woman wounded by the same bombs that have wounded so many of them; the child's bones could not have had "rotting flesh" on them; those vehicles aren't manoeuvrable enough to do what Beauchamp said they did.

The Army investigated. While The New Republic still stands by the article, the Army said Wednesday that each of the three stories is false.

Soldier-reporters rewrite the rules; The pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to scare the 64nighties

And so it was: Active-duty soldiers defended the honour of the military, in writing, while refuting the writings of another active-duty soldier – while they were all violating military rules for writing anything in the first place.

It was a distinctly 21st century internecine battle. But, like many old– style firefights, this episode came at a cost to its (apparent) victors: even more critical scrutiny, from the Pentagon, the public, and from the mainstream media.

"It's that guy, Beauchamp, that makes my life difficult trying to tell truth, " says Haibi. "It's that guy, a shameless media whore trying to get himself a \$25,000 \$30,000 advance on a book deal, telling lies, that makes our lives even harder."

As if that were possible.

# S. Korea, Taliban meet face-to-face to discuss hostages; Mothers to visit Dubai in bid to get Arab help to release loved ones

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110158  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA02  
**ILLUSTRATION:** HAN JAE-HO reuters Protesters participate in a candle-light vigil in Seoul yesterday to demand the U.S. negotiate with the Taliban for the safe return of the hostages. ;  
**BYLINE:** Rahim Faiez  
**SOURCE:** Associated Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 427

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face yesterday in the first negotiations over the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, Afghan officials said.

Taliban spokesperson Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council – Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah – travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began last night at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said Marajudin Pathan, the local governor. An Afghan official who asked not to be identified talking about sensitive information said the two Taliban leaders, four Korean officials and four International Committee of the Red Cross officials participated.

"We have given them the freedom of secrecy to talk with each other," Pathan said, confirming that no Afghan officials were taking part in the talks.

He said the government had guaranteed the Taliban members' safety and security.

Ahmadi said the Taliban would not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages until the face-to-face meetings have been held. Two men among the 23 South Koreans originally kidnapped have already been killed.

The South Koreans were the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, and their kidnapping underscores the rise of the Taliban's power in rural Afghanistan over last two years.

The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more hostages if their demands to release Taliban prisoners held by the Afghan government and the U.S. military are not met.

The Afghan government has said it will not release prisoners because doing so could encourage more kidnappings. Afghan authorities say talks with the Taliban are the best way to resolve the problem.

S. Korea, Taliban meet face-to-face to discuss hostages; Mothers to visit Dubai in bid to get Arab help to release loved ones

Pathan has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis. He said the talks would not lead to further negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity due to policy.

Last month, the government banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan.

Ahmadi said the departure of South Korean aid workers would have a "positive effect."

In South Korea, a spokesperson for the hostages' families said yesterday that the mothers of several hostages – five women and a translator – will travel to the emirate of Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release.

"The reason why we are sending women, especially mothers, to Dubai is that Islamic culture has more sympathy for women," said the spokesperson, Cha Sung– min. Sixteen of the hostages are women.



# British soldier killed during check of Afghanistan irrigation project

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110151  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA02  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 104

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A British soldier with the NATO–led International Security Assistance Force fighting Taliban insurgents was killed yesterday while on patrol in southern Afghanistan, the force said.

Another British soldier was wounded in the incident, the British defence ministry said in a statement released in Afghanistan.

Fresh fighting across the country left at least 44 other people dead yesterday.

In Kabul, Taliban militants ambushed a joint Afghan and NATO army convoy, sparking a firefight that killed seven Afghan soldiers and 20 militants, the defence ministry said.

The British soldiers were part of a patrol checking on a local irrigation project near Jusyalay in volatile Helmand province when they came under fire.

The fighting comes as about 700 Afghan and Pakistani tribal elders, religious clerics and politicians met for a second day yesterday.

# Ottawa pushed on global AIDS fight; Federal government must contribute substantially more money internationally, former UN envoy says

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110091  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Stephen Lewis seeks more funding.;  
**BYLINE:** Debra Black  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 577

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Most Canadians believe Ottawa must help increase access to treatment for people with HIV and AIDS in developing countries, according to an Ipsos Reid poll done for the Canadian Coalition for Youth and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The poll comes on the eve of the anniversary of the 16th International AIDS Conference that drew more than 25,000 participants to Toronto last year.

The coalition, which includes the Canadian chapters of CARE, Plan, Save the Children and World Vision, called on the federal government yesterday to step up funding for programs to battle the pandemic that has killed 25 million people and infected 40 million more since 1981.

It is a sentiment shared by Stephen Lewis, former United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and the head of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Ottawa must contribute substantially more money when it comes to HIV/AIDS internationally, Lewis told a news conference held yesterday to release the poll results.

He was critical of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government's apparent lack of interest in the HIV/AIDS pandemic. "We need a government that spends less money on defence and more money on the human condition," Lewis said.

The Canadian government cares more deeply about defence spending in Afghanistan than the HIV/AIDS catastrophe in Africa and the looming crisis in the rest of the world, said Lewis. The time to act is now as the number of people getting HIV/AIDS is rapidly increasing.

Latest figures from a recent HIV/AIDS conference in Australia suggest that for every person treated with anti-retroviral medication, six others are infected with the disease, Lewis said. Quite simply, that means the world is losing the battle against the pandemic.

Lewis and others called on the Canadian government to increase its contributions to the Global Fund at this September's meeting, calling for a commitment of \$900 million over the next three years. The fund was created to finance a turnaround in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Lewis also called on Canada to increase its foreign aid contributions as part of the G-8, echoing criticism of musician and activist Bono who slammed Canada's record at the recent summit.

Dave Toycen, president and CEO of World Vision Canada, also called on Ottawa to increase its contribution to the Global Fund and to ensure children and youth were a priority.

Every day, 5,000 young people between 15 and 24 will become infected with HIV/AIDS, said Sarah Hendriks, an adviser on gender equality and HIV/AIDS with Plan Canada. Youth must be in the driver's seat when it comes to developing programs to prevent and deal with HIV/AIDS, she said. They have something critical to contribute.

Ipsos Reid found that 46 per cent of Canadians believed it "very" important for Ottawa to increase access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries and another 45 per cent found it "somewhat" important.

It also found that nine out of 10 Canadians agree that HIV and AIDS is a serious problem, with 62 per cent saying the worldwide pandemic is best described as an international emergency.

And 48 per cent of Canadians feel the government is spending too little on foreign aid contributions with respect to HIV and AIDS.

The poll also found 70 per cent of Canadians feel well informed about the issue of HIV and AIDS today, a drop of 10 per cent from 2005.

Other poll results found that 90 per cent of Canadians recognize that Africa is the most vulnerable area of the world to HIV and AIDS and 92 per cent understand that Africa has been the hardest hit by the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The survey, with a sample of 1,429 adults, is accurate within plus or minus 2.6 percentage points, nineteen times out of 20.

# Brigade's tradition continues

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110046  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CanWest / Second World War "special ops" veterans look on during a special ceremony Friday at CFB Petawawa, Ont. A group of Canadian and U.S. Special Ops grads performed an exercise in front of the vets. The Devils' Brigade, the Second World War special operations squad is looking for special recognition from the federal government for their work during the war. ;

**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 627

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CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. — The old and new of Canada's special forces came together on Friday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War—era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa — about 167 kilometres northwest of Ottawa — as part of events for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of who have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the U.S.

"It's marvelous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Saturday morning.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning itself a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established its legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade.

CANSOFCOM, includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted in to a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machine guns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, MI, said military life appears pretty much the same as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he explained as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of military parachuting.

Canadian Special Operations Regiment commander Lt.-Col. Jamie Hammond said both the special operators of today and the veterans of the Devil's Brigade have a commitment to excellence. "These people share a common bond," Hammond said.

The regiment is designed to take on its own missions or support Joint Task Force 2, the military's counter-terrorism and special forces unit. The military acknowledged last fall that the regiment, based in Petawawa, had deployed troops to Afghanistan but it has not released details of its operations. JTF2 has also been operating in Afghanistan for a number of years.

Hammond said although the weapons have changed, the special operators of today undergo the same high level of training that Devil's Brigade veterans went through.

"It's all the same physical set of demands," he explained after reviewing some of the old training regimes. "If my guys were alive back then they would have volunteered for that organization and vice versa."

Charlie Mann, a Devil's Brigade veteran from Kincardine, Ont. said he sees a lot of his own unit in the current special operations forces. What has changed is the equipment and aircraft, said the 85-year-old. "The equipment is a lot more compact and the aircraft much larger," said Mann.

Ottawa Citizen

# Departed can be life of the party

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110151  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** F10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Photo courtesy Honor Industries / A newEdmonton company will take the ashes of your dearly departed loved one, make a pencil and use it to create a portrait ;  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**BYLINE:** Robin Summerfield  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 890

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CALGARY -- You've left nothing to chance. No detail has been overlooked.

The guest list is inked. The band has been arranged. Your favourite place is reserved, the menu planned and your favourite flowers selected.

And when the date of your party arrives, you'll be dead.

That's the premise behind Party of Your Life, a new event planning company in Calgary where the departed-to-be can plan their own post-death funeral party for family and friends.

"It's a celebration of your life, planned by you," explains Therese Rajotte, the company's 48-year-old owner.

For \$2,400, Rajotte, a wedding planner with All About Weddings, will help organize, execute and oversee your special party to be held after your death. (If you want to actually be there, the company will also help clients plan a pre-death celebration too.) Rajotte's fee is strictly for planning, arranging and executing the bash. It doesn't include venue fees, food, alcohol, flowers or other incidentals.

Making arrangements for your own post-death party may seem a tad macabre, but it's just one example of an increasingly popular trend in funerals and the rituals surrounding death to individualize the experience -- the more individual the better.

You can have your ashes shot into space like actor James Doohan who played Star Trek engineer Scotty. About seven grams worth of the Canadian actor's ashes, along with those of 200 other people, were blasted into the space in a memorial last April.

Several North American companies will also compress human or pet ashes into diamond-like rocks which can be set in jewelry.

Some funeral homes now offer funeral webcasts so family members who can't attend the actual service will get to watch it online in real time -- or later, on YouTube.

At remembering.ca, a site run by canada.com, an arm of CanWest Global, people can sign condolences for notable Canadians who have died. Memorial messages for Canadian soldiers who have lost their lives in

Afghanistan are posted there.

If you're of the eco persuasion, you can be buried in a biodegradable "green" coffin, though if your tastes are more flashy, there's something for you too: a company in London called Crazy Coffins has been custom-making novelty coffins since 2000. The company makes about 15,000 caskets a year and will fashion any casket to order — they've done cars, guitars and ballet shoes, to name a few.

You can also order a one-of-a-kind urn made by one of 50 Canadian artists from the website [earthenvessel.ca](http://earthenvessel.ca) owned by a Calgary-based husband and wife team. The decorative pottery, carved wood and glass urns range in price from \$150 to \$3,000.

Co-owner and potter Francine Hampson-Reid says their artist-made urns are a far cry from the mass-produced containers typically sold through funeral homes.

All of this seems to point to a larger trend in changing attitudes toward death and dying.

Perhaps it's a reflection of society's growing acceptance or heightened comfort levels when discussing death and dealing with the practicalities after death.

Or maybe — like everything else in North American popular culture — bigger, louder, better rules the day, in life and now in death.

"We as a society are getting more educated — realizing that death is something that happens, it's something that people are talking about . . . the awareness and openness to discussing it is very positive thing," says Edmonton-based portrait artist Lucas Seaward.

If Seaward is right, that attitude will help his new business, Honor Industries.

His company takes a scoop of cremated ashes (about one tablespoon's worth or 15 mL), and, through a fusion process involving heat and other elements, creates a graphite-like artist's pencil.

Then, working from a photograph of the deceased, Seaward, 26, uses the pencil to create a portrait which is framed for a loved one's wall with the pencil and a memorial plaque.

The portraits start at \$5,000 and typically take between 30 and 200 hours to finish. The company officially launched at the beginning of June and has yet to actually make an ash portrait using human cremains.

The portraits will be something the family will pass down through the generations, he says.

"I want people to feel connected to that person even though the physical being of that person is not around anymore."

The customs and rituals of death, mourning and remembering the dead have evolved over time and amongst different cultures.

The Egyptians mummified their deceased. While the ritual was mostly reserved for pharaohs, in many cases nobility and officials also were mummified, and occasionally common folk got the treatment too. Baboons, cats, birds and crocodiles — revered for their religious significance — were sometimes mummified too and enclosed in a tomb as an offering.

In the Victorian age, mourners took locks of hair from their deceased loved ones and enclosed the trimmings in lockets or brooches.

Early 19th century America had a fascination with photographing their dead, oftentimes children. Those photographs were often the only picture of the person, in life or in death.

In Mexico, people celebrate the souls of the departed during the Days of the Dead, a two-day holiday in November. During the celebrations it's believed the souls of the dead return to visit their relatives, who have laid out food and flowers and other offerings at the gravesites.

That celebratory approach may not be that far off from the intent and spirit of Calgary's Party of Your Life.

The company launched in May and has not yet landed a client but owner Rajotte isn't concerned. The business will grow slowly, she says, driven mostly by word of mouth. Baby boomers, she predicts, will likely be her target audience.

She believes people are thinking more openly about death. They want more control over their final moments and how they are remembered. They want a personalized memorial, to "make it something special," she adds.

Rajotte says funeral homes tend to make death a sad thing.

But sadness, in the grieving process, is perfectly normal and healthy, counters Bob Glasgow, the Calgary Health Region's grief support program co-ordinator.

"Grief is a normal adjustment to the loss of a loved one," Glasgow says.

"You want to honour and celebrate the person but also allow people to express their sadness together," he says.

As Glasgow says: "Any rituals like to capture the celebration side but also acknowledge the sorrow so people can grieve."

[rsummerfieldtheherald.canwest.com](http://rsummerfieldtheherald.canwest.com)



# Khadr will remain in U.S. prison

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110108  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D7  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**BYLINE:** Norma Greenaway  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 277

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WASHINGTON — The Bush administration won't ask Canada to take back Toronto-born terrorist suspect Omar Khadr as part of its efforts to reduce the population at the controversial Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, a U.S. government spokesperson said Friday.

The American government is determined to bring Khadr to justice in the United States, said Jeffrey Gordon, a spokesperson for the U.S. Defence Department.

"Omar Khadr is facing trial by military commission for murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, material support to terrorism," Gordon said. "He's alleged to have killed a U.S. medic with a grenade. He is facing trial by (U.S.) military commission and we believe he must be held accountable for his actions."

Gordon said the Canadian government has not requested Khadr's transfer to Canada because it understands the 20-year-old is among the Guantanamo detainees whom the U.S. government intends to try for war crimes.

On Thursday, Bush told a news conference his stated goal of closing down the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay was proving difficult, in part, because the government was having trouble getting some countries to take back their detained nationals. He also expressed sympathy for their position.

"This is a fairly steep order," he acknowledged. "A lot of people don't want killers in their midst, and a lot of these people are killers."

Khadr, captured six years ago, is the lone Canadian held at Guantanamo. Human rights groups have urged Harper to bring him home, but Foreign Minister Peter MacKay has made clear the government has no plans to protest U.S. plans to put Khadr on trial.

Khadr's military trial has, however, become bogged down in legal challenges.

The U.S. military alleges Khadr threw a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer during a firefight in southern Afghanistan in July 2002.

(OTTAWA CITIZEN)

# South Koreans, Taliban begin talks on hostages

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110086  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** C14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters / Protesters participate in a candlelight vigil in Seoul, South Korea, to demand the U.S. negotiate with Taliban insurgents for the safe return of 21 Koreans kidnapped in Afghanistan ;  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 498

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AFP) — Taliban militants met face-to-face with South Korean officials late Friday to negotiate the release of 21 hostages held in Afghanistan since mid-July, the militia and Afghan officials said.

The meeting between the rebels and the South Koreans has been seen as one of the last hopes for the South Korean aid workers, 16 of whom are women, seized in turbulent southern Ghazni province on July 19.

The hardline insurgents have already shot dead two of their male hostages to pressure the government to release Taliban prisoners, and have threatened to kill the others if their demands are not met.

"Face-to-face talks between the South Korea delegation and a two-member Taliban team started in the city of Ghazni," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

"Our demands are the same and will not change," he said, adding that the two Taliban representatives had travelled under a government guarantee of safe passage.

"As long as there are negotiations, the hostages will be safe with us," Ahmadi said. But a Taliban commander involved in the crisis has reportedly warned that more hostages could die if talks with the South Koreans fail.

A senior Afghan security official said on condition of anonymity that the talks were ongoing late Friday in Ghazni, 140 kilometres south of the capital Kabul.

"The Afghan government is providing security for the talks and are present only as observers," he said.

The International Committee for the Red Cross said it was involved in the process as an intermediary. However, the South Korean embassy in Kabul refused to confirm the talks had begun.

The spokesperson for the Ghazni provincial government, Shirin Mangal, said the talks were being held in a regional office of the Red Cross under government security.

He would not say when they had started but said there was no particular outcome so far.

Kabul, backed by Washington, has steadfastly refused to agree to the Taliban demand for the release of jailed militants, and Seoul says it is powerless to bring about a prisoner release.

While publicly insisting they would only accept the release of certain male prisoners in Afghan jails, the Taliban said this week they might release some of the women hostages if Afghan women were released from U.S. custody.

The U.S. military in Afghanistan said it had no female prisoners.

Unconfirmed media reports said the South Koreans had offered the rebels a ransom payment, which the Islamist extremist group is reported to have accepted in previous negotiations for foreign hostages.

Government negotiator Mahmood Gailani said last week that any negotiations for the release of the Korean aid workers could only be about money as the government was firm in its stance that no prisoners could be released.

President Hamid Karzai's administration came under heavy criticism, notably from Washington, when it freed five important Taliban fighters in exchange for an Italian journalist, whose two Afghan colleagues were beheaded.

Seoul has appealed to Afghanistan to do what it can but said it understood the government's difficulties in its fight against the Taliban who are allied with the Al-Qaeda network.

The Taliban are also linked to a militant group holding a German engineer and four Afghans captured in Wardak province near Kabul the day before the South Koreans' abduction. The militants have demanded a prisoner exchange for the 62-year-old engineer, who was captured with another German who was shot dead days later.

# Devil's Brigade vets old and new reminisce

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110082  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** C13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News / A group of Canadian and U.S. special ops grads are seen rappelling from a helicopter in an exercise Friday ;  
**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 476

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CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. — The old and new of Canada's special forces came together on Friday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War—era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa — about 167 kilometres northwest of Ottawa — as part of events for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of who have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the U.S.

"It's marvelous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Saturday morning.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning itself a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established its legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade.

CANSOFCOM, includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward, U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted into a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machine guns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, MI, said military life appears pretty much the same as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he explained as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of military parachuting.

Charlie Mann, a Devil's Brigade veteran from Kincardine, Ont. said he sees a lot of his own unit in the current special operations forces. What has changed is the equipment and aircraft, said the 85-year-old. "The equipment is a lot more compact and the aircraft much larger," said Mann.

(Ottawa Citizen)

# PM expected to shuffle cabinet

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
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**PAGE:** A11  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 400

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OTTAWA (Reuters) — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to put a fresh face on his Conservative government next week with a major cabinet shuffle, as it heads into the fall session of Parliament and aims to extend its term well beyond the norm for a minority government.

"It's not unnatural to shake things up a bit and approach the fall with some new dynamism," a government source said on Friday.

Harper's overriding strategy so far has been to demonstrate to the public, through governing as long as possible, that the minority Conservatives are not the scary right-wingers that he believes the opposition and media have portrayed them as.

Elected in January 2006, the Conservatives have surpassed the typical 18-month lifespan of a minority government.

But while they retain a narrow lead over the main opposition Liberals in many polls, the party's support remains stuck below levels it won in the 2006 election — and far from the voter support needed to win a parliamentary majority in any election called soon.

Next week's cabinet shuffle is seen as one way to invigorate the Conservative team.

One cabinet member, Revenue Minister Carol Skelton, has announced her departure for family reasons, but otherwise the prime minister is expected to keep all his present ministers while giving many of them new portfolios.

"It's a shuffle internally," the government source said. "On the whole, he's got a great bunch of people with him. He likes all of them. They all work really well together."

A prime candidate for being moved is Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who has come under sharp criticism from opposition politicians over his handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan.

A possible replacement could be Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, seen as a steady hand and someone who has the close ear of the prime minister.

Rumor and speculation are always rife in Ottawa ahead of any rejigging of cabinet seats, and some reports have suggested Finance Minister Jim Flaherty might move to the Industry Department.

Flaherty has come under fire for introducing a tax on income trusts and for a dispute with the Atlantic

provinces over fiscal transfers.

But another Conservative source noted that Flaherty has delivered two budgets that successfully passed in minority Parliament. Most analysts expect the next federal budget, in February or March, to be laden with tax cuts that could entice voters just before a possible spring election campaign.

Harper has kept the precise timing of any cabinet shuffle under wraps, but he has told ministers to remain in Ottawa next week starting on Monday.

Some sources said this made any moves unlikely before Tuesday, if he used Monday at least to meet with his new appointees.

# A Harper cabinet shuffle or swapping chairs at king's court?; Once an important power-sharing device, cabinet today seems to matter less

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<b>SECTION:</b>	Insight
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<b>KEYWORDS:</b>	PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
<b>BYLINE:</b>	Richard Foot
<b>SOURCE:</b>	CanWest News Service
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	823

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When Stephen Harper's government makes big decisions — on the war in Afghanistan, or on income trusts or climate change — the prime minister leads his cabinet, he says, as merely a first among equals.

"On very, very rare occasions would I make a decision on a policy matter — as opposed to just routine, machinery of government issues — would I make a decision on a policy matter unilaterally," Harper said recently in a remarkably frank assessment of how decisions are reached at the highest political levels in Canada.

"On all but a very small number of issues, there's been a very, very broad consensus in our cabinet. I don't think I've ever been in a position where I've had to really force a decision through on one group of people or another."

Harper was speaking earlier this month at a news conference in Prince Edward Island at the end of the Conservatives' annual summer caucus retreat, where he also hinted he might shuffle the cabinet before the summer was out. It now appears that shuffle will happen next week.

But who cares? Is the federal cabinet relevant any longer as a decision-making body, or has it — under a string of recent Liberal and Tory leaders — become a gathering of yes-men and women, simply rubber-stamping the wishes of the prime minister? Does it matter who's in and who's out, or which MPs occupy which portfolios?

When Revenue Minister Carol Skelton announced last week that she would not seek re-election, it left a hole that would allow Harper to promote a backbencher to the cabinet club, while also shuffling existing ministers.

British Columbia MP James Moore and Calgary MP Diane Ablonczy are seen as underemployed and ripe for promotion.

It would be Harper's second change to his cabinet since coming to power in 2006, and the guess game is fiercest over who might be promoted or demoted within the current cabinet ranks.

And the million-dollar question: will beleaguered Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor — saddled with selling an increasingly troublesome war and seemingly at odds with his chief of defence staff — be moved

A Harper cabinet shuffle or swapping chairs at king's court?; Once an important power-sharing device, cabi



elsewhere or shuffled out altogether?

O'Connor's demotion has been predicted for weeks, and CTV has reported he will be bumped to Veterans Affairs. It said he will be replaced by Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, a respected member of the caucus and a Harper favourite.

For Donald Savoie, the only cabinet question that really matters is which ministers, if any, are likely to be members of Harper's "Court."

Savoie is an internationally respected political scientist from the University of Moncton. Three years ago, he published *Breaking the Bargain*, a landmark critique of the sidelining of the civil service, and the concentration of power in the prime minister's office. "What we've got today is less cabinet government, and more court government," he said in a recent interview.

"Those with influence are those who sit in the prime minister's court."

Some courtiers may also happen to be cabinet ministers. Prentice is believed to be a member of Harper's inner circle. Senate government leader Marjorie LeBreton is a powerful and trusted link between Harper and the old Progressive Conservative wing of the party, which remains critical to his hold on power.

Savoie also says the finance minister in almost every federal government — in this case Ontario MP Jim Flaherty — still counts as a key figure since he occupies an indispensable role as the country's chief fiscal decision-maker. Flaherty will not be moved in the expected cabinet shuffle.

But outside of a few individuals, "it doesn't matter a great deal who's in cabinet today, except that they get formal access to the court once a week — access to the king, the prime minister and his courtiers," says Savoie. "Generally, the cabinet no longer matters as a decision-making body."

A generation ago cabinets were vitally important power-sharing arrangements, in which the prime minister crafted alliances and catered to powerful figures who represented regional or ideological interests within the ruling party. Their support around the cabinet table was essential to any prime minister maintaining leadership of his party.

Savoie also says regional ministers once mattered, because a prime minister needed them for political advice in dealing with Canada's fractious provinces. Today, instead of relying on politicians for such information, prime ministers gather it up from focus groups or polling surveys or the 24-hour media.

"There's no doubt, I'm not going to deny it, I have enough political science background myself to know that the trend in parliamentary systems over 150 years has been towards a concentration of power in the prime minister's office," Harper said recently.

"At the same time, I don't think outsiders are really in a position to make assessments of whether decisions are consensual or not, and to what degree the prime minister does or does not dominate the cabinet unless you're actually there, and you see the workings up close.

"Frankly I think we've been really fortunate — and there's no way you can verify this — we've been really fortunate that we've had a large degree of consensus on almost all the decisions we've made."

# Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave military post and try to share power

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / Paramilitary troopers take up positions in a bunker in Islamabad on Thursday. ; Photo: Reuters / Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf ;

**KEYWORDS:** TERRORISM; FOREIGN RELATIONS; TERRITORIAL ISSUES;  
NUCLEARWEAPONS; PRESIDENTS; ARMAMENTS; CONSTITUTION;  
PAKISTAN

**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

**BYLINE:** Griff Witte

**SOURCE:** The Washington Post

**WORD COUNT:** 1313

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ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Gen. Pervez Musharraf is a man accustomed to getting his way, and for nearly eight years as this country's formidably powerful ruler, he almost always has.

But on March 9, his fortunes abruptly changed when the country's chief justice refused to resign under government pressure.

Musharraf has gone on to endure a spectacular series of disappointments that have left him isolated from his friends and dependent on his enemies if he wants to stay in office.

With his country in turmoil, caught between democracy and autocracy, between radical Islam and secular moderation, the nation's president and army chief is locked in a struggle just to survive.

On Thursday, Musharraf decided against declaring a state of emergency, hours after senior officials in his government said such a step was under consideration. An emergency declaration would have given the Pakistani leader, who is beset by plummeting popularity, sweeping powers to suppress dissent, muzzle the media and put off national elections, due early next year.

Critics — and, increasingly, supporters — say Musharraf has only himself to blame. His habit of postponing tough decisions, they say, has finally caught up with him.

"The situation is going from bad to worse for Pervez Musharraf," said Hasan Askari Rizvi, a political analyst. "And the pressures are only increasing." Mounting pressures At the moment, those pressures include an invigorated insurgency by al-Qaida and Taliban militants who have vowed to oust Musharraf in favour of a hardline theocracy.

From the other direction, he faces an energetic pro-democracy movement that is itching for the chance to send Musharraf and his fellow generals back to their barracks. And from the United States, he faces growing

Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave

doubts that he is up to the task of eliminating alleged terrorist havens on Pakistani soil.

The conflicting pressures are taking their toll. In four months, Musharraf's approval rating in Pakistan dropped 20 points, down to 34 per cent as of early July, according to an opinion poll released last week by the International Republican Institute, a U.S. government-funded non-profit.

It was the first time since the survey was first conducted in 2002 that the percentage of Pakistani respondents approving of Musharraf had fallen below half.

The former commando prides himself on an ability to escape difficult circumstances, and it is possible he will find a way to emerge this time as well. At the moment, his hope for salvation comes from an unexpected source.

He travelled to the United Arab Emirates recently to meet with a longtime nemesis, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and those close to him say agreeing to share power with her might be his best option for political survival.

Even that is fraught with risk. Musharraf, who came to power in a military coup in 1999, is up for re-election by Parliament this fall, and if the deal with Bhutto collapses at the last minute, it is unclear whether he will have the necessary support to win another term.

If the deal does go through, he faces the prospect of trying to govern with a woman he has decried as "corrupt" and representative of the "sham democracy" that preceded his tenure.

For her part, Bhutto has repeatedly called Musharraf "a military dictator" and has pointedly said she will not ink any deal unless he resigns as army chief. Musharraf's supporters say he probably will have to, even though his status in the army is seen as his primary source of influence.

"I would expect that around New Year's Day, you'll see General Pervez Musharraf transformed into Mr. Pervez Musharraf, with a designer suit rather than the khaki uniform he has worn for the past 43 years," said Mushahid Hussain, a top leader in Musharraf's party.

"This has been a chastening experience," Hussain added. "General Musharraf has had a good run for eight years. He has been offered another five years — but without the absolute authority he once exercised." Prosperity and a critical media In some ways, Hussain said, Musharraf is a victim of his own success. He has presided over a period of greater prosperity for an emerging middle class. He has also allowed a proliferation of media outlets.

But when Musharraf tried in March to get rid of the chief justice, Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry, lawyers revolted, and middle-class Pakistanis joined what evolved into a mass movement against the president, and for the restoration of democracy.

Chaudhry toured the country like a rock star, visiting city after city and speaking to festive crowds about the dangers of despotism.

The media followed Chaudhry's campaign minute by minute, with the coverage becoming so critical that the government tried to block it.

Musharraf's top aides had insisted Chaudhry was suspended because of improprieties. But critics said the real reason was that he had exhibited an independent streak that worried Musharraf as the general attempted to have himself re-elected by an expiring Parliament, while also keeping his uniform.

Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave

Musharraf said at one point that he would "cry" if Chaudhry got his job back, but when the Supreme Court reinstated the judge late last month, there was little the president could do but accept the decision.

Chaudhry is now in position to block Musharraf's plans — including his bid to win a new term from a parliament that was elected five years ago in balloting marred by irregularities.

"Lawfully, he can do it. But morally, the parliament's at the end of its term," said Ishaq Khan Khakwani, a government minister and member of Musharraf's party. "How can it elect him again?" Khakwani said he suggested to Musharraf a year ago that he hold parliamentary elections in March 2007, and then win a fresh term from the new legislature. With Musharraf's popularity running high, Khakwani argued, he would emerge even stronger.

But the president was in no mood for the idea, several government insiders said, because he worried new elections could dilute his power.

General watched, and waited "He made a mistake," Khakwani said.

Delays have also hurt Musharraf in his battle against rising militancy in Pakistan, critics say.

His handling of the standoff at the pro-Taliban Red Mosque in Islamabad seemed to illustrate the problem: Through months of provocations by the mosque's radical clerics, Musharraf watched and waited. By the time he decided to take action, the clerics' followers had built up a fearsome arsenal and were prepared for a fight.

During a nine-day siege in July, the neighbourhood around the mosque became a war zone as security forces nightly traded intense fire with militants holed up inside. When the smoke cleared following a decisive raid, more than 100 people were dead — including a dozen elite army commandos.

The end of the standoff brought a wave of attacks that claimed more than 200 lives, with suicide bombers striking a variety of targets, including a political rally in Islamabad and a mosque at an army base. It also coincided with the breakdown of a ceasefire in North Waziristan that had once been the centrepiece of Musharraf's strategy for containing the Taliban threat.

Although the 10-month-old deal officially died in July, observers of the tribal region along the border with Afghanistan had long said it wasn't working.

U.S. officials also have grown increasingly concerned that the area is being used as a sanctuary for al-Qaida fighters. Still, Musharraf clung to the deal.

"If you say one lie, you have to say 10 more to cover that first one," said retired Brig. Mehmood Shah, for years a top government official in the tribal areas.

"They called it a good agreement, and they went all the way to Washington to say so. They could not then turn around and say that it wasn't." The unrest has not ended. Last week, radical fighters took over a shrine in northwestern Pakistan and renamed it Lal Masjid — Red Mosque.

The government brushes off concerns that the recent wave of violence could be the start of a much larger conflagration that will engulf Pakistan. "What we've seen here is a reaction to the Lal Masjid," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in an interview last week. "We predicted it. We expected it. We're dealing with it." Others are not so sure, pointing to the Taliban's enhanced ability to assert control over broad swaths of territory.

"Looking at the past few months, I see that Musharraf is the biggest loser," said Afzal Khan, a senior opposition politician in the northwestern area of Swat.

Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave

"The militants are the biggest winners."

Musharraf's own inaction blamed for Pakistan crisis; As general clings to office, many expect he will soon leave

# Taliban, S. Koreans holding talks over fate of hostages

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**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 118

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan – Taliban militants met face-to-face with South Korean officials late Friday to negotiate the release of 21 hostages held in Afghanistan since mid-July, the militia and Afghan officials said.

The meeting between the rebels and the South Koreans has been seen as one of the last hopes for the South Korean aid workers, 16 of whom are women, seized in turbulent southern Ghazni province on July 19.

The hardline insurgents have already shot dead two of their male hostages to pressure the government to release Taliban prisoners, and have threatened to kill the others.

"Our demands are the same and will not change," said spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi, adding that the two Taliban representatives had travelled under a government guarantee of safe passage.

# Fight over Arctic heats up; Denmark makes its case for ownership of North Pole as Harper moves to fortify Canadian sovereignty

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**PAGE:** A3

Photo: Agence France–Presse/getty images / The HMCSFredericton is on manoeuvres in Frobisher Bay at the southern tip of Baffin Island, taking part in a sovereignty exercise involving a Canadian submarine, Canadian Coast Guard vessel and fighter jets, as well as 800 soldiers, federal police and Inuit rangers. ; Photo: Agence

**ILLUSTRATION:** France–Presse/getty images / Russian adventurer and Duma deputy Artur Chilingarov, centre, flanked by explorer Vladimir Gruzdev, left, and Anatoly Sagalevich holds a Russian flag upon his arrival in Moscow on Tuesday. Chilingarov and his team of explorers had returned from an expedition to the North Pole where they planted a Russian flag in the sea floor to lay claim to potential natural resources. ;

**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT;CANADA

**BYLINE:** Randy Boswell and Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 955

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper made two major funding announcements Friday to boost Canada's sovereignty in the resource-rich North as Denmark's science minister claimed his country has a strong case for ownership of the North Pole.

"Canada's new government understands that the first principle of Arctic sovereignty is: Use it or lose it," Harper said in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, as he announced that the community, about 600 kilometres from the magnetic North Pole, will be the site of a new \$4-million military training centre. The centre is to be manned by up to 100 Canadian Forces personnel at a strategic site along the Northwest Passage.

Harper also confirmed that the government will spend \$100 million to build Canada's first deep-water Arctic seaport at Nanisivik, on the northern tip of Baffin Island. An old dock and gravel runway at the abandoned lead and zinc mining town will be refurbished to re-supply new Arctic patrol vessels.

The port would be key to shipping through the Northwest Passage, which is expected to provide a summer sea route to Asia within decades as global warming melts the ice floes.

The two initiatives will "benefit communities throughout the region by creating jobs and opportunities and enhancing the safety and security of the people who live here," Harper said.

And, along with a 900-person boost to the Canadian Rangers' 4,100-member patrol, the investments will "significantly strengthen Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic."

Meantime, however, Danish science minister Helge Sander was announcing that recent findings by his country's researchers suggest "Denmark could be given the North Pole."

His assertion comes on the eve of a Danish-led research expedition to the Arctic and amid intensifying interest among all northern nations in securing shipping and seabed rights in the oil-rich region around the North Pole.

The joint Danish-Swedish expedition, which will carry one Canadian scientist, will have its path cleared by a chartered Russian icebreaker.

Its aim is to cement Denmark's claims to extended seabed territory north of Greenland, an island controlled by Denmark, Sander said in a Danish television interview.

Sander said "preliminary investigations done so far are very promising," suggesting the disputed Lomonosov Ridge — a 1,500-kilometre undersea mountain range that runs past the Pole between Siberia and North America — is a geological extension of the northern coast of Greenland.

"There are things suggesting that Denmark could be given the North Pole," he said.

Canadian scientists, however, believe the Lomonosov Ridge could be seen as a continuation of Ellesmere Island, giving Canada a strong counterclaim against potential Russian and Danish land grabs.

In Ottawa, the Danish ambassador to Canada, Poul Kristensen, told CanWest News that "it's no secret that Denmark, on behalf of Greenland" has interests in Arctic resources and "of course, potentially, we can make claims."

While scientists from the five polar nations continue to collaborate on research aimed at mapping the Arctic sea floor, the governments of Canada, Russia, the U.S., Denmark and Norway remain at odds over an area thought to contain one-quarter of the planet's untapped petroleum reserves.

Earlier this month, Russia ruffled feathers by dropping a Russian flag on the North Pole seabed at the end of a deep-sea expedition to claim the mineral riches of the Arctic.

On Friday, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre called Russia's move "show business more than political reality," adding that: "What is important is that the Russians follow the international legal regulations in force, as they are doing."

Harper said last week that Russia's flag-planting trek to the Pole shows that "sovereignty in our Arctic is going to be an important issue as we move into the future."

Now the Danes — still at odds with Canada over the ownership of tiny Hans Island in the boundary waters between Ellesmere Island and Greenland — are again pressing their claims to the potentially lucrative sea floor around the Pole. The Danish government first stated its intent to vie for possible North Pole riches in 2004, when its Hans Island feud with Canada — now being dealt with quietly by diplomats — was still prompting heated public exchanges over the remote and icy rock.

When it comes to potential Arctic oil, "we are speaking of values in the billions," said Denmark's Kristensen, "and therefore the area, of course, is of interest to us."

University of British Columbia professor Michael Byers, Canada's leading expert on Arctic sovereignty, said in an interview that "all the other Arctic countries are fully committed to claiming the maximum amount of seabed to which they're entitled under the law of the sea convention."

Fight over Arctic heats up; Denmark makes its case for ownership of North Pole as Harper moves to fortify C



Byers added that "chartering the Russian icebreaker is a particularly inspired move and should send a strong signal to Ottawa" to make sure this country does everything possible to "secure all the seabed that is rightfully ours. The only thing holding us back right now is a lack of political will."

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the five polar nations could acquire huge swaths of Arctic sea floor if they can prove the claimed areas are linked to their continental shelves.

Canada and Denmark have been collaborating over the past two years to gather data on the Lomonosov Ridge.

Russia claimed ownership of the ridge in 2001, but the UN sent its scientists back to the Arctic to gather by 2009 more evidence to support the claim.

Canada has until 2013 to submit its territorial claims, but the federal scientist leading the sea-floor studies, Jacob Verhoef, said earlier this week there's a chance the research mission could be in jeopardy because of the tight deadline, strained resources and unpredictable Arctic ice conditions.

On Thursday, a top U.S. climate researcher announced that the Arctic ice cover is shrinking faster this summer than at any time since reliable satellite images of the polar cap became available in 1979.

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who has been under fire over his handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, joined Harper for the announcement, despite repeated calls from the opposition for him to be fired or demoted in a cabinet shuffle expected next week.

# Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release

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**PAGE:** 7  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 231

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face yesterday in the first negotiations over the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council — Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasorullah — travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began last evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said Marajudin Pathan, the local governor.

"We have given them the freedom of secrecy to talk with each other," Pathan said, confirming that no Afghan officials were taking part in the talks.

He said the government had guaranteed the Taliban members' "safety and security."

Pathan has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis. He said the talks would not lead to further negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

Ahmadi said the departure of South Korean aid workers would have a "positive effect." He did not elaborate.

In South Korea, a spokesman for the hostages' families said yesterday that the mothers of several hostages — five women and a translator — will travel to the emirate of Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# A soldier's story To know Afghanistan, a Canadian soldier must break through a wall of misconceptions

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**SECTION:** News

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**ILLUSTRATION:** 4 photos by Master Cpl. Martin Forgues 1. The bleak Afghan landscape provides no refuge from the searing heat — "like standing in front of an open oven door" — and only a little more from an unseen enemy. 2. A machine gun manned by Cpl. Pierre-Luc Fountain keeps Kandahar's Camp Nathan Smith safe. The sound of firefights in the distance is a daily occurrence. Montreal Regiment, affected with the safety of the Nathan Camp Smith with Kandahar. 3. Cpl. Pierre-Luc Fountain, Cpl. Daniel Cloutier, Sgt. Jonathan Desmarais and Cpl. Tyler Patnode stand in front of their light armoured vehicle. 4. Afghan children smile as a Canadian patrol passes by.

**BYLINE:** MARTIN FORGUES

**WORD COUNT:** 528

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A month has already elapsed since my arrival in Kandahar, yet I feel that I have not yet arrived.

Nothing we learned during our 10-month training period prior to deployment could have prepared this cliché-ridden mind for such a violent culture shock.

Of course, all this has a prelude. First, having to leave my beloved Montreal, my beloved Quebec. An impromptu radio interview. One last Friday night out in town, with good drinks and great company. Then, the perfect conclusion to a perfect night, the details of which I'll leave to myself.

One last Saturday night in Valcartier, going through the excruciating logistical and administrative process our deployment requires. Knowing the camp will be dry, I enjoyed a few last drinks until last call and went to bed, without going to sleep.

One last Sunday. Deployment Day, spent with friends and family. The scene happens in 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment's garage. Two hundred hyped soldiers, ready to take on the challenge bestowed upon them by their country. The atmosphere is tense, though, as if there had been a violent clash between mixed feelings.

Excitement — mine and that of my comrades — and sadness, that of our loved ones, having to painstakingly let us go do our job. But chief among this emotional maelstrom was a keen sense of pride which overwhelms everything else as we were finally on our way to the airport.

The first three weeks were, in essence, a difficult adaptation period. It is during this period that all we take for granted becomes suddenly fragile.

Be it the water, undrinkable everywhere except in bottles imported from the United Arab Emirates.

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A soldier's story To know Afghanistan, a Canadian soldier must break through a wall of misconceptions

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#### OUR MAN AT THE FRONT

Martin Forgues is a 26 year-old journalism and political science student at Concordia University, and serving member of the Canadian Army Reserve since 1999 at the Montreal-based Regiment de Maisonneuve, holding the rank of Master Corporal.

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An infantry soldier, he is part of the Force Protection Company, charged with the PRT's security, and will do so until returning home in March 2008. KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

# Love her or hate her, Bhutto is no fool

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110572  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 17  
**BYLINE:** LYN COCKBURN  
**WORD COUNT:** 525

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I am crossing the street carrying a copy of her autobiography, Daughter of the East.

It's got a large picture of her on the back cover. I am thinking about my upcoming interview with Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to lead a modern Muslim nation.

I hear a hacking sound and something vaguely wet whistles past my ear. Turning, I see a couple of men staring angrily at me, then at the book. One of them snarls at me in some Eastern language, perhaps Urdu, perhaps Arabic. It takes me a second to realize that, for the first time in my life, I have just been spat at.

Bhutto is gracious and tough, highly intelligent (Radcliffe, Harvard and Oxford) and given to small glimpses of humour. Obviously aware of the continual criticism from Muslim critics that she is careless with her scarf, she pulls it firmly around her face when a male photographer enters the room.

Since that interview in Vancouver a number of years ago, Bhutto has been ousted twice as Pakistan's prime minister, accused of corruption and incompetence, put under house arrest and has gone into exile. She is now 54 and lives in the United Arab Emirates and London. She's the mother of three children and the wife of Asif Ali Zardari who did eight years in jail on corruption charges.

Bhutto says the more than 90 charges against her were trumped up with forged documents and false accusations. Her detractors insist she stole millions of dollars while prime minister. Extremist Muslims want her dead.

Meanwhile, Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's current military leader who took power in a 1999 coup, has declared on numerous occasions that if Bhutto dares return to Pakistan, he will immediately throw her in jail.

## NOT-SO-SECRET TALKS

But recently, the beleaguered Musharraf and Bhutto held not-so-secret talks in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE.

With elections scheduled for November, with his local and international support dwindling and with Musharraf still in hot water over the Red Mosque attack in Islamabad, he has become increasingly desperate.

Moreover, he cannot control the border with Afghanistan, so the Taliban slip in and out of Pakistan at will. The United States, long a Musharraf ally, is now suspicious because of his inability to curtail Taliban activity or, some say, his willingness to play on both teams.

So Musharraf is looking at a different kind of manoeuvre — namely Bhutto. He's considering letting her back in the country to serve as prime minister while he remains as president. In other words, he thinks they can

share power. He as president, she as prime minister — after being elected, he by assembly, she in a general election.

Love her or hate her, Bhutto is no fool. She knows the military in Pakistan is the real ruler. She knows there are problems within its ranks with a number of officers and enlisted men supporting the Taliban.

So one of her conditions, supported by the U.S., is that Musharraf step down as head of the military, something that will be difficult for him since he calls his uniform his "second skin."

And Bhutto insists that the upcoming elections must be held in a democratic manner.

## HUNGRY FOR POWER

Yet Musharraf may be so hungry to retain power that he agrees to these terms. Or, he may throw caution out the window and declare military law.

"I plan to return to Pakistan irrespective of whether Gen. Musharraf and my party are able to reach an understanding," said Bhutto in a recent interview.

Fine, Benazir, but I have a word or two of advice for you: Be careful what you wish for. You may get it and be spat upon. For the third time.

# Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110564  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 231

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Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face yesterday in the first negotiations over the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks.

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The meeting began last evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said Marajudin Pathan, the local governor.

"We have given them the freedom of secrecy to talk with each other," Pathan said, confirming that no Afghan officials were taking part in the talks.

He said the government had guaranteed the Taliban members' "safety and security."

Pathan has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis. He said the talks would not lead to further negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean Embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

Ahmadi said the departure of South Korean aid workers would have a "positive effect." He did not elaborate.

In South Korea, a spokesman for the hostages' families said yesterday that the mothers of several hostages — five women and a translator — will travel to the emirate of Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release. KEYWORDS=WORLD

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110313  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 231

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# Devil of a graduation Storied brigade survivors approve newest commandos

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110303

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Stephen Uhler, Courtesy Pembroke Daily Observer Members of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment take part in a graduation ceremony yesterday in Petawawa.

**BYLINE:** MEGAN GILLIS, SUN MEDIA

**DATELINE:** PETAWAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 318

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The Devil's Brigade is back.

Veterans of the storied World War Two special forces unit were here yesterday to watch 27 young soldiers graduate into the year-old elite military unit they inspired.

Soldiers parachuted, rappelled and coordinated a mock bombing of an enemy convoy to mark the end of 20 weeks of gruelling training to become members of the elite Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

The octogenarian American and Canadian veterans of the First Special Service Force, holding a reunion in Ottawa, were on hand to watch.

"It's the same qualities and the same training from 1942 to the people that you see today," commanding officer Lieut.-Col. Jamie Hammond said. "For special operations forces, humans are more important than hardware. There is nothing we're prouder of than our people."

## 'SHOCK TROOPS'

William Magee of Oshawa fought with the tough force of "shock troops" whose exploits included scaling a 200-foot cliff to crack a previously impregnable German supply line and holding a beachhead against an enemy who outnumbered them 10 to one.

"We're honoured that someone is following in our footsteps," Magee said.

Continuing that legacy is what led 26-year-old Eric — whose last name was concealed for security reasons — to leave the Air Force.

"You have way more opportunity to get out there and do your share," he said. "It's almost a guaranteed trip to Afghanistan. I joined the forces to serve my country. Afghanistan is something my country is involved with."

Their families watched as members of the regiment showed off the skills that allow them to go wherever and whenever they're needed.

They leapt two dozen at a time from a Hercules aircraft at 1,000 feet, their parachutes snapping open in a precise line against the bright blue sky.

Another group jumped from 10,000 feet, demonstrating how troops can stealthily and accurately land in a war zone.

## SNIPER

A sniper startled the crowd by leaping from bushes where he'd been hiding, his shapeless suit of dried leaves blending him into the grass.

Dozens more soldiers rappelled from hovering helicopters, whose churning wake nearly carried away spectators' hats.

Soldiers in unarmoured vehicles showed how they'd track an enemy convoy. A pair of CF-18 Hornets roared in to help, dropping a pair of bombs then making a strafing run.

The new regiment is one of four partners in the year-old Canadian Special Operations Forces Command — which includes the elite, Ottawa-based Joint Task Force 2 — aimed at targeting terrorism at home and abroad. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL; WORLD

# A soldier's story

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110301

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. 2 photos by Martin Forgues A young Afghan boy walks past a collection of homes in Kandahar City. 2. A gathering of children react as a Canadian patrol passes by in their armoured vehicles. 3. photo

**BYLINE:** MARTIN FORGUES

**WORD COUNT:** 541

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A month has already elapsed since my arrival in Kandahar, yet I feel that I have not yet arrived.

Nothing we learned during our 10-month training period we went through prior to deployment could have prepared this cliché-ridden mind for such a violent culture shock.

Of course, all this has a prelude. First, having to leave my beloved Montreal, my beloved Quebec. An impromptu radio interview. One last Friday night out on the town, with good drinks and great company. Then, the perfect conclusion to a perfect night, the details of which I'll keep to myself.

Last Saturday night in Valcartier, knowing the camp will be dry, I enjoyed a few last drinks until last call and went to bed, without going to sleep.

One last Sunday. Deployment Day, spent with friends and family. The scene happens in 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment's garage. Two hundred hyped soldiers, ready to take on the challenge bestowed upon them by their country. The atmosphere was tense, as if there had been a violent clash between mixed feelings.

Excitement — mine and that of my comrades — and sadness, that of our loved ones, having to painstakingly let us go do our job. But chief among this emotional maelstrom was a keen sense of pride which overwhelms everything else as we were finally on our way to the airport.

The first three weeks were, in essence, a difficult adaptation period. It is during this period that all we take for granted becomes suddenly fragile. Be it the water, undrinkable everywhere except in bottles imported from the United Arab Emirates. Be it food, which is abundant and various for us, but limited to mostly bread, rice and tea for the Afghan workers we see every day. Be it the heat, comparable to standing all day long in front of an open stove. Be it this somewhat phantom menace, forcing us to wear protective gear and confirmed by the too-frequent firefights we hear almost every day in the distance.

The first contact with the Afghans, whose culture and social rites are the complete opposite of ours, have been very courteous. A lot of clichés and preconceived ideas have fallen as time went by. Instead of the somewhat backward, angst-ridden people I had been led to expect, I discovered a generous, welcoming people with a strong moral code.

An example of this is this old carpenter whom, while visibly poor and obviously aware of our relative wealth and well-being, doesn't shy away from sharing a loaf of bread with us every morning. This daily scene has become for me a symbol of a mutual will to get closer, to sincerely befriend a country which, after too many

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## WHO I AM

Martin Forgues

I'm a 26 year–old journalism and political science student at Concordia University, and serving member of the Canadian Army Reserve since 1999 at the Montreal–based Regiment de Maisonneuve, holding the rank of Master Corporal.

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# frontpage Brothers in arms Vets of famed Devil's Brigade pass torch to Canada's newest elite commandos

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110295

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 1

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo by Stephen Uhler, courtesy Pembroke Daily Observer 2. A SOLDIER'S STORY Newly deployed infantryman's candid assessment of his first weeks in Afghanistan 3. TIGER ROARS Ties course record

**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# Moral code marks Afghans

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708110190

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A9

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo

**BYLINE:** MARTIN FORGUES at Concordia University and a serving member of the Canadian Army Reserve since 1999 at the Montreal-based Regiment de Maisonneuve, holding the rank of master corporal. Having previously served in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2002, he's currently in Afghanistan as a member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, based at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar City. As an infantry soldier, he's part of the Force Protection Company, charged with the PRT's security, and will do so until he's homeward-bound in March 2008.

**WORD COUNT:** 384

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KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Hope for hostages Taliban, Koreans meet in secret but only a ransom could spell release

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110456  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 231

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# Good news on Taliban

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110451  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** PETER WORTHINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 526

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Encouraging news out of Afghanistan for Canadians was President Hamid Karzai's insistence in Washington that the Taliban posed no threat to his government.

A continuing threat to Afghan people, yes, but not to the regime as a whole.

It was an unusual observation by a ruler whose control in the country is claimed by critics to be precarious, possibly transitory and wholly dependent on the presence of foreign troops to keep barbarians from breaking down the gates.

We, in Canada and the U.S., are so consumed with casualties to our troops and the lack of a deadline for withdrawal that we risk losing sight of what has actually been accomplished.

While there's a long way to go, Afghanistan finally seems to be getting a national government, with a national army (for the first time in its history) and a national police force. While the Americans claim credit for training the army, a lot of the "boots-on-ground" credit should go to Canadian soldiers who have helped train portions of the army along Canadian army lines.

That is, individual officers and non-commissioned officers attached to the Afghan army units help guide Afghan commanders in the Canadian way of thinking, and have exerted considerable influence on this "new" army.

I recall asking Brig. Ahkter of the Afghan National Army (ANA) at Kabul's Camp Darulaman, during the 2004 presidential elections, what he was learning from Canadians training his troops.

A cheerful, robust, charismatic man, he grinned: "I have done a lot more killing than any Canadian, and I have a lot more experience at fighting – but the Canadians are teaching me discipline."

His "teacher" at the time was Maj. Brian Hynes of the Princess Pats – a field soldier, impatient with military bureaucracy, who was key to training this ANA brigade. Col. John Scott of the U.S. 1st Cavalry was ostensibly in charge, but clearly Hynes was blending and co-ordinating the natural guerrilla fighting expertise of Afghans into a cohesive, disciplined force. Not easy, but necessary. And effective.

If what was happening with the Afghan brigade that Hynes was helping was also happening in other ANA units, it becomes easier to understand Karzai's confidence in the future of his government.

It also indicates what the Canadian army has achieved, through its aggressive fighting role in Kandahar, where the Taliban is strongest. The Princess Pats and Royal Canadian Regiment have been dominant in the field and, to use the vernacular, have "kicked ass" with the Taliban and routed them on the battlefield.

Now the Taliban resort to roadside bombs. The Van Doos have scope to do more "reconstruction" work, as well as being ready to fight.

It's encouraging that Karzai feels his government is increasingly secure against the Taliban. And encouraging that the ANA is increasingly effective in taking over more responsibility for fighting. One assumes (hopes) the situation is similar with the police.

All the more reason for Canadians (and NATO) not to withdraw before the job is done.

At the same time as Karzai was making his Taliban observations during talks with President George W. Bush at Camp David, he also claimed Iran was his country's friend, contrary to Bush's assessment.

Karzai is not as concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions as is Bush. While a nuclear-armed Iran is a fearsome spectre, it should also be noted that inside Iran there is a growing movement that is anti-mullah, anti-theocratic dictatorship.

Any U.S. invasion, or intrusion, would likely turn this potentially democratic surge into patriotic resistance on behalf of the anti-U.S. zealots. A Hobson's choice, but the concerns of Hamid Karzai should not be dismissed, as he is on the front line and the one at risk.

# Reprimands slap on wrist

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110701  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 30  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of PAT TILLMAN Friendly fire  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** SAN FRANCISCO  
**WORD COUNT:** 204

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Official reprimands issued to three high-ranking U.S. army officers are only mildly critical of their mistakes after the friendly fire death of Pat Tillman, and at times praise the officers.

The army also said it would not include the reprimands in the officers' military records, according to documents.

Tillman's direct superiors knew within hours of his April 2004 death in Afghanistan the former football star had been killed by fellow army rangers, but the truth was kept from the public and Tillman's family for five weeks in direct violation of army regulations.

"You should not consider this as an adverse action," letters to the officers say. "This document will not be filed in any system of records maintained by the army."

Tillman's death attracted widespread attention because he had turned down an NFL contract with the Arizona Cardinals to join the military after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Subsequent investigations raised questions both about the circumstances of his death and the immediate followup.

Last week, the army announced seven officers would be disciplined for critical errors related to the incident.

The military laid most of the blame on Philip Kensinger, a retired three-star general who led army special operations forces after Sept. 11.

Kensinger was censured for "a failure of leadership" and accused of lying to investigators. According to three more "memorandums of concern," he was the only one to receive such harsh criticism.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# One Canadian soldier learns to adapt to the harsh realities of life in Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708110694

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 28

**ILLUSTRATION:** 2 photos 1. A machine-gun manned by Cpl. Pierre-Luc Fountain helps guard Kandahar's Camp Nathan Smith. The sound of firefights in the distance is a daily occurrence. 2. Our reporter, Master Corporal Martin Forgues, is a student at Concordia University, and a serving member of the Montreal-based Regiment de Maisonneuve. He is currently based at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar City.

**WORD COUNT:** 277

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**SOURCETAG** 0708110671  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 231

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# Commandos from yesterday and today swap tales at reunion; Canadian and U.S. veterans of Second World War, Afghanistan and Iraq forge new ties

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** J3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Mike Carrocetto, CanWest News Service / War veteran Vernon Tuttle, 83, of Poplarville, Miss., shows his special operations commemorative coin at military get-together at Petawawa, Ont. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES  
**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 438

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CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. — The old and new of Canada's special forces came together on Friday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War—era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa, about 167 km northwest of Ottawa, as part of events for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of who have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member.

Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, lives in the U.S.

"It's marvelous meeting all these young people," said 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans and their families showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa this morning.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning itself a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established

its legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade.

CANSOFCOM includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward, U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted into a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people.

The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machineguns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, Mich., said military life appears pretty much the same as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he said as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of parachuting.

Charlie Mann, a Devil's Brigade veteran from Kincardine, Ont., said he sees a lot of his own unit in the current special operations forces.

What has changed is the equipment and aircraft, said the 85-year-old. "The equipment is a lot more compact and the aircraft much larger," said Mann.



# Police cars to show troop support; Graham announces stickers in last message as Vancouver police chief

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110037

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Westcoast News

**PAGE:** B2

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Ian Lindsay, Vancouver Sun / Vancouver Police Chief Jamie Graham is joined by VPD Cpl. Glen Richmond, commander of 39 Brigade, ... ; Photo: Ian Lindsay, Vancouver Sun / ... as the chief applies the first 'Support Our Troops' yellow ribbon to a VPD cruiser Friday. ;

**KEYWORDS:** POLICE; POLICE BRUTALITY

**DATELINE:** VANCOUVER

**BYLINE:** Jeff Lee

**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun

**WORD COUNT:** 226

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VANCOUVER – The city's police vehicles will soon sport a message supporting Canada's military.

Chief Jamie Graham announced Friday that every marked vehicle in the city's police fleet will have a sticker attached showing a yellow ribbon and the term "Support Our Troops."

In his last message before he officially retires, Graham, who has been vocal in his support for the military, acknowledged that the sticker has raised controversy in some cities. But he said the message isn't meant to be political.

"The message I and the Vancouver police are sending is quite straightforward, and it is that we are putting our support behind the safe return of all Canadian soldiers serving overseas," he said.

"This isn't about politics, it is not about ideology, it is not about the war. It is about the safe return of the men and women serving in Afghanistan."

Police Cpl. Glen Richmond, the commanding officer of the 39 Canadian Brigade Group — B.C.'s army reservists — said he was touched by the gesture.

"I think it is a tremendous initiative and a noble gesture," he said.

Several other cities and the Alberta government have approved putting stickers on their vehicles. The emblems are produced by the military. Graham said he consulted the Vancouver police board and received its support for the plan.

There are two Vancouver police officers serving in Afghanistan with the military. Graham said at least 35 of his police officers are also members of 39 Brigade, which has about 1,500 members in 11 locations.

Police cars to show troop support; Graham announces stickers in last message as Vancouver police chief

jefflee@png.canwest.com

# South Koreans, rebels meet on hostage fate; Face-to-face meetings seen as 'one of last hopes' for 21 aid workers held in Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**KEYWORDS:** ARMAMENTS; NUCLEAR REACTORS; ASYLUM; NUCLEAR WEAPONS;  
FAMILYREUNIONS; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Mohammad Yaqob  
**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 197

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GHAZNI, Afghanistan -- Taliban militants met face-to-face with South Korean officials late Friday to negotiate the release of 21 hostages held in Afghanistan since mid-July, the militia and Afghan officials said.

The meeting between the rebels and the South Koreans has been seen as one of the last hopes for the South Korean aid workers, 16 of whom are women, seized in turbulent southern Ghazni province on July 19.

The insurgents have already shot dead two of their male hostages to pressure the government to release Taliban prisoners, and have threatened to kill the others if their demands are not met.

"At 6:15 p.m. today the face-to-face talks between the South Korea delegation and a two-member Taliban team started in the city of Ghazni," Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said.

"Our demands are the same and will not change," he said, adding that the two Taliban representatives had travelled under a government guarantee of safe passage.

"As long as there are negotiations, the hostages will be safe with us," Ahmadi said. But a Taliban commander involved in the crisis has reportedly warned that more hostages could die if the talks fail.

The International Committee for the Red Cross said it was involved in the process as an intermediary. However, the South Korean embassy in Kabul refused to confirm the talks had begun.

# Harper boosts Arctic claim; Prime minister announces multimillion-dollar investment in port and training centre

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110015

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A8

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Prime Minister Stephen Harper is greeted by Arctic Rangers as he arrives in Resolute Bay, joined by Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor. The PM announced a new port and training centre. ;

**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

**BYLINE:** Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 488

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper wrapped up his three-day northern sovereignty tour with a bang on Friday as he announced the construction of a pair of multimillion-dollar military facilities within the contested waters of Canada's Arctic territory.

"Canada's new government understands that the first principle of Arctic sovereignty is: Use it or lose it," he said in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, about 600 kilometres from the magnetic North Pole. "Today's announcements tell the world that Canada has a real, growing, long-term presence in the Arctic."

The facilities include a new army training centre and a deep-sea port inside of the Northwest Passage, which is expected to provide a summer shipping route to Asia in the next few decades because of the effects of global warming and melting ice flows.

The training facility would be manned by up to 100 Canadian Forces personnel in Resolute Bay, while the port for navy and civilians would be located on the site of an abandoned mine in the village of Nanisivik on the north end of Baffin Island.

The Harper government has staked claim to the waters as Canadian territory, but this has been disputed by other countries such as the United States, Japan and members of the European Union. The territory includes 36,500 islands, spanning 1.4 million kilometres that are believed to be rich in minerals and other natural resources such as oil.

Russia raised the stakes even higher last week when it concluded a deep-sea expedition by planting its flag on the seabed at the North Pole.

But Harper said the new facilities, along with an expansion of the Canadian Rangers 4,100-member patrol by about 900 Rangers, would bolster Canada's authority in the region.

"Taken together ... (these announcements) will significantly strengthen Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic," said Harper, who flew in for the announcement as planned, even though strong Arctic winds had kept his

Harper boosts Arctic claim; Prime minister announces multimillion-dollar investment in port and training centre

military aircraft grounded overnight in Yellowknife.

"These initiatives will also benefit communities throughout the region by creating jobs and opportunities and enhancing the safety and security of the people who live here."

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, under fire over his handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, joined Harper for the announcement, despite repeated calls from the opposition for him to be fired or demoted in a cabinet shuffle expected next week.

The government said it would invest \$4 million to beef up existing federal buildings for the training facility along with an annual \$2 million in operating costs. While expected to accommodate several dozen soldiers on training missions, the facility would only employ 12 full-time staff.

The expanded Rangers program is expected to cost about \$12 million annually for 20 years to co-ordinate new patrol routes and modernized equipment. The government estimates construction costs for the port, which will be located at the eastern entrance of the Northwest Passage, at \$100 million, with operating and maintenance costs of about \$10 million per year over 20 years.

Environmental studies would begin next year. The port could open in 2012 and become fully operational by 2015.

# TOP OF THE WORLD

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<b>IDNUMBER</b>	200708110116
<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	The Hamilton Spectator
<b>DATE:</b>	2007.08.11
<b>EDITION:</b>	Final
<b>SECTION:</b>	Canada/World
<b>PAGE:</b>	A4
<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	<p>Photo: Canadian Press / CANADA Debby, who lives in a rocky enclosure at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo, has been named the world's oldest polar bear by Guinness World Records. At 40, Debby has doubled the life expectancy of most polar bears. In the wild, the massive Arctic bears usually live about 20 years. Zoo officials believe Debby was born in December 1966 and arrived in Winnipeg from Russia the following spring. For years, she shared an enclosure with her mate Skipper, who died six years ago. They would cuddle together outside through the night, even when the mercury dropped to -40 C. In the morning, they'd wake up completely covered in snow drifts. If Debby stays healthy for the next few years, she could break another record. As it stands, she is almost the oldest bear in recorded history, second only to a 43-year-old bruin from a zoo in Detroit. Debby's story was submitted to Guinness World Records by 17-year-old Samantha Machan, a Winnipeg high-school student, after she toured the zoo on a work placement. At a celebration of her Guinness record this month, zookeepers plan to feed Debby some of her favourite treats — smoked goldeye, veggie dogs and a fish frozen inside a block of ice. ; Photo: UNITED STATES Angie Geiser and her son, Ryan, threw flowers into the Mississippi River yesterday in memory of those lost in the Aug. 1 bridge collapse in Minneapolis. She and Ryan were at a baseball game nearby when the interstate highway bridge came down. Divers found another body in the wreckage yesterday, bringing the death toll to at least eight. The pace of recovery has quickened since navy divers joined the effort. At least two bodies, and possibly a third, were recovered Thursday. Five people were known dead soon after the collapse, but eight more were listed as missing and presumed dead. The only recovered victim to be identified this week was on that list. As the search operation continued, U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said she would make \$50 million US immediately available to help Minnesota authorities with the recovery operation and cleanup. The funds are an advance on \$250 million approved by Congress but not yet appropriated. ; Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / AFGHANISTAN Two Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face-to-face for the first time yesterday to negotiate the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped July 19. The government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe. The meeting began yesterday at the office of the Afghan Red Crescent, pictured. Four members of the International Red Cross were also participating. Two men among the 23 South Koreans kidnapped have already been killed. The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more if Taliban prisoners are not released by the Afghan government. ; Photo: Ryan Taplin, the Canadian Press / CANADA British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, left, says almost all of Canada's</p>

provinces are ready to accept California's tough emission standards for vehicles. Campbell was pushing California-style tailpipe emission standards at the annual meeting of Canada's premiers in Moncton, N.B. He said the premiers came close to unanimity as the meetings ended yesterday, but Ontario remains a holdout. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, second from right, told his colleagues the troubled auto industry in his province is in no position at this point to make the costly changes required to meet the California standard, which calls for a 30 per cent cut in tailpipe emissions by 2016. Campbell said other steps taken by the premiers such as agreeing to a common way of measuring greenhouse gases are significant. ; Photo: Rebecca Blackwell, the Associated Press / SIERRA LEONE The last time residents of Sierra Leone were asked to choose their president, the tiny West African country was just coming out of a brutal, 11-year civil war fuelled by the illicit trade of "blood diamonds." Five years later, the UN peacekeepers are gone and Sierra Leone is trying to show that it is up to the challenge of running a democracy on its own. Today's presidential and parliamentary vote will be a key test of whether Sierra Leone is ready to stand on its own. As rain poured down in flooded Freetown yesterday, observers said election preparations looked good for a country on the mend. ;

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**WORD COUNT:**

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NO TEXT

# Canadian doctors have many choices

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A16  
**BYLINE:** David Hosten,  
Hamilton  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton  
Spectator  
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**WORD COUNT:** 342

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Re: 'Canadian health care isn't equitable or universal' (Letters, Aug. 8)

I disagree with Dr. Kahn's unfortunate stance, but agree our universal health-care system is not quite universal, in that the government does not directly pay for all of it. It's obviously a tax subsidized system of care, which in many ways is wonderful, but does lead to often mentioned inefficiencies.

Kahn protests that doctors are overworked and underpaid. By which measure? On a city-by-city basis, doctors can generally be counted in the top percentiles of wage earners. This may be an exception in Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, Edmonton and Calgary, where CEOs earn in the millions.

Americans often advocate their commercial system of medical care. This has benefits in having the latest technologies available, high salaries paid to medical professionals and the sad side effect (or economic externality) of millions of people not being able to afford health care.

Any hope to replace our much-loved system with something that will serve less people, but serve them better and faster, is anathema to Canadians in general. We can't go down a path where the people who can least afford the care may find themselves with their options severely restricted, or without options at all.

Doctors, like many professionals in private practice, can generally choose how much to work, where to live and work (all of Canada seems to have a doctor shortage), what specialty to pursue and, to a large degree, control how much they make.

I do not take anything away from the vital work doctors do, but a little perspective might be worthwhile. A soldier in Afghanistan makes substantially less than \$100,000 per year. The same goes for firefighters. Yet their lives are literally on the line every time they report for duty. No, they can't perform surgery nor give life-saving cancer treatments, but how often do we hear from soldiers and firefighters that they are overworked and underpaid, or how often do we hear from their lobby group? They have no CMA equivalent.



# Canadians, Kiwis similar in many ways; Both prosperous countries could turn their backs on the world but they don't

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A17  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Binsar Bakkara. the Associated Press / New Zealand soldiers patrol streets in Dili, East Timor, yesterday when Xanana Gusmao was sworn in as prime minister. ;  
**BYLINE:** J. L. Granatstein  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 835

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New Zealand must be the safest nation in the world. Located far, far south, it is almost four hours flying time from friendly Australia, the national bugbear that in the New Zealand public mind plays a role equivalent to that played by the United States to us.

Australia is much bigger than New Zealand, and condescending and pushy. But fortunately, New Zealand's pride and joy, the All Blacks rugby football team, usually does more than hold its own against the Aussies. So much media coverage goes to the All Blacks that it even rivals that accorded the Canadian all Blacks, Conrad, Barbara and Alana.

More seriously, New Zealand has no natural enemies. That didn't stop it from sending its men overseas in the South African War, the two world wars, the Korean War, and to Malaya and Vietnam. The costs in lives were terribly high, and Canucks and Kiwis shared the horrors of Passchendaele and the fighting at Orsogna and Ortona in Italy.

Today, the only possible spectre to its north and west is Indonesia, but Jakarta would face the almost insuperable difficulties of distance if it ever tried to launch an invasion. There are persistent political troubles in the closer Solomon Islands and in Timor-Leste, but neither of these pose threats to New Zealand, except possibly by unleashing a flood of refugees.

And yet New Zealand does its part in trying to keep the peace, an effort that its government its Defence Force trumpet as loudly in its publicity as Canadian governments used to praise our peacekeepers. It has troops serving on peace missions in the Pacific region, including 182 in Timor-Leste and a platoon in the Solomon Islands. New Zealand also has a handful of men and women serving elsewhere for the United Nations—and it directs a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan province, one of the safest and most anti-Taliban areas in northern Afghanistan.

New Zealand's Special Forces also operate in Afghanistan, and the award on July 2 of a Victoria Cross to Special Forces Corporal Willie Apiata suggests that this is a fighting role.

New Zealand does all this with a Lilliput-size military. There are only 9,000 regulars and a few thousand reservists in the three services, a tiny, inadequate force that must struggle to provide promotion opportunities

Canadians, Kiwis similar in many ways; Both prosperous countries could turn their backs on the world but they don't

for its officers. But with only four million people in two relatively small islands, the Defence Force is actually proportionately larger than the Canadian Forces. Canada's population of 32 million is eight times bigger, its territory immeasurably greater and its combat commitment in Afghanistan far larger (and more violent). The Canadian Forces' strength, however, with 63,000 all ranks, is only seven times New Zealand's. I know of no single fact that can illustrate better how understrength the Canadian military is.

Not that everything is perfect in the national capital of Wellington. With a defence budget that is under 1 percent of gross domestic product, the Kiwi military struggles to make ends meet. The Labour government of Helen Clark, nine years in office, just gutted the nation's air force, grounding all fighter jets. The navy has a new support ship, but not much else in its fleet of 10 ships. And while the army has some light armoured vehicles (LAVs), it needs more if it is to be able to function effectively.

What the New Zealand Defence Force does have is a sense of professionalism, something it shares with Canada. I was constantly surprised on a recent visit to discover how many past and present officers — army, navy and air — had links to and with the Canadian Forces. Officers had served with Canadians in former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Canada and at sea — and talked warmly of their experiences.

One area in which New Zealand has done better than Canada is in integrating its indigenous Maori minority into its military. Almost half of the army is Maori — and every soldier undergoes a Maori initiation rite that takes him into the warrior tribe. The proportion of Maori in the nation's Special Forces is higher still, as much as two-thirds. And the present chief of the Defence Force, General J. Mateparae, is a Maori. None of this is tokenism, but it may be that the military is one of the few routes Maori can take to get good jobs. The comparison with the Canadian Forces and its uneasy acceptance of First Nations soldiers nonetheless is striking.

New Zealanders lead a prosperous, happy life in their Eden. They could turn their backs on the world, but they don't, an indication that they accept their wider responsibilities. They seem so much like Canadians — and Wellington is almost as boring as Ottawa! — that it is almost uncanny.

J.L. Granatstein writes on behalf of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century ([www.ccs21.org](http://www.ccs21.org)).

# Author goes in search of her Afghan heritage; She grew up in Canada, one of the world's richest countries, but her family came from one of the poorest

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Books  
**PAGE:** D7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR / Hamida Ghafour describes Afghanistan as, "populated by many ghosts, lost in their past, unsure of the future, adrift in grief and sorrow." ; Photo: ;  
**BYLINE:** Reviewed by Willa Mclean  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 542

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The Sleeping Buddha

By Hamida Ghafour

(McArthur & Company, \$29.95)

With the heartbreaking images of grieving families and flag-draped coffins returning from Afghanistan, Canadians have more than an academic interest in that turbulent society.

In *The Sleeping Buddha*, journalist Hamida Ghafour gives us an evocative family memoir and portrait of a changing Afghanistan. She writes with the unique insights of an Afghan woman, descendant of generations of leaders, courtiers and intellectuals, but raised a middle-class Canadian in Toronto.

As supporters of the royal family, Ghafour's family was forced to flee Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion and received political asylum in Canada in 1985.

Ghafour returned to Afghanistan in 2003 as a reporter for the *London Telegraph*.

She had studied journalism at Ryerson University and written for the *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail* until 9/11 when she moved to London.

Ghafour was posted to Afghanistan by her paper, but also went in search of her heritage which she had ignored for so long.

She shares the guilt of living in one of the richest countries of the world after leaving one of the poorest.

Hamida describes her homeland as, "populated by many ghosts, lost in their past, unsure of the future, adrift in grief and sorrow."

Author goes in search of her Afghan heritage; She grew up in Canada, one of the world's richest countries, but her family came from one of the poorest

There were some hopeful signs for a time, after the Taliban was forced out of Kabul.

Young men flocked to join "English and computer classes, the twin languages of success in the twenty-first century."

Society reverted to the more liberal times of Ghafour's grandparents in the 1940s, when her grandmother wrote poetry and campaigned for abolition of the veil.

Her parents met in university in the 1970s, when Kabul was a vibrant city where women wore mini-skirts and drove buses.

The Bonn Agreement of December 2001 established a roadmap for peaceful reconstruction and a functioning government.

Operation Enduring Freedom was never meant to be an invasion in the traditional sense, but to organize international help to get Afghanistan back on its feet.

Unfortunately the Pentagon under Bush/Cheney/Rice/Rumsfeld become focused on Iraq.

Afghanistan was abandoned by the Americans after the Soviets were defeated, just as it had been by the British in the 19th century.

By the time Canadian contingents arrived in Kandahar in 2006, Taliban insurgencies were becoming bolder and bolder.

They were openly operating out of Pakistan's tribal areas.

Images of young men shaving their beards to greet Western liberators were replaced by photos of burning aid agencies.

Ghafour makes the point that as, "the post-Taliban euphoria disappeared, she was watching two very different universes unfold and the priorities of Afghans were not always those of America, the United Nations or its allies."

Ghafour uses a quote from actor Anthony Quayle — "To understand a man, you must know his memories. The same is true of a nation" — to illustrate cultural misunderstandings. For instance, Americans didn't understand Afghan hospitality.

Americans thought because Afghans invited them for green tea, they were on their side.

"So when the same Afghans hosted insurgents, it seemed to the Americans to be evidence of the treacherous nature of the people."

They didn't realize that Afghan hospitality has been honed into a survival tactic over years of invasion.

Throughout *The Sleeping Buddha*, Ghafour introduces an engaging cast of characters.

We meet Abdul Basir Balouch, the Afghan Dr. Frasier Crane, who hosts the popular radio show *Good Morning Afghanistan*.

Abdul gets daily death threats from the Taliban as well as complaints that they "blow up all these buildings and get no credit for it."

Author goes in search of her Afghan heritage; She grew up in Canada, one of the world's richest countries, but

There is Ghafour's cousin Shahida, who risks her life to wage a brave but unsuccessful parliamentary campaign.

And Debbie, the American housewife, is a "beautician without borders," who teaches Afghan women to become independent.

One of the most poignant chapters is devoted to the archeologist Mahmud Tarzi, who mourns the Taliban's destruction of the Bamiyan buddhas but continues to dig for his country's lost civilization in his search for the sleeping buddha.

Canadian military personnel are still making sacrifices to prevent the Taliban from returning to power and ensuring that Afghanistan does not revert to a training camp for global jihad.

Hamida Ghafour concludes that over the long term, Afghans will have to take responsibility for their own security.

They will have to prove once again that Afghanistan is really a nation, "not just an amalgam of feuding tribes."

Willa McLean is a freelance writer who lives in Kitchener

# Pakistan's leader backed into corner; A nation in turmoil; Even supporters say increasingly that Pervez Musharraf has only himself to blame for eroding support

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator

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**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Discover

**PAGE:** D10

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Hamilton Spectator File Photo / President Pervez Musharraf's problems, critics say, are partly due to his tendency to postpone difficult decisions. His handling of the Red Mosque siege is an example. ; Photo: Zahid Hussein, Reuters / Lawyers celebrate the Supreme Court's reinstatement of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry last month. ;

**DATELINE:** ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

**BYLINE:** Griff Witte

**SOURCE:** Washington Post

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 1130

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Gen. Pervez Musharraf is a man accustomed to getting his way and for nearly eight years as this country's formidably powerful ruler, he almost always has.

But on March 9, his fortunes abruptly changed when the country's chief justice refused to resign under government pressure.

Musharraf has gone on to endure a spectacular series of disappointments that have left him isolated from his friends and dependent on his enemies if he wants to stay in office. With his country in turmoil, caught between democracy and autocracy, between radical Islam and secular moderation, the nation's president and army chief is locked in a struggle just to survive.

Critics — and, increasingly, supporters — say Musharraf has only himself to blame. His habit of postponing tough decisions, they say, has finally caught up with him.

"The situation is going from bad to worse for Pervez Musharraf," said Hasan Askari Rizvi, a political analyst. "And the pressures are only increasing."

At the moment, those pressures include an invigorated insurgency by al-Qaeda and Taliban militants who have vowed to oust Musharraf in favour of a hard-line theocracy.

From the other direction, he faces an energetic pro-democracy movement that is itching for the chance to send Musharraf and his fellow generals back to their barracks.

And from the United States, he faces growing doubts that he is up to the task of eliminating alleged terrorist havens on Pakistani soil.

Pakistan's leader backed into corner; A nation in turmoil; Even supporters say increasingly that Pervez Mush

The conflicting pressures are taking their toll. In four months, Musharraf's approval rating in Pakistan dropped 20 points, down to 34 per cent as of early July, according to an opinion poll released last week by the International Republican Institute. It's a U.S. government-funded nonprofit that promotes democracy around the world.

It was the first time since the survey was first conducted in 2002 that the percentage of Pakistani respondents approving of Musharraf had fallen below half.

The former commando prides himself on an ability to escape difficult circumstances and it is possible he will find a way to emerge this time as well.

At the moment, his hope for salvation comes from an unexpected source. He travelled to the United Arab Emirates recently to meet with a longtime nemesis, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and those close to him say agreeing to share power with her might be his best option for political survival.

Even that is fraught with risk. Musharraf, who came to power in a military coup in 1999, is up for re-election by Parliament this fall, and if the deal with Bhutto collapses at the last minute, it is unclear whether he will have the necessary support to win another term.

If the deal does go through, he faces the prospect of trying to govern with a woman he has decried as "corrupt" and representative of the "sham democracy" that preceded his tenure.

Bhutto has repeatedly called Musharraf "a military dictator" and has pointedly said she will not sign any deal unless he resigns as army chief.

Musharraf's supporters say he probably will have to, even though his status in the army is seen as his primary source of influence.

"I would expect that around New Year's Day, you'll see General Pervez Musharraf transformed into Mr. Pervez Musharraf, with a designer suit rather than the khaki uniform he has worn for the past 43 years," said Mushahid Hussain, a top leader in Musharraf's party.

"This has been a chastening experience," Hussain added.

"General Musharraf has had a good run for eight years. He has been offered another five years but without the absolute authority he once exercised."

In some ways, Hussain said, Musharraf is a victim of his success.

He has presided over a period of greater prosperity for an emerging middle class.

He has also allowed a proliferation of media outlets.

But when Musharraf tried in March to get rid of the chief justice, Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry, lawyers revolted and middle-class Pakistanis joined what evolved into a mass movement against the president and for the restoration of democracy.

Chaudhry toured the country like a rock star, visiting city after city and speaking to festive crowds about the dangers of despotism.

A popular song directed at Musharraf emerged and became the movement's theme music:

Pakistan's leader backed into corner; A nation in turmoil; Even supporters say increasingly that Pervez Mush

Your time is at an end

There's no choice but to say goodbye

Haven't you gobbled up enough already?

Broken the constitution with your own two hands

Go home with some dignity, why don't you?

The media followed Chaudhry's campaign minute by minute, with the coverage becoming so critical that the government tried to block it.

Musharraf's top aides had insisted Chaudhry was suspended because of improprieties.

But critics said the real reason was that he had exhibited an independent streak that worried Musharraf as the general attempted to have himself re-elected by an expiring Parliament, while also keeping his uniform.

Musharraf said at one point that he would "cry" if Chaudhry got his job back, but when the Supreme Court reinstated the judge late last month, there was little the president could do but accept the decision.

Chaudhry is now in position to block Musharraf's plans, including his bid to win a new term from a Parliament that was elected five years ago in balloting marred by irregularities.

"Lawfully, he can do it but morally, the Parliament's at the end of its term," said Ishaq Khan Khakwani, a government minister and member of Musharraf's party. "How can it elect him again?"

Khakwani said he suggested to Musharraf a year ago that he hold parliamentary elections in March 2007 and then win a fresh term from the new legislature.

With Musharraf's popularity running high, Khakwani argued, he would emerge even stronger.

But the president was in no mood for the idea, several government insiders said, because he worried new elections could dilute his power.

"He made a mistake," Khakwani said.

Delays have also hurt Musharraf in his battle against rising militancy in Pakistan, critics say.

His handling of the standoff at the pro-Taliban Red Mosque in Islamabad seemed to illustrate the problem. Through months of provocation by the mosque's radical clerics, Musharraf watched and waited.

By the time he decided to take action, the clerics' followers had built up a fearsome arsenal and were prepared for a fight. During a nine-day siege in July, the neighbourhood around the mosque became a war zone as security forces nightly traded intense fire with militants holed up inside.

When the smoke cleared following a decisive raid, more than 100 people were dead — including a dozen elite army commandos.

The end of the standoff brought a wave of attacks that claimed more than 200 lives, with suicide bombers striking a variety of targets including a political rally in Islamabad and a mosque at an army base.

Pakistan's leader backed into corner; A nation in turmoil; Even supporters say increasingly that Pervez Musharraf is a



It also coincided with the breakdown of a ceasefire in North Waziristan that had once been the centrepiece of Musharraf's strategy for containing the Taliban threat.

Although the 10-month-old deal officially died in July, observers of the tribal region along the border with Afghanistan had long said it wasn't working.

U.S. officials also have grown increasingly concerned that the area is being used as a sanctuary for al-Qaeda fighters. Still, Musharraf clung to the deal.

"If you say one lie, you have to say 10 more to cover that first one," said retired Brig. Mehmood Shah, for years a top government official in the tribal areas.

"They called it a good agreement and they went all the way to Washington to say so. They could not then turn around and say that it wasn't."

The unrest has not ended.

Last week, radical fighters took over a shrine in northwestern Pakistan and renamed it Lal Masjid — Red Mosque.

The government brushes off concerns that the recent wave of violence could be the start of a much larger conflagration that will engulf Pakistan. "What we've seen here is a reaction to the Lal Masjid," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in an interview last week.

"We predicted it. We expected it. We're dealing with it."

Others are not so sure, pointing to the Taliban's enhanced ability to assert control over broad swaths of territory. "Looking at the past few months, I see that Musharraf is the biggest loser," said Afzal Khan, a senior opposition politician in the northwestern area of Swat.

"The militants are the biggest winners."

# The politics of war ... on the Canadian battlefield; O'Connor, Hillier and pacifist Quebec at centre of debate over Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Discover  
**PAGE:** D13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Gordon O'Connor: Job on the line?;  
**SOURCE:** The Economist  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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In the past year, 22 soldiers from Canada's 2,500-strong force serving in Afghanistan's Kandahar province have been killed. So when Brigadier-General Guy Laroche, the force's commander, said that a recently arrived contingent from Quebec was going into harm's way, he seemed to be stating the obvious.

In fact, he was stepping into a sharpening political debate on the main foreign-policy commitment of Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

Support for the Afghanistan deployment has weakened across Canada but it has collapsed in Quebec. The French-speaking province has long had a pacifist streak, born of past reluctance to fight for the British Empire. That is awkward for Harper. His main chance of converting his government's minority status into a majority at the next election lies in picking up more seats in the province.

So opponents seized on remarks by the defence minister, Gordon O'Connor, suggesting that the newly arrived troops would do more training than fighting. Yet another special deal for Quebec? No, shot back General Rick Hillier, the outspoken chief of the defence staff.

There are more Afghan troops to train, he said. Others add that there are fewer Taliban rebels to fight in Kandahar.

General Hillier complained that the armed forces suffered a "decade of darkness" under previous Liberal governments. But he has clashed several times with O'Connor, who has yet to set out a comprehensive defence policy.

In the past, such tensions have tended to be resolved by finding a new military commander. This time it is the minister who might go: O'Connor is praised by some for raising defence spending but he is a poor public speaker. He may lose his job in a summer cabinet reshuffle.

Some officials hope that media coverage of French-speaking soldiers telling their battle stories could win over Quebecers to the Afghanistan mission. The government is trying to raise the army's presence in the province. A military college near Montreal, which was mothballed by the Liberals, will be reopened. A new air unit, costing \$300 million (\$285 million) and creating 550 jobs, will be based near Quebec City.

Even so, expect the new defence minister, if there is one, to speak better French than O'Connor.

The politics of war ... on the Canadian battlefield; O'Connor, Hillier and pacifist Quebec at centre of debate over Afghanistan

# **SOUTH KOREAN CAPTIVES Taliban, South Korea meet to discuss hostages Representatives gather for face-to-face first talks over fate of abducted church group members**

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**BYLINE:** RAHIM FAIEZ

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** AP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 608

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RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN Two top Taliban leaders and four South Korean officials met face to face yesterday in the first negotiations over the fate of 21 members of a church group held hostage for three weeks, Afghan officials said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said two members of the top militant council – Mullah Bashir and Mullah Nasrullah – travelled to the central Afghan city of Ghazni, near where the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 19. He said the government in Kabul gave the Taliban a written guarantee that the two officials would be safe.

The meeting began yesterday evening at the office of the Afghan Red Cross in Ghazni, said Marajudin Pathan, the local governor.

An Afghan official who asked not to be identified said the two Taliban leaders, four Korean officials and four International Committee of the Red Cross officials participated.

"We have given them the freedom of secrecy to talk with each other," Mr. Pathan said, confirming that no Afghan officials were taking part in the talks.

He said the government had guaranteed the Taliban members' "safety and security." Mr. Ahmadi said the Taliban would not kill any of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages until the face-to-face meetings have been held. Two men among the 23 South Koreans originally kidnapped already have been killed.

The South Koreans are the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, and their kidnapping underscores the rise of the Taliban's power in rural Afghanistan over the past two years.

The captors have repeatedly threatened to kill more hostages if their demands to release Taliban prisoners held by the Afghan government and the U.S. military are not met.

The Afghan government has said it will not release prisoners because doing so could encourage more kidnappings. Afghan authorities say talks with the Taliban are the best way to resolve the problem.

Mr. Pathan has said a ransom payment might resolve the crisis.

He said the talks would not lead to further negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The South Korean government has issued guidelines to its aid organizations, telling them to leave Afghanistan by the end of the month for safety reasons, a South Korean embassy official said.

Last month, the government banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan.

In South Korea, a spokesman for the hostages' families said yesterday that the mothers of several hostages, five women and a translator, will travel to Dubai next week to seek help from the Arab world in securing their loved ones' release.

"The reason why we are sending women, especially mothers, to Dubai is that Islamic culture has more sympathy for women," said the spokesman, Cha Sung-min. Sixteen of the hostages are women.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, meanwhile, agreed to attend the closing session of a peace council between hundreds of Afghan and Pakistani tribal leaders discussing the rising militant violence along their shared border.

General Musharraf cancelled his appearance at Thursday's opening of the conference, or jirga, raising doubts about how effective it would be, especially because tribesmen from the most volatile Pakistani border zone were boycotting it.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai phoned Gen. Musharraf last evening and invited him to attend tomorrow's closing session, saying his participation would be "a source of support and encouragement for the jirga process," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said.

Gen. Musharraf agreed "in principal" to address the closing session, a ministry statement said, without elaborating. An official in Gen.

Musharraf's office said the commitment was not iron-clad because the government does not flag the President's movements because of security concerns.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: South Korea; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: kidnapping; hostages; strife; prisoners

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; International Committee of the Red Cross

# SUPPORTING THE TROOPS Police take up the yellow ribbon Campaign has been controversial in other cities, but chief says he's not worried

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**SECTION:** British Columbia N

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IAN BAILEY VANCOUVER Police Chief Jamie Graham, mindful of controversies elsewhere over such measures, announced yesterday that yellow "Support our Troops" decals will be placed on all of the force's vehicles in a bid to support Canadian Forces abroad, and express hopes for their safe return to Canada.

"Although some might suggest otherwise, we are honouring the soldiers through this simple gesture," Chief Graham told reporters at a news conference before proceeding outside police headquarters to put decals on a pair of police vehicles.

"This isn't about politics, this isn't about ideology, this isn't about the war," he said. "This is about the safe return of the men and women serving in Afghanistan." Chief Graham, in his last days as chief after five years in the job, said he anticipated a positive reaction from the public.

"I can't imagine why someone wouldn't be positive," he said.

But the issue has been complicated in other Canadian cities.

Calgary City Council voted against such decorations on city vehicles in July, capping a spirited debate on the issue in which the mayor said council should look for measures that would provide more tangible supports for troops. Council voted to sell the ribbons to raise money for military families.

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach eventually said the province would purchase magnets with messages supportive of the troops and provide them to provincial staff, who drive about 3,000 government vehicles.

Earlier, a decision in Toronto to ban ribbons from some vehicles caused a controversy. Mayor David Miller eventually stepped in to support the policy, leading to ribbons on municipal emergency and medical services vehicles.

The chief said he would not get into issues of whether the Canadian Forces should be in Afghanistan.

However, he said, the issue "hits close to home with us" because two Vancouver police officers – Constables Perry Fiedler and Christopher Donnelly – are heading to Afghanistan. Another officer, Constable Harjit Sajjan, has already completed a tour of duty as a member of the British Columbia regiment.

For security reasons, police declined to say how many vehicles in their fleet would sport the decals.

Mr. Graham said he has secured the backing of Vancouver's Police Board, and, most notably, the board's chair – Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan.

David Hurford, Mr. Sullivan's spokesman, said the mayor is so supportive of the idea that he wants one of the decals for his van.

Mr. Hurford said the mayor is backing the idea because he supports the troops.

Heather Deal, a city councillor who is a member of the minority Vision Vancouver Party, said the police are veering into a very controversial area in a manner she finds surprising.

"The police here are good at dealing with political issues," she said.

"I think this is a bit of a touchy area." Ms. Deal said there was no controversy about supporting the troops.

"But there are mixed opinions about various activities we are involved in, in places like Afghanistan." She said the police board "are biting off a bit of controversy" with their support of the program.

The issue never came to council, but did not have to because the police board had authority to deal with it. However, she said she expected there would be council debate if there was a move to place decals on municipal vehicles.

Colonel Glen Richmond of the Canadian 39th Brigade welcomed the plan.

"It's a tremendous initiative. It's a noble gesture. I know the families of those serving, both at home and abroad, whether it be in the army, the air force or the navy, will be very thrilled to see such tremendous support being given to their loved ones as they serve," he said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Vancouver

SUBJECT TERM: police; political; decorations; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Jamie Graham

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Vancouver Police Services

# ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT Pakistan's military is all business

## As the political crisis deepens, a new book reveals just how powerful the generals really are. Sonya Fatah reports

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**EDITION:** Metro  
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**WORDS:** 1366  
**WORD COUNT:** 1352

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SONYA FATAH LONDON Trapped between international pressure to combat terrorism and domestic demands that he restore true democracy, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf came very close to declaring a national state of emergency this week.

It was the latest indication that his political fortunes have been in a freefall since a month ago yesterday, when he ordered the military to silence the rebellious radicals at Islamabad's infamous Red Mosque.

That battle left more than 100 people dead, including one of the mosque's leaders, Abdul Rashid Ghazi.

In a Globe and Mail interview two months earlier, Mr. Ghazi offered an explanation for agitating against the state that went beyond religion. And while they would not endorse his actions, many Pakistanis would agree with his analysis: "We feel that the system in Pakistan has completely failed. Nothing is working properly. . . . This system may be fulfilling an elite class of less than 1 per cent, but the majority of the people are suffering." The system he was criticizing is the subject of an explosive new book by Pakistani academic Ayesha Siddiqi. Called *Military Inc.: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy*, it paints a picture of that "elite class" – military officials, retired armed-forces personnel, the civil bureaucracy, feudal landlords, media and business groups.

Dr. Siddiqi takes readers into the murky labyrinth of the Pakistani military's hidden wealth and power.

Imagine you're a real-estate developer thinking of building a sprawling luxury residential complex in the leafy suburbs of Islamabad.

You might get in touch with the Defence Housing Authorities. Need to buy tons of cement to get construction under way? Call Askari Cement Ltd. Need a loan? Insurance? Askari's sister companies can cover you. Want to build a quality school in your new development? Try the Fauji Foundation.

ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT Pakistan's military is all business

What do these companies have in common? They're all businesses built by a military that has insinuated itself in almost every aspect of the Pakistani economy. From cereal companies to major land holdings to cement and construction companies, the military and its civilian cronies have their hands in every pie, as Dr. Siddiqi details. Moreover, its financial affairs – known as "milbus" – are off the record.

Pakistan's defence budget is significantly higher than those of such sectors as education and health, yet it doesn't even record its pension payments.

But Dr. Siddiqi, a defence analyst, has worked as head of research for the Pakistani navy – she knows the numbers because she had internal access to documents and records. She has detailed the incriminating facts she gleaned there, such as the military ownership of the National Logistics Cell, the country's biggest freight company, or the four army-run foundations that conduct huge cross-sector projects, own significant assets and employ retired military personnel. Dr. Siddiqi also writes that 12 per cent of Pakistani state land is owned by the military.

Such information about Pakistan's military economy, she suggests, explains a great deal about its struggling political state. The military is a monopoly with vested interests and searching for power in places such as Afghanistan, Dr. Siddiqi argues.

**WHAT DOES A GENERAL KNOW ABOUT EDUCATION?** The army's economic empire is not news in Pakistan. It's virtually impossible to meet someone here who doesn't have a story about it – the former general who has won the contract to repave all pedestrian walking zones in Karachi, or the militarily connected journalist who just happened to come out ahead in the land "lottery" and came away with a lush, generous swath of property practically for free.

And as Mr. Ghazi pointed out in his interview, the current Minister of Education is a retired general. "What are his qualifications?" Mr. Ghazi demanded. "What does he know about education?" Military influence extends into key political posts, beginning of course with President Musharaff, formerly General Musharaff.

Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, the country's most important and strategic military partner, is a retired general, as is the head of the country's National Accountability Bureau.

"They have their interests," Dr. Siddiqi said in an interview.

"I've not suggested anywhere that they got into politics because of economic interest. They did because of their political power.

Once they have it, now they are not going to leave." The subsequent "search for justice and better governance" has led to a mushrooming of alternative ideologies, Dr. Siddiqi said, leaving a door open for Islamists as well as secular critics of the government.

Mr. Ghazi's father had good relations with Pakistan's last military ruler, General Zia-ul Haq, and once worked for the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The land occupied by the Red Mosque was given to him by the government. For years, the family's ties with intelligence services allowed them to pursue their own agenda, which partly explains why Mr. Musharraf took so long to act against them – a fairly typical pattern in the military's push-and-pull relationship with radical Islamists.

"The Inter-services agency has an overt role in [the Red Mosque]," said Najam Sethi, editor of two English daily newspapers in Pakistan.

"They were old buddies. But I think the ISI disowned them some time ago. Basically the ISI led these guys up a garden path and then as [the clerics] became bolder and bolder, they reached the stage where things had to

**ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT** Pakistan's military is a business



be ended." Indeed, in 2004, Mr. Ghazi and his brother were accused of harbouring terrorists in the mosque. A rocket launcher was discovered in his car. The details of these episodes were recorded, but Mr. Ghazi was quietly let off the hook.

"The links with the military organization were clear even then," said Samina Ahmed, South Asia director for the Belgium-based International Crisis Group.

The military and radical Islamists frequently work together, she said. For example, during the October, 2005, earthquake that devastated northern Pakistan and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and took more than 80,000 lives, well-organized teams of banned jihadi groups were the first to arrive on the scene and begin rescue efforts.

The Red Mosque's Islamist leader has taken his extremism to his grave, but there are many more centres of extremism in the country.

"We are not interested in personalities," Mr. Ghazi said. "We are interested in systems. If Musharraf goes, another of his kind will come in his place." Indeed, despite the President's sagging fortunes at the moment, a change in the system seems highly unlikely. Dr. Siddiq estimates the wealth of the military at \$20-billion and says military governments have run Pakistan for half of its 60 years, so the future looks bleak: "The bottom line is, the army doesn't want any critical analysis, and the military is a very strong institution." With the people of Pakistan still out of the decision-making process and a weak leadership in place, the military continues to run the show. "The current leadership is elitist and people have no option.

The military makes sure that it keeps the recyclable politicians in politics." Sonya Fatah is a New Delhi-based reporter. The bestseller blues Ayesha Siddiq's Military Inc. is a hit, but the controversy surrounding it has caused problems.

To begin with, a launch party planned for the prestigious Islamabad Club was cancelled abruptly. The publisher hunted for an alternative venue, but no major hotel would provide a home. Finally, a hastily arranged gathering was held at the home of a non-governmental organization.

"I really didn't expect this kind of a reaction," Dr. Siddiq says over coffee in London. "I was expecting a little reaction, but last year Newline [an English-language monthly in Pakistan] ran an entire chapter of my book, and there was no response." But the book's publication comes at a sensitive time, with President Pervez Musharraf under fire and many Pakistanis on the defensive.

Dr. Siddiq says she has lost friends because of what she has written and has even been suspected of treason.

An English-language daily reported that an Indian diplomat's car was parked in her driveway, sparking a whisper campaign that accused her of being an agent for New Delhi.

Sonya Fatah

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan

SUBJECT TERM: government; political; strife; military; human rights; civil rights; religion; islam; books; biography; military inc.: inside pakistan's military economy

PERSONAL NAME: Pervez Musharraf; Abdul Rashid Ghazi; Ayesha Siddiq

ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT Pakistan's military is a business

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK CHRONICLES GENERALS' ECONOMIC MIGHT Pakistan's military is a business

# TART: A SATIRICAL TAKE ON CURRENT EVENTS

## Hostage: It's a great role for a dedicated actress

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**BYLINE:** TABATHA SOUTHEY

**SECTION:** Focus

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

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**WORD COUNT:** 600

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TABATHA SOUTHEY Actress and humanitarian Mia Farrow offered her freedom this week in exchange for that of a respected ailing Darfur rebel virtually imprisoned for more than a year. Ms. Farrow, a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador, appears sincere and informed in her proposal, but the feeling in diplomatic circles is that it is unlikely to be accepted.

"She's hardly box-office gold," a spokesman for the provisional government in the region said, "and while any regime would be happy to have a talent like Miss Farrow in its custody, the swap would open the door for other currently serving Goodwill Ambassadors to make the same offer.

"We take Mia and suddenly we're landed with Whoopi Goldberg or Ricky Martin. It's risky." Miss Farrow's offer was made publicly, blowing the concept of exchanging celebrities for hostages wide open, but the idea is not new.

Those who wondered where John Travolta was between Saturday Night Fever and Pulp Fiction now have their answer, and at present the buzz from L.A. to Afghanistan is, "Let's keep talking. Who will you give us for Anne Hathaway?" and, "Can Miss Lindsay Lohan be deployed again?" It is rumoured that in 1981 the "late" Natalie Wood chose to end her career in order to replace 52 Iranian hostages. " 'Tis a far, far better thing I do," she was heard to say.

And does anyone really think that's still Elizabeth Taylor? Well, not since 1973, when the last American PoWs were released from Vietnam anyway.

Mr. Travolta aside, it is mainly actresses who abandon their careers to solve international crises, leaving the American film industry struggling to fill the quality roles it churns out for women over the age of 30.

"I'm sorry, but I'm needed in the Middle East," is the most frequent response to a clever script and a multimillion-dollar contract.

"You'll have to get Meryl to do it," the studios are told.

Most in the industry have failed to notice that the seemingly infinitely adaptable Meryl Streep has, since 1977, been portrayed by eight different actresses, six of whom are currently serving in international prisons.

Indeed, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission revealed that, from 1986 to 1989, the fourth Ms.

Streep did three utterly convincing years on Robben Island as Nelson Mandela.

"Her accent was amazing," guards said later.

"If you'd told me that man was the same woman from The Deer Hunter," F.W. de Klerk said, "I'd have eaten my socks." A film about the exchange is in development, but for reasons now obvious no actress over 12 has been found to fill the leading role.

There are no rehabs in Malibu. Absent starlets are merely shouldering the burden long carried by older actresses by filling in for them in hostage situations.

Should Angelina Jolie win an Academy Award for A Mighty Heart, few on the inside will be surprised when she thanks the Olsen twins, both of whom served in her place during principal photography.

Celebrities picked out of the line outside L.A. hot spot Hyde Lounge are frequently spirited off for months at a time. "It's rough," a recently interviewed Hilary Duff admitted. "But what is a life without service? Duh." Needless to say, Paris Hilton's war work is legendary in celebutante circles, where Britney Spears, known as the Lady of the Lamp, is credited with reorganizing nursing practices in many a war-torn district.

For their part, weeks or months of confinement and torture are viewed as a good way to maintain a camera-ready weight.

The lovely Nicole Richie credits her stay in "a little Iranian spa" for her svelte look. "They call, I go. No biggy," she said, "I'm happy to give back in any way that won't make me fat." Tabatha Southey is a writer based in Toronto.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; hostages; celebrities

PERSONAL NAME: Mia Farrow

# Editorial – Pakistan blinks

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Editorial Staff Pakistan's president and sometime military dictator, Pervez Musharraf, declined to attend a meeting Thursday with his Afghan counterpart, President Hamid Karzai, and 600 tribal elders from the troubled Northwest Frontier between the two nations.

Instead, Gen. Musharraf sent his prime minister, a political cipher whose only message was "Don't blame Pakistan" for the fact that Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists are using those lawless tribal regions as a base for attacks on Afghanistan.

No one questions that the tribal areas are difficult to control or police. Where doubt arises is in the sincerity of the Pakistani government's efforts to even attempt it. Several high-ranking Taliban and al-Qaida officials have been killed or arrested in the region, but the suspicion is unavoidable that Gen. Musharraf's government could do much more.

The Pakistani president, admittedly, does have a bit of a full plate. He is under attack at home from Islamist militants who demand that the government impose Sharia, or Islamic law, across the country.

That was the source of the siege of the Red Mosque in Islamabad that ended in bloodshed last month. Violence is spreading across the country as Islamists see an increasing vulnerability in the regime.

Gen. Musharraf on Thursday backed down from his threat to declare a state of emergency that would suspend not only civil rights but also elections slated for later this year. The temptation to do that was strong -- he is no stranger to dictatorial rule, having seized power in a coup in 1999, and his rule is now threatened by fundamentalist violence on the one side and the political challenge of exiled former prime minister Benazir Bhutto on the other. To compound his difficulties, American Democrats, including presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, even as they are clamouring for U.S. President George W. Bush to get out of Iraq, are threatening to invade Pakistan, reckless comments that can only further inflame the situation in the region.

Mr. Bush and his secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, have been able to calm the situation. They have been able to persuade Gen.

Musharraf to restrain himself politically and commit himself -- and his armed forces -- to a more vigorous pursuit of al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists on the frontier. Even so, Pakistan remains a powder keg in an explosive region. Western politicians, no matter what political advantage they see in it for themselves, should refrain from playing with matches there.

# Give me Blair or Bush over Ignatieff

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**SECTION:** Focus

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Tom Oleson Tom Oleson If you ask your Sweet Petunia out for dinner and a movie, and he or she accepts, you enter into a situation potentially fraught with conflict. It may happen that Petunia wants to have dinner first and then go to the movie because she understand how even the best laid plans can go astray as events progress over the course of an evening.

It may happen that you want to go the movie first and then to dinner, because then you don't have to rush through the post-prandial refreshments, which is to say that you can stay for a few after-dinner drinks because you don't have to worry any longer about the curtain rising at the cineplex, or when the film starts at the drive-in, if that's the kind of person you are.

There is no room for compromise here. It's one or the other, and the issue will ultimately be decided on the basis of politics — what is best for me in the longer term of this relationship; or on the basis of principle — whose turn is it to get their way in a fair-minded relationship; or the basis of simple survival — if you were out drinking the night before and can't explain your whereabouts, you might want to just go along with whatever he wants to do tonight.

Almost everything in life is like that — a question of politics, principle or expediency. In our personal lives we can live with it because we know that some people will take a stand on principle, some people will bend to personal politics, some people will do whatever is easiest and most of us will just mix them all up and muddle through somehow.

In public life it is not so simple. The factors are all the same, but the consequences are not. If you and Petunia can't agree and break up, well, that's sad for you. If Russia and the United States go to war, then that's worse than sad for everybody.

That's probably why we see in public affairs a lot of political decisions, a lot of expedient decisions, a lot of unpalatable compromises — we'll have dinner at the drive-in — and hardly any decisions based on principle. In fact, it would not be unreasonable, it would not be unfair, to say that principled politicians are so rare that we can hardly recognize them when we see them. We think they're nuts.

Recently, however, we have seen two examples of the two extremes.

The first came with the retirement of British Prime Minister Tony Blair in June. Blair and American President George W. Bush had an obvious rapport throughout their long tenures in office — Blair had been prime minister since 1997; Bush was elected president in 2000 — but it always seemed such an unlikely relationship. Blair is polished and plummy and very English, as well as a natural orator.

Bush is awkward and twangy and very American, as well as a clumsy speaker.

What the two had in common, what brought them together in the closest personal expression of the Anglo-American alliance that it may ever have seen, was that the politics of both leaders in the most important issues of our time were informed by their principles, regulated by their principles, ruled by their

principles, even when those issues became politically suicidal, as they ultimately did for both men.

Those issues were, of course, the three great wars of the 21st century — the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq and the larger war on terror from which they sprung. Unlike the situation in Canada, Afghanistan has not been particularly contentious in Britain or the U.S. There is a general support for that war in both countries.

Iraq, however, is a different case entirely. Growing opposition to Britain's involvement in the war there sapped Blair's popularity in Britain and contributed to his decision to resign; in the U.S., it has pushed Bush's popularity down to levels that few presidents before him have had to endure. History will vindicate their decision to go into Iraq as the beginning point of an eventual transformation of the Middle East for the better, but that is small comfort now for two politicians who are vilified by voters today for putting their personal politics aside and sticking to what is right for the world.

And then there is the other side of the coin. It is somehow not surprising that we can most easily go to Canadian politics to find a situation where principle is casually cast aside for political advantage. We are talking, of course, about ranking federal Liberal politician Michael Ignatieff and his recent exercise in intellectual self-flagellation in the pages of the New York Times.

Prostrating himself, degrading himself, before the American left-wing intellectuals that the newspaper represents, and before the left-wing reflexologists of his Liberal party like an old Soviet Bolshevik at one of Stalin's show trials, Ignatieff recanted at immense length his previous support for the Iraq war. That support played a big part in the once-courageous scholar's loss to Stephane Dion at the Liberal leadership convention last year. With Dion's popularity in Canada now dropping almost to the level of George Bush's, Ignatieff appears to be taking no chances on it happening again. Hence his extraordinary argument that he was wrong to stand on principle in the Iraq war instead of playing politics with it.

Michael Ignatieff is one of Canada's most prominent politicians, a likely prime minister someday. Give me Tony Blair or George Bush — any day.

tom.oleson@freepress.mb.ca

# Cruising back through history; Discovering roots on an Ottawa–organized klezmer boat trip

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Kiev Pechersk Lavra, known as the Monastery of the Caves is the spiritual centre of Ukraine's Orthodox Christianity. ; Colour Photo: A Kiev busker plays his bandura, a traditional Ukrainian instrument. ; Colour Photo: Lisa and Lorne Mallin, The Vancouver Province / Ottawa lawyer Leonard Shore looks out at Kiev's historic Podol district from the deck of the Dnieper Princess cruiseship. ;

**BYLINE:** Lorne Mallin

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Sailing down the Dnieper River from the Ukrainian capital to the Black Sea was an extraordinary journey of discovery for passengers on the first Klezmer Heritage Cruise.

Klezmer is Eastern European Jewish music — think Fiddler on the Roof — and its melodies flowed through the 12-day voyage from the international band on board and the local musicians who played with them at ports along the way. On the cruise ship, we sang, danced, laughed and cried. On land, we explored ancient and modern Ukraine, whose 46.5 million people have yet to really experience mass tourism since it declared independence 17 years ago as the Soviet Union crumbled.

About the size of Alberta (home of almost 300,000 Ukrainian–Canadians), it's vast in European terms, bordering on Belarus to the north, Russia to the north and east, with a host of countries on the west — Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova, and the Black Sea to the south. Almost all of the 160 passengers were Jewish, with most from Canada, plus Americans and a few from Europe and Israel.

Throughout Ukraine, we visited synagogues, Jewish day schools and other sites that have been revived since the end of the Soviet era.

The trip was the brainchild of Marc and A.C. Dolgin, of the Ottawa area, and their Montreal musician son Josh. Two years ago, they joined a Mennonite heritage cruise on the Dnieper and visited the birthplace of Marc's father Joseph in Zaporozhye, about 700 kilometres southeast of Kiev. Josh was inspired to propose a Jewish heritage cruise complete with klezmer music. When the cruise was announced, my daughter Lisa, who works near Tokyo, and I were inspired to sign on, and also to book private excursions to explore our roots.

My grandfather Louis Mallin's name was Malinsky — which means "from Malin" — before he arrived in Winnipeg in 1913 from England, but we're not certain where he was born. In the town of Malin, about 85 kilometres west of Kiev, we met and connected wonderfully with Jews from Malinsky families. On the other hand, 180 kilometres southeast of Zaporozhye in the village of Alexeyevka, where we know my mother's father, Abraham Shuer, was born, there are no more Jews and only three headstones survive in the vanishing Jewish cemetery.



But you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy discovering Ukraine. I arrived in Kiev five days before the cruise began and settled into the apartment I'd rented over the Internet, a much better deal at \$59 U.S. a night than hotel rooms. It was an excellent base to explore the 1,400-year-old capital of 2.6 million. The beautiful European city is modernizing but I had little interest in its new shopping malls and office towers, except to check into an Internet café. Instead, I focused on its gold-domed churches and cathedrals — many of which have been gloriously restored in the last 16 years — other historical sites and people-watching.

The spiritual centre of Ukraine's Orthodox Christianity is Pechersk Lavra, which began as a cave monastery in 1051. Below ground are narrow tunnels housing the mummified remains of monks and saints, as well as several chapels. Above ground are magnificent churches and museums. In the historic riverfront Podol district, the Chernobyl Museum movingly documents the human cost of the world's worst nuclear disaster — the 1986 reactor explosion at Chernobyl, 100 kilometres north of Kiev.

I visited Independence Square on Kiev's main downtown street, Kreshchatyk, where 2004's Orange Revolution led to President Victor Yushchenko's election and many unfulfilled expectations. While I was here, it was continually occupied by flag-waving political groups. A little farther down Kreshchatyk, Lisa and I saw disturbing anti-Semitic graffiti outside a McDonald's. With the cruise group, we spent solemn moments at the memorial at Babi Yar, the ravine in Kiev where more than 33,000 Jews were machine-gunned to death in two days by the invading Nazis in 1941.

As we sailed down the 2,290-kilometre Dnieper, we were treated to absorbing historical backgrounders by Eugene Orenstein of McGill University. Almost every night, movies about Ukraine were screened. Amateur musicians jammed, singers formed a Yiddish choir and Jewish folk dancing was taught.

Most every day in port, we climbed on tour buses. Some of the highlights were the Museum of History's chilling exhibit on the abuses of the Stalin regime in the 1930s and 1940s in Dnepropetrovsk, the Cossack show with great horsemanship and fine bull-whip skills on Khortitsa Island off Zaporozhye and, in the Crimea on the Black Sea, the Livadia Palace where Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met for the 1945 Yalta Conference to decide the fate of post-War Europe.

We also explored on our own. In Odessa, I came upon a monument to the Soviets' disastrous 1979 to 1989 war in Afghanistan. People laid flowers at the feet of a statue of a soldier, his arms resting on his knees, his face sad and weary.

## IF YOU GO...

Getting there: Air Canada and partner Lufthansa fly through Toronto and Frankfurt to Kiev. Fares start at about \$1,500 return.

Cruises: There are no plans for another Klezmer Heritage Cruise but there is an annual Mennonite Heritage Cruise ([www.vision2000.ca](http://www.vision2000.ca)) and many other cruises by the Dnieper Princess's owners, Chervona Ruta ([ruta-cruise.com/en/](http://ruta-cruise.com/en/)), from about \$1,300.

Where to stay: Check the guide books for apartment rentals. Ukraine Apartments at [www.uaapartments.com](http://www.uaapartments.com) are recommended.

Guidebooks: Lonely Planet Ukraine and Ukraine: The Bradt Travel Guide are excellent resources.

Where to eat: For Ukrainian food in Kiev, point at what you want at a branch of the inviting Puzata Khata cafeterias. About \$5 for a full-course meal.

# Going Out

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## CONCERTS

Shaken Not Stirred: Solo classical voice concert featuring Ottawa lyric soprano, Alaina Viau, 8 p.m. Saturday in Freiman Hall, (Perez Building) at University of Ottawa. Admission \$10.

Top 20 Kiwanis Idol showcase: 11 a.m. idol show, noon past Kiwanis idol winners, Saturday in the Festival Plaza, Ottawa City Hall. Free.

The Arden Glee Club: A 40-voice choir, 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Westport United Church, Westport. Free-will offering.

Outdoor Music Series: Jeff Meleras and Jupiter Ray Project, 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Andrew Haydon Park, 3169 Carling Ave., corner of Acres Road. Free.

Gilles Girard(Classels): A trip down memory lane, 1:30 p.m. matinée to Friday at Casino du Lac-Leamy box office or Admission Network, 1-800-361-4595. Tickets \$20 .

Perth Citizens' Band: 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the band stand behind Perth Town Hall, Perth. Bring a lawn chair.

Ottawa Folk Festival: Thursday to to Sunday, Aug. 19 at Britannia Park. Kris Kristofferson headlines on Friday evening. For line-up, times and tickets visit [www.ottawafolk.org](http://www.ottawafolk.org) or 613-230-8234.

## THEATRE

Theatre Under the Stars: A Curious Mishap by Carlo Goldoni, presented by Odyssey Theatre, 8:30 p.m. to Aug. 26, 3 p.m. Sunday matinées in Strathcona Park, Laurier Avenue east at Range Road. Tickets \$23, \$19 seniors/students, \$9 children 12 and under. Matinées half price. 613-232-8407.

Dramamuse: Experience History: Interactive plays presented by the Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Hull: Of Rum and Water, by Jean Herbiet, 4:30 and 6 p.m. Thursdays; 1:30 and 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays to Sept. 1; A Taste of the Wildcat, by Ben Nind, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, to Thursday. Free with museum admission. 819-776-7000.

Fat Pig: By Neil LaBute, presented by Breathing Time Productions, 8 p.m. Saturday at the Univesity of Ottawa's Studio Léonard Beaulnes, 135 Séraphin Marion. Tickets \$15, \$12 students/seniors. Tickets at 613-565-2107.

Flower Power: Multimedia show, a total musical and visual immersion, 8 p.m. to Sept. 8 at Casino du Lac-Leamy in Gatineau Tickets at the box office or Admission Network, 1-800-361-4595.

Fort Wellington National Historic Site, 370 Vankoughnet St. Prescott: The Trial of John Dale, 8 p.m. Thursdays in August. One-hour candle-lit performance features music, muskets and mayhem. Reserve at 613-925-2896.

Here On The Flight Path: By Norm Foster, presented by BarnDoor Productions, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday at Perth's Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E., Perth. Tickets \$17 reserved or \$20 at the door. 613-267-1884.

It Runs in the Family: By Ray Cooney, to Sept. 2, 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays at Upper Canada Playhouse in Morrisburg. Tickets at 613-543-3713.

Scarlett's Dinner Theatre: Presents The Velvet Dolls Revue, 8 p.m. Thursdays in the Velvet Room, \$25, three-course dinner, \$22; Deadly, Desperate Housewives, 7 p.m. Saturday at Scarlett's is at 62 York St. (above Fat Tuesdays) Cost is \$25 for show, three-course dinner available from \$22. Reserve at 613-850-9700.

St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival: Summer of Love: alternate performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet, to Saturday, Aug. 11 in the amphitheatre on the bank of the St. Lawrence River in Prescott, tickets and schedules stlawrenceshakespeare.ca or 613-925-5788.

The Phantom of the Opera: Wednesday to Sept. 9. Tickets at the box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

TheatreLife: By Sky Gilbert, presented by Tototoo Gay & Lesbian Community Theatre, Wednesday to Saturday, Aug. 18 at Arts Court Theatre, 1 Daly Ave. Tickets \$20, \$15 students at Arts Court box office or [www.tototoo.ca](http://www.tototoo.ca).

Theatre on the Veranda: Take a tour of this former Prime Ministers residence, have tea on the veranda and watch history come to life, 1 and 3 p.m. Sundays through August at Laurier House National Historic Site, 335 Laurier Ave. East (at Chapel St) Sandy Hill. Reserve at 613-992-8142. ASL interpretation of shows and tour provided for the Deaf.

## COMEDY

Medical Marijuana Comedy Show: ExtravaGANJA!, hosted by Howard Dover, Tuesday at Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St. Tickets \$12 in advance from 613-233-8000. In support of [GreenTherapy.com](http://GreenTherapy.com).

Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St.: Mark Scalia and Chris Duglar with M.C. Andrew Evans, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday \$12, Sunday \$8; Pro-Am Night, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Dinner-show packages for \$25 plus tax/tip and under. 613-233-8000.

Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club, 88 Albert St.: Laurie Elliott and Kristeen Von Hagen, Thursday to Saturday, Aug. 11, Saturday; New Talent Showcase, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; Tim Nutt, Thursday to Aug. 18. Reserve at 613-236-5233.

## DANCE

Free Lunchtime Performing Series: DeCypher Cru & Friends, break and hip hop dance, 1-2 p.m. Thursday (rain date Friday) at Alda Burt Park, 1816 St. Laurent Blvd. at Smyth.

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Templeton Drive-in, 1779 Maloney Blvd., Gatineau: The Bourne Ultimatum (English) (13+), I Now

Pronounce You Chuck and Larry (English) (13+) and Rush Hour 3 (French), Ma Tante Aline, Saturday to Tuesday at dusk. 819-663-0915.

Templeton Drive In, 1779 Maloney Blvd., Gatineau: The Bourne Ultimatum, Evan Almighty and Transformers (French version), Shrek Le Troisième, to Tuesday. 819-663-0915.

## LIVE MUSIC-ROCK

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Disco Inferno, Saturday, \$8 advance, \$10 at door.

Bourbon Street Music Hall, 2557 Baseline at Greenbank: Trevor Finlay, 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong: Chameleon, Friday.

The Glue Pot Pub, 340 Queen St.: Eric Voice, Friday.

Slots at Rideau Carleton, 4837 Albion Rd.: Nelson Colt, 8 p.m. Saturday.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: Roz Bell, Thursday; The Grass and The Brothers Chaffey, Friday.

## LIVE MUSIC-BLUES-WORLD-FOLK

Auberge Héritage Restaurant, 2607 Montreal Rd., Cumberland: Live music by Jean-Pierre Henley, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Avant-Garde Bar, 135 1/2 Besserer St.: Rockets Fall, Kris Ward, Saturday; The Rebel Wheel, Tuesday; Brian Downey Jazz, Wednesday; The Mike Ruby Quartet Canada Tour, Thursday; Theodosios Band, Friday.

The Bay Street Bistro, Black Bear Pub, 160 Bay St. at Albert: The Standby Brothers, 7 p.m. Saturday.

Blacksheep Inn, 753 Riverside St., Wakefield.: Lee Mellor, Trevor Alguire, 9 p.m. Saturday; Eden and Olive's Musicycle Tour 2007, Johnny Eden, Derek Olive, 9 p.m. Sunday; Chris Knight, 9 p.m. Thursday; Mike Plume, Clarie Reilly-Roe, 9 p.m. Friday.

The Branch, 15 Clothier St. E., Kemptville: Shady Blue, 9 p.m. Saturday; songwriters open stage, 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Brig British Pub, 501 Hazeldean Rd., Kanata: Karaoke by Dog and Pony, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

The British Hotel, 71 Principal St., Aylmer: Karaoke with Vanylou, 3:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Sundays; DJ spins Thursdays to Saturdays.

Charlies Pub and Grill, 308 Palladium Dr., Kanata: Karaoke Night, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Cock 'n Bull Pub and Eatery, 3791 Richmond Rd., Bells Corners: Denis Turbide, 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

Daniel O'Connell's Pub, 1211 Wellington St.: Open stage, Saturdays; Irish traditional music session, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

D'arcy McGee's, 360 Moodie Dr.: Porter's Island, Saturday; Marc Charron, Friday, Saturday, Aug. 18.

Duffy's Tavern, 6 Lennox Rd., Richmond: Karaoke, Thursdays.

JR's Downstairs Pub, Almonte: The Elyssa Mahoney and Lucas Haneman Band, 6:30–9:30 p.m. Friday.

Lieutenant's Pump, 361 Elgin St.: Acoustic series, 9:30 p.m. Sundays.

Maxwell's Bistro, 340 Elgin St.: Johnny Vegas and guests, 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Main Street Pub, 1408 Main St., Stittsville: Karaoke, Fridays.

The Old Mill at Ashton, 113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton: Open stage with Jaan Kolk and friends, 2–4 p.m. Sundays.

Pendradon Pub, 1490 Merivale Rd.: Karaoke, Thursdays.

Rasputin's Folk Cafe, 696 Bronson Ave.: Lara Yule Singh and Alexia Melnychuk, Saturday.

The Royal Oak, 188 Bank St.: Guy Del Villano and friends, 3–7 p.m. Sundays.

Red Canoe Cafe, Wilno Station Inn: Rev. Ken Ramsden & Fiddlin Zeke, Saturday; Rev. Ken Ramsden, Friday.

The Roxy, 292 Elgin St.: DJ Jamie C, Fridays; Ebony and Ivory Soundcrew, Saturdays.

Sonny's Restaurant, 1119 Baxter Rd.: Sing and dance with A–Sharp, 9 p.m. Saturdays.

South Side Bar & Grill, 1670 Heron Rd. (Heron Gate Mall): Sing and dance with A–Sharp, 9 p.m. Fridays.

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St. at Hunt Club: Wicket Grin, Saturday; Acoustic blues, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; Tempus Fugitives, Friday.

#### LIVE MUSIC–JAZZ

The Baldachin Inn, 111 St. Lawrence, Merrickville: Harris, Smith and Workman, Saturday.

Cafe Paradiso, 199 Bank St.: Elise and friends, 8 p.m. Saturday.

Café Nostalgica, 603 Cumberland St.: Yves Laroche and friends, 9 p.m. Wednesdays, No cover.

Chez Lucien, 137 Murray St. at Dalhousie: Jazz Sundays with the Hugh O'Connor Duo, 4–7 p.m. Sundays.

Fiddleheads Bar and Grill, 53 Herriott St., Perth: Tim Bedner, guitar, Clay Young, piano, noon–3 p.m. Sunday.

Fresco's, 354 Elgin St.: Jeff Rogers and Kelly Craig, Thursdays.

Grillman's Restaurant, Highway 16 and Colonnade Rd.: The Grillman Hot Jazz Trio, 6–9 p.m. Fridays.

The Royal Oak, 800 Hunt Club (at Uplands): The Bourbon Brothers, 9 p.m. Saturday.

The Royal Oak, 1981 St. Joseph Blvd: Amanda Rheume, 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Royal Oak II Pub, 161 Laurier Ave. E.: Marc Nelson, 2 p.m. Saturday.

Vineyards Wine Bar and Bistro, 54 York St.: Dave Ward Duo, Sunday; Peter Turner and John Steel Duo,

Tuesday; Hugh O'Connor Duo, Wednesday.

## LIVE MUSIC-COUNTRY

Le Bar Spectacle La Maison, 836 St. Louis, Gatineau: Gary Fairburn and Unwound, 9 p.m. Saturdays.

Eastview Legion, 294 Cyr Ave.: Fran and The Rebels, Saturday, 7:30–11:30 p.m., 4–8 p.m. Sunday.

Vanier Grill, 159 Montreal Rd.: Chris McCann open jam 7 p.m. Sundays.

Westboro Legion, 391 Richmond Rd.: Peter C, 2 p.m. Gary Drouin, 8 p.m. Saturday; Lauren Hall, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18.

## LITERARY EVENTS

Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeebar, 1242 Wellington St.: Reading and book signing by Canadian author Sky Gilbert from his new novel *Borther Dumb*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday; poetry reading by Matthew Homes, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Tree Reading Series: Poet and essayist, Monty Reid reads, open set is 8 p.m. with reader to follow, Royal Oak II Pub, 161 Laurier Ave. E. 613-749-3773.

## SINGLES

Active Singles Group: Meets 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Malone's, Dow's Lake Pavilion. 613-235-6337.

At Eight: For single professional people over 50 to meet for good conversation and fine dining.  
[www.ateight.biz](http://www.ateight.biz)

Le Cercle Amical Tremblay: 8 p.m. Saturday at Centre Pauline Charron, 164 Jeanne Mance. Proper dress. Andre 819-663-5610 or Bernadette. 613-744-1648.

Cercle d'amitié Jonathan: For French-speaking, 45-plus singles, non-smoking. Sunday breakfast served until 10:30 a.m. at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull. 613-746-2204.

Dance for Singles: Dance, non-smoking, ages 35+, 8 p.m. Friday at the Têcumseh Golf Club, 475 St-Louis, Gatineau. 819-360-1243.

Danse Des Amis(es): 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Centre Pauline Charron, 164 Jeanne Mance. No Jeans. Gaetan 613-741-0562 or Paul, 613-228-1271.

Gloucester Singles Club: Dance for singles 30 and over, 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cyrville Community Centre, 4355 Halmont Dr. Members. Members \$5, guests \$8. 613-860-0990.

Magic Encounters Dances: Single's Dance, every Sunday night for 30+ at 270 Marier Ave. 819-246-3363.

The New Friendship Singles Club: Dance 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Fridays with door prizes at 1000 Byron Ave. close to Woodroffe Avenue and Richmond Road. 613-729-3631.

One Parent Families Association: Friendship group for single parents (custody not required) meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Rd. Ongoing adult and family activities. 613-834-1308.

Ottawa Valley Social Group: Linking friends throughout the Valley with parties, skiing, day trips and more. 613-832-4653.

Ottawa Single Girlfriends: Social and friendship group for single women ages 35-45. 613-324-7479 for event schedule.

People Meeting People: Dance, 8 p.m. Saturday at Carleton Heights Community Centre on Appeldorn St. 613-825-7083.

Prinzo's Dance Bar, 85 O'Connor/Slater: Dance for singles 30 and up, 9 p.m. Saturdays featuring great DJ dance music. Neat casual dress, no denim. \$5 cover 613-565-1328.

Single Seniors Friendship: With other women on a unique journey into new beginnings, 10 a.m. Fridays at The Olde Forge, 2730 Carling Ave., Carling and Richmond Rd. 613-828-4515.

Single Option: 7 p.m. Thursday, spin dating for singles 40-55. 613-596-6533.

Sunday Brunch Group: For singles has brunches in various restaurants Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Reserve at 613-825-7083.

## OTHER EVENTS

Meet the Guide Dogs: Open house, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind National Training Centre, 4120 Rideau Valley Dr., Manotick.

SuperEx 2007: Thursday to Aug. 26 at Lansdowne Park. New exhibits, new performers, new themes and rides galore. Over 60 shows per day, all free with admission. For a complete shedule: [www.ottawasuperex.com](http://www.ottawasuperex.com) .

20th Annual Thousand Islands Model Railroad Show: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday at the Gananoque Recreation Centre, 600 King St. E. Gananoque. Free admission and parking.

32nd Annual Ottawa International Antique and Classic Boat Show: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the historic Long Island Locks on Nicolls Island Road off River Road, five kilometres north of Manotick. 613-799-9849.

Puppets Up: A two-day festival with more than 40 performances, featuring 10 professional puppet troupes in a wide variety of puppet styles, Saturday, Sunday in Almonte. 613-256-8434 or [www.puppetsup.ca](http://www.puppetsup.ca) .

Vankleek Fair: Thursday to Sunday, Aug. 19.

Friends of the Farm Victorian Tea: 2-4 p.m. Sunday classic tea \$6 served on the lawns of Bldg. 72, Central Experimental Farm. Bring a patio chair, Other events as well.

Merrickville Fair: The Mick Armitage Band and guests Davey Drummond and The Westmeath Wonders Stepdancers perform 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 613-226-9178 or [www.merrickvillefair.com](http://www.merrickvillefair.com) .

Victorian Tea Quilt and Antique Show: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls. Period costume encouraged. Free admission.

Day Out With Thomas 2007: All Aboard Tour: A train ride with Thomas departs every 60 minutes, rain or shine from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily Friday to Sunday, Aug. 19 and Aug. 24-26 at the Ottawa Central Railway's Walkley Yard, 3141 Albion Rd. Tickets \$18 for ages two and up at 866-468-7630 or [www.ticketweb.ca](http://www.ticketweb.ca) .

Help Perk–Up Our Park: Chili dinner, music and storytelling, 5–8 p.m. Sunday at Iona Park, between Island Park Dr. and Kirkwood Ave.

Annual Ottawa Greek Festival: Live music and traditional Greek dances, Greek cuisine, children's activities and more, to Aug. 19, 4:30 p.m.–11 p.m. weekdays, noon–11 p.m. weekends at 1315 Prince of Wales Dr. 613–225–8016 ex. 221.

Caribe–Expo 2007: Ottawa's Caribbean Festival, to Aug. 19 at various locations. For information on events, locations and times call 613–729–1408 or visit [www.caribe-expo.com](http://www.caribe-expo.com).

The 57th Annual Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship: To Sunday in Shelburne, Ont. Information at [www.shelburnefiddlecontest.on.ca](http://www.shelburnefiddlecontest.on.ca).

Pembroke Waterfront Festival: Family activities and entertainment by Doc Walker, Alannah Myles, Jeff Healey, Fred Eaglesmith, 5 Man Electrical Band, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, in Pembroke. \$15 per day or \$25 all weekend. [www.pembrokefestivals.com](http://www.pembrokefestivals.com).

The Casino du Lac–Leamy Sound of Light: Grande Finale, Saturday. Tickets at the box office, 819–771–3389, 613–599–3267, [www.CapitalTicket.ca](http://www.CapitalTicket.ca) and Gatineau–area Loblaws stores. Packages and other entertainment available throughout the event. Details at [www.casino-du-lac-leamy.com](http://www.casino-du-lac-leamy.com).

Waterfront Live!: Free, live entertainment at the Amphitheatre in Pembroke 7 p.m. nightly in August.

Around About Ottawa: Guided walking tours of historic landmarks and tourist sites in Ottawa's downtown core. Minimum two people. Reserve at 613–599–1016.

Home Movie Day Ottawa: A free family event hosted by the Library and Archives Canada and Available Light Screening Collective to watch and celebrate home movies, 7–10 p.m. Saturday at Club SAW, 67 Nicholas St. [www.homemoviedayottawa@gmail.com](mailto:www.homemoviedayottawa@gmail.com).

Brockville Ghost Walks: Costumed volunteers of the Friends of Fulford Place Association lead visitors through Brockville, stopping at various haunted spots to recount spook tales, Friday evenings to Sept. 7. Tickets \$9.50 in advance or half hour before each walk begins at 8:30 p.m. Call 613–498–3005.

Festival of Quilts: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday at St. John Catholic High School, 2066 County–Road 10, Scotch Line, Perth. Presented by Lanark County Quilters Guild. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. 613–345–7862.

Ghosts and the Gallows: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613–232–0344.

Crime and Punishment Jail Tour: 7 p.m. nightly. Depart from lobby of the Ottawa Jail Hostel, 75 Nicholas St. Reserve 613–232–0344.

Naughty Ottawa Pub Walk: 7 p.m. Saturdays, depart from ticket office, 73 Clarence St. Reserve 613–232–0344.

The Original Haunted Walk of Ottawa Tour: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from the corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613–232–0344.

Ottawa On Foot: Historical walking tours of downtown Ottawa. Private tours only. 613–447–7566.



Parliament of Canada — Tours: Free Centre Block guided tours available daily; schedule varies throughout the year and when Parliament is sitting. Visit [www.parl.gc.ca/vis](http://www.parl.gc.ca/vis) or call 613-239-5000. (Tours may be re-routed or cancelled without notice due to parliamentary activity). 613-239-5000.

Tour of the Supreme Court of Canada, Wellington Street: Law students conduct free guided tours daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613-995-5361.

## MUSEUMS

Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St.: Can You Dig It?, unearth treasures in a hands-on introduction to archeology, Wednesdays in August; Big Hunt!; for children five to 12, Thursdays in August, registration required; Beyond the Billings: The untold story of the people working on the farmstead, 1 p.m. Saturdays in August. Registration required, \$5 includes museum admission; Tea and Tour, 2 p.m. Saturdays in August, registration recommended, \$5 admission; Off-the-Grid Series, 9 p.m. Tuesdays in August, \$10 person, \$15 couple; Notte Sotto le Stelle: learn about the history of Rome's food and wine and the region of Lazio at a unique, educational dinner event, 6 p.m. Friday. Details at [www.DivinoWineStudio.com](http://www.DivinoWineStudio.com). Open noon-5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday. Fee. 613-247-4830.

Bytown Museum, 1 Canal Lane: Songs of the Navvies: members of the Corktown Ceildh Band play songs of the canal construction and interact with our visitors, 1-3 p.m. Saturday; The museum showcases the early days of Ottawa and the founder of Bytown, Lt.-Col. John By and offers new permanent exhibitions, a community gallery and new play space for families and students. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., it is between the Rideau Canal locks and the Parliament Buildings. Admission applies. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily to Thanksgiving weekend. 613-234-4570 or [www.bytownmuseum.com](http://www.bytownmuseum.com).

Canada Agriculture Museum, Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle: A variety of informative daily demonstrations which are featured throughout the month of August; Tractors exhibition; The Museum Passport; Access to the animal barns and exhibitions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Food for Health Exhibition, to Oct. 31; New themes for birthday parties year-round for ages three-12. Fee. Seniors Free on Tuesdays to Oct. 613-991-3044.

Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Parkway: Aerotech summer day camp, for ages six to 12 and nine to 12 in August register at 613-993-8109; Sunday Flying Visits, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to Sept. 9; Art Flight 2007; Introduction to Aviation Art Workshops, New Storage Wing Tours. Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. until Labour Day. 613-993-2010.

Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.: Railway Weekend, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday; Autopsy of a Murder exhibit, to Sept. 3; Collection Tours, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee. 613-991-3053.

Canadian Clock Museum, 60 James St., Deep River: Large exhibits of Pequegnat, Westclox, and Snider Canadian clocks. Call to confirm hours. 613-584-9687. Fee.

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau: Face To Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall, newest permanent exhibition; In My Lifetime, Contemporary Aboriginal Art, to March 8; Treasures from China, to Oct. 28; Canada in a Box: Cigar Containers that Store Our Past 1883-1935, a new virtual exhibition on view at [www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html](http://www.civilization.ca/tresors/cigares/cigar-boxes-e.html); Exhibitions: Masters of the Plains, to September 2007; A new permanent exhibition, a one-room prairie schoolhouse founded by former slaves and their descendants. Open daily 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 819-776-7000.

Canadian Children's Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: Lights, Sounds and Cubes!, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Sunday; Puppets Travel!, 9:30 a.m. to 4 pm. Thursday and Aug.

23, Adventure World (Outdoors), Free with museum admission; Let's Play LEGO!, 10:30 a.m.–noon Monday and Aug. 20. Free with museum admission; Adventure World, an outdoor play area outside behind the museum opened for season; Top Secret: Mission Toy, to Sept. 3. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Postal Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: The Post Goes Pop, exhibition looks at the role played by the postal service in everyday life; Signed, Sealed, Delivered; Reflections of Canada: The National Stamp Collection. Fee. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St.: Renovated West Wing features the new Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery, which represents the end of the dinosaur age and rise of mammals, a refurbished interactive Mammal Gallery and a new Bird Gallery with hundreds of birds plus a special play area for kids; New Discovery Zone with activities and HD movies. Daily in the summer: Trading Post, Specimen Exploration and crafts in the morning. Special programs include Matrix Mysteries and Dino Impostors Beware. New exhibitions: On the Labrador: Photography by Arnold Zageris and The Gee! in Genome. The activity What's Your DNA Alias. East wing is closed for renovation.). nature.ca. 613–566–4700

Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place: War Brides: Hands–On Technology: Catapults!, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday to Friday; Spotlight on Brock's Tunic, 2–3 p.m. Thursday (bilingual); Portraits of an Era and Stitches in Time which features 15 quilted artworks, to Jan. 6; Afghanistan, A Glimpse of War: A Journalist's Kit and A Soldier's Kit, daily in August. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–8600.

Champlain Trail Museum and Pioneer Village, 1032 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke: Chicken Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–735–0517.

Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, 2940 Old Montreal Rd.: The Cutting Edge; Watermelon festival, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–833–3059.

Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp Rd., Carp: The Lost Nuke, exhibition, to Sept. 30; See 100,000 sq. ft. bunker that was intended to protect the government and military in the event of an attack. Visits by guided tour only, Monday–Fridays at 2 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. Reservations required. Fee. 613–839–0007.

Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada, 370 Vankoughnet St., Prescott: Shadows of the Fort: The Trial of John Dale, 8 p.m. Thursdays to Aug. 30, \$8. Guided tour with period costumes, 1 p.m. Sundays and Wednesdays in August. Fee. Open daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. to Sept. 30th. 613–925–2896.

Fulford Place Mansion Museum, 287 King St. E., Brockville: This 35–room Edwardian home was built in 1899–1901 for Senator George T. Fulford, a successful marketer of Pink Pills for Pale People. Filled with original furnishings, the mansion evokes the opulent lifestyle of Canada's industrial elite at the turn of the century. Open for tours Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last tour departing at 3 p.m. Tearoom. 613–498–3003.

Heritage House Museum, 11 Old Slys Rd., Smiths Falls: A Snapshot of Rideau Life, a photography exhibition and sale. Six photographers give their visual impression of life along the Rideau Canal which has recently been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to Oct. 28. Open daily 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 613–283–8560. Fee.

Homewood Museum, Hwy 2, between Maitland and Prescott: Made a Rug workshop, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Sunday, \$3, \$1.50 students. One of the oldest homes in Ontario, built in 1796–1800 by Solomon Jones, a Loyalist and the area's first physician. The large home remained in the family for seven generations. Open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday to Sept. 1. Family Day, Sunday, July 29. 613–348–1246.

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St.: A Capital Choice, to Monday; Order of Canada: They Desire a Better Country; Constitution 1982: The 25th Anniversary; Literary Landscapes of French Canada; Cultural Celebrities of Quebec. Open 9 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. Free. 613–996–6138.

Macdonell–Williamson House c.1817 National Historic Site, East Hawkesbury: Silent auction bidding opens, noon Saturday, see website for auction items, [www.mwhouse.ca](http://www.mwhouse.ca) ; The Lute in Scotland with John Downing, lutist, 2 p.m. Sunday. Open weekends noon–5 p.m. to Aug. 26. General store, tea room, exhibits, live music. 613–632–6662/1–866–269–2962 [www.mwhouse.ca](http://www.mwhouse.ca)

Mill of Kintail Conservation Area and R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum, 2854 Concession 8, Almonte: Sherry Tompalski art exhibition, to Aug. 31. Open daily 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Oct. 16. 613–256–3610.

Mission House Museum and Gallery, 1050 Mill St., Combermere: Pearl Orr's art show, Wednesday to Aug. 26; Dr. Joseph Kinder's Medical Instruments Show and Harry and Tena Stevenson's art, to Sept. 2. 613–756–3821.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St., Almonte: ; Annual Family Days celebration, Saturday, Sunday; Carl Stewart, Fragments, Tuesday to Oct. 28, opening reception, 2–4 p.m. Aug. 19; Unclothing and Uncovering: Revealing Art in Textiles, by Wendy Feldberg, Karen Goetzinger, Carmella Karijo Rother, to Oct. 31; Textile Art: Franco–Canadian Exchange, Laurentian Quilters Guild Association Bezières Patchwork, to Sept. 25; Weaving and spinning demonstrations, 1–4 p.m. Wednesdays. Free with admission. The Millennium Journal by Judith Martin, to Sunday. 613–256–3754.

National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr: Concert: Music from the Impressionist Period, 2 p.m. Sunday, free with admission; Eye Spy with My Little Eye, Tiny Tots workshop, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Friday; Renoir Landscapes & Paysages, to Sept. 9; Modernist Photographs from the National Gallery of Canada's collection to Aug. 26; De–con–structions, to Sept. 3; De–con–structions, to Sept. 3; Cheryl Sourkes: Public Camera, to Oct. 21. Free guided tour of the collection with a docent, sign–up in the Great Hall, daily at 2 p.m. Open daily from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays to 8 p.m. 613–990–1985.

Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave.: InGrained, Cultivating the Cultures of Nepean, a display of rice, to Sept. 22. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Canada's Centennial and another Centennial — 100 years — of the Boy Scouts of Canada. 613–723–7936.

Old Stone Mill, National Historic Site & Museum of Early Industrial Technology, 4 Court St., Delta: Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily. 613–928–2584.

The Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Ave.: Oh So Iroquois, to Sept. 2; Tourist, with E. Holgate, A.Y. Jackson, J–P. Lemieux and more, to Nov. 4. Art Rental and Sales Service, Summer Salon featuring over 30 artists, to Sept. 8. 613–233–8865.

Perth Museum/Matheson House, c.1840, 11 Gore St. E., Perth: Four restored period rooms, two galleries with featuring exhibition, Victorian Fashion and Society in Perth; Victorian garden, outdoor bake oven and herb garden. Admission by donation. 613–267–1947.

Pinhey's Point Historic Site, Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin: Discovery Day: Illumination!, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday. Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, noon–5 p.m. Wednesday to Friday. Closed Monday, Tuesday. 613–832–4347.

The Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr.: Along with seeing \$1 million in gold, you can hold more than \$175,000 of pure gold in your hands. 613–993–8990.

The Victoria School Museum, 256 Edmund St., Carleton Place: The Place for All Seasons, view the history of Carleton Place through the decades and the seasons. Displays, original artifacts and hands-on activities. Open daily 10 a.m.–4, 1–4 p.m. Sundays. 613–253–7013.

Waba Cottage Museum & Gardens, in the Village of White Lake: Several heritage buildings situated in an eight-acre park with 11 themed gardens, picnic tables, boat launch. Open Saturday, Sunday from 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 613–623–8853.

## NEW ART SHOWS

Atrium Gallery, Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Dr.: Robert Matyas: Impressions, to Aug. 29. 613–580–2828.

Bruyère Gallery, Elizabeth Bruyère Centre, 75 Bruyère: Both Fish and Fowl, new works by Ingela Stromberg, to Sept. 28. 613–241–3344, ext. 2.

CentrepoinTE Theatre Gallery, Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Dr.: ECOAA: East Central Ontario Art Association Annual Exhibit, to Aug. 29. 613–580–2424, ext. 42263.

Cornwall Regional Art Gallery, 168 Pitt St Promenade, Cornwall: There and Back — An Artist's Journey, Tuesday to Sept. 21. 613–382–5759.

Cube Gallery, 7 Hamilton Ave. N.: Victoria Wonnacott and Antoni Romaszewski, to Aug. 19. 613–728–1750.

Cumberland Gallery, 255 Centrum Blvd., 2nd Floor, Orléans: Laura Lynn Eggleston: Recent Portraits, to Aug. 21. 613–580–2424, ext. 29288.

Gallery Perth, 16 Wilson St. W., Perth: Larry Bracegirdle exhibition with other fine artists, to Sept. 30. 613–264–8338.

Galerie St-Laurent+Hill, 333 Cumberland: Camrose Ducote, Erin McSavaney, Jeroen Witviet, to Aug. 22. Reception, 1–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–789–7145.

Gloucester Gallery, Main floor, 255 Centrum Blvd. Orléans: Ottawa Camera Winners, to Aug. 26. 613–580–2424, ext. 29288.

Men on Women Art Show: Dave Cooper, Juan Carlos Noria, Michael Zavacky, Lawrence Callender and more, Helsinki Lounge, 15 George St., to Sept. 1.

Octagon Gallery, 15 Octagon Lane, Calabogie: 24th annual watercolour exhibition by Sheila Fletcher, guest artist Jack Stekelenberg with iron sculptures, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. 613–752–2517.

Ottawa Bagel Shop, 1321 Wellington St.: Images of Mexico, photographs by Richard Robesco, Stars, photographs by Lois Siegel, to Sept. 4. 613–722–8753.

City Hall Art Gallery, 110 Laurier Ave. W.: City of Ottawa Archives, to Sept. 3. 613–580–2424, ext. 28425.

The Parkdale Gallery, 229 Armstrong St.: Modern Still Life, a group show, to Sept. 9. 613–614–4308.

The Rideau Guild of Porcelain Artists: Sale and exhibit, 2–4 p.m. Sunday on the lawn of Bldg. 72, Central Experimental Farm. 819–771–6991.

Two Weekends in August: An exhibition and open studio by Marcio Melo, noon to sunset Saturday, Sunday and Aug. 18, 19 at his studio in the Gatineau Hills. Special events: corn feast pot luck dinner, 5 p.m. Sunday and bonfire assemblage, Saturday, Aug. 18 at dark. Everyone welcome. Bring a picnic and some friends. Marcio Melo Studio, 8 Twelfth Line, Brisol, Quebec. 819-647-3416.

# Boycott aimed at government, not the Chinese

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110059  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B5  
**BYLINE:** Torsten Trey  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 354

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Re: Former MP pushes for Beijing Games boycott, Kilgour spearheads drive against 'Bloody Harvest Olympics,' Aug. 9.

The statement of the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa that "any attempt to politicize the games violates the spirit of the Olympic movement" necessitates some comments.

The call to boycott the Olympic Games in Beijing is an appreciation of human life; it shall express the wish of hundreds of millions of people that torturing people to death because of their belief is not an option in the 21st century.

This applies in particular for the country that runs for hosting the Olympic Games. The term "politics" doesn't hold the monopoly over the right to live, and calling for a dramatic improvement of basic human rights cannot be understood as an exclusive domain of politics. The call for boycott certainly cannot be called "shameful"—if Sudan were the host of the Olympics in 2008, all of us wouldn't hesitate to call for a boycott.

In 1980, the Summer Olympics in Moscow were boycotted by 62 countries because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Among the boycotting countries: China! Thus, the Chinese government may be advised to reconsider its policy of banishing the idea that Olympics indeed could be boycotted.

If politicizing of the Olympics was prohibited, as the Chinese Embassy demands, would the Chinese leadership also stop promoting its communist doctrine while hosting the Olympic Games but instead display the 5,000 years of Chinese cultural possessions?

The 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin should be a reminder for us that the integrity of the country hosting the Olympic Games is of utmost importance. Participating in the Olympics as usual would send a wrong signal to the Chinese government.

The Global Human Rights Torch Relay of the Coalition to Investigate Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG) in China is the most diplomatic way to call for an improvement of the human rights in China. The Chinese government has ignored calls for these basic rights for years; harvesting organs from living people is just the latest disclosed tip of the iceberg of crimes against humanity.

The call for boycott of the Olympics addresses the Communist government in Beijing and not the Chinese people.

Torsten Trey, MD, Washington

Doctors Against

Forced Organ Harvesting

# Bring troops home

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110058  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B5  
**BYLINE:** Art Campbell  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 223

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Re: Making peace, Aug. 2.

In discussing Afghanistan, political analyst Allan Gregg states: "We may choose not to engage (the Taliban) but this new type of enemy will offer us no such guarantee in return." Canada chose to engage the Taliban, not vice versa. The Taliban did not attack us. Canada did not join the U.S after its embassies and ships were attacked; Canada reacted to the emotional 9/11 attack and joined the U.S in attacking Afghanistan.

Michael Ignatieff ("Backing Iraq war 'a mistake': Ignatieff," Aug. 2) admits he, too, was adversely affected by emotion. "The lesson I draw for the future is to be less influenced by the passions of the people that I admire — Iraqi exiles, for example — and to be less swayed by my emotions."

Mr. Ignatieff admits he made a mistake. It is time Canada did the same, apologized to the Afghans, and removed our troops. What a breath of fresh air. Although I believe we shouldn't concern ourselves with our image in the world but rather do the right thing, it is certain that such a move by Canada would be a boon to Canada's image in the world. Get our military out of the Middle East. The military's role is to defend Canada.

Art Campbell, Nepean



# United States. Military draft should be revisited, official says

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**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 129

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A top U.S. military officer in charge of co-ordinating the war effort in Iraq said yesterday it makes sense to consider a return of the draft to meet the U.S. military's needs. Lt.-Gen. Douglas Lute, who serves as a White House deputy national security adviser, said in an interview with National Public Radio, "I think it makes sense to certainly consider it, and I can tell you, this has always been an option on the table." The United States did away with the draft in 1973 near the end of the Vietnam War, but U.S. military commanders worry that repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan will break the force.

# Khadr to remain in Guantanamo, U.S. official insists; U.S. determined to see prosecution of Toronto-born terror suspect

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**IDNUMBER** 200708110020  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters / Omar Khadr is the lone Canadian being held by U.S. forces at the Guantanamo Bay facility. ;  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**BYLINE:** Norma Greenaway  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 389

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WASHINGTON – The Bush administration won't ask Canada to take back Toronto-born terror suspect Omar Khadr as part of its efforts to reduce the population at controversial Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, a U.S. government spokesman said yesterday.

The government is determined to bring Mr. Khadr to justice in the United States, said Jeffrey Gordon, a spokesman for the U.S. Defence Department.

"Omar Khadr is facing trial by military commission for murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, material support to terrorism," Mr. Gordon said. "He's alleged to have killed a U.S. medic with a grenade. He is facing trial by (U.S.) military commission and we believe he must be held accountable for his actions." Mr. Gordon said the Canadian government has not requested Mr. Khadr's transfer to Canada because it understands the 20-year-old is among the Guantanamo detainees whom the U.S. government intends to try for war crimes.

On Thursday, U.S. President George W. Bush told a news conference his stated goal of closing down the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay was proving difficult, in part, because the government was having trouble getting some countries to take back their detained nationals. He also expressed sympathy for their position.

"This is a fairly steep order," he acknowledged. "A lot of people don't want killers in their midst, and a lot of these people are killers." Mr. Khadr, captured six years ago, is the lone Canadian held at Guantanamo. Human rights groups have urged Prime Minister Stephen Harper to bring him home, but Foreign Minister Peter MacKay has made it clear that the government has no plans to protest U.S. plans to put Mr. Khadr on trial.

Mr. Khadr's military trial has, however, become bogged down in legal challenges.

The U.S. military alleges he threw a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer during a firefight in southern Afghanistan in July 2002.

It also accused Mr. Khadr of spying on U.S. forces, planting roadside bombs, and training with al-Qaeda following the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001.

The U.S. government, sensitive to international criticism over conditions and processes at the prison, has already transferred some detainees out of Guantanamo. About 80 of the estimated 355 people held at the facility have been cleared for release. The government is weighing a request from the British government to transfer five detainees to Britain.

# 'Carrying on the traditions' of the Devil's Brigade; Veterans took part in a special celebration of their achievements yesterday, writes David Pugliese from CFB Petawawa.

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

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**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Mike Carrocetto, the Ottawa Citizen / Second World War veterans of the Devil's Brigade look on during a ceremony at CFB Petawawa yesterday. The retired members of the First Special Service Force swapped stories and made new friends while watching exercises performed by Canadian and U.S. special forces soldiers. ; Photo: Mike Carrocetto, the Ottawa Citizen / A group of Canadian and U.S. special forces soldiers, some of whom served in Afghanistan and Iraq, demonstrated rappelling into a landing zone yesterday in front of an audience of several hundred. ; Photo: Mike Carrocetto, the Ottawa Citizen / Delbert Stonehouse, 83, holds a special ops commemorative coin. He is a former member of the First Special Service Force. ;

**BYLINE:** David Pugliese

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 775

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The old and new of Canada's special forces came together yesterday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the Second World War—era First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa as part of events for their 61st annual reunion. The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. special forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of whom have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Mr. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the U.S.

"It's marvelous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between locations in the U.S. and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa this morning. The ceremony, starting at around 10:45 a.m., will also include a fly-past by Canadian special operations helicopters.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning itself a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established its legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are just more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade. CANSOFCOM includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward, U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted into a landing zone in front of an audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machineguns mounted on Humvees to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft also took part in the display, dropping practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, Michigan, said military life appears pretty much the same as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he explained as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of military parachuting.

Canadian Special Operations Regiment commander Lt.–Col. Jamie Hammond said the special operators of today and the veterans of the Devil's Brigade have a commitment to excellence. "These people share a common bond," he said.

The regiment is designed to take on its own missions or support Joint Task Force 2, the military's counter-terrorism and special forces unit. The military acknowledged last fall that the Special Operations Regiment, based in Petawawa, had deployed troops to Afghanistan, but it has not released details of its operations. JTF2 has also been operating in Afghanistan for a number of years.

Lt.–Col. Hammond said that although the weapons have changed, the special operators of today undergo the same high level of training that Devil's Brigade veterans went through. "It's all the same physical set of demands," he explained after reviewing some of the old training regimes. "If my guys were alive back then, they would have volunteered for that organization and vice versa."

The Second World War veterans also haven't lost any of their feistiness and sense of adventure. More than a few wanted to parachute from a Hercules aircraft, but were not allowed due to safety reasons. Instead, about 20 of the vets had to settle for flying on board a Hercules.

Charlie Mann, a Devil's Brigade veteran from Kincardine, Ont., said he sees a lot of his own unit in the current special operations forces. What has changed is the equipment and aircraft, the 85-year-old said. "The equipment is a lot more compact and the aircraft much larger."

CANSOFCOM hopes to honor the Devil's Brigade by having the command formally accept the unit's battle honours and lineage. Discussions have been ongoing for several years and the process is winding its way through the Defence Department bureaucracy. But military officers are confident the command will eventually acquire the unit's honours and lineage. Mr. Story said the First Special Service Force's association strongly supports such a move.

# PM announces millions for Arctic; Harper plans base, seaport as Denmark makes bid to own Pole

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**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Fred Chartrand, Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, and Gordon O'Connor, the defence minister, announced yesterday that Resolute Bay, Nunavut, located 600 kilometres from the magnetic North Pole, will be the site of a \$4-million military training centre. ;

**BYLINE:** Randy Boswell and Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 979

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper made two major funding announcements yesterday to boost Canada's sovereignty in the resource-rich North as Denmark's science minister claimed his country has a strong case for ownership of the North Pole.

"Canada's new government understands that the first principle of Arctic sovereignty is: Use it or lose it," Mr. Harper said in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, as he announced that the community, about 600 kilometres from the magnetic North Pole, will be the site of a new \$4-million military training centre. The centre is to be manned by up to 100 Canadian Forces personnel at a strategic site along the Northwest Passage.

Mr. Harper also confirmed that the government will spend \$100 million to build Canada's first deep-water Arctic seaport at Nanisivik, on the northern tip of Baffin Island. The port would be key to shipping through the Northwest Passage, which is expected to provide a summer sea route to Asia within decades as global warming melts the ice floes.

The two initiatives will "benefit communities throughout the region by creating jobs and opportunities and enhancing the safety and security of the people who live here." And, along with a 900-person boost to the Canadian Rangers' 4,100-member patrol, the investments will "significantly strengthen Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic."

Meantime, however, Danish science minister Helge Sander was announcing that recent findings by his country's researchers suggest "Denmark could be given the North Pole." His assertion comes on the eve of a Danish-led research expedition to the Arctic and amid intensifying interest among all northern nations in securing shipping and seabed rights in the oil-rich region around the North Pole.

The joint Danish-Swedish expedition, which includes one Canadian scientist, will have its path cleared by a chartered Russian icebreaker. Its aim is to cement Denmark's claims to extended seabed territory north of Greenland, an island controlled by Denmark, Mr. Sander said in a Danish television interview.

Mr. Sander said "preliminary investigations done so far are very promising," suggesting the disputed Lomonosov Ridge — a 1,500-kilometre undersea mountain range that runs past the Pole between Siberia and North America — is a geological extension of the northern coast of Greenland.

"There are things suggesting that Denmark could be given the North Pole," he said.

Canadian scientists, however, believe the Lomonosov Ridge could be seen as a continuation of Ellesmere Island, giving Canada a strong counterclaim against potential Russian and Danish land grabs.

In Ottawa, the Danish ambassador to Canada, Poul Kristensen, said in an interview that "it's no secret that Denmark, on behalf of Greenland" has interests in Arctic resources and "of course, potentially, we can make claims."

While scientists from the five polar nations continue to collaborate on research aimed at mapping the Arctic sea floor, the governments of Canada, Russia, the U.S., Denmark and Norway remain at odds over an area thought to contain one-quarter of the planet's untapped petroleum reserves.

Earlier this month, Russia ruffled feathers by dropping a Russian flag on the North Pole seabed at the end of a deep-sea expedition to claim the mineral riches of the Arctic.

Yesterday, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre called Russia's move "show business more than political reality," adding that: "What is important is that the Russians follow the international legal regulations in force, as they are doing."

Mr. Harper said last week that Russia's flag-planting trek to the Pole shows that "sovereignty in our Arctic is going to be an important issue as we move into the future."

Now the Danes — still at odds with Canada over the ownership of tiny Hans Island in the boundary waters between Ellesmere Island and Greenland — are again pressing their claims to the potentially lucrative sea floor around the Pole.

The Danish government first stated its intent to vie for possible North Pole riches in 2004, when its Hans Island feud with Canada — now being dealt with quietly by diplomats — was still prompting heated public exchanges over the remote and icy rock.

When it comes to potential Arctic oil, "we are speaking of values in the billions," said Denmark's Mr. Kristensen, "and therefore the area, of course, is of interest to us."

University of British Columbia professor Michael Byers, Canada's leading expert on Arctic sovereignty, said in an interview that "all the other Arctic countries are fully committed to claiming the maximum amount of seabed to which they're entitled under the law of the sea convention."

Mr. Byers added that "chartering the Russia icebreaker is a particularly inspired move and should send a strong signal" to the federal government to make sure this country does everything possible to "secure all the seabed that is rightfully ours. The only thing holding us back right now is a lack of political will."

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the five polar nations could acquire huge swaths of Arctic sea floor if they can prove the claimed areas are linked to their continental shelves.

Canada and Denmark have been collaborating over the past two years to gather data on the Lomonosov Ridge. Russia claimed ownership of the ridge in 2001, but the UN sent its scientists back to the Arctic to gather by 2009 more evidence to support the claim.

Canada has until 2013 to submit its territorial claims, but the federal scientist leading the sea floor studies, Jacob Verhoef, said earlier this week there's a chance the research mission could be in jeopardy because of the tight deadline, strained resources and unpredictable Arctic ice conditions.

PM announces millions for Arctic; Harper plans base, seaport as Denmark makes bid to own Pole 70

On Thursday, a top U.S. climate researcher announced that the Arctic ice cover is shrinking faster this summer than at any time since reliable satellite images of the polar cap became available in 1979.

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who has been under fire over his handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, joined Mr. Harper for the announcement, despite repeated calls from the opposition for him to be fired or demoted in a cabinet shuffle expected next week.



# Long-term planning for Cabinet; Comment; Firm Grip On Power Gives Conservatives Many Options

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.08.11

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**COLUMN:** In Ottawa

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / The familiar faces of Indian affairs minister Jim Prentice, left, and defence minister Gordon o'connor are expected to remain in the shuffled cabinet, though prentice may be in line for a promotion. ; Black & White Photo: John Kenney, CanWest News Service / The familiar faces of Indian affairs minister Jim Prentice, left, and defence minister Gordon o'connor are expected to remain in the shuffled cabinet, though prentice may be in line for a promotion. ;

**BYLINE:** John Ivison

**SOURCE:** National Post

**WORD COUNT:** 827

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Cabinet shuffles were simple under the Liberals. The Prime Minister's Office would brief their friends in the press, who would then pretend to speculate, with uncanny accuracy, on the potential outcome.

Under the Conservatives, things are as clear as Newfoundland fog. Rumours sound round Ottawa like foghorns, but even ministers are left guessing as to their provenance. The night before the shuffle, they will get a phone call and a warning not to tell even their own families, on pain of the offer being rescinded.

Articles written on the impending shuffle should carry the advisory that they carry zero grams of hard fact. As proof, take the ramblings of one newspaper sage in the days before Prime Minister Stephen Harper named his first Cabinet. This latter-day Nostrodamus — let's call him "JI" — offered up the names of 23 Tory MPs as potential Cabinet members. Come the shuffle, 17 made it into Cabinet but JI managed to predict just three portfolios correctly.

Perhaps the most useful thing that can be said with regard to the impending shuffle is an explanation as to why it is happening at all.

The most obvious reason is that the Conservative polling numbers are not where the Prime Minister would like them to be. As one Conservative put it: "As a government [we] are about as shiny as a Christmas present on Boxing Day — the thrill has gone." Mr. Harper is said to be keen to remedy this by putting his top performers in priority portfolios.

Another key reason is that the new parliamentary session will likely signal subtle but substantial changes in tone on the part of the Conservatives. The passage of the fixed-elections legislation means that the next general election will take place in October, 2009, unless all three opposition parties combine to bring down the Harper government. Since none are yet ready to fight an election, Mr. Harper can plan for another two years in office with some confidence.

Since forming a government early last year, the Conservatives have been in constant campaign mode, desperate to get things done before an election call, and often mistaking motion for action. This has not yielded the desired reaction from voters, so senior Conservatives suggest the government is set to switch gears and offer up a more considered, long-term agenda when it brings down a Throne Speech this fall.

Guessing who will win and who will lose out in the game of musical chairs to come is unlikely to enhance an already flawed reputation for prognostication, but a number of outcomes seem plausible.

First, we may see a fairly broad shuffle so that no one is singled out for blame, in the way that Rona Ambrose was tarred in last January's mini-shuffle.

Second, don't be surprised if Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor rides out recent storms and remains in his post. Editorial comment has been unanimous that Mr. O'Connor should be axed, but if we know anything about Mr. Harper it is that he thinks media pundits are all idiots and relishes any opportunity to help others arrive at the same conclusion.

Moreover, Mr. O'Connor has his supporters who point out that, while he is not a polished politician, he has forced \$25-billion in equipment purchases through Cabinet and understands the challenges Canada faces in Afghanistan.

Third, Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice is widely viewed as the most competent member of Cabinet and is overdue for a promotion. He may get it this time around, having missed out in January when he was pre-occupied with a number of structural reforms on the Aboriginal file.

Finally, there are unlikely to be any new members of the ministry but we could see a number of the secretaries of state promoted, including Jason Kenney (Multiculturalism), Helena Guergis (Foreign Affairs) and Gerry Ritz (Small Business and Tourism). Mr. Kenney, who has had the task of selling the Conservative party to ethnic communities across Canada, could be handed the Heritage budget to continue his work.

Canadians may justifiably yawn and ask whether it matters who is in Cabinet, since Mr. Harper makes all the decisions and his only criteria appear to be that ministers do what he says.

But the make-up of the Cabinet is an issue that should concern all Canadians. Walter Bagehot, the 19th-century English journalist, once called Cabinet the "buckle which fastens the legislative part of the state to the executive part of the state," and that remains true today.

Even a prime minister as supreme as Mr. Harper can't make every decision, and a strong minister can be the difference between a good idea making it through Cabinet and it being ground down into pablum.

It may not mean as much to the average voter as it does to ministerial staffers — who are even now being asked to settle up their tabs in office coffee klatches by their public service colleagues.

But it is certainly worth dragging yourself away from the dock for five minutes to find out for sure who is going to be running the country for the next two years.

jivison@nationalpost.com

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICAL PARTIES; POLITICIANS; POLITICS; CANDIDATES; OPPOSITION

# Taliban, south Koreans begin face-to-face talks over hostages

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A22  
**COLUMN:** World Report  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: / (See hardcopy for Photo Description);  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 240

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The Taliban began the first round of face-to-face talks with a South Korean team late yesterday over the 21 hostages it is holding. The talks were held in an area under the control of the Afghan government in Ghazni province, a provincial official said. Earlier, a Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said Kabul had guaranteed the safety of the Taliban negotiators. The Taliban kidnapped 23 Korean Christian volunteers, 18 of them women, more than three weeks ago from a bus in Ghazni, about 140 kilometres the southwest of the capital Kabul. The insurgents killed two male captives after deadlines passed without their demands being met, which prompted South Korea to seek talks with the Taliban. Its main demand is the release of Taliban prisoners held by Kabul. Seoul says it has no power to free jailed Taliban and the government of President Hamid Karzai has ruled out any prisoner swap after it was criticized for freeing a group of Taliban in return for an Italian journalist in March. Afghan officials have said force might be used to rescue the hostages if the talks fail. The Taliban has split up its captives and says any use of force would risk their lives.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; BOMBINGS; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; SOUTHKOREA

# F ICTION

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Weekend Post: Books  
**PAGE:** WP16  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: / A Thousand Splendid Suns;  
**SOURCE:** The Daily Telegraph  
**WORD COUNT:** 478

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## A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini Viking Canada 384 pp., \$34

One of the most dramatically effective moments in the new novel by Khaled Hosseini, the best-selling author of *The Kite Runner*, is when the middle-aged husband of Mariam, a child bride, brings home her first burqa. The description is matter-of-fact. "The padded headpiece felt tight and heavy on her skull, and it was strange to see the world through a mesh screen ... The loss of peripheral vision was unnerving." Hosseini notes with irony that this inhibiting costume is traditionally "sky blue." The girl has to practise walking in it so as not to trip up.

At its best, this novel is a view from inside the burqa of Afghanistan's history over 30 years, from Communism to gangsterism, apparently reaching its nadir with the grim nihilism of the Taliban. The story begins in the 1970s, shortly after the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. It ends in April, 2003, just as Britain and the U.S. began their fateful misadventure in Iraq. By then, the Taliban had been driven from power, though they were still dangerously at bay.

At the centre of the narrative are two women, two men and three marriages. Both the women, when we first encounter them, are girls, and both will be unceremoniously thrust into adulthood. They come from very different families.

Mariam is the abandoned illegitimate daughter of a wealthy, spineless sentimentalist, who, rather than take responsibility for her, allows her to be pressed into marrying a man three times her age and as many times her size. Laila, by contrast, is the educated daughter of a teacher. When Soviet troops capitulate and the mujahedeen run riot, she is separated from her youthful lover and companion, and forced to take cover with Mariam and her husband.

To the humiliation of both women, a claustrophobic situation rapidly becomes polygamous, and the house becomes a kind of prison camp; a prison within the prison that is Afghanistan under the Taliban. At the same time, nostalgic memories of the cities of Kabul and Herat in happier times, of the graciousness of spiritual Islam, of the ancient Buddhas of Bamiyan (destroyed in 2001), help to nurture an underlying hopefulness.

This is the strongest part of the novel, and the writing is clear and unfussy, the story swiftly and grippingly told. But it's hard not to feel that thanks mainly to the twists and turns of the narrative, and Hosseini's understandable eagerness to give us a balanced and hopeful picture, he averts his gaze a little too easily from the full extent of the horror that is out there.

As the author knows better than most, this is a country in which there are roughly two million war widows, almost as many beggars as burqas, and where more women immolate themselves today than did under the Taliban.

**KEYWORDS:** 0

# These films about Pakistan are as fiercely independent as the country

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**DATE:** 2007.08.11  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Weekend: Take 5  
**PAGE:** I3  
**COLUMN:** Around the World in DVDs  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: (DVD cover of Silent Waters.); Colour Photo: (DVD cover of The Clay Bird.) ;  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** JEFF HEINRICH  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 559

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Pakistan is one of the most fascinating – and worrisome – countries on Earth.

Ruled by a military dictator, feared as a nuclear power, prey to Islamist extremism, stalemated in Kashmir and buffeted by the war in neighbouring Afghanistan, the Muslim republic is a geopolitical hot spot.

With 165 million people, it's also one of the world's most populous nations (sixth from the top, in fact), and a fiercely independent one as well.

On Tuesday, Pakistanis celebrate a milestone: 60 years of self-rule. It was in August 1947 that colonial Britain divided the Raj into two separate countries along religious lines. One was India, the other was Pakistan.

That split – and the violence unleashed, in which one million people died and 14 million were displaced – was the source of much of today's unrest on the subcontinent.

Here are four films set during and after that watershed period of history in Pakistan, when Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs fought for primacy of their religion and way of life. It's a struggle that – unlike its victims – never seems to die.

Earth (India/Canada, 1998) Lahore, 1947. A Parsi girl has a Hindu nanny, and the Hindu nanny has a Muslim beau, and all is harmony until the upheaval of independence when the British leave the place to the zealots. Banned on release in Pakistan, this is the second film (between Fire and Water) in Canadian director Deepa Mehta's acclaimed trilogy. Avoid the pan-and-scan Canadian Seville DVD; the U.S. Zeitgeist release is widescreen.

The Clay Bird (France/Pakistan/Bangladesh, 2002) Before the Liberation War in 1971, which killed 3 million of its people, Bangladesh was East Pakistan, and this film is situated there in that bloody time. It's a family drama about a peasant boy sent to a madrasa (a Muslim boarding school for boys), and about his father's blind faith in Muslim brotherhood, even while the murderous Pakistani army is at the gates. A fine Milestone/New Yorker DVD, with informative extras.

Partition (Canada/South Africa/Britain, 2007) An old-fashioned melodrama, this Canadian-made epic set in 1947 is about the doomed love affair of a young Muslim woman (Smallville's Kristin Kreuk) and a former Sikh soldier in the British army (Jimi Mistry). It was filmed in B.C., Delhi, Punjab and Derbyshire by Kashmir-born veteran director Vic Sarin. The Seville DVD is widescreen, anamorphic and boasts 5.1 Digital sound in both English and a French dub.

Silent Waters (Pakistan/France/Germany, 2003) A disturbing film about the plight of ordinary women caught up in religious extremism in Punjab two decades after independence. In 1979, after General Zia-ul-Haq declared a new Islamization policy and local villagers take the law into their own hands to root out dissidents, a widow flashes back to horrible Muslim-Sikh "honour killings" she witnessed as a child. The DVD is part of First Run Features' enlightening Human Rights Watch series.

And two titles that deserve a DVD release: Two excellent Pakistani films by exiled director Jamil Dalhavi are unavailable on DVD: the military-coup movie *The Blood of Hussain* (1981), which was banned by Zia and forced Dalhavi to flee the country; and *Immaculate Conception* (1992), about a childless Western couple in Karachi who visit a fertility shrine run by eunuchs but get set up for deception.

[jheinrich@thegazette.canwest.com](mailto:jheinrich@thegazette.canwest.com)

## 7 Quotes; "Things they said this week"

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**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
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**KEYWORDS:** WAR;  
TERRORISM  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 264

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Saturday August 4

"We cannot say that tomorrow, all terrorist activity will stop. ... But in general, the security situation is good in Kandahar and it is getting better day by day."

Asadullah Khalid, governor of Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

Sunday August 5

"I think they're doing some things to help the Afghan government. I think they're also doing some things to help the Taliban, including providing weapons."

U.S. defence secretary Robert Gates, on comments by Afghan President Hamid Karzai that Iran was more a friend than a foe for his country.

Monday August 6

"The public seems to have the impression that a bishop can push a button and fix things. I have no legal or political authority to intervene."

Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, appealing for an end to a labour dispute that has halted operations at Notre Dame des Neiges cemetery. Hundreds of bodies are in refrigeration, awaiting burial.

Tuesday August 7

"Canada has a choice when it comes to defending our sovereignty over the Arctic. We either use it or lose it. And make no mistake, this government intends to use it."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, commenting on a Russian mission that planted the Russian flag deep under the North Pole.

Wednesday August 8

"I'd rather inconvenience some commuters than go to any funeral."

Laval Mayor Gilles Vaillancourt, commenting on the temporary closing of the Viau Bridge after a bus driver



noticed a hole in the road. The bridge was reopened after an inspection cleared the structure.

Thursday August 9

"It was good to have them by my side.

It was encouraging."

Martin Provencher, father of Cédrika Provencher, 9, who disappeared from her Trois-Rivières home on July 31. He was visited by two fathers who have lost daughters in similar circumstances.

Friday August 10

"Water is our most important resource worldwide. The quality and quantity of water in the world will determine the course of human and natural history."

John Downing, a speaker at a major Montreal gathering of international experts in the study of inland waterways.

# Dubya is no Rambo

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**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
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**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 58

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Re: "Save us, Rambo" (Opinion, Aug. 9).

The notion that nations don't do anything to help themselves, but wait for the United States to be their Rambo, makes no sense.

There are 37 NATO nations already in Afghanistan. If the 37 collective Rambos cannot extricate the South Korean Christian missionaries from their Taliban kidnappers, how can George Rambo Bush do it alone?

Jalaluddin S. Hussain

Brossard

# Rocket man and the new cold war

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**SECTION:** Saturday Extra  
**PAGE:** B5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for illustration);  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** FRASER NELSON  
**SOURCE:** The Spectator  
**WORD COUNT:** 1993

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Last month, Vladimir Putin tested a weapon deadlier than anything developed by the Soviet Union. A missile launched from a submarine in the White Sea entered the stratosphere and returned precisely on target 5,600 kilometres away in the Russian Far East – the other side of the world. Such tests are meant to send messages. The target could just have easily been Tehran, Los Angeles or London. It signalled that Russia means business. After a hiatus of two decades, the arms race is back.

While Britain has been fixated with the Middle East and Iraq, it has paid insufficient attention to the increasingly aggressive noises emanating from the Kremlin.

Putin was never very enthusiastic about Russia becoming a part of the West – but now, flush with gas and oil revenues, he has left its orbit altogether. The Russian military is once again treating NATO as the glavny protivnik, the primary enemy, and drawing up plans for a nuclear war. And Putin's explicit aim is to challenge, and then counter, America's world dominance.

As recently as six years ago, such an ambition would have been laughable. Then, Russia was an economic basket case that had been admitted into the G7 group of industrialized nations only as an act of charity. The main security issue in Russia was how to stop its nuclear fuel being sold for scrap to rogue states. But, in those days, oil was \$17 a barrel. Now it is \$75 and rising. For a country that pumps out more oil than any on Earth, save for Saudi Arabia, the consequences could scarcely have been more dramatic. Russia now has a huge surplus, has banked \$50 billion in a "stabilization fund" and has the third-largest currency reserves in the world.

Rather than invest this bounty in Russia's crumbling infrastructure or its imploding health service, Putin has gone on an arms spending spree. In 2001, the defence budget was 140 billion rubles; today, it stands at 870 billion (\$40 billion) – a sixfold increase, and the fastest in Russia's peacetime history. Last year, he added six new intercontinental missiles to his arsenal, 12 launch vehicles, 31 battle tanks and seven Mi-28N night attack helicopters. And this is but a small taste of what is to come.

The missile tested recently takes off so fast that no missile-defence system could detect it in time. The new variant of the Topol-M missile will have multiple warheads, which splinter so they cannot be shot out of the sky. The United States' floundering missile defence system cannot hope to offer protection. Washington struggles to keep up: two months ago, another interceptor missile fired off Alaska fell into the Pacific having failed to recognize, far less hit, its target. The United States is losing the ballistic missile game.

Meanwhile, Putin has learned to use energy as a weapon. Russia is sitting on the largest stretch of gas reserves in the world and Europe already depends on Russia for one-quarter of its gas. The Kremlin knows energy security is intimately intertwined with national security, and tested its strength the winter before last when it temporarily suspended gas supply to Ukraine in an argument about prices. Germany is expected to rely on Russia for 80 per cent of its gas within a decade.

Precisely what Putin intends to do with this muscle was made astonishingly clear in February when he delivered a speech at the Munich security conference. It was a "J'accuse" to America, serving notice Russia had moved from ally to adversary. "The United States has overstepped its borders in all spheres – economic, political and humanitarian, and has imposed itself on other states," he declared. "This is the world of one master, one sovereign." And his objective is to challenge such hegemony.

To Britain, all this sounds almost quaintly absurd. The recent debate about renewing Trident reckoned without a nuclear confrontation with Russia. Yet this is precisely what Putin's troops are being trained to expect. The view in London is fundamentally different from the view in Warsaw, which is watching the Kremlin's assertiveness with alarm. In Moscow, much of the Cold War mindset is returning (minus the communist ideology) – whereby NATO is the enemy, and perceived as a growing threat.

The irony, of course, is that by many of its own members,

NATO is seen increasingly as an anachronism. It played no role after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and its peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan have been a testimony only to the reluctance of its members to share an even burden or agree to a clear set of priorities. The phrase "coalition of the willing" became popular in Washington because expectations of NATO solidarity were so low.

In this context of slow decline, the admission of former Warsaw Pact countries into the club is seen simply as an act of friendship. Yet within the paranoid confines of the Kremlin, such gestures are seen as new and sinister manifestations of Western imperialism. When Putin is called upon to explain his extraordinary arms buildup, he points to the expansion of NATO.

The architect of the new Russian military is Sergei Ivanov, for six years defence secretary, now promoted to deputy prime minister and favourite to succeed Putin next March. "In the mid-1990s, we counted on the fact that the collapse of the Soviet Union would lead to the end of the Cold War — that NATO would not move to the east," he said in a recent interview. "But now we see everyone deceived us."

Washington now hopes to position missile defence interceptors in eastern Europe. Congressional funding for the scheme is far from secure, and, seven years ago, Putin said quite explicitly he was happy for a shared anti-missile system to proceed. Yet his response last month was incendiary. If the interceptors were mobilized, the Russian president declared, "then we disclaim responsibility for our retaliatory steps, because it is not we who are the initiators of the new arms race that is undoubtedly brewing in Europe."

In the Kremlin's eyes, there is already an arms race – the only question is how quickly it can respond. Inside Russia, there is regular talk of how its missiles might penetrate any U.S. defence. The military is already on Cold War alert. Three months ago, for example, the Vladimir Missile Army held a five-day exercise simulating full-on nuclear war with the United States. It practised moving its Topol-M missile under camouflage, to fool Western satellites. The army commander then gave details in an interview to the Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper – in full knowledge translated versions would instantly arrive on the desks of Western intelligence agencies. It was the nearest thing to writing the CIA a memo.

These are not the clandestine methods of the Cold War. All this missile testing, ostentatious war-gaming and tub-thumping is clearly designed to draw attention to Russia. It is consistent with a bid to lead a new power axis – perhaps based upon the gas cartel Russia is discussing with Iran, Qatar and Venezuela. Putin visited the

Middle East soon after making his anti-American outburst as if preparing the ground for a new coalition of aggrieved states hostile to the United States.

Whatever his intentions, it is now clear democracy and liberalism have long been dumped from Russia's priorities. Security, order and centralization of power are Putin's key objectives, and the oil revenues have brought wealth that earlier attempts at economic diversification and general entry to Western free markets did not. The old KGB ways are returning – a recent study of the 1,016 most senior officials showed one-quarter were ex-KGB. Among Putin's inner circle, this figure rises to three-quarters. These are Soviet-era men, with Soviet-era approach to the toleration of dissent.

The murder of Alexander Litvinenko, the ex-Russian spy poisoned in London last November, is just the most spectacular example of what goes on all the time in a Russia where broadcasters are now controlled by the Kremlin or Putin's allies. A number of independent journalist critics have been found dead in suspicious circumstances. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, former head of Yukos Oil, remains in jail after a show trial. The West protests strongly, but Putin makes it equally clear he could not care less. He has a legacy to think of, too.

Slowly, the West is beginning to realize what is happening. Angela Merkel, German chancellor and current president of the European Union, has been strikingly robust in criticizing Putin – a stance that won her many fans among the new EU members. Yet Tony Blair was deeply reluctant to accept that things were so bad. He invested much personal time with Putin and visited Moscow during the last presidential election to lend his support.

For all this, Russia knows it can never again become a true superpower for reasons that no ballistic missile will ever be able to reverse. Its rampant drug abuse, alcoholism, rate of HIV infection and other problems add up to a demographic picture worse than that of any non-African country. Russia's population is expected to keep falling by 730,000 a year until at least 2015. Its defence budget is less than five per cent of the United States' – for all the damage its missiles would cause, it would end up second-best in any nuclear war. A country dependent on oil money for one-third of its budget is also hugely vulnerable to a drop in oil prices.

Yet it is precisely this fragility that makes Russia so dangerous at the moment. It is North Korea's weakness that has led it to militarize so heavily, and instruct its army to prepare for war with the United States. Putin might be stepping down, but he is clearly trying to set Russia on an aggressively military and nationalist trajectory. The more desperate Russia becomes, the less predictable it will be.

The military is not waiting around. In January, Russia's military chiefs met to discuss security and deliver keynote speeches. One after the other, they asked for the governing military doctrine of their nation to be redrafted, explicitly naming the United States and NATO as the primary enemy. In March, the Russian security council duly announced it no longer considered terrorism to be the greatest threat, and instead unveiled a new strategy based upon "geopolitical realities" – namely that rival military alliances were becoming stronger, "especially NATO."

Six years ago, when George W. Bush first hosted Putin at his ranch in Texas, he famously claimed to have seen into his soul. At the time he phrased it slightly differently to an adviser, unaware his microphone was still live and his remarks were being broadcast over the speaker system in the next room. "I've got him eating out of my hand," the president whispered. "You give these Russkies some cake and they'll give you their souls."

How things have changed. In Putin's recent trip to Maine, it was Bush who was doing the back-peddalling, agreeing to ditch the Pentagon's plans for the missile interceptors in Poland. They joked, shared a speedboat, ate lobster and played fetch with their dogs. But it is now time for realpolitik. The free market has perished in Russia, and a petro-economy has taken its place. Russia is no longer a junior partner for the West, but a growing adversary.

Putin will smile – but rearm Russia as he smiles. And the new arms race continues apace.

# Successors honour Devil's Brigade; Special-ops veterans reunite at Petawawa

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: MIKE CARROCCETTO, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE /Canadian JTF2 and U.S. Special Forces graduates rappel from a helicopter while conducting an exercise yesterday at CFB Petawawa in front of veterans of the Devil's Brigade, the famed Second World War special-operations squad. ; Colour Photo: MIKE CARROCCETTO, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Special-ops veterans watch the ceremony yesterday at CFB Petawawa. The so-called Devil's Brigade is looking for recognition from the federal government for its work during the Second World War. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.

**BYLINE:** DAVID PUGLIESE

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 410

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The old and new of Canada's special forces came together yesterday as commando veterans from the Second World War and those who have served in Afghanistan swapped stories and made new connections and friendships.

U.S. and Canadian veterans from the wartime First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, were in Petawawa – about 167 kilometres northwest of Ottawa – for their 61st annual reunion.

The old-time commandos were joined by U.S. Special Forces soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, some of whom have returned from Afghanistan.

"We're interested in forging a new relationship between the old guys who started it all and the young men who are now involved in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Bill Story, a Devil's Brigade member. Story, 86, originally from Winnipeg, now lives in the U.S.

"It's marvellous meeting all these young people," added 86-year-old Devil's Brigade veteran Eugene Forward from Lancaster, Ont. "They're carrying on our traditions."

Fifty of the veterans, along with their families, showed up for this year's reunion, which alternates annually between sites in the United States and Canada.

The veterans, as well as serving special forces members from both countries, will attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa this morning.

The First Special Service Force was a joint U.S.–Canadian unit that fought with distinction during the Second World War, earning a reputation as a hardened and professional fighting formation. The unit established its

legendary reputation fighting to liberate Italy.

The veterans estimate there are a little more than 300 of their comrades still alive.

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) trace their roots back to the Devil's Brigade. CANSOFCOM includes Joint Task Force 2, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Company.

As the veterans looked skyward, U.S. and Canadian special forces parachuted in to a landing zone in front of the audience of several hundred people. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment also put on a display of firepower as troops used heavy machine guns, mounted on Humvees, to destroy targets on a nearby range. CF-18 fighter aircraft dropped practice bombs on targets.

Herman Kasoff, an 82-year-old First Special Service Force veteran from Farmington Hills, Mich., said military life appears pretty much as it was when he was in the Devil's Brigade. "It's hurry up and wait," he explained as Canadian and U.S. paratroopers got ready to board aircraft for a display of parachuting.