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Legion plans day to support the troops; Public invited to wear red, take part in activities on June 30

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A sea of red. That's how Bonnie Atkins describes a planned gathering June 30 to show appreciation for Canada's armed forces fighting in Afghanistan.

Atkins, who works at Moncton Branch #6, Royal Canadian Legion, has been working to organize a day-long Support Our Troops Benefit.

The day will show the soldiers that Canadians care and bring a little bit of warmth to their hearts with pictures, a signed banner, video of singers doing karaoke for the troops and cash to help pay for coffee and doughnuts for the soldiers at the Kandahar Air Field Tim Hortons.

She wants everyone to be treated to coffee and baked goods to let them know we care.

The event was intended to last two hours but has since quickly snowballed as more and more people came onboard.

The day will begin at the Legion Hall at 100 War Veterans Ave. at 8 a.m. with a car wash to be manned by young volunteers.

There will also be a craft and bake sale and a barbecue, said Atkins, as well as a pool and shuffleboard tournament.

Half of the proceeds from the tournament and all of the money from the car wash and rental of tables, along with karaoke night, will be sent to the Legion's Dominion Command to help with the coffee fund.

Anyone who wants to sing a song for the troops is asked to contribute at least \$2 and the song is recorded on video which will be sent over as moral support.

A dance is also planned in the evening along with a minute of silence for fallen soldiers and a performance of a special song written for the Canadian Soldier.

One of the highlights of the day will be when hundreds of people wearing red T-shirts will be grouped outside for a picture.

Atkins asks everyone to make it a point to come out and support the troops even if they don't believe in the cause.

Atkins said this time of year is particularly difficult for troops having to contend with extreme heat and stinging sand storms and missing out on summer activities back home.

Maybe they can forget the war for a few minutes enjoying a break and watching the video, she added.

Right now, Atkins is asking for more helpers to ensure the event runs smoothly and that there is relief for the volunteers already signed up.

The Legion's membership rolls have swelled so far this year, possibly because of the war and the Canadian troops risking their lives, she said.

People who had let their membership lapsed renewed.

Many more joined for the first time, some of them soldiers and families and friends of soldiers.

Her goal is to see 500 red T-shirts waving to the troops, but is hoping for twice as many.

n Anyone needing further information can contact the Legion at 855-3364 during the day and 384-7139 from noon to evening.

Prince Harry heats up Calgary nightlife; Break from military training at Alta. base has tabloids buzzing

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Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week became fodder for a British tabloid yesterday, which published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World featured pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar overnight Wednesday.

The story said Harry's night out occurred hours after Britain mourned the death of the 150th British soldier to be killed in Iraq.

Harry, third in line to the Throne and a British army officer, is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat.

There have been reports Harry may be deployed to Afghanistan, after British military officials decided not to allow the Prince to serve in Iraq.

The News of the World piece includes quotes of one of the women, Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, about her encounter with Harry.

Canada's Sun Media is reporting that Cymbalistry negotiated a deal to sell her story to a British tabloid for an undisclosed amount of money, attributing the information to the nightclub's manager.

Cymbalistry was quoted in Canadian newspapers last week as describing Harry as "prince charming," who kissed her on the cheek.

But she gave a far more racy account to News of the World.

The tabloid quoted her as saying that Harry asked her if she was wearing underwear and she claims he also asked her to take off her top.

"He (Harry) was obsessed about my outfit and bra top. He was very forward," Cymbalistry is quoted by News of the World.

Harry's nocturnal activities have provided the British tabloids with plenty of fodder over the years.

He has long been regarded as the wilder of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana's two sons.

In the past there have been stories of marijuana use, underage drinking and an early morning scuffle with a paparazzi photographer outside a London nightclub.

He made headlines in 2005 when he chose a Nazi outfit for a fancy dress party.

The more mainstream Sunday Times reported Harry is training in Alberta for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

The paper said Harry was sent to CFB Suffield to receive additional training on Scimitar armored reconnaissance vehicles.

Harry had been expected to deploy to southern Iraq in the next few weeks but Army Chief of Staff Gen. Sir Richard Dannatt said after traveling to Iraq that the situation there had become too dangerous and media scrutiny of the plans had exacerbated the situation.

Dannatt said the move was due to threats to the prince and risks to the safety of his fellow soldiers.

Canada seeks speedy delivery of military planes; Pentagon 'favourable to idea' of early delivery of Hercules aircraft

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National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co– operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor — Airbus Military — tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

Canada seeks speedy delivery of military planes; Pentagon 'favourable to idea' of early delivery of Hercules

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C-130E and C-130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue-jumping request for early delivery of four C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH-47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.-based Boeing Aircraft Corp.

Is Paris really sorry?; Celebutante's new jailhouse contrition may be a cynical ploy, say experts

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One day Paris Hilton is screaming for her mommy as she is cuffed and taken to the pokey in a reckless driving case. The next, she's the model of magnanimity, saying she wouldn't appeal her 45-day sentence and that she is "learning and growing" from her time behind bars.

An insincere buffing of an image scuffed like a pair of last season's Jimmy Choos? Maybe. Effective? Probably, say veteran Hollywood image-makers.

"Based on the way the story has been playing out, this is a good move for her," said Michael Levine, who has served as publicist for dozens of celebrities, including Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand and Bill O'Reilly. "Experience has taught me that celebrities respect wisdom but obey pain. What I mean by that is that when they feel the heat they see the light."

If Levine were working with the celebutante, he would recommend she show she has learned from the experience by fading from the party scene for a while and getting behind sympathetic causes like Angelina Jolie, who traded her bad girl credentials to become a mother and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations.

"When you're in a hole, it's generally a good idea to stop digging ... from doing the same idiotic stuff that got you in trouble in the first place," Levine said.

Hilton's publicist, Elliott Mintz, did not immediately return e-mail or phone messages.

Hilton was at a maximum-security detention centre yesterday, where an AP photographer saw her sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos go in on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

She has been at the downtown facility since Friday, when Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail. Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Hilton was taken from Sauer's courtroom in tears and calling for her mother.

Hilton's lawyers had sought to have her released on grounds that the 26-year-old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday.

"During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this experience," she said.

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her newfound humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

"Showing is doing," he said. "If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?"

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy — or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw.

"I think that the public this time is disgusted with her and probably asking themselves why they even bother," he said. "So she's on the brink of becoming a caricature or a person. And I think she does have that choice. The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult."

Hilton's path to jail began Sept. 7, when she failed a sobriety test after police saw her weaving down a street in her Mercedes-Benz on what she said was a late-night run to a hamburger stand.

She pleaded no contest to reckless driving and was sentenced to 36 months' probation, alcohol education and \$1,500 US in fines.

In the months that followed, she was stopped twice by officers who discovered her driving on a suspended licence. The second stop landed her in Sauer's courtroom, where he sentenced her to jail.

Sands describes Hilton's change of heart as a "media ploy."

But unlike actor/director Mel Gibson — who remains on the fringes after he launched an anti-Semitic tirade at the police officer who arrested him for drunken driving last summer — Hilton will emerge smelling as sweet as her namesake perfume, he said.

"She will become a real Hollywood star from this experience," he said.

"If she handles it like a famous person and goes to a military base, visits Walter Reed, then Hollywood will embrace her. It's very forgiving. It's not like she insulted the Jews."

Afghan president survives assassination attempt; Taliban fire rockets at Hamid Karzai, missiles fall short

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Taliban militants fired rockets near President Hamid Karzai in an apparent assassination attempt in central Afghanistan yesterday, but the missiles fell far from their target and no one was hurt, officials and witnesses said.

The assassination bid was one among a spate of attacks that killed at least 66 people, mostly militants, over the weekend.

Karzai was giving a speech to the elders and residents of Andar district in Ghazni province when rockets were fired nearby, said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, provincial police chief. No one was hurt, he said.

Witnesses said they heard between three and six rockets, but the Taliban claimed it fired off 12.

The rockets missed their target, with two of them landing some 200 metres away from the crowd, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter attending the event.

"Please sit down," Karzai told a nervous crowd under a tent in a school yard. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life since he became president following the ouster of the Taliban regime from power in 2001.

Purported Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi told The Associated Press that Taliban militants were behind the attack.

"The Taliban knew that Karzai was coming to Andar district. When Karzai was meeting with the people, the Taliban fired 12 rockets," Ahmadi said by satellite phone from an undisclosed location. "The rockets fell nearby."

Khial Mohammad, a legislator also at the event, said during the speech "we heard the sounds of rockets whizzing over our heads" before slamming down in the distance.

Watch it, you might have to eat your words!

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Another hearty good June morning to everyone! To start this week's peek at words, language and all things related I've something on the lighter side of the equation:

Edible words

Well. . . at least these are words that the people who uttered them should perhaps have known that one day they'd be eating them. . . figuratively speaking, that is, as in "you're going to have to eat you words, believe me!"

And if there is any serious point in here, it'd be this: be very cautious indeed about using "superlatives" and other words that leave no room for debate or exceptions, because they have a nasty habit of coming back to haunt you! And for those wondering, a superlative is an adjective or adverb that "expresses the highest degree of a quality" — bravest, most fierce, impossible, only, never, always and other such seemingly innocent words. And if you do use them, be prepared to be corrected if you haven't done your homework and made sure the word is a good choice.

Having said that, here are a few quotations from people, famous last words, you might say, that have haunted them ever since:

1. "Who the H*** wants to hear actors talk?" — H.M. Warner of Warner Brothers movie studio, 1927.
2. "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." — Decca Recording Co. explaining why it wouldn't sign the Beatles, 1962.
3. "Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." — Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929 shortly before the market crash that caused the Great Depression.
4. "No flying machine will ever fly from New York to Paris." — Orville Wright.
5. "Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction." — Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872.

Award for what?

This one has been kicking around in my files for a little while and I thank our photographer Greg Agnew for bringing it to my attention. At the end of April the pop singer/celebrity (and it is hard to tell which is the more important career in this case) known simply as "Beyonce" was given a "lifetime achievement award" by a music industry group. Pretty impressive, eh? I mean, gosh, not every 27-year-old can claim to have gotten one of those! Yes. . . 27. Uhm. . . the music industry may be sharp at promotion, but by gum they don't know

Watch it, you might have to eat your words!

a darn thing about the definition of words. At least not that word "lifetime." How's she gonna top that for the next 50, 60 or 70 years, which are, of course in front of her if she lives a normal lifetime? She's got twice as many or more years ahead than she has behind. That's gotta be the most misguided award of the year, and the year is still young. Or just a fine example of horrendous unthinking abuse of our language.

Picture this

I know a fair number of professional photographers, including those who work here at the newspaper, and I have great appreciation for their work and expertise. It's a fine profession and takes every bit as much skill and knowledge to become an expert as many other professions. And heaven knows, it can be a demanding job, often done under adverse conditions. Sometimes it is even dangerous. How many videos have you seen of a football player or other sports figure crashing into a photographer or cameraman? If none, check out the Internet, its full of them! And these are pros who know where to position themselves and stay out of the way. And still accidents happen. Anyhow, there's no reason such professionals shouldn't call themselves "photographers" and do so proudly. That's what they are!

So was I the only person to cringe recently when I heard news reports of a Canadian soldier who died in a helicopter downing in Afghanistan? Not just because of the bad news, which of course has its own impact every time we get such news, but also because the Canadian Armed Forces people kept calling the victim an "image tech." Yep, no photographers, no cameramen, not even (ugly word) any "videographers", but only "image techs"! Seems to me the jargon-laden realms of our society, including our military, could benefit greatly from the services of a "language tech". . .

Get it right!

Here's another reality check for those who call themselves journalists and writers but nevertheless have a propensity to choose the wrong words. What are readers to think when they read, as many thousands undoubtedly did in these pages not long ago, that the deer that invaded the press gallery portion of the legislature buildings caused damage by the "thrashing of a reporters desk and computer" before it jumped out the window? Yes, "thrashing" is what appeared in print, but it is rather obvious that the writer meant "trashing". There is a significant difference! And given how often such errors occur, I'm beginning to think that thrashings should be occurring. . . and not in stories!

Just pun

And to conclude today, a few puns just for the chuckles:

"¢ Dijon vu: the same mustard as before.

"¢ A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

"¢ Local Area Network in Australia is the LAN down under.

"¢ Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death.

"¢ The definition of a will is a dead giveaway!

"¢ A good pun is its own re-word.

The last word

Here is author and philosopher C. S. Lewis with some wise advice for writers, beginners or veterans:

Watch it, you might have to eat your words!

"Don't use words too big for the subject. Don't say 'infinitely' when you mean 'very'; otherwise you'll have no word left when you want to talk about something really infinite."

n Lex Talk! is researched and written by Times & Transcript editorial page editor Norbert Cunningham. It appears in this space every Monday.

Letters | No evidence for support of war

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To The Editor:

Charles Moore's column of June 6 ("Don't say you support troops unless you do") is his usual blend of emotional bluster and soggy reasoning. And that's OK when you're writing the propaganda that seems to be his main product. But he made a terrible mistake in including something that looked like a fact.

You see, when he uses something that looks like a fact — and it isn't — it gives a bad impression. The reader is left wondering whether the writer knows what he's talking about or — how can I put this? — whether he is not quite telling the truth.

He says that in the beginning a substantial majority of Canadians affirmed support for the Afghan mission.

Now, that is half true.

In the beginning, a majority of Canadians did express support for a mission — of acting as peacekeepers in a section of Afghanistan in which keeping the peace was a reasonable possibility.

But in their latter days, the Liberals changed that mission to a war mission, and moved them into a war area. There was no majority support for that, and no significant debate. (By the way, Mr. Moore should also understand that in a democracy support for government policy is usually affirmed by parliamentary vote, not by opinion polls.)

The Conservatives confirmed that change and extended it. Again, there was no debate until after the decision had already been made.

So, and despite the impression given by Charles Moore, there is no evidence that a majority of Canadians, substantial or otherwise, has ever supported the present war mission in Afghanistan.

Most Canadians certainly support our troops — despite Mr. Moore's contemptible slur that they don't. But that support means doing what is best for the troops, not what is best for Mr. Harper.

The lesson for Charles Moore is surely clear. Rant all you like. But avoid "facts" like the plague.

Graeme Decarie,

Baie Verte

(Via e-mail)

Where are the priorities?

To The Editor:

Taxes increase, hydro increases, road repairs decrease, schools falling down, less money for health care, food banks being overburdened, but wait a minute — there is \$1 million for harness racing.

Where are the Graham government's priorities? Certainly not where they should be!

Does this not sound like the days Frank McKenna came to power?

The cost of living for minimum wage earners or those on fixed incomes is becoming more difficult every day, where will it all end?

Maybe we will all end up in the poorhouse at the rate Shawn and company are running things!

Ray Ward,

Salisbury

Tax the churches to house homeless

To The Editor:

The numbers of the homeless increase; their circumstances worsen ("Homeless Hotel event sends message" June 4, A4).

How to alleviate this situation?

I suggest that religious places of worship — churches, synagogues, mosques — be taxed, and the funds used to feed the hungry, house and clothe the poor.

Those of us who are not religious are weary of underwriting tax-free places of worship. Let those who use such venues pay for them and pay taxes like the rest of us. But the point here is not to question an inequitable tax system.

Religious places of worship may have to shut down — they can't afford the taxes. Or their members join with others. Or, as many traditions have done in early days — before opulence emerged — use homes for worship. Paying taxes/ closing churches may help religions to re-energize. But the point here is not to give faith traditions an effective sense of mission.

Religious places of worship burn oil for structures used a few hours each week — a great waste. But the point is not to complain about the religions' prodigious contribution to global warming.

Years ago, I toured a magnificently rich Buddhist complex in Japan. On the way out, I said I was struck by its opulence. The guide told me that a man from India, also on his way out of the shrine, asked with puzzlement, "But I thought the Buddha was a poor man?"

This past weekend at the annual conference of the Maritime Conference of the United Church in Sackville, a Halifax city clergyman told about his pain at the sight of so many homeless people. "Often, when I open my office door, I step over a homeless person."

Perhaps that church could be renovated to provide apartments for those with no roof over their heads.

Admittedly, housing is a part, though a huge part, of a troubling situation. Tax dollars from religious venues could also be used for social and mental assistance, along the lines suggested by Judge Irwin Lampert in an address a few weeks ago in your story "Judge debunks myths surrounding crime," (April 24, A3).

Tax the religious places of worship — churches, synagogues, mosques — use the funds to house and make homes for those now homeless.

Eldon Hay,

Sackville

(Via e-mail)

River better left alone

To The Editor:

Tonight coming home from work I crossed the causeway from Moncton to Riverview and there were some young people with signs saying "SAVE THE RIVER."

While I salute their cause and dedication, I fear they are quite misinformed.

I grew up on this river just below Hillsborough in the 1950s and 1960s. We all fished and played on the banks almost daily (great memories). No one would like to see it back to that condition more than myself, but I fear that the river of that time is just that, memories.

Back before the causeway and for a time after I drove a truck. Aside from gravel and snow, we hauled domestic garbage. This was all dumped in landfills along the Moncton side of the river. At this time many plants and industries dumped waste such as chemicals, paints, oil, and much more in these sites.

If the most remote possibility exists that by the very saving of the river it may result in these things being washed out and causing an environmental disaster, then I implore you to research this thing to death.

It is being said about the causeway that it should never have been done. I would ask Shawn Graham to not let his legacy to be as the man who poisoned the river, the Bay of Fundy and perhaps the lobster fishery of the same.

And I would ask all readers of your paper to make known their opinion. Please don't sit quietly by and watch this happen.

Roy M. Steeves,

Salem

(Via e-mail)

Defence wants cargo planes sooner

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PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A3
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 367

National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, said a senior Defence Department official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase of 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co– operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor — Airbus Military — tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian Air Force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C–130E and C–130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997,

are reaching the end of their life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue-jumping request for early delivery of four C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH-47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.-based Boeing Aircraft Corp.

The first of the massive four-engine C-17s, which can lift 77,500 kilograms of equipment, including battle tanks, begin arriving this summer.

The helicopters are more problematic. Countries in line to receive new Chinooks have been unwilling to budge, and Canada has also requested a series of modifications to the choppers.

Public opinion shifting in Khadr case

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SECTION: Front
PAGE: A4
DATELINE: TORONTO
SOURCE: Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 395

Canada may be finally waking up to the fact that it should protect the human rights of one of its citizens held in a U.S. military prison in Cuba on terror-related charges, even though it condemns the crimes he is alleged to have committed, a human rights organization says.

The claim follows the recent dismissal by U.S. military judges of charges against Omar Khadr, the youngest member of a Canadian family linked to al-Qaida, who is accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan in 2002, when he was 15.

The dismissal prompted editorials critical of the U.S. government's handling of his case and brought out other public comment that possibly heralds a shift in opinion on his treatment.

John Tackaberry, a spokesperson for Amnesty International Canada, said the Khadr family's connections to al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden have made some people reluctant to speak out on principles at stake in his treatment because they did not want to be associated with the family.

"What the politicians have had difficulty doing is differentiating between the rights and responsibilities of themselves in terms of protecting human rights and looking at the mechanisms that are being used — and the individual who is involved."

The human rights group thinks "it's not innocence or guilt, but the issue is that everyone deserves to be treated in a way that respects the highest standards of human rights protection," including Khadr, Tackaberry said.

"The fact that they are beginning to speak out and that there is an editorial recognition and a beginning of a change of opinion is a positive sign."

But experts caution that dealing with Khadr and other detainees in Guantanamo Bay poses problems not contemplated in the past.

John Thompson of the Mackenzie Institute, a think-tank specializing on security and terrorism issues, said al-Qaida has exposed "a hole" in the international law, making it difficult to try terror suspects using existing international conventions.

"An international terrorist organization was unheard of when the Geneva Conventions were being written up and that's a central problem," Thompson said.

According to Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention, prisoners of war are members of an armed forces that

belong to a party in the conflict, have fixed distinctive signs, carry arms openly, conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war and profess allegiance to a government or an authority not recognized by the detaining power.

But in the case of al-Qaida, "who's the political authority we treat with?" Thompson asked.

British tabloids feast on Harry's 'slobbering'

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PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Bartender Cherie Cymbalisty, 22, holds a cardboard cutout of Prince Harry outside the Cowboys Niteclub in Calgary. ;
DATELINE: LONDON
SOURCE: Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 137

Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week has become fodder for a British tabloid, which has published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World features pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid has posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar last Wednesday.

The story includes an interview with one of the women, Cherie Cymbalisty, 22, about her encounter with Harry.

Sun Media is reporting that Cymbalisty negotiated a deal to sell her story for an undisclosed amount of money, attributing the information to the nightclub's manager.

There have been reports that Harry is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

British military officials have rejected the idea of allowing Harry to serve in Iraq because of the added danger to the third in line to the Throne, as well as other British troops.

Dion facing an uphill battle to become prime minister

IDNUMBER 200706110090
PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A6
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Stephane Dion;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: CHANTAL HEBERT
SOURCE: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 490

Six months into Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's tenure, the best that can be said about his party's fortunes is that they are only as flat as those of the Conservatives. Over the past year, neither of the main parties in the House of Commons has managed to move the needle its way.

But if some of the top reasons for the stall in Conservative support are policy-related, the same cannot be said of the Liberals who sit on the popular side of most national arguments, starting with the environment and Canada's role in Afghanistan.

And while the party does share that territory with the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois, neither can be described as being on a roll these days.

Dion also has the benefit of the stronger team in Parliament. His seatmates bring more governing experience to their tasks in opposition and larger profiles nationally. Yet none of that is translating into a surge in support.

Some of Dion's current challenges are predicaments familiar to former leaders of the opposition of every persuasion.

All leaders need time to grow into their jobs and, in the past, it is those who have had the luxury of doing so who have tended to be successful on the election trail.

In Dion's case, the more obvious kinks are in the process of being ironed out.

His English remains a work in progress. But it has been improving along with his performance in question period.

In any event, for all the attention paid to the daily matches between the opposition and the government, there is no evidence that voters automatically equate a rabidly aggressive opposition leader with a promising prime minister.

If so many Canadians put up with Jean Chretien's fragmented English, it was because they had grown comfortable with his style.

Ultimately, Dion is no more a social animal than the prime minister he is seeking to unseat. He will never set empathy records. But he does have the inside track on Harper on congeniality.

There are also signs that fatigue in the rest of Canada with leaders from Quebec will not, on its own, be enough to stop voters from turning to the Dion–led Liberal party. To wit the respectable Liberal score in Atlantic Canada where the Conservatives are enduring a lasting budget backlash.

But Quebec is inexorably dragging the Liberals down and there are precious few indications that Dion or his advisers have a clue as to how to stop their party's ongoing slide into electoral oblivion.

In his home province, Dion is now the least popular of the four federal leaders, behind the NDP's Jack Layton.

In recent polls, the Liberal party was pegged in the low teens in francophone Quebec, a score so dismal as to spook all but politically suicidal candidates from running in the next election.

Last December, many Liberals saw Dion as a shortcut to a Quebec recovery. They calculated that the native son factor would offset their party's dismal 2006 election score.

But in Quebec the victory of a candidate so closely associated with the Liberal record in power was widely seen as confirmation that the party saw no need to rebrand itself.

Today, that sense is keeping the Bloc alive and giving the Conservatives and the NDP hopes for a larger place on the Quebec landscape.

Until that changes, the chance that Dion will lead the Liberals to power will remain slim, no matter how much he improves his act in the Commons or outside his home province.

Chantal Hebert covers national issues.

Nott uses guile to prevail at NBIS

IDNUMBER 200706110059
PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.06.11
SECTION: Sports
PAGE: B4
BYLINE: MIKE POWER mpower@dailygleaner.com
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 676

Glyn Nott unleashed some late lap lightning to earn his first feature win of the season Saturday evening at New Brunswick International Speedway.

Nott, who calls Burton home, took charge on the 13th and final lap of the Martin's Home Heating Sportsman Division feature race to snatch victory away from young driver Matt Maillet and veteran Dave Biggar. The race had been an exciting three car duel over the final 10 laps until Nott finally won out.

Nott has been one of the top performers in the sportsman division for a decade and that experience showed in a decisive moment late in the race.

Early on, it was Maillet with the early lead after passing pole sitter Doug Craswell. When Maillet made his move, Biggar went with him staying close. The two cars put a sizable distance between themselves and the rest of the field in those early laps.

However, as the race progressed, Nott, who came off the grid in the 12 spot and Brian MacNaughton began to reel in the two leaders. What had been a huge gap was closed to less than a car length by lap 20.

As the final laps ticked away, MacNaughton fell off the pace while Nott began to mix it up with the two leaders.

Maillet was hanging on for dear life as his two pursuers probed high and low, and Maillet's #29 car was clearly not what it had been earlier the race.

"I had just a terrible car late in that race," Maillet said. "It just kept getting worse as it was going right away from me."

With three laps to go, Nott in his MacDonald's/Jardine Auctioneers #12 Monte Carlo made his move. As they began to edge out into the outside groove, the Maillet car began to drift as well. The two cars touched with the part in front of Nott's wheel well tapping the rear of Maillet.

And it was there that Nott's experience paid off. Instead of panicking, he held his line and forced Maillet down, allowing the #12 car to pull alongside for the eventual pass on the final lap.

"I have to thank Matt for giving me room there," Nott later said. "When we touched it knocked the steering wheel right out of my hands. But I got it together and was able to keep going."

As they roared down the back stretch for the final time, Nott completed his mission and claimed the top spot for keeps. Meanwhile Biggar, following in his wake, also moved past Maillet to grab second spot.

The win marked the second time in as many weeks a member of the armed forces stationed at Base Gagetown had won the sportsman class feature, and for the second time it was a friend of the late Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede. Last week it was Richard Atkinson. Master Cpl. Priede died two weeks ago in a helicopter crash while on duty in Afghanistan.

Nott always races with a large yellow Support our Troops Ribbon painted on the roof of his car.

"I have a lot of friends overseas," Nott said. "I race for them every week. Just this week we brought (Master Cpl. Priede) home, myself and Richard were among the pallbearers, it was a very sad time, very difficult. The guys still over there are proud to do what they do and we're proud of them."

In the Coast Tire Street Stock Division, it was reigning champion Rick Cashol of Saint John in the #54 Moosehead Breweries Chevelle overpowering some tough challengers to come from 11th on the starting grid to take the win.

He was challenged by Matt Banks in the #69 for top spot early in the race but the two cars got together briefly and Cashol emerged with the lead. Banks got loose and slipped to third. That opened the door for another Saint John driver, Mike Francis, to make a charge but he ran out of laps. Francis settled for second and Banks third.

In the CARQUEST Pro Stock Division, the #20 Rexall Monte Carlo of Greg Fahey took the lead on lap four and kept the lead until he received the checkered flag on lap 40 for his first feature win of the season.

It was also the St. Stephen resident's first feature win in four seasons dating back to when he was still racing in street stock.

Finishing almost half a track behind him in the second was Glenn Rasmussen of New Denmark and rounding out the top three was Dave O'Blenis out of Boundary Creek near Moncton.

Canada puts rush order on Hercules aircraft

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PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
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SECTION: Dgfront; Dgcity
PAGE: A1
BYLINE: The Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 355

National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the U.S. department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules. "We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

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"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor -- Airbus Military -- tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C–130E and C–130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue–jumping request for early delivery of four C–17 Globemaster heavy–lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH–47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.–based Boeing Aircraft Corp.

News Digest

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WORD COUNT: 370

Boys die after locking themselves in trunk

LONDON, Ky. (AP) — Two young brothers accidentally locked themselves in the trunk of their mother's car and were found dead about four hours after they were reported missing, state police said Sunday.

"Preliminarily, it appears that this is just a tragedy," said state Trooper Don Trosper. "These boys were out playing and they accidentally got themselves locked in the trunk."

Their grandparents called police Saturday to say they had not seen their grandsons for about three hours, said Laurel County Coroner Doug Bowling.

The bodies were found in the trunk of a 1996 car at their mother's home, about three kilometres south of London in eastern Kentucky, Bowling said.

Federal law requires cars made beginning in 2002 to have release latches inside the trunk.

Bowling identified the boys as eight-year-old Chase Baker and 11-year-old Coty Baker.

Napoleon's sword fetches a pile of gold

FONTAINEBLEAU, France (AP) — A gold-encrusted sword that Napoleon wore into battle in Italy has sold today for more than US\$6.4 million at an auction south of Paris.

The Osenat auction house says that the sword — the last of Napoleon's swords in private hands — had been expected to fetch more than US\$1.6 million.

The buyer has not been immediately identified.

Auctioneer Jean-Pierre Osenat says the intricately decorated blade is 97 centimetres in length and curves gently — based on an inspiration Napoleon drew from his Egyptian campaign.

Prince Harry has fun with Calgary gals

LONDON (CP) — Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week has become fodder for a British tabloid, which has published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World features pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid has posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar last Wednesday.

The story includes an interview with one of the women, Cherie Cymbalisky, 22, about her encounter with Harry.

There have been reports that Harry is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

Amusement ride leaves passengers shaken

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — A dozen riders on a roller coaster spent half an hour hanging upside down — 46 metres above the ground — after a power outage shut down the attraction.

It took about 30 minutes for the city Fire Department to rescue the riders using a ladder truck Saturday evening, said Aundrea Crary, spokeswoman for the Springs & Crystal Falls amusement park.

Spectators cheered when the riders were brought to the ground from the highest point of a loop on the X-Coaster, but one passenger threw up after reaching safety.

The X-Coaster was one of several rides brought to a halt by the outage that originated somewhere near the park.

One X-Coaster passenger, Jay Plummer, 37, was taken to hospital in Hot Springs after complaining of neck pain and a headache.

Letters

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SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: C8
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 263

U.S. policy questioned

Lately, the Bush administration has pressured the United Nations for stiffer sanctions against Iran because, according to their sources, that country has pursued the creation of nuclear weapons.

Let us hope the American sources are more reliable this time than they were concerning Iraq's supposed caches of weapons of mass destruction.

If one looks at the geography around Iran however, one may find the American allegations are likely to be true.

Iran is sandwiched between Iraq on one side and Afghanistan on the other; both countries are occupied by large contingents of armed forces.

If you were in Iran's shoes what would you do? What would the U.S. do? The enemy is not even at their door, and the U.S. is already pounding with "pre-emptive" strikes. Maybe what Iran says about using weapons for self-defense has some truth to it.

Years ago, President Bill Clinton declared Saddam Hussein could not defy the will of the world. Pardon me, but what country defied the will of the world, the UN and invaded Iraq anyway?

More recently, Bush chastised Iran for not acting like a country and advancing their cause beyond their borders. Hello? What country constantly meddles in other countries' affairs to insure American-style democracies are promoted? Think of Vietnam, Cuba, South America. Glass houses?

Finally, when your own country is loaded with the latest in nuclear weaponry, who are you to demand that others not do the same? What authority have you to make such demands?

Perhaps this constant application of double standards is why some Americans feel ashamed of their own nationality. Perhaps this is where you find the roots of some anti-American sentiment which is really unfortunate because the United States has given much to the world and could be a truly great nation.

Guy Vézina

Fredericton

KARZAÏ VISÉ PAR DES ROQUETTES LES TALIBANS FRAPPENT À 150 MÈTRES DU LIEU OÙ SE TROUVAIT LE PRÉSIDENT

SOURCETAG 0706110218

PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 39

ILLUSTRATION: 1. PHOTOS AFP Le président afghan Amid Karzaï, hier, pendant une rencontre avec des dirigeants locaux. 2. Les deux roquettes ont explosé tout près du bâtiment qui abritait le président afghan.

BYLINE: AFP

DATELINE: MIRI, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 227

MIRI, Afghanistan — (AFP) Deux roquettes tirées par les talibans dans la province de Ghazni sont tombées hier, sans faire de victimes, à environ 150 mètres du lieu où se trouvait le président afghan Hamid Karzaï.

M. Karzaï rencontrait des chefs tribaux dans une école du village de Miri, dans le district d'Andar, à quelque 200 kilomètres au sud-ouest de Kaboul, lorsque deux roquettes sont tombées en dehors du périmètre de sécurité, dont l'une à environ 150 mètres du rassemblement, selon un soldat sur place de la coalition dirigée par les États-Unis.

La réunion n'a pas été perturbée et personne n'a été touché.

M. Karzaï est ensuite rentré "comme prévu" à Kaboul, selon un responsable gouvernemental ayant requis l'anonymat.

Revendiqué par les talibans

Un porte-parole des talibans, Youssouf Ahmadi, a revendiqué par téléphone ces tirs, affirmant que 12 roquettes avaient été au total tirées en direction du rassemblement.

Le mollah Momin, qui se présente comme le commandant en chef des talibans dans la province de Ghazni, a précisé par téléphone à l'AFP que les rebelles avaient été informés de l'organisation d'un grand rassemblement à Miri et avaient planifié une attaque sans savoir au préalable que Karzaï s'y trouvait. "Nous n'avons su qu'il était là-bas qu'aujourd'hui", a-t-il déclaré.

M. Karzaï, dont les déplacements se déroulent toujours sous haute protection, était sorti indemne d'une tentative d'assassinat en septembre 2002 à Kandahar, la grande ville du sud du pays.

En septembre 2004, des rebelles avaient également tenté d'abattre au RPG son hélicoptère dans la province de Paktia. !@MOTSCLES=AFGHANISTAN

À L'ENTRAÎNEMENT AFGHANISTAN

SOURCETAG 0706110205
PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Nouvelles
PAGE: 33
BYLINE: PC
DATELINE: WAINWRIGHT, Alberta
WORD COUNT: 155

WAINWRIGHT, Alberta -- (PC) À deux mois de leur déploiement en Afghanistan, quelque 2100 soldats québécois poursuivent leur entraînement intensif à la base militaire de Wainwright, en Alberta.

Depuis février dernier, ils participent à des exercices de simulation, qui reproduisent les conditions difficiles qu'ils auront à vivre sur le terrain.

Le capitaine Eric Chamberland, officier aux affaires publiques de l'armée canadienne, souligne que les militaires québécois ont hâte d'entamer leur mission de six mois en Afghanistan, même si plusieurs d'entre eux éprouvent une certaine nervosité naturelle. Selon lui, tout en étant conscients que leur vie sera en danger dans un pays toujours instable, ils réalisent que les techniques apprises et répétées ces derniers mois vont réduire considérablement les risques encourus.

L'entraînement auquel les soldats sont contraints ne laisse rien au hasard. Ils ont du se prêter à des exercices dans toutes les conditions climatiques, afin de mieux faire face à l'environnement local.

!@MOTSCLES=FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

TIRER NOTRE RÉVÉRENCE DE L'AFGHANISTAN EN 2009 AFFAIRES MILITAIRES

SOURCETAG 0706110193

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SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 26

BYLINE: MICHEL DRAPEAU COLLABORATION SPÉCIALE

WORD COUNT: 704

Il doit y avoir anguille sous roche pour qu'un premier ministre mette de côté toutes ses préoccupations d'État pour faire le trajet Ottawa–Afghanistan afin de casser la croûte pendant deux jours avec 2500 soldats canadiens.

À quelle fin? Pour leur dire qu'il n'a pas encore fixé la date de leur rapatriement? Soyons sérieux! Le monde entier sait que notre engagement prendra officiellement fin en février 2009. Mais, ceci ne faisant pas l'affaire de Stephen Harper, son périple de cinq jours n'avait qu'un seul but : faire basculer les sondages en faveur de prolonger la mission afghane bien au-delà de 2009. C'est clair comme l'eau de roche.

UNE MISSION QUI TAXE NOS EFFECTIFS

Entre les mois d'août 2003 et de novembre 2005, les militaires canadiens ont fait partie de la Force internationale d'assistance à la sécurité à Kaboul, en Afghanistan. Ensuite, comme membre de l'Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique du Nord (OTAN), le Canada a pris l'engagement de déployer une force opérationnelle interarmées beaucoup plus musclée au sud de l'Afghanistan, d'abord jusqu'en février 2007, et ensuite jusqu'en 2009. Ce contingent est fort de plus de 2500 soldats.

Pour une petite armée comme la nôtre, une telle contribution mobilise le gros de nos effectifs opérationnels. Cela veut dire que nos casernes au Canada sont vides et qu'il est impossible pour l'armée d'entreprendre une quelconque autre mission, au Canada ou à l'étranger, jusqu'au rapatriement de nos troupes, en 2009. Juste à temps pour assurer la sécurité des Jeux olympiques qui auront lieu à Vancouver du 12 au 28 février 2010.

DE FRANCS SUCCÈS

Je n'ai aucun doute que les soldats canadiens actuellement affectés en Afghanistan jouent un rôle clé dans le cadre de la mission de la Force internationale d'assistance à la sécurité de l'OTAN, dont l'objectif consiste à accroître la sécurité en Afghanistan et à aider à la reconstruction du pays. Je n'ai aucun doute aussi que nos vaillants militaires nous font honneur par leur courage, leur détermination, leur dévouement, leur compétence et leur très belle discipline. Mais cette mission coûte très cher au Canada. Sur le plan humain, à date, la mission a coûté la vie à 56 de nos braves militaires et au moins 400 autres ont été blessés. Qui plus est, une fois la mission terminée, en février 2009, de 15000 à 16000 militaires canadiens auront servi en Afghanistan, plusieurs à quelques reprises. Il faut reconnaître aussi les multiples sacrifices exigés des familles de nos militaires. D'autre part, sur le plan financier, la mission coûte au bas mot 1,8M\$ par jour en dépenses d'opérations courantes. En février 2009, on aura ainsi dépensé approximativement cinq milliards pour maintenir une garnison en terre afghane.

PROLONGEMENT DE LA MISSION

En mai 2006, à peine cinq mois après son arrivée au pouvoir, le gouvernement Harper avait réussi à faire entériner, par une faible majorité des députés – un vote de 149 à 145 –, le prolongement de la mission afghane jusqu'en février 2009. Aussitôt fait, le gouvernement et les hauts gradés militaires se sont évertués à nous dire, avec un crescendo sonore et stupéfiant induit d'un monopole du patriotisme, qu'il serait maintenant malvenu de rapatrier la garnison en 2009 car seule une moitié des objectifs pour mater la violence et les menaces incessantes qui constituent le principal obstacle à la reconstruction du pays seront alors atteints. Et ceci, même si personne ne peut prédire avec précision pendant combien de décennies additionnelles il faudra maintenir un contingent pour détruire l'héritage des talibans et des réseaux terroristes d'Al-Qaïda et mettre fin au soutien du Pakistan au mouvement insurrectionnel afghan.

Sans le dire, le gouvernement Harper semble avoir évacué l'idée de faire pression sur nos alliés au sein de l'OTAN pour qu'ils prennent la relève de notre contingent en 2009. Il ne faut donc pas être surpris d'apprendre que le Canada va maintenir sa garnison en Afghanistan pour encore un bon bout de temps. Surtout lorsqu'on sait qu'un chef de gouvernement reçoit normalement un éclairage flatteur lorsque son armée est déployée sur un pied de guerre donnant au gouvernement en place des avantages politiques et diplomatiques certains.

Barmaid paid princely sum to kiss and tell; Aspiring model collects more than \$30,000 for tell-all tale of her hot date with Harry

IDNUMBER 200706110090
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: AFP/Getty Images / This image from towergaming.com shows Cherie Nicole Cymbalistry, named as one of "Canada's Hottest Bartenders." Cymbalistry and Prince Harry had a reservation for a private room in a Calgary lounge Saturday night. ; Photo: Odd Andersen, AFP, Getty Images / Prince Harry is in Alberta with the British army at a base near Calgary. ;

DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Paula Beauchamp and Sean Meyers
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 411

CALGARY — A British tabloid reportedly paid Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry more than \$30,000 for the tell-all tale of her royal night with soldier-turned-party-boy Prince Harry.

Sources close to Cymbalistry said her cheque for the exclusive report titled "Harry's Phwoar" was more than \$30,000, but refused to confirm the exact amount.

British newspapers have panned Prince Harry, 22, since photographs emerged of him at Calgary's Cowboys bar last week kissing Cymbalistry and her colleague, Tiffany Sims.

Cymbalistry, 22, claimed the prince asked if she was wearing underwear and invited her to take off her top.

The prince and Cymbalistry had a reservation for a private room in a local lounge Saturday evening, said the establishment's manager. But it's not yet clear if the pair ever appeared.

"At this point, he has a private area [reserved] in the Geisha room," said Wild Ginger manager Steve Tokos early Saturday evening. "It's a closed, completely reserved area. I want to keep his privacy as best as possible."

Contacted later Saturday evening, Tokos said he was asked to not comment on the prince and wouldn't confirm or deny whether the pair showed up at the downtown lounge.

Chris Tahn, who is representing Cymbalistry, said the 22-year-old aspiring model hoped to springboard her career off the publicity surrounding her night with the prince.

"It is absolutely our plan to explore opportunities with magazines such as Playboy and Maxim," he said.

"Cherie would love to feature in them."

Tahn said he would start approaching men's magazines this week.

It is understood Cymbalistry, who took the weekend off, has signed a confidentiality agreement with News of the World that will bind her until June 25.

Asked whether Cymbalistry had dashed her chance of becoming a princess with the tell-all tale, Tahn said "possibly."

"Prince Harry is no stranger to the public eye," he said. "Maybe he knew this would happen and wanted to do something special for Cherie."

Cowboys manager Doug Donald said Cymbalistry "certainly doesn't drive an expensive car," saying it was nice an ordinary girl got to mingle with a prince.

Calgary bartenders often earn minimum wage, which is topped up with tips, making the \$30,000 paycheque appear easy money.

University of Calgary pop culture expert Rebecca Sullivan said she was not surprised Cymbalistry had turned her encounter with the prince into a money-making opportunity.

"There are always going to be girls willing to dress like that and work at bars like Cowboys, and there will always be someone like Prince Harry ready to take advantage of that."

She said Cymbalistry may be setting a poor example for other young women by selling a story that describes intimate details of the encounter and providing scantily clad photos of herself.

The photos were posted on the News of the World website yesterday.

A spokesman for Buckingham Palace reached yesterday said reports in British tabloids that the prince had been restricted to base at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta were "not true."

British papers have reported both that Prince Harry might fly directly to Afghanistan from Alberta and that he is ready to quit the army.

Truth about Taliban often elusive for Canadians

IDNUMBER 200706110081
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
DATELINE: ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 556

ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan — Maj. Dave Quick and Capt. Mark Shepperd are losing patience fast. The two Canadian infantry officers are trying to suss out whether Taliban fighters are using this tree-lined Afghan village as a base, but the answers seem to change by the minute.

At first the local elders insist there are no insurgents, then suggest the militants march through occasionally, then say no one actually sees the fighters because they move only at night.

In fact, intelligence has indicated that as many as 30 insurgents operate out of the area. And, the Canadian soldiers say, such conversations often end with someone shooting at them.

"If we are attacked," threatens Quick, the youthful-looking commander of the Royal Canadian Regiment's India Company, "I'll mark this location, and we'll bring a bomb down on it."

Shepperd throws out his own challenge to the crowd. "If any of these men are Taliban, I invite them to take a shot at me, and I'll take his head off."

Nothing resolved, India Company heads out of Ashoquah and into the countryside beyond, a lush, close-packed terrain of vineyards, pomegranate orchards and waddis, the ancient system of Afghan irrigation canals.

This time, there is no attack, though the troops see two suspected insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades who hightail it when spotted.

It seems typical of the ghost war being waged in Zhari district, the main battleground for Canadian troops these days, and a place where identifying Taliban among the local population is almost half the fight.

Sometimes, the insurgents quickly remove bodies and even shell casings from battle sites to try to erase any evidence that they had fought and lost comrades, the Canadians say.

It is also a difficult — and atypical — landscape for combat. While much of southern Afghanistan is desert and craggy mountain, the Arghandab river and the irrigation network have turned Zhari, 30 kilometres west of Kandahar city, into a maze of vegetation, mud walls and waterways.

Troop-carrying vehicles cannot get in, meaning all the operations are conducted on foot.

The troops of India Company, based in Gagetown, N.B., have fought several battles with the insurgents in the

last month or so as temperatures punched to 50 C, though luckily have suffered no combat–related casualties. And on at least one occasion, they know that people who insisted their village was free of Taliban were lying. In firefights later, the troops found those same locals among the dead combatants.

The latest mission into Zhari is prompted by a series of ambushes and improvised–explosive devices planted on the highway only minutes away from Ashoquah village.

A Portuguese army convoy was attacked just the night before, with two vehicles hit by RPGs and rifle fire.

Trying not to draw attention, troops stationed at Ma'Sum Ghar forward–operating base take a back route into the area, marching through a mountain pass early in the evening. They set up camp and wait another six hours, attempting to sleep on mattresses of jagged rock.

At 1:30 a.m., they move out again, using night–vision goggles that cast the landscape in an eerie green glow.

As the sun comes up, the troops move into Ashoquah.

Small boys and men of all ages gather around in an almost festive atmosphere to witness the heavily armed Canadians' arrival.

A unit of Afghan National Army soldiers arrives soon after and does a more thorough search of the village. Farther along, tanks await in case of trouble. As it turns out, none arrives.

The Canadians do seem to be winning this war, reducing the Taliban to a much weaker force than they were last year in neighbouring Panjwai district, where intense fighting took several Canadian lives, says Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Canada's Afghanistan forces.

For the soldier on the ground, though, it still seems like a tough slog.

Taliban fire rockets during Karzai speech

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PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan
SOURCE: New York Times
WORD COUNT: 74

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants fired rockets on a district town yesterday as President Hamid Karzai was giving an address to elders and residents during a visit to Ghazni Province, south of Kabul, officials said.

Three rockets were fired by Taliban insurgents, but they landed some distance away without harming anyone or interrupting the proceedings, said the provincial governor, Mirajuddin Pathan.

Karzai was speaking to residents of the Andar district, which has suffered from frequent violence by insurgents.

Military's clients don't have to fight for contracts; 40 per cent not put out to bid, study says

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PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
KEYWORDS: TENDERS
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 460

OTTAWA – Forty per cent of military contracts awarded over the last year were done so without any type of competition among companies, and the use of such sole-source deals is on the rise, according to a report to be released today.

Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found that the percentage of the value that such non-competitive contracts account for in defence spending has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on an urgent basis. Many of the deals were for other items such as fuel, building supplies and moving expenses.

"I think this report raises some important questions about accountability and transparency," said Bruce Campbell, the director of the CCPA. "We're talking about some big bucks being spent by a government which has staked its claim on accountability."

In the government's 2004–2005 fiscal year, almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition between firms, according to the study. By fiscal year 2006–2007, the sole-source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004–2005, non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion dollars spent that year, about \$1.4 billion went to sole-source deals. That \$9-billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters, which is considered a competitive contract.

But by 2006–2007, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non-competitive deals, according to the study. In that period \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The issue of defence procurement has been on the front-burner for Parliament since last year when the

Conservatives announced \$17 billion in new military equipment purchases. Those are on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on new equipment for Afghanistan.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement and Auditor General Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole-source competitions. And a number of opposition parliamentarians have raised questions in the Commons about whether Canada is getting the best value from non-competitive deals.

The Harper government, however, counters that the military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for what could be a drawn-out competitive process.

But the report's author, Steve Staples, pointed out that most of the contracts in the data provided by Public Works are not related at all to the Afghanistan war.

Afghan leader finished speech amid Taliban rocket attack; Failed assassination southwest of Kabul marks third attempt on Karzai's life

IDNUMBER 200706110091

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A7

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: AFP, Getty Images / Afghan President Hamid Karzai ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; BOMBINGS; NOBEL PRIZE; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN

DATELINE: KABUL

SOURCE: Reuters

WORD COUNT: 265

KABUL – Taliban guerrillas made a failed attempt to kill Afghan President Hamid Karzai with a rocket attack on Sunday, narrowly missing a building where he was giving a speech, Taliban and the government said.

Rockets fell several hundred metres from the government building southwest of Kabul and some of the audience began to flee, but Karzai urged them to stay and finished his speech, a government official and a witness told Reuters.

"Terrorists and enemies of Afghanistan fired three rockets towards the speech venue of Hamid Karzai and the firing of the rockets did not cause any interruption in the program of the president," the palace said in a statement after Karzai concluded his trip.

No one was hurt and Karzai, who has already survived two assassination attempts in recent years, was whisked away after his speech under heavy security, a witness said.

Several helicopters operated by western forces, part of Karzai's security arrangement, were hovering above the site of the meeting at the time of the strike, he added.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, said the Taliban knew that Karzai would be attending the meeting in Andar district of Ghazni province and they fired 12 rockets.

Karzai has been leading Afghanistan since the Taliban's removal from power in 2001, but his critics call him "mayor of Kabul" because they feel his power does not extend beyond the capital, which is fortified by foreign troops.

The government official said the president's visit to Ghazni was a routine provincial trip, though the area has seen repeated recent clashes between Taliban and western and Afghan troops.

Conflict has been worsening in Afghanistan, with more than 5,000 people killed in the past 17 months.

Beaumont erects memorial to fallen son; Cross made from tree grown in Afghanistan a tribute to all soldiers

IDNUMBER 200706110087

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Cityplus

PAGE: A12 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Candace Elliott, the Journal / Cpl. Francisco Gomez's father George, his mother Joan and brother Richard are presented with a smaller version of the memorial cross made from an Afghan tree. ;

KEYWORDS: MORTGAGE RATES; RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE; DISCOUNT BROKERS

DATELINE: BEAUMONT

BYLINE: Amanda Ferguson

SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal

WORD COUNT: 307

BEAUMONT – Etched in a small cross made from the wood of an Afghan tree, the lone name of Cpl. Francisco Gomez sat atop a monument unveiled Sunday in front of the Beaumont town hall.

Below the name were the words, "We remember them all."

The cross recognized Gomez's death in Afghanistan last summer, and was part of a tribute Sunday from Beaumont residents to all Canadian soldiers killed in the war with the Taliban.

"We remember one here today but we are remembering them all," said Gordon Stewart, one of the event organizers, to a gathering of military personnel, Gomez's family and about 75 residents.

"It's important that people appreciate the sacrifices that soldiers are giving, particularly those who make the ultimate sacrifice," Stewart said.

The cross, made from Russian oak, will stand at Beaumont's town hall as a permanent memorial to Canadian troops.

Edmonton-based Gomez, 44, a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was killed in action in Afghanistan on July 22, 2006, when the Bison armoured vehicle he was driving was targeted by a suicide bomber.

The blast killed another Canadian soldier, Cpl. Jason Warren of Montreal, and injured eight others, all but two of them based in Edmonton.

Gomez had less than a week left on duty in Afghanistan when he was killed.

"He was a pretty good friend of mine," said Cpl. James Chad Porter, before breaking down during an emotional speech to the sombre gathering.

Beaumont erects memorial to fallen son; Cross made from tree grown in Afghanistan a tribute to all soldiers

"Cpl. Franky was a general all-around good man and an amazing friend," Porter said.

"He always had a smile his face whether at times of good or bad.

"Whenever he did speak, everyone listened because he either had something really important to say or something really funny."

David Gomez, uncle to Cpl. Gomez, said he was surprised when he heard about the monument.

"This is tremendous," he said.

"But knowing Francisco, he's pretty laid back, calm, he's sort of a shy guy, I think he would be blown away by this. I don't think he'd expect this at all, but I know he would be terribly proud."

Also attending the ceremony were Cpl. Gomez's parents, George and Joan, and his brothers Richard and Robert.

George Gomez said the memorial is touching.

"I appreciate all the people that have come to pay tribute to my son."

He and Joan believe Francisco is still with them.

"We both know that he is very much alive and that is from true experiences my family had, it's not just a belief we have — it's beyond belief."

axferguson@thejournal.canwest.com

DND wants Hercules ASAP; Canada hopes to start receiving new model of cargo planes by 2009

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.06.11

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

SOURCE: CP

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 399

National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and [we're] obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor – Airbus Military – tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C-130E and C-130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue-jumping request for early delivery of four C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH-47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.-based Boeing Aircraft Corp.

The first of the massive four-engine C-17s, which can lift 77,500 kilograms of equipment, including battle tanks, begin arriving this summer.

The helicopters, which are meant to haul troops and equipment around the battlefield, are more problematic. Countries in line to receive new Chinooks have been unwilling to budge, and Canada has also requested a series of modifications to the choppers.

Experts not convinced of Hilton's humility

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.06.11

SECTION: World

PAGE: A6

BYLINE: Andrew Glazer

ILLUSTRATION: Nicky Hilton, sister of Paris Hilton, and Paris' ex–boyfriend Stavros Niarchos arrive at the Twin Towers detention centre to visit Paris Hilton in Los Angeles, on Sunday. (Dan Steinberg /AP)

WORD COUNT: 701

LOS ANGELES – One day Paris Hilton is screaming for her mommy as she is cuffed and taken to the pokey in a reckless driving case. The next, she's the model of magnanimity, saying she wouldn't appeal her 45–day sentence and that she is "learning and growing" from her time behind bars.

An insincere buffing of an image scuffed like a pair last season's Jimmy Choos? Maybe. Effective? Probably, say veteran Hollywood image–makers.

"Based on the way the story has been playing out, this is a good move for her," said Michael Levine, who has served as publicist for dozens of celebrities, including Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand and Bill O'Reilly. "Experience has taught me that celebrities respect wisdom but obey pain. What I mean by that is that when they feel the heat they see the light."

If Levine were working with the celebutee, he would recommend she show she has learned from the experience by fading from the party scene for awhile and getting behind sympathetic causes like Angelina Jolie, who traded her bad girl credentials to become a mother and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations.

"When you're in a hole, it's generally a good idea to stop digging . . . from doing the same idiotic stuff that got you in trouble in the first place," Levine said.

Hilton's publicist, Elliott Mintz, did not immediately return e–mail or phone messages.

Hilton was at a maximum–security detention centre Sunday, where an AP photographer saw her sister Nicky Hilton and ex–boyfriend Stavros Niarchos go in on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

She has been at the downtown facility since Friday, when Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail. Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Hilton was taken from Sauer's courtroom in tears and calling for her mother.

Hilton's lawyers had sought to have her released on grounds that the 26–year–old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday. "During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this

experience."

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

"Showing is doing," he said. "If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?"

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy – or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw.

"I think that the public this time is disgusted with her and probably asking themselves why they even bother," he said. "So she's on the brink of becoming a caricature or a person. And I think she does have that choice. The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult."

Hilton's path to jail began Sept. 7, when she failed a sobriety test after police saw her weaving down a street in her Mercedes-Benz on what she said was a late-night run to a hamburger stand. She pleaded no contest to reckless driving and was sentenced to 36 months' probation, alcohol education and \$1,500 US in fines.

In the months that followed, she was stopped twice by officers who discovered her driving on a suspended licence. Sands describes Hilton's change of heart as "media ploy." But unlike actor/director Mel Gibson – who remains on the fringes after he launched an anti-Semitic tirade at the police officer who arrested him for drunken driving last summer – Hilton will emerge smelling as sweet as her namesake perfume, he said.

'When you're in a hole, it's generally a good idea to stop digging . . . from doing the same idiotic stuff that got you in trouble in the first place.'

Underpaid Afghan police still weak link

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.06.11

SECTION: World

PAGE: A6

BYLINE: Stephanie Levitz

ILLUSTRATION: Afghan police officers pray during a memorial ceremony for Zakia Zaki, an Afghan owner of a radio station, who was shot inside her home, in Jabalussaraj district of Parwan province, north of Kabul, on Thursday. Baby steps is a description often applied to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The training wheels are starting to come off the Afghan National Army, but the police force in Kandahar is still struggling by on a tricycle. (Musadeq Sadeq / AP)

WORD COUNT: 515

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A wide grin breaks under Abdullah's coarse black beard, his eyes twinkling as he hoists a paper certificate into the dry dusty air of Kandahar and shouts: "I will serve proudly, my country Afghanistan."

Raucous applause greets his vow, repeated over and over by graduates of an in–service training program for the Afghan National Police run by Canadians at the Provincial Reconstruction Team base in Kandahar. The eyes of the 23–year–old turned serious when he's asked why he's chosen to join a profession where officers are routine targets.

A Canadian official estimates the death toll is 24 Afghan police officers for every Afghan soldier killed in the fight against the Taliban.

"It is for my country, my family, my people," Abdullah, who like many Afghans uses one name, said through an interpreter.

"If others are prepared to sacrifice themselves for Afghanistan, why shouldn't I?"

Baby steps is a description often applied to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The training wheels are starting to come off the Afghan National Army, but the police force in Kandahar is still struggling by on a tricycle.

"It was impressive to see the quality of the Afghan forces," said Col. Mike Cessford, the deputy commander of Canada's troops in Afghanistan. "We were running into quite well trained, quite well equipped, quite well prepared Afghan army personnel."

But the police forces are falling well behind, Cessford said.

"We are the second line of battle," said Gen. Esmatullah Alizai, the chief of police for Kandahar province.

"We face the same problems, but we don't have the same resources."

Afghan police are paid less, trained less and given less equipment than their Afghan army counterparts.

But the police are on the front lines of the fight against the agile and determined Taliban insurgency just the same, controlling checkpoints and running patrols.

Last month, at least 11 police officers were killed in Kandahar.

Undaunted, the police are opening a new station in one of Kandahar city's most volatile districts within weeks.

Substation 9 sits high atop the Kankala mountain, providing a clear view of routes into and out of Kandahar. Conceived and built by Afghans, it was a project managed and paid for by Canadians from the PRT.

Nargis, 32, said she lies to her neighbours when they ask her what she does, saying she's a school teacher rather than a police officer involved in searching female suspects.

"It is a very risky job," she said.

"During operations I hide my face with a burka because if I will be recognized I will be killed."

The station's structure also reinforces the challenge facing Afghan police.

"Unlike in Canada, where we are not worried about drive-by rocket attacks, the building had to be designed for that," said Sgt. Roger Foucault of 1 Engineering Support Unit who oversaw the project.

The station is the first of nine that will be either rebuilt or refurbished with the support of the PRT. A completely new building costs about \$250,000.

Providing a safe work space should be an enticement for people to join the police, said Col. Muhammad Hussein, an Afghan Interior Ministry official stationed with the Canadian Forces at the PRT as a liaison between the various security groups.

There are about 4,000 officers in Kandahar province, 62,000 in the country. They are paid US\$70 per month, compared to around \$100 for soldiers.

The current pay scale isn't attracting the right people, said Raf Souccar, the assistant commissioner for federal and international operations with the RCMP.

"In the western world, corruption exists for greed and power," he said.

"Corruption here may exist for greed and power but to a greater extent it exists for basic needs. Putting a roof over their head, feeding their family. Unless you pay them at a scale that puts them beyond the need to get corrupt for basic needs, you are leaving yourself wide open."

'If others are prepared to sacrifice themselves for Afghanistan, why shouldn't I?'

Brits lap up Harry's racy Calgary photos

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.06.11

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, stands with a cardboard cutout of Britain's Prince Harry in front of Cowboys Niteclub in Calgary. Prince Harry took a break from military training last week and stopped in at the popular club in downtown Calgary, where he allegedly took a shinning to the bartender. (PAULA KEHOE / Calgary Sun)

WORD COUNT: 213

LONDON (CP) – Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week became fodder for a British tabloid Sunday, which published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World featured pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar overnight Wednesday.

The story said Harry's night out occurred hours after Britain mourned the death of the 150th British soldier to be killed in Iraq. Harry, third in line to the Throne and a British army officer, is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat.

There have been reports Harry may be deployed to Afghanistan, after British military officials decided not to allow the Prince to serve in Iraq.

The News of the World piece includes quotes of one of the women, Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, about her encounter with Harry.

Canada's Sun Media is reporting that Cymbalistry negotiated a deal to sell her story to a British tabloid for an undisclosed amount of money, attributing the information to the nightclub's manager.

Cymbalistry was quoted in Canadian newspapers last week as describing Harry as "prince charming," who kissed her on the cheek.

But she gave a far more racy account to News of the World.

The tabloid quoted her as saying that Harry asked her if she was wearing underwear and she claims he also asked her to take off her top.

"He (Harry) was obsessed about my outfit and bra top. He was very forward," Cymbalistry is quoted as saying by News of the World.

Canada asks Pentagon for early delivery of new cargo planes

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.06.11

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A3

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

ILLUSTRATION: Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 Hercules by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule. The bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C–130E and C–130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life. (LARRY MACDOUGAL / CP)

WORD COUNT: 414

OTTAWA – National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9–billion purchase of 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor – Airbus Military – tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C-130E and C-130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue-jumping request for early delivery of four C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH-47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.-based Boeing Aircraft Corp.

The first of the massive four-engine C-17s, which can lift 77,500 kilograms of equipment, including battle tanks, begin arriving this summer.

The helicopters, which are meant to haul troops and equipment around the battlefield, are more problematic. Countries in line to receive new Chinooks have been unwilling to budge, and Canada has also requested a series of modifications to the choppers.

'We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010.'

Karzai survives assassination attempt

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)
DATE: 2007.06.11
SECTION: National/World
PAGE: A5
SOURCE: The Associated Press
BYLINE: Rahim Faiez
DATELINE: Kabul, Afghanistan
ILLUSTRATION: Afghan President Hamid Karzai gestures during a news conference at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan in this May 2 photo. – Photo by The Associated Press
WORD COUNT: 219

Taliban militants fired rockets near President Hamid Karzai in an apparent assassination attempt in central Afghanistan Sunday, but the missiles fell far from their target and no one was hurt, officials and witnesses said.

The assassination bid was one among a spate of attacks that killed at least 66 people, mostly militants, over the weekend.

Karzai was giving a speech to the elders and residents of Andar district in Ghazni province when rockets were fired nearby, said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, provincial police chief. No one was hurt, he said.

Witnesses said they heard between three and six rockets, but the Taliban claimed it fired off 12.

The rockets missed their target, with two of them landing some 200 metres away from the crowd, said Arif Yaqubi, a local reporter attending the event.

"Please sit down," Karzai told a nervous crowd under a tent in a school yard. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life since he became president following the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Purported Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi told The Associated Press that Taliban militants were behind the attack.

"The Taliban knew that Karzai was coming to Andar district. When Karzai was meeting with the people, the Taliban fired 12 rockets," Ahmadi said by satellite phone from an undisclosed location. "The rockets fell nearby."

Khial Mohammad, a legislator also at the event, said during the speech "we heard the sounds of rockets whizzing over our heads" before slamming down in the distance.

Harry proves elusive, girl gets attention

IDNUMBER 200706110084
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: CanWest files / Cherie Cymbalistry;
DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Paula Beauchamp and Sean Meyers
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 342

CALGARY -- A British tabloid reportedly paid Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry more than \$30,000 for the tell-all tale of her royal night with soldier-turned-party-boy Prince Harry.

Sources close to Cymbalistry said her cheque for the exclusive report titled "Harry's Phwoar" was more than \$30,000, but refused to confirm the exact amount.

British newspapers have panned Prince Harry, 22, since photographs emerged of him at Calgary's Cowboys bar earlier this week kissing Cymbalistry and her colleague, Tiffany Sims.

Cymbalistry, 22, claimed the prince asked if she was wearing underwear and invited her to take off her top.

Chris Tahn, who is representing Cymbalistry, said the 22-year-old aspiring model hoped to springboard her career off the publicity surrounding her night with the prince.

"It is absolutely our plan to explore opportunities with magazines such as Playboy and Maxim," he said. "Cherie would love to feature in them."

Continued from Page A1

Tahn said he would start approaching men's magazines this week.

It is understood Cymbalistry, who took the weekend off, has signed a confidentiality agreement with News of the World that will bind her until June 25.

Asked whether Cymbalistry had dashed her chance of becoming a princess with the tell-all tale, Tahn said "possibly."

"Prince Harry is no stranger to the public eye," he said. "Maybe he knew this would happen and wanted to do something special for Cherie."

Cowboys manager Doug Donald said Cymbalistry "certainly doesn't drive an expensive car," saying it was nice an ordinary girl got to mingle with a prince.

Calgary bartenders often earn minimum wage which is topped up with tips, making the \$30,000 pay cheque appear easy money.

University of Calgary pop culture expert Rebecca Sullivan said she was not surprised Cymbalistry had turned her encounter with the prince into a money-making opportunity.

"There are always going to be girls willing to dress like that and work at bars like Cowboys and there will always be someone like Prince Harry ready to take advantage of that."

She said Cymbalistry may be setting a poor example for other young women by selling a story that describes intimate details of the encounter and providing scantily clad photos of herself.

The photos were posted on the News of the World Web site on Sunday.

A spokesman for Buckingham Palace reached Sunday said reports in British tabloids that the prince had been restricted to base at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta were "not true."

British papers have reported both that Prince Harry may fly directly to Afghanistan from Alberta and that he is ready to quit the army.

Calgary Herald

No competition on 40% of military contracts: report

IDNUMBER 200706110067
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 763

OTTAWA — Forty per cent of military contracts awarded over the last year were done so without any type of competition among companies and the use of such sole-source deals are on the rise, according to a report to be released today.

Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found that the percentage of the value that such non-competitive contracts account for in defence spending has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on a urgent basis. Many of the deals were for more items such as fuel, building supplies and moving expenses.

"I think this report raises some important questions about accountability and transparency," said Bruce Campbell, the director of the CCPA. "We're talking about some big bucks being spent by a government which has staked its claim on accountability."

In the government 2004-2005 fiscal year almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition between firms, according to the study. By fiscal year 2006-2007 the sole-source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004-2005 non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion dollars spent that year, about \$1.4 billion went to sole-source deals. That \$9 billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters which is considered a competitive contract.

But by 2006-2007, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non-competitive deals, according to the study. In that period \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The study points out that the figures provided by the government might not include all purchases since some of the more sensitive buys could have been withheld for reasons of national security.

As well, in the 2006-2007 figures the government did not include the estimated \$1.8 billion contract to

purchase C-17 aircraft from the U.S. firm Boeing. The Conservative government considers that a competitive deal, even though most aerospace industry officials regard it as non-competitive since the government announced the C-17 was its airplane of choice from the beginning of the process.

The issue of defence procurement has been on the front-burner for Parliament since last year when the Conservatives announced \$17 billion in new military equipment purchases. Those are on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on new equipment for the Afghanistan war.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement and auditor general Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole-source competitions.

Opposition parliamentarians like Liberal MP Denis Coderre, NDP MP Dawn Black and Bloc Quebecois MP Claude Bachand have all raised questions in the Commons about whether Canada is getting the best value from non-competitive deals. They have argued that competition allows Canadian industry to play a major role in defence procurement which creates jobs. At the same time, they say, taxpayers get better value.

The Harper government, however, counters that the military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for what could be a drawn-out competitive process. Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor has also argued that since Canadian troops are on the frontlines in Afghanistan, the government needs to work fast to acquire gear.

But the report's author, Steve Staples, said most of the contracts in the data provided by Public Works are not related at all to the Afghanistan war. The government and the Canadian Forces, however, have been using that conflict to justify the widespread use of non-competitive contracts, he argues.

"It's not about equipment for the war but the war is used as an excuse to favour certain suppliers," said Staples. "In fact, both Canadian and U.S. experts have told the Commons that soldiers get better equipment, cheaper and faster if a competitive process is used."

In addition, when people have raised questions about such contracts the government and its supporters accuse them of being unpatriotic, Staples pointed out. "They use the war to shield itself from proper criticism and necessary oversight," Staples added, noting that he fully expects the same type of reaction to this report.

The report recommends a new parliamentary committee be established with responsibility for defence procurement to provide greater oversight and transparency on military contracts.

Ottawa Citizen

Taliban, truth elusive

IDNUMBER 200706110037

PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: B10

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CanWest / Capt. Mark Shepperd of the Royal Canadian Regiment's India Company talks to elders in a village suspected to be an insurgent base. ; Photo: CanWest / A Canadian Leopard tank clears an irrigation canal during an anti-Taliban operation Saturday in Zhari district. ;

DATELINE: ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Tom Blackwell

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 749

ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan — Major Dave Quick and Capt. Mark Shepperd are losing patience fast. The two Canadian infantry officers are trying to suss out whether Taliban fighters are using this tree-lined Afghan village as a base, but the answers seem to change by the minute.

At first the local elders insist there are no insurgents, then suggest the militants march through occasionally, then say no one actually sees the fighters because they move only at night.

In fact, intelligence has indicated that as many as 30 insurgents operate out of the area. And, the Canadian soldiers say, such conversations often end with someone shooting at them.

"If we are attacked," threatens Quick, the youthful-looking commander of the Royal Canadian Regiment's India Company, "I'll mark this location and we'll bring a bomb down on it."

Shepperd throws out his own challenge to the crowd. "If any of these men are Taliban, I invite them to take a shot at me, and I'll take his head off."

Nothing resolved, India Company heads out of Ashoquah and into the countryside beyond, a lush, close-packed terrain of vineyards, pomegranate orchards and waddis, the ancient system of Afghan irrigation canals.

This time, there is no attack, though the troops see two suspected insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades who hightail it when spotted.

It seems typical of the ghost war being waged in Zhari district, the main battleground for Canadian troops these days, and a place where identifying Taliban among the local population is almost half the fight.

Sometimes, the insurgents quickly remove bodies and even shell casings from battle sites to try to erase any evidence that they had fought and lost comrades, the Canadians say.

It is also a difficult — and atypical — landscape for combat. While much of southern Afghanistan is desert and craggy mountain, the Arghandab river and the irrigation network have turned Zhari, 30 kilometres west of Kandahar city, into a maze of vegetation, mud walls and waterways.

Troop-carrying vehicles cannot get in, meaning all the operations are conducted on foot.

"That's about as dangerous infantry country as you can get," says Shepperd, a Newfoundlander with high-school-quarterback good looks. "When you get an ambush with small arms from 10 metres away, there is a point where the danger scale maxes out."

That said, the Canadians say they would not really order the bombing of a village that had harboured Taliban. The tough talk is meant to show the soldiers know when they are being misled, and to draw out useful information.

The troops of India Company, based in Gagetown, N.B., have fought several battles with the insurgents in the last month or so as temperatures punched to 50 C, though luckily have suffered no combat-related casualties. And on at least one occasion, they know that people who insisted their village was free of Taliban were lying. In firefights later, the troops found those same locals among the dead combatants.

The latest mission into Zhari is prompted by a series of ambushes and improvised-explosive devices planted on the highway only minutes away from Ashoquah village.

A Portuguese army convoy was attacked just the night before, with two vehicles hit by RPGs and rifle fire.

Trying not to draw attention, troops stationed at Ma'Sum Ghar forward-operating base take a back route into the area, marching through a mountain pass early in the evening. They set up camp and wait another six hours, attempting to sleep on mattresses of jagged rock.

At 1:30 a.m., they move out again, using night-vision goggles that cast the landscape in an eerie green glow.

As the sun comes up, and the first call to prayer rises hauntingly from area mosques, the troops move into Ashoquah, where life has already begun to stir.

Small boys and men of all ages gather around in an almost festive atmosphere to witness the heavily armed Canadians' arrival.

One villager dominates the talking. He complains that no one has slept in two nights because of the jets and other aircraft flying overhead, while some of the bullets from the Portuguese skirmish ended up in the village.

"Unfortunately, the Taliban are attacking you guys and you guys are attacking them," the man says. "We are just innocents."

It is curious, Shepperd notes later, that the elder also tries repeatedly to draw out the Canadians on the effectiveness of their aerial surveillance.

A unit of Afghan National Army soldiers arrives soon after and does a more thorough search of the village. Farther along, tanks await in case of trouble. As it turns out, none arrives.

The Canadians do seem to be winning this war, reducing the Taliban to a much weaker force than they were last year in neighbouring Panjwai district, where intense fighting took several Canadian lives, says Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Canada's Afghanistan forces.

For the soldier on the ground, though, it still seems like a tough slog.

"There is no doubt that counter insurgency is the most difficult type of warfare," says Shepperd.

"If you had two armies that lined up on opposing fronts ... you could just hammer the bad guys. You gotta identify the bad guys here before you can hammer them."

Canada accused of abandoning Afghan police

IDNUMBER 200706110036
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: B10
DATELINE: ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 850

ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan — On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar province's Zhari district is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

In fact, Hakim contends, a lack of co-operation between the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago .

"This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said in an interview on the floor of his mud-walled headquarters. "We give information to the Canadians and they are not acting upon it. That is why the enemy is getting stronger and stronger."

Hakim is no general in the anti-insurgent war. He heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag bunch who, for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle from his desert-level perspective.

He does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents. In fact, they have had numerous firefights with the Taliban over the past several weeks, and a Canadian corporal was killed recently in a major operation.

Rather, the police and NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars, the commander said. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, like Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless," because the militants hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often involve tanks. They hide to avoid confrontation and sometimes lay down improvised explosive devices to sabotage the Canadian advance, the officer observed.

"Unity is a must among the police, the Canadians and the ANA," Hakim said, languidly brushing aside flies. "Without the co-operation of these three groups, there will be no security."

A Canadian Forces spokesman declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, at least, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal

prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers — like the chief in neighbouring Panjwai district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search — have made the Canadians skeptical of the local advice.

Meanwhile, Canadian troops have begun using decoy tactics in Zhari to try to deflect the Taliban's attention and make their operations more of a surprise.

Regardless, one thing is clear. The under-equipped, out-gunned Afghan National Police are bearing the brunt of the fighting in Zhari.

"The police are in really bad, bad conditions down there," said Col. Mohammed Hussain, the national force's liaison officer at the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team. "They are fighting 24 hours, every hour, every minute, every second of the day."

Hakim had pulled himself out of his sickbed for an interview at his headquarters and bunkhouse, which lacks running water and electricity. His face was covered in blackened sores from the bombing a week earlier.

"We have so many difficulties," the policeman said listlessly. "It's terrible for us."

He warned a visiting journalist to drive as fast as possible on the way out of the official Zhari district centre because the insurgents sometimes lie in wait on the other side of the highway, ready to take potshots at departing vehicles.

His men offered up another unsettling symbol of Zhari's dangers, too, plunking a landmine, 30 centimetres across, into the middle of the dirt floor. Hakim said it had been rigged with an antenna and battery for remote control. He had defused it, though he admitted to having no training in de-mining.

Experts say that policemen like Hakim are taking a beating everywhere in southern Afghanistan. With just 10 days of training and equipped with a minimum of firepower, they are used as a military force, a sort of "canary in the coal mine" or tripwire to flush out the Taliban, said Supt. Dave Fudge, the RCMP officer who runs a police training program for the provincial reconstruction team.

So, for every Afghan army soldier killed, 27 police officers lose their lives to insurgent attacks.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, said in a telephone interview that insurgents can see the Canadian operations coming and avoid a direct conflict.

"We are moving and launching a hit-and-run war against them," he said. He also confirmed that the militants have focused on destroying police checkpoints in Zhari.

"Then we are able to go around and plant mines and attack the Canadian or foreign troops," he said. "It's harder to bring the Canadians down."

Hakim's account of the conflict agreed. He said his checkpoints are attacked almost daily and he actively avoids firefights with the Taliban — even though he could be in the middle of one just by driving 15 minutes from his headquarters. "We are not strong enough. Our people are just trying to avoid their attacks."

When the police do come under fire, help can be hard to find. He described several examples, none of which could be independently verified.

For Monday

DATE: 2007.06.10
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1508

The top stories at this hour from The Associated Press. All times ET.

HEADLINES:

Bombing collapses bridge in Iraq, trapping U.S. soldiers
Bush welcomed in Albania, pushes Kosovo independence
Studies suggest imposing death penalty does deter crime
Prisons ban certain religious books over terror fears
Soldiers struggle to find therapists to take their insurance
Chavez tells AP Venezuelans are guaranteed personal freedoms

6 dead, 1 injured in shooting at home in Wisconsin

NEW & DEVELOPING:

_ SPACE SHUTTLE _ Docking scheduled for 3:38 p.m.
_ TONY AWARDS _ Ceremony scheduled 8–11 p.m.
_ TV–SOPRANOS _ Show concludes 10 p.m.

MULTIMEDIA:

Notable Photos:

IRAQ: BAG101, Iraqis stand on top of what appears to be a destroyed U.S. military humvee in the predominantly Shiite Fadhiliyah area on the outskirts of Baghdad.

ALBANIA BUSH: ALGH120, People reach out to greet President Bush as he walks the streets of Fushe Kruje, Albania.

WISCONSIN SHOOTING: WIMG115, Neighbors watch as a body is taken out of a house where a shooting left six people dead, according to the police chief in Delavan, Wis.

TO FIND TODAY'S TOP AP STAFF AND FREELANCE PHOTOS: SEARCH PHOTOS FOR ``APTOPIX.''

Interactives:

_ HURRICANE SEASON: Live, global storm tracker for Hosted Custom News subscribers in the hurricanetracker07 folder.

_ WHITE HOUSE 2008: wdc/early2008 folder; wdc/08issues folder.

_ EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION: _business/exec_pay folder.

_ IRAQ: _international/war_casualties/casualties/xml folder for Hosted customers; _international/war_casualties folder for FTP customers.

_ CUBA RATIONS: _international/cuba_rations folder.

_ NBA FINALS: _sports/nba07/07finals_preview folder; _sports/nba07/07finals_pix folder.

_ U.S. OPEN GOLF: _sports/golf2007/usopen07/usopen_course folder; _sports/golf2007/_sports/_sports/golf2007/usopen07/usopen_history folder; _sports/golf2007/usopen07/usopen_quiz folder; _sports/golf2007/usopen07/usopen_pix.

_ BELMONT STAKES: _sports/triplecrown07 folder.

ALSO GETTING ATTENTION:

_ PARIS HILTON _ Paris Hilton says she's `learning and growing' from time behind bars, won't appeal sentence.

_ PEOPLE-YOKO ONO _ Yoko Ono says John Lennon was heading home to see his young son on the night the former Beatle was killed.

_ NAPOLEON'S SWORD _ A gold-encrusted sword Napoleon wore into battle in Italy 200 years ago sold for more than \$6.4 million, an auction house said.

TOP STORIES:

IRAQ

MAHMOUDIYA, Iraq _ An apparent suicide car bomber aims at a U.S. civilian convoy, collapsing a major highway overpass south of Baghdad and trapping American soldiers in the rubble. The vehicle detonated beside a support pillar of the bridge, bringing down an Army checkpoint and a tent on the collapsing span. By Special Correspondent Charles J. Hanley.

AP Photos BAG101, 114, 116, 121. AP Video.

BUSH

TIRANA, Albania _ President Bush, enthusiastically welcomed as the first U.S. president in this former communist nation, serves notice he is running out of patience with Russia's objections to independence for neighboring Kosovo. By White House Correspondent Terence Hunt.

Optional planned. AP Photos ALGH120, TIR223, ALBEV112.

_ WHAT'S IN A NAME _ The name ``George Bush" could open doors in Albania _ and that includes prison gates. A White House notebook.

DEATH PENALTY–DETERRENCE

UNDATED _ Anti–death penalty forces have gained momentum in recent years, but little–noticed in that time has been a series of academic studies that claim to settle a once hotly debated argument. The analyses say the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder. By National Writer Robert Tanner.

AP Graphic DEATH SENTENCES.

PRISON BOOK BAN

NEW YORK _ Prison officials around the country quietly began removing religious books from chapel libraries in recent weeks. Jewish, Muslim and Christian texts all disappeared _ out of fear that prisons could become radicalized by Muslim inmates with access to so many religious books. Inmates are suing. By Larry Neumeister.

SOLDIERS–FINDING A THERAPIST

WASHINGTON _ Soldiers returning from war are finding it more difficult to get mental health treatment because insurance payments to therapists are being cut, on top of already low reimbursement rates. The challenge appears great in rural areas, where many troops and their families live. By Kimberly Hefling.

AP Photos WX103–104. AP Graphic MILITARY SUICIDES. Multimedia in the wdc/documents/militaryhealth folder.

CHAVEZ INTERVIEW

ELORZA, Venezuela _ President Hugo Chavez defended himself against opposition allegations that he is tightening his grip on society, telling The Associated Press that Venezuelans are guaranteed their personal freedoms. He says he welcomes criticism from the media _ as long as TV channels don't try to topple him. By Ian James.

Optional lead planned. AP Photos planned.

POLITICS:

AP ENTERPRISE: GINGRICH INC

WASHINGTON _ Potential GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich has promoted public policy positions that closely track the financial interests of companies that underwrite a think tank he founded. The elaborate consulting and communications empire Gingrich has built gives him a far–reaching platform for his views. By Libby Quaid.

AP Photos WX101–102. An interactive look at Gingrich's work is in the wdc/gingrich folder.

NATIONAL:

WISCONSIN SHOOTING

DELAVAN, WIS. _ A shooting inside a home killed six people, and a toddler was found in a nearby vehicle with a gunshot to the chest. The girl is in critical condition. Police interview friends and relatives but release no details on their investigation. By Todd Richmond.

AP Photos WIMG104, 115, 116. AP Video.

LOVING ANNIVERSARY

MILFORD, Va. _ Mildred Loving never wanted to be a hero _ she was just a girl who fell in love with a boy. ``It wasn't my doing. It was God's work," she tells The Associated Press in a rare interview. Their union landed the Lovings in jail and the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned laws prohibiting interracial marriages 40 years ago Tuesday. By Dionne Walker.

AP Photos NY340–341. AP Graphic INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES.

SGT. LETT'S MISTAKE

PASCAGOULA, Miss. _ The military code of conduct had been Pat Lett's way of life, his moral compass, and he'd followed it religiously _ except during five weeks when he says depression and booze led to disastrously bad judgment. If his military accomplishments made him different from others temporarily on the wrong side of the law, it was only in degree. By Greg Bluestein.

AP Photos NY300–303.

INTERNATIONAL:

AFGHAN–VIOLENCE

KABUL, Afghanistan _ Taliban militants train a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai as he speaks with elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing him. It was the third attempt on Karzai's life since he became president. By Fisnik Abrashi.

AP Photos.

DUBAI–DEBTORS' PRISON

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates _ Hussein Ali Mubarak sits in a jail cell, surrounded by burglars and murderers. His crime: Defaulting on a bank loan. The practice of jailing debtors is drawing new attention to the seamy side of this city's frantic boom. By Barbara Surk.

AP Photos XKJ101–102.

PALESTINIANS–YOUNG MINDS

KUFR NAMEH, West Bank _ Palestinian schoolchildren study more Islam. Top education jobs go to Islamist stalwarts. A social studies reader, once banned for its hard–line Islamic rhetoric, is now in classrooms. Hamas' leaders deny they are brainwashing kids, but one legislator calls it a battle for the Palestinians' soul. By Karin Laub and Dalia Nammari.

AP Photos of June 8: NY441–447.

_ ISRAEL–PALESTINIANS _ Journalists condemn the use of a television truck by Palestinian militants to disguise their assault on an Israeli military position. AP Photos JRL108, 126, 129, 132, 812.

PAKISTAN–ELECTIONS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan _ Pakistan's prime minister says he expects President Pervez Musharraf to secure another five years in office this fall in spite of turmoil over his bid to fire the chief justice. In an Associated Press interview, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz played down signs that Islamic extremism is spreading. By John Daniszewski and Matthew Pennington.

AP Photos ISL102, 103.

COLOMBIA—ARMY ABUSES

BOGOTA, Colombia _ The five soldiers who killed Maria Elena Rios said she was a guerrilla who died in combat. Then why was Rios wearing 3-inch platform shoes when soldiers shot her? Prosecutors are asking such questions as they dig into killings casting a shadow over President Alvaro Uribe's relationship with the United States. By Joshua Goodman.

AP Photo BOG104.

_ COLOMBIA—ARMY ABUSES—SUMMARY BOX.

SCIENCE:

SPACE SHUTTLE

HOUSTON _ More photographs of a section of peeled-back thermal blanket were sent for analysis before space shuttle Atlantis links with the international space station. Astronauts Sunita Williams and Clayton Anderson will trade places on the space station. By Juan Lozano.

Developing. AP Photo planned.

AILING OTTERS

MONTEREY, Calif. _ Training her binoculars on a patch of floating seaweed, Gena Bentall gasped. After searching for sea otters all day, the research biologist spotted one: a mother with vicious injuries. Scientists are seeing attacks and other alarming signs in the threatened species. By Lisa Leff.

AP Photos CAPS101-107.

BUSINESS:

HOUSING SLUMP HOPEFULS

LOS ANGELES _ Many wannabe homebuyers hope the housing slump lasts until they can afford their first home. ``Somebody else's misfortune could be my happy ending," one says. But interest rates and disappearing loans could make waiting backfire. By Business Writer Alex Veiga.

AP Photos LA101-102. AP Graphic HOUSING SLUMP, HOUSING HEADACHES LOGO.

Also:

_ RUSSIA—GLOBAL ECONOMY _ Russian President Vladimir Putin calls for creating an alternative to the World Trade Organization that would favor developing economies and suggested giving a greater role to regional currencies.

ENTERTAINMENT:

TONY AWARDS

NEW YORK _ ``The Coast of Utopia," Tom Stoppard's sprawling tale of 19th century Russian intellectuals, and ``Spring Awakening," a pounding post-rock musical of teenage sexual anxiety, are expected to dominate the Tony Awards. By Drama Writer Michael Kuchwara.

Developing. AP Photos staffing. AP Video.

_ TONY AWARDS-LIST.

AP ON TV-FOX'S WAR

NEW YORK _ The Fox News Channel spent half as much time covering the Iraq war than MSNBC during the first three months of the year, and considerably less than CNN, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism. By Television Writer David Bauder.

AP Photo NYET460.

_ TV-SOPRANOS _ Who will live and who will die on the much-anticipated series finale of ``The Sopranos"? Developing.

_ BOX OFFICE _ 'Ocean's Thirteen' steals top box-office slot with \$37.1 million.

SPORTS:

_ TEN--FRENCH OPEN _ Rafael Nadal earned his third straight French Open title, saving 16 of 17 break points in four sets to deny Roger Federer's bid to complete a career Grand Slam.

_ BKN--NBA FINALS _ The Cleveland Cavaliers need a much stronger showing from LeBron James in Game 2 of the NBA finals against a San Antonio Spurs team looking imposing as ever behind Tim Duncan and Tony Parker. Game starts 9 p.m.

See also:

_ AP NEWS PREVIEW, a look at the day's upcoming spot news, M-F 10:30 a.m.

_ AP NEWS DIGEST, 1st Add, other stories of importance, daily by 2 p.m.

_ AP MULTIMEDIA DIGEST, moves daily M-F before noon.

_ AP GRAPHICS DIGEST, detailed graphics information for current and upcoming stories, updated throughout the day.

_ PAGE1 ADVISORY, at least twice daily.

_ AP SERVICE GUIDE, guide to use of AP services, daily at 1 a.m.

CP News Budget – Sunday, June 10, 2007

DATE: 2007.06.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 346

Here are the CP coverage plans as of 19:30 EDT. The CP editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan _ Baby steps is a phrase often applied to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The training wheels are starting to come off the Afghan National Army, but the police force in Kandahar is still struggling by on a tricycle. The two are fighting the same war against the Taliban. 1,050 words. By Stephanie Levitz. See CP Photos. BC-Afghan-Cda-Police. Moved.

See also:

_ BC-Afghan-Violence, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip _ Gunmen opened fire early Monday on the house of Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas, security officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The incident followed a day of violence Sunday in which four people were killed and at least 36 wounded in clashes between the rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah, which is led by President Mahmoud Abbas. 400 words. See AP Photos. BC-Israel-Palestinians, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

MAHMOUDIYA, Iraq _ An apparent suicide car bomber took aim at a U.S. convoy carrying demolition experts on Sunday, collapsing a major highway overpass south of Baghdad and trapping American soldiers in the rubble. There appeared to be several casualties, including an Iraqi interpreter who was wounded. The overpass, one of two crossing over Iraq's main north-south highway in the region, appeared to be closed to all but military traffic at the time. 750 words. By Charles J. Hanley. BC-Iraq. Moved.

HOUSTON _ Atlantis docked with the international space station Sunday, as engineers continued to review photographs of a section of peeled-back thermal blanket on the space shuttle. Atlantis commander Rick Sturckow eased the shuttle into the space station's docking port. Latches fastened the shuttle and orbiting space lab together at 3:36 p.m. EDT. The shuttle's two-day chase of the space station ended about 340 kilometres above southeastern Australia. See AP Photos. 675 words. By Mike Schneider. BC-Space-Shuttle, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

Unprecedented security and warm welcome for Bush on visit to Albania

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 565

TIRANA, Albania (AP) _ U.S. President George W. Bush, leaving behind thousands of anti-Bush protesters in Rome, got a hero's welcome in Albania Sunday as he became the first American president to visit this tiny impoverished nation.

The hills overlooking the capital boomed with cannon bursts heralding Bush's arrival. Thousands of people gathered in the downtown square on a brilliantly sunny day to see the U.S. president.

Huge banners proclaimed "Proud to be Partners," and billboards read "President Bush in Albania Making History." Red-white-and-blue paper top hats with stars on top were passed out to well-wishers in this Balkan nation.

Bush said he wanted to encourage Albania's free society, but it also makes good political sense on the world stage for him to stop in Albania and be seen receiving a robust greeting in the predominantly Muslim country.

"I want to make sure the Albanian people understand that America knows that you exist and that you're making difficult choices to cement your free society," Bush said in a pre-trip interview. "I'm coming as a lover of liberty to a land where people are realizing the benefits of liberty."

Albania desperately wants membership in NATO and the European Union, but even though it has soldiers in both Iraq and Afghanistan and wholeheartedly backs Washington, Bush has not been that upbeat about its chances.

NATO has pushed forward plans to invite Croatia, Macedonia and Albania to the alliance early next year if they meet membership conditions.

Russia has opposed successive enlargements of NATO into eastern Europe. The likely NATO expansion into the Balkans does not please Russia, but the Kremlin is much more concerned about the prospect that its neighbours Ukraine and Georgia may also be brought into the Western alliance.

"There's a certain map that has to be followed, a certain way forward, there are certain obligations that have to be met," Bush said. "My only advice is: work as hard as you possibly can to achieve the different benchmarks that would cause the NATO members to accept Albania."

Albania also does not seem likely to gain entry into the EU any time soon.

The EU admitted Balkan neighbours Romania and Bulgaria in January. But the EU seems likely to stop there for now, unwilling to take in more poor countries, such as Turkey, Ukraine or Albania, that will cost the wealthier member states billions of dollars in subsidies to bring their economies up to Western standards.

Bordering Albania is Kosovo. The United States and key European countries are trying to narrow differences with Russia over the future of Kosovo, which has been administered by the UN since a 1999 war between Serb forces and ethnic Albanian rebels.

The UN Security Council has been divided over the issue; the United States and key European countries support Kosovo's independence, and Russia, traditionally a Serbian ally, opposes it.

Ethnic Albanians, who say they are descendants of Kosovo's first inhabitants, want Kosovo to become an independent state. Serbs have offered it broad autonomy, but want the province to remain part of Serbian territory. Serbs consider Kosovo, the scene of an epic battle between Serbs and Turks in 1389, the birthplace of their identity and the heart of their homeland.

In Rome, where his visit was protested by thousands of demonstrators, Bush said it was time to bring the issue of Kosovo ``to a head."

Bush said he understood there were deep concerns about the plan.

``Kosovars are eagerly anticipating a decision by the world. And at the same time ... we need to make sure the Serbs see a way forward," Bush said.

Canada asks Pentagon for early delivery of new cargo planes

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 966

OTTAWA (CP) _ National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is “favourable to the idea,” said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules.

“We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010,” Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

“I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan,” said Ross. “So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible.”

Mailed munitions still gumming up the works at Canada Post, despite new rules

OTTAWA (CP) _ Incoming!

Collectible hand grenades and other suspicious munitions are still popping up at Canada's mail–processing centres, months after they were banned by Canada Post.

Mail–sorting facilities have been evacuated at least eight times this year because of these suspicious packages, putting staff in potential danger while costing the postal system time and money.

“It's going to take time for people to be aware that this stuff isn't acceptable,” said John Caines, spokesman for Canada Post.

Since 2001, there's been a surge in the number of collectible munitions being mailed to Canada, primarily from the United States, Britain and Germany. Typically, Canadian collectors order them online through EBay, often from military memorabilia dealers.

There were just six postal–facility evacuations because of suspicious military–style devices in 2001. Three years later, the number had risen to 20 and last year there were 33.

Canada Post's giant Gateway facility in Mississauga, Ont., is affected most frequently. Last Nov. 19, for example, the facility was evacuated for about two hours after a customs official spotted a parcel with the label "old inert ammo."

The explosive disposal unit of Peel Regional Police was called in and gave the all-clear two hours later, after determining that the ammunition was indeed inert. Meanwhile, much of Canada's mail processing was halted as workers cooled their heels outside.

The federal government tightened regulations last Oct. 4 to ban mock munitions and inert ordinance from Canada's mail system, including international and domestic parcels.

Forbidden were "replica or inert munitions, as well as other devices that simulate explosive devices or munitions, including replica or inert grenades or other simulated military munitions, whether or not such items are for display purposes." The regulations allow Canada Post to destroy any such device that turns up.

"Actual grenades have been found on at least one occasion," says a Canada Post regulatory document. "And . . . by all accounts the replicas appear in every respect to be the genuine article."

Overshadowed by Afghan mission, unsung Canadians toil in Congo

OTTAWA (CP) _ In his 10 months serving with the United Nations mission in the Congo, Col. Larry Aitken has seen three mini-wars break out in the capital of Kinshasa.

But Aitken, one of nine Canadians assigned to the MUNOC _ the French acronym for the mission _ takes it in stride.

"I arrived at an interesting time," he said in a recent phone interview. "In August, we had a civil war in the city. In November, we had another one which burned the supreme court building, and in March we had another civil war in the city, a confrontation between government forces and the security forces of a former vice-president.

"It's been gruesome. There's been lots of bullets flying, lots of damage, lots of death."

But Aitken says the UN has made a difference in the country that was Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness.

He calls it the UN's most successful mission, one that has taken a country wracked by a decade of civil war and tribal strife, disarmed many of the combatants, organized an election acknowledged as open and transparent and started it on the road to stability.

Aitken, a signals officer and former commander of CFB Kingston, is deputy chief of staff for operations and planning for the UN military contingent. Five other Canadians fill staff jobs in Kinshasa, with three more working farther inland at Kisangi.

B.C. flood threat continues to ease but danger not over yet

VANCOUVER (CP) _ Debbie Kleisterlee was breathing a little easier Sunday as the Fraser River passed its peak but she wasn't ready to put her pictures back up just yet.

Kleisterlee's Wharf Street home in suburban Maple Ridge looks out over the river and, like the rest of her street, is on the wrong side of a dike that protects the rest of her neighbourhood.

She and her neighbours have been on evacuation alert for almost a week as the lower Fraser, swollen by

melting snow from northern mountains, was initially forecast to rise past seven metres.

But the river appeared to have crested below just six metres Sunday and was slowly beginning to drop.

“It's looking good,” said Kleisterlee. “Less debris coming down, although the water's still moving quickly, but it's looking hopeful.”

As the water crept closer, Kleisterlee cleared out her basement and removed other valuables.

“I was really worried last week,” she said. “This weekend, listening to the news, I'm relaxing a lot more.

“I'm just hoping we don't have a good streak of hot weather or lots of rain.”

Kleisterlee said her pictures and other important keepsakes won't be coming back just yet.

Alberta poker computer program will try to outplay two top human players

EDMONTON (CP) _ University of Alberta researchers are betting their poker-playing computer program will beat two of the sharpest human professional players in the world, and they're not bluffing _ yet.

The developers of the Polaris program have challenged Phil (The Unabomber) Laak and Ali Eslami to 2,000 hands of Texas hold 'em.

The \$50,000 man-versus-machine poker match will not only be fun _ it will help test advances in artificial intelligence, said Jonathan Schaeffer, leader of the computer science team that created Polaris.

“We have developed a format that has helped us factor out luck and make it into a scientific experiment to determine how good humans are relative to the best program in the world,” Schaeffer said.

“The goal is to eventually produce a poker program that is stronger than all human players.”

Texas hold 'em is considered to be the most popular variant of poker played today, thanks in part to plenty of exposure on television and the Internet.

Paris Hilton's new contrition from jail may be cynical ploy, experts say

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION CELEBRITY JUSTICE SOCIAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 737

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ One day Paris Hilton is screaming for her mommy as she is cuffed and taken to the pokey in a reckless driving case. The next, she's the model of magnanimity, saying she wouldn't appeal her 45-day sentence and that she is "learning and growing" from her time behind bars.

An insincere buffing of an image scuffed like a pair last season's Jimmy Choos? Maybe. Effective? Probably, say veteran Hollywood image-makers.

"Based on the way the story has been playing out, this is a good move for her," said Michael Levine, who has served as publicist for dozens of celebrities, including Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand and Bill O'Reilly. "Experience has taught me that celebrities respect wisdom but obey pain. What I mean by that is that when they feel the heat they see the light."

If Levine were working with the celebutee, he would recommend she show she has learned from the experience by fading from the party scene for awhile and getting behind sympathetic causes like Angelina Jolie, who traded her bad girl credentials to become a mother and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations.

"When you're in a hole, it's generally a good idea to stop digging ... from doing the same idiotic stuff that got you in trouble in the first place," Levine said.

Hilton's publicist, Elliott Mintz, did not immediately return e-mail or phone messages.

Hilton was at a maximum-security detention center Sunday, where an AP photographer saw her sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos go in on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

She has been at the downtown facility since Friday, when Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail. Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Hilton was taken from Sauer's courtroom in tears and calling for her mother.

Hilton's lawyers had sought to have her released on grounds that the 26-year-old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday. "During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this experience."

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

“Showing is doing,” he said. “If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?”

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy _ or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw.

“I think that the public this time is disgusted with her and probably asking themselves why they even bother,” he said. “So she's on the brink of becoming a caricature or a person. And I think she does have that choice. The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult.”

Hilton's path to jail began Sept. 7, when she failed a sobriety test after police saw her weaving down a street in her Mercedes-Benz on what she said was a late-night run to a hamburger stand. She pleaded no contest to reckless driving and was sentenced to 36 months' probation, alcohol education and \$1,500 US in fines.

In the months that followed, she was stopped twice by officers who discovered her driving on a suspended licence. The second stop landed her in Sauer's courtroom, where he sentenced her to jail.

Sands describes Hilton's change of heart as “media ploy.” But unlike actor/director Mel Gibson _ who remains on the fringes after he launched an anti-Semitic tirade at the police officer who arrested him for drunken driving last summer _ Hilton will emerge smelling as sweet as her namesake perfume, he said.

“She will become a real Hollywood star from this experience,” he said. “If she handles it like a famous person and goes to a military base, visits Walter Reed, then Hollywood will embrace her. It's very forgiving. It's not like she insulted the Jews.”

Canada asks Pentagon for early delivery of new cargo planes

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 409

OTTAWA (CP) _ National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is “favourable to the idea,” said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules.

“We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010,” Ross said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

He added that the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

“I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan,” said Ross. “So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible.”

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

On Friday, the U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor _ Airbus Military _ tried to do an end–run around the Defence Department. It dropped an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C–130E and C–130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue–jumping request for early delivery of four C–17 Globemaster heavy–lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH–47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.–based Boeing Aircraft

Corp.

The first of the massive four-engine C-17s, which can lift 77,500 kilograms of equipment, including battle tanks, begin arriving this summer.

The helicopters, which are meant to haul troops and equipment around the battlefield, are more problematic. Countries in line to receive new Chinooks have been unwilling to budge, and Canada has also requested a series of modifications to the choppers.

Harry's night on the town in Calgary all the rage in British tabloid

DATE: 2007.06.10
KEYWORDS: CELEBRITY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOCIAL
DEFENCE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 347

LONDON (CP) _ Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week became fodder for a British tabloid Sunday, which published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World featured pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar overnight Wednesday.

The story said Harry's night out occurred hours after Britain mourned the death of the 150th British soldier to be killed in Iraq.

Harry, third in line to the Throne and a British army officer, is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat.

There have been reports Harry may be deployed to Afghanistan, after British military officials decided not to allow the Prince to serve in Iraq.

The News of the World piece includes quotes of one of the women, Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, about her encounter with Harry.

Canada's Sun Media is reporting that Cymbalistry negotiated a deal to sell her story to a British tabloid for an undisclosed amount of money, attributing the information to the nightclub's manager.

Cymbalistry was quoted in Canadian newspapers last week as describing Harry as "prince charming," who kissed her on the cheek.

But she gave a far more racy account to News of the World.

The tabloid quoted her as saying that Harry asked her if she was wearing underwear and she claims he also asked her to take off her top.

"He (Harry) was obsessed about my outfit and bra top. He was very forward," Cymbalistry is quoted by News of the World.

Harry's nocturnal activities have provided the British tabloids with plenty of fodder over the years.

He has long been regarded as the wilder of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana's two sons.

In the past there have been stories of marijuana use, underage drinking and an early morning scuffle with a paparazzi photographer outside a London nightclub.

He made headlines in 2005 when he chose a Nazi outfit for a fancy dress party.

The Prince's arrival in Alberta last week leaked out slowly in Canada last week and only started getting attention by the British media Sunday.

The more mainstream Sunday Times reported Harry is training in Alberta for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

The paper said Harry was sent to CFB Suffield to receive additional training on Scimitar armored reconnaissance vehicles.

Harry had been expected to deploy to southern Iraq in the next few weeks but Army Chief of Staff Gen. Sir Richard Dannatt said after traveling to Iraq that the situation there had become too dangerous and media scrutiny of the plans had exacerbated the situation.

Dannatt said the move was due to specific threats to the prince and risks to the safety of his fellow soldiers.

27 suspected Taliban killed in southern Afghan clashes, air strikes

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 89

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) _ Clashes and air strikes killed 27 suspected Taliban in volatile southern Afghanistan, the Afghan Defence Ministry said Sunday.

The clashes occurred over the past 24 hours in the Shinkay district of Zabul province, ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said.

Air Strikes were used in the operation following intelligence reports of militant activity in the area, he said, adding that there were no reports of civilian casualties. The claim could not be independently verified because the incident occurred in a remote, insurgency-plagued area.

Afghan–Cda–Police

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 119

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A Canadian military official is concerned Afghan police forces are making less progress than their army counterparts.

Afghan police are paid less, trained less and given less equipment than their Afghan army counterparts.

Yet police are on the front lines of the fight against the Taliban insurgency, controlling checkpoints and running patrols.

Last month, at least 11 police officers were killed in Kandahar province — one an 18-year-old who was beheaded, his body left in a school yard.

Undaunted, the police are opening a new station in one of Kandahar city's most volatile districts within weeks.

The project was conceived and built by Afghans, managed and paid for by Canadians from the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

A Canadian official estimates the death toll is 24 Afghan police officers for every Afghan soldier killed.

Colonel Mike Cessford, the deputy commander of Canada's troops in Afghanistan, says police forces are falling well behind the army.

(BN)

bp

Khadr–Canada

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 147

TORONTO — His murder case has been thrown out, but Canadian Omar Khadr remains in legal limbo at the U–S military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The U–S Defence Department is asking two judges to reconsider Monday's decision to dismiss charges against Khadr and another detainee.

Defence lawyers say Khadr and the other Guantanamo detainees should be tried in regular U–S courts.

John Thompson of the Mackenzie Institute, a think–tank specializing in security and terrorism issues, says the U–S military commissions aren't working.

But he predicts Khadr, who was charged with killing a U–S medic in 2002 in Afghanistan, will remain at Guantanamo until a new system for dealing with terror detainees is devised.

Thompson says it's difficult to try terror suspects using the international Geneva Conventions because they were written before the age of al–Qaida.

He suggests the only other options would be to try Khadr in Afghanistan — or in Canada, where he could only be charged with high treason.

But Canada's last high treason case was in 1946.

(BN)

PTH

Afghan–Violence–Update (Attack on Karzai)

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 95

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban militants fired rockets near a gathering attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai today, but officials say no one was hurt.

The attack happened as Karzai was giving a speech to residents in the Andar district of Ghazni province.

An official says the rockets missed their target and Karzai continued his speech.

Karzai returned to Kabul after the incident.

A purported Taliban spokesman says Taliban militants were behind the attack.

Meantime Afghanistan's defence ministry says clashes and airstrikes killed nearly 40 suspected Taliban insurgents in southern and northwestern Afghanistan.

And Britain says a British soldier died and four others were wounded yesterday during a battle with militants in Helmand province's Sangin district.

(AP)

SAF

Afghan–Violence–Update (More Taliban deaths)

DATE: 2007.06.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 101

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's defence ministry says clashes and airstrikes killed 27 suspected Taliban in volatile southern Afghanistan.

An Afghan official says the clashes occurred over the past 24 hours in Zabul province.

Airstrikes were used in the operation following intelligence reports of militant activity in the area.

The claim can't be independently verified because the incident occurred in a remote, insurgency–plagued area.

Meantime Afghan police say a six hour battle between police and Taliban left 20 suspected militants and two policemen dead in northwestern Afghanistan.

Police say the militants attacked three separate police posts yesterday in Badghis province.

And Britain says a British soldier died and four others were wounded yesterday during a battle with militants in Helmand province's Sangin district.

(AP)

SAF

Canadian fan hassled for doing wave with flag

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PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
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EDITION: Met
SECTION: News
PAGE: A01
ILLUSTRATION: Branimir Kwartuc for the toronto star Lee Fraser, president of Canadians Abroad, holds up the flag outside Dodger Stadium yesterday, a day after it created a commotion at a game.
;
BYLINE: Cathal Kelly
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 586

Canadian baseball fans have a message for the staff of Dodger Stadium: Don't tread on me.

During Saturday night's contest between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Dodgers, a security guard attempted to confiscate a Canadian flag from a fan. That provoked an angry confrontation with about 100 local expats attending the game.

The flag waver was Lee Fraser, a 29-year-old native of Pembroke, Ont., who works in L.A. in the entertainment business. As he showed his national pride during the sixth inning, a single security staffer demanded he hand over his Maple Leaf. When Fraser refused, the guard found himself facing a pocket of Canadian indignation.

"The whole crew went crazy," Fraser said. "They sent down three or four security guards, the LAPD. Because, you know, Canadians are such a big threat."

"Suddenly, it's about defending your honour and your flag," Dodgers vice-president of stadium operations Lon Rosenberg said yesterday. "You're touching something that's very emotional. If it was our flag, it'd be the same way."

Rosenberg, who arrived on the scene near the end of the incident, defended the guard's actions. He noted the Dodgers' Fan Code of Conduct prohibits "signs or banners of any kind."

Fraser is the president of a southern California social group called Canadians Abroad. High-profile expatriate members of the group include Leonard Cohen, Paul Anka and Alan Thicke. The group often sponsors outings to local sporting events featuring visiting Canadian teams. A disparate group of Canadians was sitting beside the visitors' bullpen on Saturday night. Fraser brought his Canadian flag along with him. He said he's taken the same flag to many other professional sporting events without incident.

Upon entering, he was warned by Dodger security not to wave the flag. He said he was permitted to hold it up during the national anthem.

During the sixth inning, the Dodgers loaded the bases with two out. Toronto pitcher Shaun Marcum got L.A. slugger Luis Gonzalez to pop out to end the inning, drawing groans from the majority of the crowd and jubilation in the small Canadian section. Fraser stood up and began waving his flag.

"The security guard ran up and said, 'Get that flag down,'" Fraser recalled. "They tried to confiscate my flag."

While Fraser negotiated with the guard, other members of the group angrily took up his defence.

The First Amendment was mentioned. Canada's role in Afghanistan was a featured argument.

Flag waving "causes the fans, at times, to become aggressive toward each other. ... It's a zero tolerance policy," Rosenberg said, adding that the same rule would apply to the U.S. flag. Banners featuring the L.A. Dodger logo are exempt.

During the heated argument that followed, one couple was ejected. The fans claim a woman was roughly shoved by security as she left.

"It was totally insane," said Dan Woods, part of the group. Woods is an actor known for his role as the teacher Mr. Raditch on the TV series *Degrassi High*. "I could not believe what I was seeing. Over a flag!"

"There was a little bit of a push in the back," Rosenberg said. "I viewed it. It's very unintentional."

Rosenberg was able to review the incident because it was taped by Dodger security. He would not allow the media to see the tape, but did say it would be reviewed to see what lessons could be learned from the incident for future training.

"During the national anthem, we gave (Fraser) a break. Then we asked him to put it away. When he didn't, that's zero tolerance," Rosenberg said, adding the Dodgers' no-flag policy will stand for now.

Fraser and Woods said many of the Canadians left early in disgust. Woods had tickets to yesterday's third and final game between the Jays and Dodgers and had planned to attend. Fraser had tickets as well, but was considering skipping the game as of yesterday morning.

"I've kind of got a sour taste in my mouth over the whole thing," Fraser said. "It was ridiculous."

Liberal blot stains Dion in Quebec

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EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
BYLINE: Chantal Hebert
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 530

Six months into Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's tenure, the best that can be said about his party's fortunes is that they are only as flat as those of the Conservatives. Over the past year, neither of the main parties in the House of Commons has managed to move the needle its way.

But if some of the top reasons for the stall in Conservative support are policy-related, the same cannot be said of the Liberals who sit on the popular side of most national arguments, starting with the environment and Canada's role in Afghanistan. And while the party does share that territory with the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois, neither can be described as being on a roll these days.

Dion also has the benefit of the stronger team in Parliament. His seatmates bring more governing experience to their tasks in opposition and larger profiles nationally. Yet none of that is translating into a surge in support.

Some of Dion's current challenges are predicaments familiar to former leaders of the opposition of every persuasion.

All leaders need time to grow into their jobs and, in the past, it is those who have had the luxury of doing so who have tended to be successful on the election trail.

In Dion's case, the more obvious kinks are in the process of being ironed out.

His English remains a work in progress. But it has been improving along with his performance in question period. In any event, for all the attention paid to the daily matches between the opposition and the government, there is no evidence that voters automatically equate a rabidly aggressive opposition leader with a promising prime minister.

If so many Canadians put up with Jean Chretien's fragmented English, it was because they had grown comfortable with his style. Ultimately, Dion is no more a social animal than the Prime Minister he is seeking to unseat. He will never set empathy records. But he does have the inside track on Stephen Harper on congeniality.

There are also signs that fatigue in the rest of Canada with leaders from Quebec will not, on its own, be enough to stop voters from turning to the Dion-led Liberal party. To wit, the respectable Liberal score in Atlantic Canada where the Conservatives are enduring a lasting budget backlash.

But Quebec is inexorably dragging the Liberals down and there are precious few indications that Dion or his advisers have a clue as to how to stop their party's ongoing slide into electoral oblivion.

In his home province, Dion is now the least popular of the four federal leaders, behind the NDP's Jack Layton.

In recent polls, the Liberal party was pegged in the low teens in francophone Quebec, a score so dismal as to spook all but politically suicidal candidates from running in the next election.

Last December, many Liberals saw Dion as a shortcut to a Quebec recovery. They calculated that the native son factor would offset their party's dismal 2006 election score.

But in Quebec, the victory of a candidate so closely associated with the Liberal record in power was widely seen as confirmation that the party saw no need to rebrand itself.

Today, that sense is keeping the Bloc alive and giving the Conservatives and the NDP hope for a larger place on the Quebec landscape.

Until that changes, the chance that Dion will lead the Liberals to power will remain slim, no matter how much he improves his act in the Commons or outside his home province.

Chantal Hebert's national affairs column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday

'Dirty' Harry caught cavorting in Calgary club

IDNUMBER 200706110090
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A02
ILLUSTRATION: PAULA KEHOE CP Cherie Cymbalisty, 22, gets close to a cardboardcutout of Prince Harry. ;
SOURCE: Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 286

Prince Harry's visit to a Calgary nightclub last week became fodder for a British tabloid yesterday, which published racy photos of the royal cavorting with two women.

News of the World featured pictures of Harry being kissed by the two young women.

The tabloid posted a story and pictures on its website that refers to Harry "slobbering" over girls at a Calgary bar overnight Wednesday.

The story said Harry's night out occurred hours after Britain mourned the death of the 150th British soldier to be killed in Iraq.

Harry, third in line to the throne and a British army officer, is training at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta near Medicine Hat.

There have been reports Harry may go to Afghanistan, after British military officials decided not to allow the prince to serve in Iraq – due to specific threats to the prince and risks to the safety of his fellow soldiers, sources said.

Canada's Sun Media reported that barmaid, Cherie Cymbalisty, 22, sold her story to the News of the World for an undisclosed amount of money, citing the nightclub manager as the source.

She was quoted in Canadian newspapers last week as describing Harry as "prince charming," who kissed her on the cheek. But she gave a far racier account to the tabloid.

The tabloid quoted her as saying that Harry asked her if she was wearing underwear and she claims he also asked her to take off her top.

"He (Harry) was obsessed about my outfit and bra top. He was very forward," Cymbalisty is quoted by the tabloid.

Harry's nocturnal haunts have given British tabloids plenty of fodder over the years. He is seen as the wilder of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana's two sons.

In the past there have been stories of marijuana use, underage drinking and an early morning scuffle with a paparazzi photographer outside a London nightclub. He made headlines in 2005 when he chose a Nazi outfit

for a costume party.

While the prince came to Alberta more than a week ago, it was only yesterday that British media began paying attention.

Refugees in Lebanon turning to extremism; Sunni militants taking over camps as fears grow that country will be target for jihad

IDNUMBER 200706110058

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SECTION: World And Comment

PAGE: AA01

ILLUSTRATION: NASSER NASSER ap Posters of soldiers killed in the Lebanese army offensive against Islamic militants at a rally in Tripoli yesterday. ;

BYLINE: Andrew Mills

SOURCE: Special to the Star

COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 674

From behind steel doors guarded by Kalashnikov-wielding militiamen, General Munir Maqdeh has watched the forces of militant Islam take root here in Lebanon's most crowded and volatile Palestinian refugee camp.

Denied social, civil and economic rights by Lebanon and mired in poverty with little hope of ever returning to Palestine, an alarming number of Palestinian refugees have turned to extremism.

"We've come into dire conditions and this just breeds fundamentalism and extremism," said Maqdeh, who commands the Fatah Palestinian militia in Lebanon, which is secular and opposed to such groups.

And now that Sunni militant groups have taken root in the camps, attracted foreign fighters from places like Iraq and Afghanistan and begun to battle the Lebanese Army, many fear Lebanon is poised to become a new target for Al Qaeda-inspired extremists.

"One way to look at this is as the redefinition of the role of Lebanon as a site of jihad," says Patrick Haenni, the International Crisis Group's representative in Beirut. "All the enemies are here – the U.S.-backed government, the Shiite Hezbollah and even the Israelis from time to time. So you can begin to see how Lebanon will appeal to jihadis abroad."

For six months, a standoff between the U.S.-backed government and Hezbollah-led opposition has dragged on amid renewed sectarianism and bouts of violence. Not only has that inched Lebanon closer to civil war, it has created the ideal conditions for Islamic militants.

"If Lebanon remains as divided as it is now it will remain a place where jihadist movements will thrive," said Ahmad Khalifi of the Institute for Palestine Studies in Beirut. "These groups operate in states where the government is weak, where the security forces are not strong, where they can be undetected."

Even the government admits Lebanon's long and mountainous border with Syria is easy for arms- and cash-toting militants to penetrate.

"I believe there are now sleeping cells in the towns and cities and villages and camps all over Lebanon," said Souheil El-Natour, a Palestinian analyst and part of the Lebanese branch of the Democratic Front for the

Refugees in Lebanon turning to extremism; Sunni militants taking over camps as fears grow that country will

Liberation of Palestine.

The confrontation between the army and militant Islamists, which has entered its fourth week, also raises anew the spectre of civil war.

"Either we're going to have a united Lebanon or it will be another Iraq. Except, here it will be worse than Iraq," said Maqdash in an interview at his base here in the centre of Ein al-Hilweh.

In the last four weeks, the greatest test the modern Lebanese Army has ever faced has come from pockets of militant, yet mysterious, Sunni groups linked in ideology to Al Qaeda.

They have taken cover in several Palestinian refugee camps where the army has no authority.

At the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, near Tripoli in the north, 55 Lebanese soldiers have been killed in the three-week long battle with Fatah al-Islam, a shady jihadi group. At least 42 militants and 31 civilians have been killed, marking the most dangerous internal fighting Lebanon has seen since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

A second front opened up last week when fighting erupted on the fringes of Ein al-Hilweh between Lebanese soldiers and the militants of Jund al-Sham, a group with important links to Fatah al-Islam.

For now, the Jund al-Sham militants at Ein al-Hilweh are being kept at bay by a so-called joint force of rival Palestinian militiamen roaming Ein al-Hilweh with old assault rifles, but few expect such a force will hold together for long.

Since the fighting began, five bombs have ripped through areas in and around Beirut, injuring scores of civilians and killing two people, raising fears of a massive Al Qaeda-style attack on civilians like the one that targeted three hotels in Amman, Jordan, in 2005.

The anti-Syrian coalition controlling Lebanon's government insists the militants are not Al Qaeda franchises, but groups created and used by Syria to destabilize Lebanon.

"Fatah al-Islam is a combination of extremist entities, but also you have Syrian intelligence who is directing (the) operation," Saad Hariri, leader of the parliamentary majority, said in an interview.

But many believe Syrian adversaries are being blamed for the work of Islamic militants.

"I don't buy it at all. Maybe Syria was well-informed that these groups trained in Syria, were grouped there, were armed there, were funded there, and then came across the Lebanese border," Khalifi said.

"But that doesn't mean the Syrians have anything to do with what these jihadis have done."

Andrew Mills is a Canadian journalist based in Lebanon.

Nearly half of military contracts had no competition, report finds; Use of such sole-source deals on the rise, think-tank warns

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EDITION: Early
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PAGE: A1 / FRONT
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 707

Forty per cent of military contracts awarded over the last year were done so without any type of competition among companies and the use of such sole-source deals is on the rise, according to a report to be released today.

Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found that the percentage of defence spending on such non-competitive contracts has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on a urgent basis. Many deals were for more mundane items such as fuel, building supplies and moving expenses.

"I think this report raises some important questions about accountability and transparency," said Bruce Campbell, the centre's director.

"We're talking about some big bucks being spent by a government which has staked its claim on accountability."

In the government's 2004-2005 fiscal year, almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition, according to the study. The government's fiscal year ran from April 2004 to April 2005.

By fiscal year 2006-2007, the sole-source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004-2005, non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion spent that year, about \$1.4 billion went to sole-source deals. That \$9-billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters, which is considered a competitive contract.

But by 2006–2007, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non–competitive deals, according to the study. In that period, \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The study says figures provided by the government might not include all purchases, since some of the more sensitive buys could have been withheld for reasons of national security.

As well, in the 2006–2007 figures, the government did not include the contract to purchase C–17 aircraft from the U.S. firm Boeing. The government considers it a competitive deal, even though most aerospace industry officials regard it as non–competitive because the government announced the C–17 was its airplane of choice from the beginning of the process.

The issue of defence procurement has been on the front–burner since last year, when the Conservatives announced \$17 billion in new military equipment purchases, on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on new equipment for the Afghanistan war.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement and Auditor General Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole–source competitions.

Opposition parliamentarians such as Liberal MP Denis Coderre, NDP MP Dawn Black and Bloc Quebecois MP Claude Bachand have questioned whether Canada is getting the best value from non–competitive deals. They have argued that competition allows Canadian industry to play a major role in defence procurement, which creates jobs. At the same time, they say, taxpayers get better value.

The Harper government, however, says military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for a competitive process. Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor has also argued that since Canadian troops are in Afghanistan, the government needs to work fast to acquire gear.

But the report's author, Steve Staples, said most of the contracts in the data provided by Public Works are not related to the Afghanistan war.

"The war is used as an excuse to favour certain suppliers," said Mr. Staples. "Experts have told the Commons that soldiers get better equipment, cheaper and faster, if a competitive process is used."

The report recommends a new parliamentary committee with responsibility for defence procurement be established to provide greater oversight and transparency on military contracts.

The report also recommends the government hold off signing new military contracts valued at more than \$100 million until it hears from the Commons defence committee on military procurement and the auditor general.

It also suggests ministers involved in defence procurement have at least a five–year separation from any firms supplying the government if they had been employed in the past by those firms or lobbied on their behalf.

It notes that Mr. O'Connor was a lobbyist for five of the world's Top 10 defence contractors, which "compromises his ability to instil public confidence in the military procurement system."

For Bush, fitness is a virtue

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PAGE: A2
COLUMN: Monday Morning
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Getty Images / George W. Bush, shown in 2004, cycles roughly 30 kilometres a day. ;
BYLINE: Donna Jacobs
SOURCE: Citizen Special
WORD COUNT: 1434

Among modern U.S. presidents, George W. Bush at age 60 is the most fit — in the 99th percentile. He logged no sick days last year and exercises six days a week.

He often rides his blue-and-white mountain bike 30 kilometres a day at speeds of 24 to 30 kilometres per hour, does "hill work" on his treadmill, elliptical training, free-weight resistance and stretching — sometimes sweating it out in the White House gym over the lunch hour.

He takes a multi-vitamin, low-dose Aspirin, glucosamine-chondroitin and omega-3 supplement.

"I love exercise," he says. "I have found it not only is a good excuse to get outdoors, it helps to relieve stress as well."

He wants his fellow Americans to put in 30 minutes a day, five days a week, of exercise — walk, run, bike, swim.

A jogger since youth, he's been forced by recent pain in his knees to change to biking, which he often fits in on Saturday mornings, after church on Sundays or on his travels.

In 2002, at his annual Fitness Challenge, he told White House staff who had just run nearly five kilometres (wife Laura walked two kilometres): "I know you're a better worker if you exercise on a daily basis." He got a laugh with his ultimate pep-talk motivator: "You'll help keep the health costs down in America.

"We're not here for long. But when we're here, let's make sure we give it our all. And one way to do so is to stay healthy and fit, have a great outlook on life." And, he got one more laugh with his parting remark: "Make sure you stretch afterwards. Get in a good nap. And show up to work on time."

He didn't say get to bed early, but he probably didn't need to — after Laura Bush's hilarious comments on April 30, 2005, during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in which she called herself a desperate housewife because the president goes to bed by 9 p.m.

"I said to him the other day, 'George, if you really want to end tyranny in the world, you're going to have to stay up later.'"

Even after the heady days of his first inauguration in 2000, when the Bushes danced at every ball, he'd still be in bed before midnight. "I'm not somebody that says, 'Gosh, gosh, I can't wait to get to Washington so I can go to all the cocktail parties,'" he said at the time. "That's not what I'm about."

Mr. Bush is about punctuality. He runs the White House like a CEO, says his biographer, former Wall Street Journal and Washington Post investigative reporter Ronald Kessler.

The president, who has an undergraduate degree in history from Yale University, became an F-102 fighter pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. In 1975, rejected by the University of Texas Law School, he applied to Harvard University's MBA program — secretly to avoid disappointing his parents if he were not accepted. He was and became the only U.S. president with an MBA.

Before becoming governor of Texas in 1994, at age 48, he ran an oil business that failed, due to dry holes and collapsed oil prices. After helping run his father's successful presidential campaign, the younger Bush found partners and bought the Texas Rangers baseball team.

(Growing up, he said, he dreamed not of being president, but of being Willie Mays, the African-American baseball player.) When they sold the team, his profit was \$14.9 million — from a \$606,000 investment.

Mr. Bush was always disciplined, but up to age 40, he drank too much at parties and dinners and became obstreperous. As Mrs. Bush put it later, "He couldn't hold his liquor."

Through it all, he still jogged three or four times a week, doing between 4.8 and 6.4 kilometres in seven minutes. But he later said alcohol "was beginning to crowd out my energy level and affections for other people. ... When you're drinking, it can be an incredibly selfish act."

At his 40th birthday party, after some years of Laura's urging, he decided to quit. Asked why later, they'd laugh and say, "He got the bar bill."

Later, Mr. Bush told the Washington Post, "To put it in spiritual terms, I accepted Christ ... if you change your heart, you can change your behaviour."

Discipline ranks higher than ever and he runs a tight-ship White House. Meetings start on time. Speeches are drafted weeks in advance. Staffers dress in office attire. And he urges them to guard their family time and sleep time, writes Mr. Kessler in his anecdote-rich book *A Matter of Character: Inside the White House of George W. Bush*.

(Mr. Kessler's other bestsellers include *Inside the White House* and *The CIA at War* and *Laura Bush: An Intimate Portrait of the First Lady* — the first biography of Mrs. Bush written with White House co-operation.)

Mr. Kessler contrasts Mr. Bush with his predecessor, Bill Clinton, whose undisciplined White House "operated like an all-night pizza parlor." Clinton aides wore jeans and T-shirts and their loose work habits and decision-making process pushed work into all hours of nights and weekends.

"The lobby of the West Wing was like a subway station, packed with visitors coming and going. Carpets and upholstered furniture were fraying and empty pizza cartons were everywhere. Because he was almost never on schedule, the Secret Service joked about CST — Clinton Standard Time." A former Secret Service agent says Clinton staffers would pick up girls and at midnight bring them to the White House for a glimpse of the Oval Office.

When Mr. Bush is on his ranch in Crawford, Texas, he adds farm work to his activities and clears bush, cuts

trails, fells trees, or — as his twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna say — carries out "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

"George's answer to any problem at the ranch," says Mrs. Bush, "is to cut it down with a chainsaw."

His lifetime hallmark of self-deprecation, pranks, easy humour and unpretentious speech — he even carried his Midland, Texas, habit of chewing tobacco to Harvard — continued from the governor's mansion to the White House. So has his social agenda.

His very brief White House website biography has one paragraph on his goals and achievements as president: Home ownership, tax relief, education, more local and less federal controls, health care and prescription drug programs, environmental conservation and support for the military.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the biography notes his "unprecedented steps to protect our homeland and create a world free from terror. ... The President is confident that by our helping build free and prosperous societies, our Nation and our friends and allies will succeed in making America more secure and the world more peaceful."

Last week, he angered Russian President Vladimir Putin with this Reaganesque statement that underpins the Bush foreign policy.

"Freedom is the design of our maker, and the longing of every soul," Mr. Bush said. "Freedom is the best way to unleash the creativity and economic potential of a nation. Freedom is the only ordering of a society that leads to justice. And human freedom is the only way to achieve human rights."

While terming U.S. relations with China and Russia strong, but complex, he said: "China's leaders believe that they can continue to open the nation's economy without opening its political system; we disagree. In Russia, reforms that were once promised to empower citizens have been derailed, with troubling implications for democratic development."

Also last week, he asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to direct each U.S. ambassador serving "in an un-free nation" to find and meet with activists for democracy and human rights. He himself has met personally with dissidents and activists from Burma, China, Cuba, Cuban Americans, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

His newly created \$1-million Human Rights Defenders Fund gives grants for legal defence and medical costs of activists arrested or beaten by "repressive governments." His 2008 budget asks for nearly \$1.5 billion to fund democracy, governance and human rights in emerging democracies.

The White House website names places. It mentions U.S. co-operation with Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. It offers congratulations to the people of Yemen "on their landmark presidential election and the people of Kuwait on elections in which women were able to vote and run for office for the first time.

"The U.S. stands firmly behind the people of Lebanon, Afghanistan and Iraq as they defend their democratic gains against extremist enemies."

The Bush administration is using its influence to urge "valued partners" like Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, who have already taken "brave stands and strong action to confront extremists, along with some steps to expand liberty and transparency. "

Laura Bush recently responded to CNN's Larry King on growing domestic disapproval of the war in Iraq.

"I understand how the American people feel and that things aren't going like we want them to there." But to leave now "would be a serious mistake. And I really agree with the president on that, that the Iraqi government needs to get up and running as fast as they can.

"Of course we want our troops to come home," she said. "Nobody wants war."

Donna Jacobs is an Ottawa writer; her e-mail address is donnabjacobs@hotmail.com

Next week: George Bush, father

Forces accused of leaving Afghan police in lurch; They're ill-equipped and under-trained, and one Afghan officer says their calls for help go unheeded, reports Tom Blackwell.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Tom Blackwell, National post / Abdul Hakim, a police commander in Kandahar province, is upset about a lack of co-operation between police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops. 'Unity,' he says, 'is a must. ... Without (it), there can be no security.'... ; Photo: Tom Blackwell, National post / ...Pictured are some of his officers at their headquarters in Zhari district. ;

DATELINE: ZHARI DISTRICT, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell, with files from Taimoor Shah
SOURCE: The National Post
WORD COUNT: 583

ZHARI DISTRICT, Afghanistan — On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar province's Zhari district is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

Mr. Hakim contends a lack of co-operation between the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago .

"We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said in an interview on the floor of his mud-walled headquarters. "We give information to the Canadians and they are not acting upon it. That is why the enemy is getting stronger and stronger."

Mr. Hakim is no general in the anti-insurgent war. He heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag bunch who, for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle from his desert-level perspective.

He does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents. In fact, they have had numerous firefights with the Taliban over the past several weeks, and a Canadian corporal was killed recently in a major operation.

Rather, the police and NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars, the commander said. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, such as Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless," because the militants hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often involve tanks. They hide to avoid

Forces accused of leaving Afghan police in lurch; They're ill-equipped and under-trained, and one Afghan officer

confrontation and sometimes lay down improvised explosive devices to sabotage the Canadian advance, the officer observed.

"Unity is a must among the police, the Canadians and the (Afghan National Army)," Mr. Hakim said, languidly brushing aside flies. "Without the co-operation of these three groups, there will be no security."

A Canadian Forces spokesman declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers — such as the chief in neighbouring Panjwai district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search — have made the Canadians skeptical of the advice.

Canadian troops, meanwhile, have begun using decoy tactics in Zhari to try to deflect the Taliban's attention and make their operations more of a surprise.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, said in a telephone interview that insurgents can see the Canadian operations coming and avoid a direct conflict.

"We are moving and launching a hit-and-run war against them," he said. He also confirmed that the militants have focused on destroying police checkpoints in Zhari.

"Then we are able to go around and plant mines and attack the Canadian or foreign troops," he said. "It's harder to bring the Canadians down."

Mr. Hakim's account of the conflict was similar. He said his checkpoints are attacked almost daily and he avoids firefights with the Taliban.

In one recent case, Mr. Hakim said, insurgents surrounded his deputy and several men, killing two officers and destroying two police vehicles. When they requested support, the Canadian military called in an aircraft that dropped a flare over the scene, Mr. Hakim said.

"We are not strong enough. Our people are just trying to avoid their attacks."

Harry's date nets princely sum for kiss and tell; British tabloid put up more than \$30,000 to hear 22-year-old bartender's story

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DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Paula Beauchamp and Sean Meyers
SOURCE: The Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 348

CALGARY – A British tabloid reportedly paid Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry more than \$30,000 for the tell-all tale of her royal night with soldier-turned-party-boy Prince Harry.

Sources close to Ms. Cymbalistry said her cheque for the exclusive report, titled "Harry's Phwoar" was more than \$30,000, but refused to confirm the exact amount.

Phwoar is British slang used to express sexual desire on seeing a person to whom one is attracted.

British newspapers have panned Prince Harry, 22, since photographs emerged of him at Calgary's Cowboys bar earlier this week kissing Ms. Cymbalistry and her colleague, Tiffany Sims.

Ms. Cymbalistry, 22, claimed the prince asked if she was wearing underwear and invited her to take off her top.

Chris Tahn, who is representing Ms. Cymbalistry, said the aspiring model hoped to springboard her career off the publicity surrounding her night with the prince.

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"Cherie would love to feature in them."

Mr. Tahn said he would start approaching men's magazines this week.

It is understood Ms. Cymbalistry, who took the weekend off, has signed a confidentiality agreement with News of the World that will bind her until June 25.

Asked whether Ms. Cymbalistry had dashed her chance of becoming a princess with the tell-all tale, Mr. Tahn said "possibly."

"Prince Harry is no stranger to the public eye," he said. "Maybe he knew this would happen and wanted to do something special for Cherie."

Cowboys manager Doug Donald said Ms. Cymbalisky "certainly doesn't drive an expensive car," saying it was nice that an average girl got to mingle with a prince.

Calgary bartenders often earn minimum wage, which is topped up with tips, making the \$30,000 paycheque appear to be easy money.

University of Calgary pop culture expert Rebecca Sullivan said she was not surprised Ms. Cymbalisky had turned her encounter with the prince into a money-making opportunity.

"There are always going to be girls willing to dress like that and work at bars like Cowboys, and there will always be someone like Prince Harry ready to take advantage of that."

She said Ms. Cymbalisky may be setting a poor example for other young women by selling a story that describes intimate details of the encounter and providing photos of herself scantily clad.

The photos were posted on the News of the World website yesterday.

A spokesman for Buckingham Palace reached yesterday said reports in British tabloids that the prince had been restricted to base at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta were "not true."

British papers have reported contradictorily that Prince Harry may fly directly to Afghanistan from Alberta, and that he is ready to quit the

Taliban rockets rain down near Karzai; Afghan leader unfazed, says country must be protected by 'its sons'

IDNUMBER 200706110088
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
DATELINE: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan
BYLINE: Griff Witte and Javed Hamdard
SOURCE: The Washington Post
WORD COUNT: 450

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – The Taliban carried out an apparent attempt to assassinate Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday, firing rockets that missed him by several hundred metres as he spoke to a group of elders.

No one was injured in the attack, and Mr. Karzai completed his speech. But the incident underscored the threat the Taliban continues to pose 5 1/2 years after it was toppled from power in a U.S.–led invasion and three months into a major push by international forces to win back territory controlled by insurgents.

Yesterday's attack occurred in the Andar district of Ghazni province, a hotly contested area about 160 kilometres south of Kabul. Mr. Karzai was in the middle of his speech when several rockets — accounts varied from three to seven — landed nearby. Security sources said at least some of the rockets landed within 100 to 200 metres of the president, but a witness at the scene said they struck at least a half-kilometre away.

Abdul Jabar, a member of parliament who represents Ghazni, said the rockets never came close to Mr. Karzai, and the president resumed his speech after taking a moment to quiet the crowd. Mr. Jabar said residents had known in advance that a high-level government official was coming to visit, although the visitor's exact identity was not widely known.

In calls to news services, a purported Taliban spokesman asserted responsibility for the attack and said it had been plotted out after the group learned Mr. Karzai would be coming to Andar.

Mr. Karzai, whose travel in Afghanistan has been severely restricted by two previous assassination attempts, was addressing a group of elders in a schoolyard at the time of the incident. Most schools in Andar have had to close because of security concerns.

"We Afghans will protect this land and its borders as its protection by others is not possible," Mr. Karzai told the crowd, according to an account provided by his office. "We will build our roads, schools, hospitals and other institutions with the assistance of the international community, but this country must be protected by its sons."

Mr. Karzai's office said the "rockets did not disrupt the president's visit, and the program went according to plan," adding that he stayed in Andar after the speech to greet many in the crowd.

Violence in Afghanistan has picked up in recent weeks following the traditional winter lull. Clashes over the

weekend in the northwest and the south left more than 60 people dead, most of them insurgents, security officials said. The British military said yesterday that one of its soldiers had been killed and four injured during an ambush in the southern province of Helmand.

MacKay and the 30 dwarfs

IDNUMBER 200706110069
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
COLUMN: Susan Riley
BYLINE: Susan Riley
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 759

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay is personally likable and politically polished, but he continues to be dogged (ahem) by questions about his character.

Last week, for instance, when Tory MP Bill Casey was ejected from caucus for voting against his government's budget on a matter of principle, MacKay — senior minister for Nova Scotia, the province at the heart of the controversy — was nowhere to be seen. Accosted by reporters, he scurried away like a cockroach when the lights go on. In question period, he sat silent and close to squirming as opposition MPs hurled questions.

His abdication looked even more cowardly when Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn rose to defend his government's handling of the Atlantic Accord, while Mackay remained mute a few seats over.

Dissident Casey — along with former Tory minister John Crosbie and former Nova Scotia premier John Hamm — are accusing Stephen Harper of breaking his word to Atlantic Canada by weakening the pact intended to direct more oil and gas revenues to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. Hearn, a decent and hard-working minister, insisted a new deal rewritten by Harper does not short-change the provinces — and, seeming to undermine his own claim, that the details are still under review. Details aside, Casey is convinced his region will be \$1 billion behind after a decade under the new arrangement.

There are early indications that more Atlantic voters agree with Casey than with Harper's spear-carriers. In Newfoundland, Premier Danny Williams has been waging all-out war on the prime minister, accusing him of betrayal. Recent polls suggest Williams' campaign is killing the federal Tories, putting in jeopardy Harper's three Newfoundland seats — including the one held by Hearn.

As for MacKay, he will be facing Green party leader Elizabeth May in Central Nova in the next election and no one appears to be working harder to get her elected than MacKay himself. He famously betrayed David Orchard — and thousands of Progressive Conservatives — when he broke a promise not to negotiate a merger with Harper. He denied referring to his former girlfriend, Belinda Stronach, as a "dog" in a heated Commons exchange, even though MPs heard him doing just that. And, in May, he boasted that "we will not throw a member out of caucus for voting his conscience. There will be no whipping, flipping, hiring and firing on budget votes as we saw with the Liberal government." And as we saw again this week with Casey.

Perhaps this incident will fade from memory before the next election, and some bribe will be found to win back Atlantic voters. MacKay has family ties in his riding and has sprinkled it with federal largesse — this weekend he re-announced money for the ship industry, just as insurance.

But the problem is larger than MacKay. Shortly after ducking questions on the accord last week, MacKay joined a five–minister delegation to the Commons defence committee to mount a high school production of *Why We Are In Afghanistan*. Reading from co–ordinated scripts, ignoring opposition questions about detainees, or anything else, the ministerial chorus line repeated now–tired claims about our great successes in Afghanistan, how we are "educating" the Afghan people, liberating women and keeping the Taliban on the run.

Without dismissing small advances in Kabul and Kandahar, or belittling the efforts of our troops and diplomats, the reading sounded more like MacKay's *Adventures in Wonderland* than the complicated truth. It was amateurish, insulting to its audience and typical fare from a leader–driven government that does not even trust its own ministers. In fact, there is one requirement for anyone auditioning for the Harper front bench: You must be able to follow a script. No improvisation, no embroidery encouraged.

A few resist, albeit carefully. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is no pushover. Trade Minister David Emerson always looks as if he is simmering. John Baird, Monte Solberg and MacKay are cheerful mercenaries. Hearn goes off script sometimes: when he defended himself and the accord, and, in gently disparaging the "Canada's new government" tag. But too many -- including CIDA's Josee Verner and Secretary of State Helena Guergis, who performed with MacKay last week -- seem to be nothing more than page–turners, extras in a one–man show.

Susan Riley's column runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Email sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com

State of a nation; A reasonably clear picture is finally emerging about what is really happening in Afghanistan -- and there is enough progress to see that Canada must not 'cut and run'

IDNUMBER 200706110065

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A11

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Stephanie Levitz, The Canadian Press / Afghanistan is slowly developing the trappings of a democratic state, with significant assistance from Canada. Above, Abdullah, 23, has just graduated from a police training program run by Canadians in Kandahar. ;

BYLINE: Paul D. Manson

SOURCE: Citizen Special

WORD COUNT: 1317

Canadians are frequently confronted with the reality that our commitment to war-torn Afghanistan is a costly one. Each new casualty generates anguish, and raises questions back home about whether the human and material cost is achieving anything worthwhile.

With the current parliamentary mandate due to expire in 2009, the debate will surely intensify, with Canadians more or less split down the middle on Afghanistan.

This wide divergence is not surprising in view of the complexity of the situation and the strongly partisan positions taken by our politicians.

In spite of the confusion and misinformation, a reasonably clear picture is emerging about what is really happening in Afghanistan. Here is a frank estimate of the situation in mid-course, in the critical areas of governance, security and development.

Governance

After almost 30 years of continuous warfare, Afghanistan is slowly evolving from a "failed state" into a "fragile state." On the positive side of the ledger is the presence of a democratically elected central government. (And voter turnout was greater than in Canada's last federal election.) The rule of law is being instituted through the creation of courts and appointment of judges.

However, there is a long way to go. The Karzai government's influence and control beyond the capital, Kabul, is still limited. Corruption and cronyism are continuing problems, while opium farming breeds criminality and warlordism, especially in the southern and eastern provinces.

At the provincial level, however, governance is taking root. This is especially evident in Kandahar province (where the Canadian effort is concentrated) in spite of the absence of a democratic legacy, a history of tribalism, and a radical enemy intent on subverting the growth of the freedoms that are second nature to us.

State of a nation; A reasonably clear picture is finally emerging about what is really happening in Afghanistan

We mustn't expect to see a mirror image of our own institutions and culture, but democratic sentiments are strong in Afghanistan. Given a chance, they will prevail.

Security

Canadians are preoccupied with the military side of things in Afghanistan. Although casualties tend to dominate the debate, most understand that the establishment of physical security is a prerequisite to effective development, which is the ultimate purpose of our presence.

So what is the military picture?

Three-quarters of Afghanistan — the northern and western provinces — enjoy good security, with very little Taliban activity. Only in the south and east is there significant conflict, and even there it is quite sporadic. More importantly, there are clear signs that the Taliban are failing on the military front.

Having been soundly defeated whenever they engaged coalition troops head-on in battle, the Taliban leadership has turned to suicide bombings, roadside explosive devices, targeted assassinations and kidnappings. Their countless violations of international humanitarian law and the indiscriminate killing of Afghan civilians are not winning the hearts and minds of the local people.

But what they can't win through military force might be achieved by coalition troop withdrawals. Hoping that time is on their side, they can fade back into their safe haven in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area to await an anticipated loss of political will in the coalition nations.

The Taliban know that western public opinion reacts severely to casualties, so the act of killing becomes more important than taking ground in the classic military manner. They are aware of the massive media coverage that is generated in Canada by every fatal casualty, and the subsequent downturn in public support for the mission.

A serious military problem stems from the relatively small size of the coalition forces. (The entire Canadian contingent could fit comfortably into one end of a hockey arena.)

However, the Taliban are facing the prospect of a growing Afghan National Army and national police force, which will take over responsibility for security when the troops from the 37 nations of the International Security Assistance Force ultimately return home. Progress in the training of the police force is slow, but the army, now numbering some 40,000 soldiers, is developing rapidly. Incidentally, Canadian troops are doing an excellent job of mentoring their Afghan Army allies.

On balance, the security picture is encouraging. The Taliban can't win militarily, nor is it likely that they can be completely defeated by military means alone. The answer lies elsewhere.

Development

Success in Afghanistan will ultimately come from effective development, and it is a huge challenge. Thus far, because of the necessary preoccupation with military activity, progress has been uneven, and accomplishments to date are not well known.

That is unfortunate, because there is much good news. The most promising development is evident in the fields of education, health services, human rights, infrastructure, the market economy and mine clearance.

Millions of students now attend school (in spite of some 200 school burnings by the Taliban in the past two years), more than 80 per cent of the population now has access to basic health care, and women have emerged

State of a nation; A reasonably clear picture is finally emerging about what is really happening in Afghanistan

from the total subjugation that existed under the Taliban regime.

Paved roads have been constructed, countless wells and irrigation ditches dug, villages electrified for the first time: The list of accomplishments is a long one. Coming out of all this is a surge in local economies, stimulated by micro-loans from the west, and by a freedom of movement that didn't exist only a year ago.

Admittedly, the pace of development is still too slow, largely because of Taliban activity to forestall advancement. But the coalition nations can do much more in the way of aid, both by governments and non-government organizations, even where security is less than perfect. Aid money has to find its way directly to field projects in a more efficient and timely way. Promises have to be followed up. Local Afghans have to become key players in development projects.

Perhaps the most difficult problem facing the current Afghan economy is the massive cultivation of opium poppies, which feeds more than 90 per cent of the world's heroin addiction. Poppy farming, unfortunately, is for many rural Afghans the only source of income. In any case, they have little choice in the matter, because of intimidation from drug lords working hand-in-hand with the Taliban, who reap financial benefit from the drug economy.

Experts warn that it will take decades to rid Afghanistan of this scourge. The root problem, of course, is that it is driven by demand. Until heroin addiction in the West is drastically reduced, illegal opium production will persist, in Afghanistan or elsewhere.

In spite of this and other imposing challenges, wherever development progress is clearly evident, hearts and minds are being won. The trend here is in the right direction, and the potential is enormous.

In this cursory review of the complex situation in Afghanistan it is clear that the struggle for the Afghan nation and its long-suffering people is far from over. It could go either way. But a weighing of the pluses and minuses in the three critical areas of governance, security and development reveals a positive trend in each. Success will not come overnight. It will take patience, understanding, and continued dedication to the mission, but there is much to build on.

Ironically, the final outcome depends upon what happens a half a world away, in the capitals of the 37 nations that are in Afghanistan to help that country back onto its feet. Precipitous decisions to pull out would have a devastating effect.

Canada, with its own looming decision point, is in a position to set a good or bad example for others to follow.

With things slowly but surely moving in the right direction, it would be disastrous if Afghans were abandoned at such a critical stage. A decision to "cut and run" would mean writing off the human and material cost of our nation's deep investment in Afghanistan at a time when our return on that investment is increasingly evident, and a successful outcome increasingly within reach.

Gen. (Ret'd) Paul D. Manson is president of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute. He was chief of the defence staff from 1986 to 1989.

State of a nation; A reasonably clear picture is finally emerging about what is really happening in Afghanistan

Princely sum for bartender's kiss-and-tell

IDNUMBER 200706110083
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: CanWest File Photo / Cherie Cymbalistry;
DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Paula Beauchamp and Sean Meyers
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 340

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Sources close to Cymbalistry said her cheque for the exclusive report titled "Harry's Phwoar" was more than \$30,000, but refused to confirm the exact amount.

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"It is absolutely our plan to explore opportunities with magazines such as Playboy and Maxim," he said. "Cherie would love to feature in them."

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Asked whether Cymbalistry had dashed her chance of becoming a princess with the tell-all tale, Tahn said "possibly."

"Prince Harry is no stranger to the public eye," he said. "Maybe he knew this would happen and wanted to do something special for Cherie."

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She said Cymbalisky may be setting a poor example for other young women by selling a story that describes intimate details of the encounter and providing scantily clad photos of herself.

The photos were posted on the News of the World website on Sunday.

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British papers have reported both that Prince Harry may fly directly to Afghanistan from Alberta and that he is ready to quit the army.

(Calgary Herald)

Military lapses on contract competition: report

IDNUMBER 200706110066
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: National
PAGE: A6
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 342

OTTAWA — Forty per cent of military contracts awarded over the last year were done so without any type of competition among companies and the use of such sole-source deals are on the rise, according to a report to be released today.

Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found that the percentage of the value that such non-competitive contracts account for in defence spending has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on a urgent basis. Many of the deals were for more items such as fuel, building supplies and moving expenses.

In the government 2004–2005 fiscal year almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition between firms, according to the study. By fiscal year 2006–2007 the sole-source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004–2005 non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion dollars spent that year, about \$1.4 billion went to sole-source deals. That \$9 billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters which is considered a competitive contract. But by 2006–2007, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non-competitive deals, according to the study. In that period \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement and auditor general Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole-source competitions.

The Harper government, however, counters that the military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for what could be a drawn-out competitive process.

Canadians hunt ghosts in fight against Taliban; Identifying insurgents in midst of Afghan villagers a major challenge for soldiers

IDNUMBER 200706110052

PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: World

PAGE: A9

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: National Post Photo / Canadian troops exit their vehicles during an intelligence-gathering visit to an Afghan village ;

DATELINE: ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Tom Blackwell

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 618

ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan — Maj. Dave Quick and Capt. Mark Shepperd are losing patience fast. The two Canadian infantry officers are trying to suss out whether Taliban fighters are using this tree-lined Afghan village as a base, but the answers seem to change by the minute.

At first the local elders insist there are no insurgents, then suggest the militants march through occasionally, then say no one actually sees the fighters because they move only at night.

In fact, intelligence has indicated that as many as 30 insurgents operate out of the area. And, the Canadian soldiers say, such conversations often end with someone shooting at them.

"If we are attacked," threatens Quick, the youthful-looking commander of the Royal Canadian Regiment's India Company, "I'll mark this location and we'll bring a bomb down on it."

Shepperd throws out his own challenge to the crowd. "If any of these men are Taliban, I invite them to take a shot at me, and I'll take his head off."

Nothing resolved, India Company heads out of Ashoquah and into the countryside beyond, a lush, close-packed terrain of vineyards, pomegranate orchards and waddis, the ancient system of Afghan irrigation canals.

This time, there is no attack, though the troops see two suspected insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades who hightail it when spotted.

It seems typical of the ghost war being waged in Zhari district, the main battleground for Canadian troops these days, and a place where identifying Taliban among the local population is almost half the fight.

Sometimes, the insurgents quickly remove bodies and even shell casings from battle sites to try to erase any evidence that they had fought and lost comrades, the Canadians say.

It is also a difficult — and atypical — landscape for combat. While much of southern Afghanistan is desert and craggy mountain, the Arghandab river and the irrigation network have turned Zhari, 30 kilometres west of

Canadians hunt ghosts in fight against Taliban; Identifying insurgents in midst of Afghan villagers a major challenge for soldiers

Kandahar city, into a maze of vegetation, mud walls and waterways.

Troop-carrying vehicles cannot get in, meaning all the operations are conducted on foot.

The troops of India Company, based in Gagetown, N.B., have fought several battles with the insurgents in the last month or so as temperatures punched to 50 C, though luckily have suffered no combat-related casualties. And on at least one occasion, they know that people who insisted their village was free of Taliban were lying. In firefights later, the troops found those same locals among the dead combatants.

The latest mission into Zhari is prompted by a series of ambushes and improvised-explosive devices planted on the highway only minutes away from Ashoquah village.

A Portuguese army convoy was attacked just the night before, with two vehicles hit by RPGs and rifle fire.

Trying not to draw attention, troops stationed at Ma'Sum Ghar forward-operating base take a back route into the area, marching through a mountain pass early in the evening. They set up camp and wait another six hours, attempting to sleep on jagged rock.

At 1:30 a.m., they move out again, using night-vision goggles that cast the landscape in an eerie green glow.

As the sun comes up, and the first call to prayer rises hauntingly from area mosques, the troops move into Ashoquah, where life has already begun to stir. Small boys and men of all ages gather around in an almost festive atmosphere to witness the heavily armed Canadians' arrival.

A unit of Afghan National Army soldiers arrives soon after and does a more thorough search of the village. Farther along, tanks await in case of trouble. As it turns out, none arrives.

The Canadians do seem to be winning this war, reducing the Taliban to a much weaker force than they were last year in neighbouring Panjwai district, where intense fighting took several Canadian lives, says Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Canada's Afghanistan forces.

For the soldier on the ground, though, it still seems like a tough slog.

"There is no doubt that counter insurgency is the most difficult type of warfare," says Shepperd.

"If you had two armies that lined up on opposing fronts you could just hammer the bad guys. You gotta identify the bad guys here before you can hammer them."

(National Post)

Barmaid gets princely sum for kiss and tell

IDNUMBER 200706110093
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Prince Harry; Colour Photo: Cherie Cymbalistry ;
DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Paula Beauchamp and Sean Meyers
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 327

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Military increases use of no-compete purchases

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PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 606

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Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found that the percentage of the value that such non-competitive contracts account for in defence spending has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on a urgent basis. Many of the deals were for items such as fuel, building supplies and moving expenses.

"I think this report raises some important questions about accountability and transparency," said Bruce Campbell, the director of the CCPA. "We're talking about some big bucks being spent by a government which has staked its claim on accountability."

In the government 2004–2005 fiscal year, almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition between firms, according to the study. By fiscal year 2006–2007, the sole-source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004–2005, non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion dollars spent that year, about \$1.4 billion went to sole-source deals. That \$9 billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters which is considered a competitive contract.

But by 2006–2007, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non-competitive deals, according to the study. In that period \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The study points out that the figures provided by the government might not include all purchases since some of the more sensitive buys could have been withheld for security reasons.

The issue of defence procurement has been on the front-burner for Parliament since last year when the Conservatives announced \$17 billion in new military equipment purchases. Those are on top of the hundreds

of millions of dollars spent on new equipment for the Afghanistan war.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement and auditor general Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole-source competitions.

Opposition parliamentarians like Liberal MP Denis Coderre, NDP MP Dawn Black and Bloc Quebecois MP Claude Bachand have all raised questions in the Commons about whether Canada is getting the best value from non-competitive deals. They have argued that competition allows Canadian industry to play a major role in defence procurement which creates jobs. At the same time, they say, taxpayers get better value.

The Harper government, however, counters that the military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for what could be a drawn-out competitive process, especially for Afghanistan.

But the report's author, Steve Staples, said most of the contracts in the data provided by Public Works are not related to the Afghanistan war. The government and the Canadian Forces, however, have been using that conflict to justify the widespread use of non-competitive contracts, he argues.

"It's not about equipment for the war but the war is used as an excuse to favour certain suppliers," said Staples. "In fact, both Canadian and U.S. experts have told the Commons that soldiers get better equipment, cheaper and faster if a competitive process is used."

In addition, those questioning such contracts are accused of being unpatriotic, Staples pointed out.

"They use the war to shield itself from proper criticism and necessary oversight."

No contest for military contracts, study finds; 40% awarded without competition

IDNUMBER 200706110148
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: PATRICK DOYLE, REUTERS / Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor argues the government needs to work fast. ;
KEYWORDS: TENDERS
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: DAVID PUGLIESE
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 811

Forty per cent of military contracts awarded over the last year were done so without any type of competition among companies and the use of such sole source deals are on the rise, according to a report to be made public today.

Using data provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, the study also found the percentage of the value that such non-competitive contracts account for in defence spending has also more than doubled in a two-year period.

The study by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives outlines information about signed contracts and does not include the \$17 billion in new military equipment spending announced last year by the Conservative government.

In addition, most of the contracts the report looked at are not related to the Afghanistan war, which has seen equipment purchased on an urgent basis.

"I think this report raises some important questions about accountability and transparency," said Bruce Campbell, director of the CCPA. "We're talking about some big bucks being spent by a government which has staked its claim on accountability."

In the government 2004-05 fiscal year, almost 35 per cent of the contracts awarded by the Defence Department did not involve a competition between firms, according to the study.

By fiscal year 2006-07, the sole source contract figure had increased to 41 per cent.

The government figures also show that in 2004-05 non-competitive deals accounted for about 15 per cent of the money spent on contracts by the Defence Department. Of the more than \$9 billion spent that year, about

\$1.4 billion went to sole source deals. That \$9-billion figure included the purchase of new naval helicopters, which is considered a competitive contract.

But by 2006–07, almost 34 per cent of the money went to non-competitive deals, according to the study. In that period, \$3.5 billion in contracts were signed by the Defence Department.

The study points out the figures provided by the government might not include all purchases, because some of the more sensitive buys could have been withheld for reasons of national security.

As well, in the 2006–07 figures the government did not include the estimated \$1.8-billion contract to purchase C-17 aircraft from the U.S. firm Boeing. The Conservative government considers that a competitive deal, even though most aerospace industry officials regard it as non-competitive because the government announced the C-17 was its airplane of choice from the beginning of the process.

The issue of defence procurement has been on the front burner for Parliament since last year, when the Conservatives announced \$17 billion in new military equipment purchases. Those are on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on new equipment for the Afghanistan war.

The Commons defence committee has been studying military procurement, and auditor-general Sheila Fraser has expressed concern about sole source competitions.

Opposition MPs like Liberal Denis Coderre, Bloquiste Claude Bachand and the NDP's Dawn Black have raised questions in the Commons about whether Ottawa is getting the best value from non-competitive deals.

They have argued that competition allows Canadian industry to play a major role in defence procurement, which creates jobs. At the same time, they say, taxpayers get better value.

The Harper government, however, counters that the military equipment is needed quickly and in some cases there is no time for what could be a drawn-out competitive process.

Defence Minister Gordon

O'Connor has also argued because Canadian troops are on the front lines in Afghanistan, the government needs to work fast to acquire gear.

But the report's author, Steve Staples, said most of the contracts in the data provided by Public Works are not related to the Afghanistan war. The government and the Canadian Forces, however, have been using that conflict to justify the widespread use of non-competitive contracts, he argues.

"It's not about equipment for the war, but the war is used as an excuse to favour certain suppliers," Staples said. "In fact, both Canadian and U.S. experts have told the Commons that soldiers get better equipment, cheaper and faster if a competitive process is used."

In addition, when people have raised questions about such contracts, the government and its supporters accuse them of being unpatriotic, Staples pointed out.

"They use the war to shield itself from proper criticism and necessary oversight," Staples added, noting he fully expects the same type of reaction to this report.

The report recommends a new parliamentary committee be established with responsibility for defence procurement to provide greater oversight and transparency on military contracts.

In the United States, various Senate committees examine major procurements of weapons and equipment.

The report also recommends the government hold off signing any new military contracts valued at more than

\$100 million until it hears from the Commons defence committee on military procurement as well as reports from the auditor-general expected by the end of this year.

It also suggests ministers involved in defence procurement – especially the minister of national defence – and procurement-related public servants have at least a five-year separation from any firms supplying the government if they had been employed in the past by those firms or lobbied on their behalf.

It notes O'Connor was a lobbyist for five of the world's top 10 defence contractors. According to the report, that "compromises his ability to instill public confidence in the military procurement system."

Ottawa Citizen

Filmmaker in detention drama; There are echoes of the infamous Zahra Kazemi affair in the case of a Montrealer who is not allowed to leave Iran

IDNUMBER 200706110140

PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: MORTEZA NIKOUBAZI, REUTERS / Iranian women prisoners in their cell in Tehran's Evin prison, where Mehrnoushe Solouki was jailed for a month before being released on bail. ; Colour Photo: Mehrnoushe Solouki. ;

KEYWORDS: CRIME; IRAN; MURDERS; TRIALS; JOURNALISTS; CANADIANS

BYLINE: MAX HARROLD

SOURCE: The Gazette

WORD COUNT: 869

She is known by her Montreal roommates as a soft-spoken filmmaker, but now Mehrnoushe Solouki is an unlucky character in a tense geopolitical drama halfway across the world.

The Universite du Quebec a Montreal doctoral student, a permanent resident of Canada since 2004, can't leave her native Iran because her French passport is being withheld. Police in Tehran view her as a threat to national security. Human rights groups say she is caught in a wave of repression against pro-Western Iranians.

"I'm under surveillance, I'm a virtual prisoner," Solouki, 32, said recently in phone interviews and emails with The Gazette from Tehran. "I'm confined to my parents' home in a country in which I have no status and where I don't know (hardly) anyone."

To discuss her case, she used the phone and a computer at a neighbour's house, she said.

Solouki was released on \$116,000 bail in March after a month in solitary confinement at Tehran's Evin prison, following her arrest on Feb. 17 for making what police charge is a propaganda video financed by the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Solouki said her documentary, about the 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, was a self-financed, personal project without Canadian grants.

The only official connection was a professional reference given to Solouki by filmmaker Jean-Daniel Lafond, husband of Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, last fall at the Montreal launch of his latest film, American Fugitive. (Interestingly, that film portrays a man who shot and killed a former press attache to the shah of Iran.)

Rideau Hall has confirmed Lafond gave Solouki the name of someone in Iran who in turn helped her find a sound technician and a cameraman.

Solouki said she also obtained permission to shoot her film and a security clearance from Iran's Ministry of Islamic Orientation before going to the country in December.

Filmmaker in detention drama; There are echoes of the infamous Zahra Kazemi affair in the case of a Montrealer who is not allowed to leave Iran

She said she is now exhausted and weary of the Iranian bureaucracy: "When they arrested me, they confiscated everything: a year of work, research and findings (including all her video footage of cemeteries where victims of the war are buried).

"It is gathering dust in some cupboard at the Ministry of the Islamic Republic. Psychologically, I feel disillusioned, oppressed and hunted, and also bitter about being abandoned by my adopted country (Canada)."

She is in limbo as she waits for the Iranian bureaucracy to make a final decision on her case and aware anything she says might affect diplomatic efforts to secure her release, she said.

During her month in prison, she said, she was kept in a room without furniture that was continually lit with a bright light. Investigators questioned her repeatedly about her links to Canada.

Despite the harsh treatment, they made a point of telling her they did not want a repeat of the Zahra Kazemi affair, referring to the Iranian–Canadian photojournalist who died in Iranian custody in 2003, almost three weeks after she was arrested for taking pictures outside Evin prison during a student protest in Tehran.

The death of Kazemi, a Canadian citizen, has since tainted Canada's relations with Iran. Despite official Canadian protests and the admission by Iran's ambassador to Britain in February 2005 that prison guards murdered Kazemi, an Iranian court refused to reopen an inquiry into her death, which had earlier been ruled an accident.

Ottawa isn't doing or saying much about Solouki because she is a French, not a Canadian, citizen, said Catherine Gagnaire, a spokesperson for the Foreign Affairs Department in Ottawa. Canadian permanent residents get little, if any, consideration by Canada when they are abroad. Gagnaire referred questions about Solouki to France's embassy in Ottawa.

Jean–Christophe Fleury, a spokesperson for the French embassy, was not aware of Solouki's case but said Paris was trying to help several of its citizens being detained in Iran. "We're helping them behind the scenes," Fleury said. "We don't want to publicize this. It makes it more difficult to help."

Officials at Iran's embassy were not available to comment about Solouki.

Olivier Delas, a Montreal immigration lawyer and international law professor at Universite Laval, said Canada and France are limited by an unpredictable regime in Tehran. "Iran is acting under its own laws – it can choose not to recognize Solouki's French citizenship and just keep her there," he said. "And Canada's poor relationship with Iran isn't helping."

It's a mistake to think Canada can swoop in and pluck Canadian citizens from harm's way in a foreign country, Delas said. While it generally tries as much as possible to check on Canadian citizens who are in jail, it cannot circumvent foreign laws. As for Canadian permanent residents, it has no obligation to help.

Francois Bugingo, president of the Canadian chapter of Reporters Without Borders, a group that lobbies for press freedom, said the Iranians are punishing Solouki because of the freedom her dual citizenship normally affords her. "She can say and do things they can't," he said.

Moise Mougnan, a Montreal book editor and acquaintance of Solouki, said he hopes she will not languish indefinitely. "Will she become another Zahra Kazemi? I hope not," he said.

Solouki's former roommates in the Plateau Mont Royal district said they hope she comes back some day. "She was quiet, polite," said one of her roommates who did not want to be named. "Why this happened to her is a mystery."

Filmmaker in detention drama; There are echoes of the infamous Zahra Kazemi affair in the case of a Montreal

Travel Warnings: Canada's Foreign Affairs Department warns Canadians not to travel to Afghanistan, Iraq, Chad and Somalia. It also warns Canadians not to travel to specified regions in 40 other countries, including Iran. More information: <http://www.voyage.gc.ca/dest/sos/warnings-en.asp>

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Canadian troops get tough when answers elude them; Identifying Taliban among villagers is half the fight

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PAGE: A14

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: TOM BLACKWELL, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Capt.Mark Shepperd talks to elders in a village suspected to be an insurgent base. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

DATELINE: ASHOQUAH, Afghanistan

BYLINE: TOM BLACKWELL

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 386

Major Dave Quick and Captain Mark Shepperd were losing patience fast. The two Canadian infantry officers tried to suss out whether Taliban fighters are using this tree-lined Afghan village as a base, but the answers seemed to change by the minute.

At first the local elders insisted there are no insurgents, then suggested the militants march through occasionally, then said no one actually sees the fighters because they move only at night.

In fact, intelligence has indicated as many as 30 insurgents operate out of the area. And, the Canadian soldiers say, such conversations often end with someone shooting at them.

"If we are attacked," threatened Quick, the youthful-looking commander of the Royal Canadian Regiment's India Company, "I'll mark this location and we'll bring a bomb down on it."

Shepperd threw out his own challenge to the crowd. "If any of these men are Taliban, I invite them to take a shot at me, and I'll take his head off."

Nothing resolved, India Company headed out of Ashoquah and into the countryside beyond, a lush, close-packed terrain of vineyards, pomegranate orchards and waddis, the ancient system of Afghan irrigation canals.

This time, there was no attack, though the troops saw two suspected insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades who hightailed it when spotted.

It seems typical of the ghost war being waged in Zhari district, the main battleground for Canadian troops these days, and a place where identifying Taliban among the local population is almost half the fight.

Sometimes, the insurgents quickly remove bodies and even shell casings from battle sites to try to erase any evidence they had fought and lost comrades, the Canadians say.

It is also a difficult – and atypical – landscape for combat. While much of southern Afghanistan is desert and craggy mountain, the Arghandab River and the irrigation network have turned Zhari, 30 kilometres west of Kandahar city, into a maze of vegetation, mud walls and waterways.

Troop-carrying vehicles cannot get in, meaning all the operations are conducted on foot.

"That's about as dangerous infantry country as you can get," Shepperd said. "When you get an ambush with small arms from 10 metres away, there is a point where the danger scale maxes out."

That said, the Canadians say they would not really order the bombing of a village that had harboured Taliban. The tough talk is meant to show the soldiers know when they are being misled, and to draw out useful information.

The latest mission into Zhari was prompted by a series of ambushes and bombs planted on the highway only minutes away from Ashoquah village.

Canada cool to Khadr case

IDNUMBER 200706110107
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: The Editorial Page
PAGE: A10
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters, Handout / Omar Khadr, now 20, was arrested five years ago. ;
KEYWORDS: CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM; WAR; CITIZENSHIP; CONSPIRACY; CRIME; CANADA
BYLINE: Raj Sharma
SOURCE: For The Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 635

Omar Khadr — the sole Canadian in Guantanamo — had some unexpected news when he showed up for his arraignment before an infamous U.S. military tribunal. The charges against him were dropped without prejudice.

The fact the charges were dropped is nothing significant, and is essentially an issue only of semantics — "enemy combatant" vs. "unlawful enemy combatant." The U.S. government will undoubtedly and quickly re-file the charges.

Michael Ignatieff, the deputy Liberal leader, and Joe Comartin of the NDP quickly suggested the Canadian government should essentially be doing more for a Canadian citizen like Khadr.

An example of what could be done is Australian David Hicks, who was also incarcerated in Gitmo, the U.S. facility for holding terror suspects. But Hicks took advantage of a "deal," pleaded guilty and returned to Australia to serve his sentence (he'll probably be out of jail by the end of the year).

Hicks was supported by his government, who pressured the U.S. for a repatriation agreement. Hicks even has a website that advocated for his release. No such support seems likely for Khadr, given the apathy (or flat-out antagonism) of the Canadian public toward him, and the Conservative government has made no request for a repatriation arrangement.

Why is there so little support for Khadr in Canada?

Amnesty International has stated that: "To have held a 15-year-old boy in the harsh and lawless conditions of Guantanamo for five years has already been a travesty of justice — and to put him before an unfair 'military commission' trial simply adds to a disgraceful record in his case."

Khadr's Pentagon-appointed lawyer (who has since been fired by his client) notes that the U.S. would be the first country in modern history to try a war crimes suspect who was a minor at the time of the alleged incident(s). One of the charges is conspiracy and is apparently based on acts committed before Khadr was 10.

While Khadr's mother appealed to the sympathies of ordinary Canadians in a news conference a couple of years ago, little sympathy appears forthcoming.

In a previous media interview, his mother said she'd rather see her son at an al-Qaeda training camp than "be on drugs or having some homosexual relation" in Canada.

Other family members have admitted to "connections to al-Qaeda" (Abdurahman Khadr) and the desire for martyrdom (Abdullah Khadr). Khadr's sister's indifferent reaction to the death of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Speer (killed by a grenade allegedly thrown by Khadr) was televised for the edification of all Canadians.

The reason for the Canadian public's lack of support is quite clear: ordinary Canadians have little love for this al-Qaeda family.

Does Canada's obligation toward its citizens mandate intervention on behalf of Khadr to the U.S.? More than a decade ago, former prime minister Jean Chretien personally intervened to have Ahmed Said Khadr, the patriarch of the family and an al-Qaeda financier, released from Pakistani detention (Ahmed Said was accused of bombing the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan, resulting in 15 deaths).

Within weeks of that request, he was released. He was killed in 2003 when a Pakistani military helicopter shelled the residence he was staying in with senior al-Qaeda operatives.

Omar Khadr was in Afghanistan, allegedly supporting a terrorist organization and also allegedly taking part in hostilities against American forces. He is now facing the consequences of those actions before a military tribunal (which will determine his guilt or innocence).

The Canadian government has provided some assistance to Khadr, but pushing for a repatriation agreement would be a discretionary act by the government, and is not mandated by any legal obligation toward a citizen outside Canada engaging in hostile acts against the armed forces of an allied country.

It's clear Khadr and his family have abdicated their right to such discretion, not only by publicly espousing views that directly contradict Canadian values, but also by acting in support of al-Qaeda, an organization that has announced its intentions to attack this country.

Raj Sharma is an immigration lawyer in Calgary.

Freedom denied Keep Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father

SOURCETAG 0706110391

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 11

BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 493

Editorial opinions in the media last week, more or less endorsed the Sun Media's editorial view that if Omar Khadr can't be put on trial, he should be freed.

"If the U.S. isn't capable of giving Khadr a timely trial ... it should free him ... justice delayed is justice denied," opined the Sun Media Point of View.

Sounds reasonable, but is it?

When the military judge, Col. Peter Brownback, refused to hear war crime charges against Khadr (accused of murdering a Marine medic and wounding another in Afghanistan in 2002), it was the right decision.

PLAYED DEAD

Khadr was wounded three times during an American attack. Trained by al-Qaida, he was with Taliban forces, played dead, then threw a grenade.

If not a uniformed soldier, he was a fighter and an ardent believer in al-Qaida's cause, long before 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

That he was 15 at the time is irrelevant, as is the fact he's Canadian — a useful technicality for the Khadr family, which on radio last week declined to say whether they felt allegiance to this country.

While Khadr shouldn't go on trial for terrorism or war crimes, he most certainly should not be released.

To take a generous view, he is similar to a soldier taken prisoner in war and kept in custody until the war ends.

In the early days of the U.S. civil war, prisoners on both sides were released on their bond that they wouldn't fight again. This changed when many broke their word and returned to fight for the cause they believed in. So prison camps sprang up, like the dreaded Andersonville that was more deadly (from disease) than actual fighting.

In the Second World War, the Germans kept our captured soldiers in camps until the war ended, as we did German prisoners.

None were put on trial unless, like SS General Kurt Meyer, they committed war crimes. Like shooting soldiers who had surrendered.

Does anyone think Omar Khadr has reformed? After five years in Guantanamo, there aren't many detainees who aren't true believers in the cause we are supposedly at war against.

"Free him," as the Sun Media editorial suggests? Why?

As PM in 1996, Jean Chretien persuaded Pakistan to free Omar's father, Ahmed Said, a naturalized Canadian who was imprisoned for complicity in the terrorist bombing of the Egyptian embassy that killed 15.

A friend and fund-raiser for Osama bin Laden, Ahmed was later killed in a Pakistani ambush. In that fight, a bullet partially paralyzed his youngest son -- hence the mother's return to Canada for free medical care for the kid.

When Israel captures prisoners in fights, does it release them without assurances they won't fight again? Yes, on occasion, often with sorry consequences for Israel.

Omar Khadr became a prisoner in a war he had joined, and there's no hint that he wouldn't join it again if he were free. What makes him different from conventional PoWs is that he and his fellow detainees don't abide by the Geneva Conventions as our side does. Yet he expects (and gets) the benefits of that agreement.

BEATS AFGHANISTANT

Guantanamo is not a holiday resort, but detainees are not tortured; they are well fed (the average weight gain is 8 kg (18 pounds) a year) and get better medical and dental care than they would in Afghanistan.

Omar Khadr should remain there until the "war" is over -- or until there is solid evidence he won't emulate his father, who benefited from Canadian generosity, and betrayed it.

As for "justice delayed is justice denied," tell that to Jacob Fast whom Canada delayed deporting for 50 years. Now that he's consumed with Alzheimers, is in his 90s, and hasn't a clue what's going on, we want him gone.

Some justice!

Taliban rockets try to take out Karzai

SOURCETAG 0706110385
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 8
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI Didn't flinch
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 124

Taliban militants trained a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai yesterday as he spoke with a group of elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing the Afghan leader.

A purported Taliban spokesman said militants planned the strike after learning in advance about Karzai's arrival in Ghazni.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life as president. The Afghan leader did not flinch as the rockets landed about 200 metres away, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter.

"Please sit down, sit down," Karzai told the gathering under a tent in a schoolyard, gesturing for them to be seated after the rockets landed with a thud. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Several bearded men seated in front broke out in applause.

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said. A police chief said no one had been wounded. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Surprise pinup pick Our troops prefer 'natural beauty'

SOURCETAG 0706110377

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media 'It's very surprising to hear people have had this reaction to it,' Ilyes says of Maclean's front.

BYLINE: SARAH GREEN, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: TORONTO

WORD COUNT: 252

Canada's troops prefer brains over booty.

Toronto's Kinga Ilyes, a University of Western Ontario graduate who was featured on the cover of Maclean's university student issue in April, has become the pinup of choice for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The photo shows a serious-looking Ilyes, 24, dressed in the student uniform of a sweater and jeans in a university classroom.

'NATURAL BEAUTY'

But in a letter to Maclean's, a Kandahar-based sergeant said soldiers were drawn to Ilyes' "natural beauty" over the plastic images found in Playboy and other male magazines.

"The amazing thing is looking at Playboy or some other such magazine just does not excite anymore seeing as how it is all rather superficial and very overdone," Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wrote.

"The very refreshing image on your cover, given this girl's natural beauty and incredible sexiness, had most of us in agreement that she is the best pinup in our collection. Who would have thought that our most impressive female photo would come from Maclean's?"

The soldiers' reaction to the magazine cover has caught Ilyes, a human resources manager at Abercrombie and Fitch who graduated from university two years ago, by surprise.

"It's not something I would have ever expected, it's really not," said Ilyes, who's a bit overwhelmed by the attention. "It's very, very surprising to hear people have had this reaction to it."

The Romanian-born Ilyes, who came to Canada in 1991 when she was eight years old, said her modelling experience is limited to charity fashion shows in university.

Her pictures are also on file at an agency for non-professional models, which led to the Maclean's cover.

The image of a "girl next door" on the cover of a Canadian magazine may be what appeals to homesick troops, Ilyes mused.

"The fact it comes from home was something they thought was pretty neat," she said.

"It could be someone from their hometown, someone they went to school with." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Paris not diggin' her new Hilton 'Jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done'

SOURCETAG 0706110375

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 2

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of PARIS HILTON No appeal 2. photo by Dan Steinberg, AP Paris Hilton's sister Nicky and ex-beau Stavros Niarchos arrive at the Twin Towers detention centre for a visit yesterday.

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

WORD COUNT: 301

Paris Hilton's sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos were seen going into L.A.'s Twin Towers detention centre yesterday on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

The hotel heiress has been at the downtown maximum-security facility since Friday, when she was dragged out of court wailing for her mommy after Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail.

Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Late Saturday her lawyer said she wouldn't appeal her 45-day sentence.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday. "During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this experience."

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

"Showing is doing," he said. "If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?"

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy -- or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw. "The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult," he said.

Last week Hilton's lawyers sought to have her released on grounds that the 26-year-old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour. She was convicted of two driving offences while on probation for a DUI charge.

KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Freedom denied Keep Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father

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PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 18

BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 493

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Omar Khadr became a prisoner in a war he had joined, and there's no hint that he wouldn't join it again if he were free. What makes him different from conventional PoWs is that he and his fellow detainees don't abide by the Geneva Conventions as our side does. Yet he expects (and gets) the benefits of that agreement.

BEATS AFGHANISTANT

Guantanamo is not a holiday resort, but detainees are not tortured; they are well fed (the average weight gain is 8 kg (18 pounds) a year) and get better medical and dental care than they would in Afghanistan.

Omar Khadr should remain there until the "war" is over -- or until there is solid evidence he won't emulate his father, who benefited from Canadian generosity, and betrayed it.

As for "justice delayed is justice denied," tell that to Jacob Fast whom Canada delayed deporting for 50 years. Now that he's consumed with Alzheimers, is in his 90s, and hasn't a clue what's going on, we want him gone.

Some justice!

Taliban rockets try to take out Karzai

SOURCETAG 0706110550
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 10
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI Didn't flinch
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 124

Taliban militants trained a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai yesterday as he spoke with a group of elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing the Afghan leader.

A purported Taliban spokesman said militants planned the strike after learning in advance about Karzai's arrival in Ghazni.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life as president. The Afghan leader did not flinch as the rockets landed about 200 metres away, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter.

"Please sit down, sit down," Karzai told the gathering under a tent in a schoolyard, gesturing for them to be seated after the rockets landed with a thud. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Several bearded men seated in front broke out in applause.

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said. A police chief said no one had been wounded. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Cowgirl on her own as army grounds Harry

SOURCETAG 0706110537

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 3

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Paula Kehoe, Sun Media Cherie Cymbalistry, a Calgary bartender, has to content herself with a cardboard cutout of Prince Harry.

BYLINE: TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: CALGARY

WORD COUNT: 285

Despite rumours of a dinner date with Prince Harry, Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry was spotted having a night out with friends on the weekend.

Meanwhile, Harry, whose evening with the brunette last week has been splashed across a British tabloid, has reportedly been confined at a southern Alberta army base since his night out in Calgary.

Cymbalistry, who sold her story and photos of her cavorting with Harry at Calgary's Cowboys Niteclub to Britain's News of the World, had been hoping for a reunion with Harry over the weekend, her boss Doug Donald said yesterday.

"I think she's more than a bit disappointed," he said.

The prince, who flew to Alberta about two weeks ago for training at CFB Suffield near Medicine Hat, partied at Cowboys into the wee hours Thursday and spent much of the time ogling Cymbalistry.

After closing down the bar at 2 a.m., Harry returned to hang out with Cymbalistry and fellow bartenders as they finished up for the night.

Before receiving a parting kiss on the cheek from the red-headed royal, Cymbalistry gave him her cellphone number.

Donald said he has learned the 22-year-old prince didn't have an opportunity to hook up with Cymbalistry this past weekend.

"They say on Thursday, following his Wednesday night party, he was woken up very early in the morning and escorted down to Suffield and he's been confined to barracks ever since," said Donald.

News of the World criticized Harry for partying in Calgary while Britain lost its 150th soldier in Iraq.

The prince was held back from serving with his unit in Iraq, but army chiefs are reportedly planning to deploy Harry to Afghanistan so he doesn't quit the army.

Cymbalistry told News of the World about Harry's passion for her ample assets, his flirty ways, how he introduced himself as 'Gary' and his bid to get her to drop her top.

"He was obsessed about my outfit and bra top (and) he was very forward," she said. "Then he told me your skirt is really short and asked if I was wearing underwear — which I was. The only thing on his mind was whether or not I was wearing underwear." KEYWORDS=CANADA

The Kinga of our troops' pinups More popular than Playboy, soldiers say

SOURCETAG 0706110536
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 3
ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Pinup girl Kinga Ilyes is a favourite with Canadian troops after appearing on the cover of Maclean's magazine.
BYLINE: SARAH GREEN, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 249

Canada's troops prefer brains over booty.

Toronto's Kinga Ilyes, a University of Western Ontario graduate who was featured on the cover of Maclean's university student issue in April, has become the pinup of choice for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The photo shows a serious-looking Ilyes, 24, dressed in the student uniform of a sweater and jeans in a university classroom.

But in a letter to Maclean's, a Kandahar-based sergeant said soldiers were drawn to Ilyes' "natural beauty" over the plastic images found in Playboy and other magazines.

"The amazing thing is looking at Playboy or some other such magazine just does not excite anymore seeing as how it is all rather superficial and very overdone," Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wrote.

'SEXINESS'

"The very refreshing image on your cover, given this girl's natural beauty and incredible sexiness, had most of us in agreement that she is the best pinup in our collection. Who would have thought that our most impressive female photo would come from Maclean's?"

The soldiers' reaction to the magazine cover caught Ilyes, a human resources manager at Abercrombie and Fitch who graduated from university two years ago, by surprise.

"It's not something I would have ever expected, it's really not," said Ilyes, who's a bit overwhelmed by the attention. "It's very, very surprising to hear people have had this reaction to it."

The Romanian-born Ilyes, who came to Canada in 1991 when she was 8 years old, said her modelling experience is limited to charity fashion shows in university. Her pictures are also on file at an agency for non-professional models, which led to the Maclean's cover.

The image of a "girl next door" on the cover of a Canadian magazine may be what appeals to troops, Ilyes mused. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Paris not diggin' her new Hilton 'Jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done'

SOURCETAG 0706110535

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 2

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Dan Steinberg, AP Paris Hilton's sister Nicky and ex-beau Stavros Niarchos arrive at the Twin Towers detention centre for a visit yesterday. 2. photo of PARIS HILTON No appeal

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

WORD COUNT: 301

Paris Hilton's sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos were seen going into L.A.'s Twin Towers detention centre yesterday on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

The hotel heiress has been at the downtown maximum-security facility since Friday, when she was dragged out of court wailing for her mommy after Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail.

Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Late Saturday her lawyer said she wouldn't appeal her 45-day sentence.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday. "During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this experience."

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

"Showing is doing," he said. "If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?"

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy -- or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw. "The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult," he said.

Last week Hilton's lawyers sought to have her released on grounds that the 26-year-old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour. She was convicted of two driving offences while on probation for a DUI charge.

KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Frontpage Darling of Kandahar 'Girl next door' the top pinup for our troops

SOURCETAG 0706110534

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 1

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Toronto's Kinga Ilyes is "the best pinup in our collection," according to Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan. 2. TONY FADES TO BLACK

WORD COUNT: 0

Hercules request flies U.S. open to rushing order

SOURCETAG 0706110081

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 17

ILLUSTRATION: file photo Canada has asked the U.S. if it can jump ahead of that country's military to get new C-130J Hercules planes first.

BYLINE: CP

WORD COUNT: 235

National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical-lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the C-130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because the feds are still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9 billion purchase of 17 C-130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said.

He added the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co-operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self-sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical-lift and helicopters.

The feds' intention to buy new tactical-lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

AGING FLEET

The Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out of a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far-flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C-130E and C-130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Freedom denied Keep Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father

SOURCETAG 0706110074

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 15

BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 493

Editorial opinions in the media last week, more or less endorsed the Sun Media's editorial view that if Omar Khadr can't be put on trial, he should be freed.

"If the U.S. isn't capable of giving Khadr a timely trial ... it should free him ... justice delayed is justice denied," opined the Sun Media Point of View.

Sounds reasonable, but is it?

When the military judge, Col. Peter Brownback, refused to hear war crime charges against Khadr (accused of murdering a Marine medic and wounding another in Afghanistan in 2002), it was the right decision.

Played dead

Khadr was wounded three times during an American attack. Trained by al-Qaida, he was with Taliban forces, played dead, then threw a grenade.

If not a uniformed soldier, he was a fighter and an ardent believer in al-Qaida's cause, long before 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

That he was 15 at the time is irrelevant, as is the fact he's Canadian — a useful technicality for the Khadr family, which on radio last week declined to say whether they felt allegiance to this country.

While Khadr shouldn't go on trial for terrorism or war crimes, he most certainly should not be released.

To take a generous view, he is similar to a soldier taken prisoner in war and kept in custody until the war ends.

In the early days of the U.S. civil war, prisoners on both sides were released on their bond that they wouldn't fight again. This changed when many broke their word and returned to fight for the cause they believed in. So prison camps sprang up, like the dreaded Andersonville that was more deadly (from disease) than actual fighting.

In the Second World War, the Germans kept our captured soldiers in camps until the war ended, as we did German prisoners.

None were put on trial unless, like SS General Kurt Meyer, they committed war crimes. Like shooting soldiers who had surrendered.

Does anyone think Omar Khadr has reformed? After five years in Guantanamo, there aren't many detainees who aren't true believers in the cause we are supposedly at war against.

"Free him," as the Sun Media editorial suggests? Why?

As PM in 1996, Jean Chretien persuaded Pakistan to free Omar's father, Ahmed Said, a naturalized Canadian who was imprisoned for complicity in the terrorist bombing of the Egyptian embassy that killed 15.

A friend and fund-raiser for Osama bin Laden, Ahmed was later killed in a Pakistani ambush. In that fight, a bullet partially paralyzed his youngest son -- hence the mother's return to Canada for free medical care for the kid.

When Israel captures prisoners in fights, does it release them without assurances they won't fight again? Yes, on occasion, often with sorry consequences for Israel.

Omar Khadr became a prisoner in a war he had joined, and there's no hint that he wouldn't join it again if he were free. What makes him different from conventional PoWs is that he and his fellow detainees don't abide by the Geneva Conventions as our side does. Yet he expects (and gets) the benefits of that agreement.

Beats Afghanistan

Guantanamo is not a holiday resort, but detainees are not tortured; they are well fed (the average weight gain is 8 kg (18 pounds) a year) and get better medical and dental care than they would in Afghanistan.

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Taliban rockets try to take out Karzai

SOURCETAG 0706110061
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI Didn't flinch
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 124

Taliban militants trained a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai yesterday as he spoke with a group of elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing the Afghan leader.

A purported Taliban spokesman said militants planned the strike after learning in advance about Karzai's arrival in Ghazni.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life as president. The Afghan leader did not flinch as the rockets landed about 200 metres away, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter.

"Please sit down, sit down," Karzai told the gathering under a tent in a schoolyard, gesturing for them to be seated after the rockets landed with a thud. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Several bearded men seated in front broke out in applause.

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said. A police chief said no one had been wounded. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Cowgirl on her own as army grounds Harry

SOURCETAG 0706110055

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Paula Kehoe, Sun Media Cherie Cymbalistry, a Calgary bartender, has to content herself with a cardboard cutout of Prince Harry.

BYLINE: TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: CALGARY

WORD COUNT: 285

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Meanwhile, Harry, whose evening with the brunette last week has been splashed across a British tabloid, has reportedly been confined at a southern Alberta army base since his night out in Calgary.

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The prince, who flew to Alberta about two weeks ago for training at CFB Suffield near Medicine Hat, partied at Cowboys into the wee hours Thursday and spent much of the time ogling Cymbalistry.

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"He was obsessed about my outfit and bra top (and) he was very forward," she said. "Then he told me your skirt is really short and asked if I was wearing underwear — which I was. The only thing on his mind was whether or not I was wearing underwear." KEYWORDS=CANADA

The Kinga of our troops' pinups More popular than Playboy, soldiers say

SOURCETAG 0706110054
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 4
ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Pinup girl Kinga Ilyes is a favourite with Canadian troops after appearing on the cover of Maclean's magazine. 2. photo
BYLINE: SARAH GREEN, TORONTO SUN
WORD COUNT: 250

Canada's troops prefer brains over booty.

Toronto's Kinga Ilyes, a University of Western Ontario graduate who was featured on the cover of Maclean's university student issue in April, has become the pinup of choice for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The photo shows a serious-looking Ilyes, 24, dressed in the student uniform of a sweater and jeans in a university classroom.

But in a letter to Maclean's, a Kandahar-based sergeant said soldiers were drawn to Ilyes' "natural beauty" over the plastic images found in Playboy and other magazines.

"The amazing thing is looking at Playboy or some other such magazine just does not excite anymore seeing as how it is all rather superficial and very overdone," Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wrote.

'SEXINESS'

"The very refreshing image on your cover, given this girl's natural beauty and incredible sexiness, had most of us in agreement that she is the best pinup in our collection. Who would have thought that our most impressive female photo would come from Maclean's?"

The soldiers' reaction to the magazine cover caught Ilyes, a human resources manager at Abercrombie and Fitch who graduated from university two years ago, by surprise.

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The Romanian-born Ilyes, who came to Canada in 1991 when she was 8 years old, said her modelling experience is limited to charity fashion shows in university. Her pictures are also on file at an agency for non-professional models, which led to the Maclean's cover.

The image of a "girl next door" on the cover of a Canadian magazine may be what appeals to troops, Ilyes mused. KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Paris not diggin' her new Hilton 'Jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done'

SOURCETAG 0706110051

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 2

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of PARIS HILTON No appeal 2. photo by Dan Steinberg, AP Paris Hilton's sister Nicky and ex-beau Stavros Niarchos arrive at the Twin Towers detention centre for a visit yesterday.

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

WORD COUNT: 301

Paris Hilton's sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos were seen going into L.A.'s Twin Towers detention centre yesterday on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

The hotel heiress has been at the downtown maximum-security facility since Friday, when she was dragged out of court wailing for her mommy after Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail.

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Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

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Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour. She was convicted of two driving offences while on probation for a DUI charge.

KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Frontpage Darling of Kandahar 'Girl next door' top pin-up for our troops

SOURCETAG 0706110050

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 1

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Kinga Ilyes is "the best pinup in our collection," according to Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan. 2. photo Queen's Park report card

WORD COUNT: 0

BEST BETS TONIGHT

SOURCETAG 0706110369
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Entertainment
PAGE: D3
ILLUSTRATION: photo Vancouver's Cobie Smulders plays Robin on the CBS sitcom How I Met Your Mother, which airs tonight at 9:30 p.m.
BYLINE: FREE PRESS NEWS SERVICES
WORD COUNT: 196

MUST SEE

How I Met Your Mother, 9:30 p.m., CBS, Ch-11. Robin has an extreme phobia of shopping malls. The more she refuses to explain, the more her friends hunt for her secret. The answer is a surprise and it's hilarious. With reruns like this, we're reminded that this is one of TV's best comedies on television.

OTHER CHOICES

Hell's Kitchen, 8 and 9 p.m., Fox. First is a rerun of last week's repulsive season-opener, with Gordon Ramsay screaming, shouting and sending his customers home hungry. Then comes a new hour, reportedly with a meltdown by one of his contestants.

Creature Comforts, 8 p.m., CBS, Ch-11. Last week's debut had hilarious moments, having real people's comments emerge from droll, animated animals.

Two and a Half Men, 9 p.m., CBS, Ch-11. Rose is definitely leaving and Charlie realizes how much he'll miss her. Also, Allison Janney of The West Wing guests as Alan's rough date from the Internet.

America at a Crossroads: Kansas to Kandahar, 9 p.m., PBS. This documentary watches a Kansas Army Reserve unit as it prepares for duty in Afghanistan, diverts to earthquake relief in Pakistan, then plunges into a war zone. The film is much too slow and distant, but it does create a rich contrast between the quiet Kansans and the chaos they enter. KEYWORDS=TELEVISION

'Hot planes and cool cars' Organizers defy past cancellations, organizing hurdles and the odds to bring a major air show back to area skies.

SOURCETAG 0706110342
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Business Monday
PAGE: BM8

2 photos 1. File Photo SHOWTIME: A U.S. navy F-14 Tomcat streaks along the deck past a line of Tutor jets from the Canadian Forces Snowbirds team during the 2004 London International Airfest. Local aviation buffs can once again get their summer flying fix when Wings and Wheels St. Thomas-Central Elgin takes flight June 23 and 24. 2. **ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Morris Lamont, Sun Media CHECK IT OUT: Tina Leach is excited after getting an autograph from U.S. navy F/A-18F Super Hornet pilot Lieut. Ian Burgoon of Virginia Beach, Va., during the 2005 Veterans Flying Salute air show at London International Airport. Organizers of the June 23-24 Wings and Wheel St. Thomas-Central Elgin are promising as many as 36 planes, 65 classic cars and more.
BYLINE: PAT CURRIE, SPECIAL TO SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 1200

Battle of Britain pilots called it the "twitch" — signs that one of their buddies had reached the end of his combat rope.

In recent years in London and across Southwestern Ontario, the "twitch" took a different form.

It afflicted aviation buffs and worsened in late May and early June, when the traditional London International Air Show season came and went without jets roaring or sun glinting off exotic wings.

After a string of cancelled air shows at London International Airport in the years after 9/11 for various reasons — paralyzing insurance costs, terrible weather and lack of sponsorship — local air-show aficionados such as Tom Lawson were developing symptoms of advanced air-show deprivation.

To relieve the twitch, Lawson and close associates — such as insurance man Ed Holder (who's also London West federal Conservative candidate) — decided a year ago to revive the air show.

Since both are volunteer directors of St. John Ambulance — Holder, the outgoing chairperson, is being replaced by Lawson — "it seemed a natural that any show we put together would be for a charitable cause," Lawson says.

"My first question was: 'What's an air show?' I'd never been to one," says Holder, who has learned since.

"This will be the seventh-biggest air show in North America in terms of aircraft involved." (At last count, about 36 planes will be involved, plus about 10 current and vintage military vehicles and 65 classic cars.)

Moving to revive the air show was probably the easiest decision Lawson and Holder had to make.

'Hot planes and cool cars' Organizers defy past cancellations, organizing hurdles and the odds to bring a ma

"I used to ride my bicycle out to the air shows at London airport," says Lawson, who's now president and chief executive of Empire Aviation and routinely rubs elbows with Canadian aviation luminaries.

"Back in '92, when I was mayor of Grand Bend, I got a call from Bob Stephan, then commanding officer of the Snowbirds (the Canadian Forces precision flying team). Bob said they had a hole in their schedule and asked if we'd like . . . a show in Grand Bend," Lawson recalls.

He whipped a local committee together and, for the next seven years, the Snowbirds were the centrepiece of a small but lively area air show, Lawson says.

So Lawson had a good idea of the immense organization and logistics required to get a reborn air show off the ground in one year's time.

The two then met with Peter Garland, a 12-year air force veteran, longtime organizer and often main announcer at London air shows.

"I said no the first five times they asked me," says Garland, who's president of the board of Jesse's Journey, the Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy, founded by fellow London broadcaster John Davidson. "Then they mentioned that . . . Jesse's Journey, would be a beneficiary and I said yes

The charity will share in the proceeds with principal beneficiary, St. John Ambulance, the Air Cadets of Canada and 427 (London) Wing of the Air Force Association of Canada.

The show, whose theme is A Salute to Canada's Forces, will be held at St. Thomas airport, where manager Dale Arndt "welcomed us with open arms," Garland says.

"London (airport) has gotten too busy as a commercial airport," says Lawson. "Besides, the Snowbirds put on a show last year at St. Thomas and they told me they just loved it there."

Then Garland suggested the show include classic cars, including Cadillacs collected by Steve Plunkett and shown at his annual Fleetwood Country Cruize In.

Thus was born the registered name Wings and Wheels St. Thomas–Central Elgin for the June 23–24 show. "Hot planes and cool cars," says Garland.

The name may not be original — it's shared with several major life-size and model shows in Britain, Belgium and the U.S. — but "it's snappy and it describes a whole different concept for the biggest air show in Southwestern Ontario," he says.

Garland says in 2004, air shows drew 18 million fans to 450 airports in North America. "That exceeds attendance at auto racing or NFL football and is second only to major-league baseball," he notes.

He also knows that they can't be thrown together in an afternoon.

"The first thing you've got to do is start lining up some serious sponsorship money," he says, noting that housing, feeding and transporting pilots and ground crews pushes \$40,000 "right off the bat."

"We spent most of May and June in 2006 developing the sponsorship package. By November, sponsors had come up with a goodly amount of cash and we . . . could start putting the rest of the committee together."

To sweeten the sponsorship pot, a schedule was set up offering increasingly plush VIP treatment for sponsors ranging up from the \$500 to \$1,000 "Safe Landings" level to the \$50,000 "Wing commander" level with perks

'Hot planes and cool cars' Organizers defy past cancellations, organizing hurdles and the odds to bring a ma

including red-carpet treatment for themselves and 25 guests at the VIP tent, a flight in a participating aircraft (but not a Snowbird Tutor) and a chance to meet performers at an "invitation-only" reception at London City Press Club.

Highway 401 Husky service centre owner Don Hunter was named "Wheels" chairperson and organized the classic-car display.

By the time the 35-member air show committee hit the "Have we thought of everything?" level, they had recruited a volunteer workforce of about 300 bodies, including 100 air cadets, about 30 from Jesse's Journey and a crew from the London air force association wing.

Add in another 200 or so in ground crew for the Snowbirds and other performers, a contingent from CFB Trenton, the Elgin Regiment, assorted vendors and display kiosks, and it's a major operation. And don't forget the as many as 25,000 spectators.

"At an air show, everybody is a participant," says Garland.

Picking the right people, with the right connections and experience in a range of overlapping specialties, is the key to a successful show. Fortunately, there are many in London, St. Thomas and area, Garland says.

One of the first to come aboard was Gerry Vanderhoek as head of aircraft operations.

"Gerry had a volunteer list from old (London) air shows. We started making calls and most of them said 'You bet!'," Garland grins.

"He basically arranges for all the aircraft to come," Garland says. "Mike Lewis is his (second-in-command)."

Retired Snowbird Lyle Holbrook, based at CFB Borden, was recruited as air boss, responsible for aircraft availability, pilot briefings and organizing the flying schedule.

"During the show, Lyle will work closely with London air traffic control. He'll be our stage manager, co-ordinating all the airborne flights, bringing them on stage and off stage in a safe and timely manner," Garland explains.

Lee Grant, a former manufacturing engineer, is responsible for designing the air show layout at St. Thomas airport. "Lee will co-ordinate what goes where during set up," Garland says.

From Montreal radio station CHAD comes main show announcer Rick Peterson, Garland says. "He the best in the business (and) a pilot."

Wilson Boynton of London is responsible for ground support. He'll boss the "turkeys" who help haul visiting aircraft into place for the ground display.

"The Canadian Forces have designated our air show as their major public relations event in Southwestern Ontario in 2007," Garland says.

Part of their presence will be a ground display of military vehicles, including the Bison, G-Wagon and LAV III used in Afghanistan.

Overseeing that display, provision of countless tents and military bands to play the show's opening is Lt.-Col. Kevin Doyle, commander of London-headquartered 31 (Reserve) Brigade.

'Hot planes and cool cars' Organizers defy past cancellations, organizing hurdles and the odds to 155ng a ma

Its Elgin Regiment will build a temporary bridge to a parking lot for 10,000 vehicles on the airport grounds, Garland says.

And about 100 air cadets, led by Capt. Art Reimer, will control the parking and camp out overnight at the airport between the Saturday and Sunday shows.

CFB Trenton will provide CC-130 Hercules aircraft for static displays, along with a convoy of flatbed trucks loaded with "mules," tractors used to marshall large planes, to St. Thomas and London airports.

Some will go to London to support jets — such as the U.S. air force C-17 Globemaster and KC-135R Stratotanker — that require longer runways than those in St. Thomas. They'll do flyovers during the show.

Hospitality, including managing the VIP tent and finding lodging — in St. Thomas for the Snowbirds and in London for more than 100 other performers — is being looked after by Amin and Judy Grunwald

Then there are roughly 350 volunteers, who'll do everything from controlling crowds to babysitting aircraft overnight, says Garland.

A traffic-control group under ex-cop Rick Hodkinson will run an off-site downtown parking area and shuttle service carrying fans to and from the airport on Murphy Bus Lines vehicles, Garland says.

St. Thomas Ford-Lincoln is providing a fleet of new Fords to Conrad Joseph's team, which will transport the 130 performers.

For fans seeking close-up photos, Jim Fisk will organize pre-show "photo tours," sponsored by London camera shop owner Stan Reade.

"We even found a source for smoke oil just down the road," says St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce publicist Sue McKittrick, who's helping Garland market the show.

Smoke oil? It makes those smoke trails behind performing aircraft. Can't have an air show without it.

And though a recent deadly crash grounded the Snowbirds for a time, they return to the air June 20 in Owen Sound. "The Snowbirds will be here, as far as we know," Garland says.

He's more confident about the weather: "Aw, it'll be good."

Freedom denied Keep Omar Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father.

SOURCETAG 0706110311
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: A8
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
DATELINE: TORONTO
WORD COUNT: 498

Editorial opinions in the media last week more or less endorsed Sun Media's editorial view that if Omar Khadr can't be put on trial, he should be freed.

"If the U.S. isn't capable of giving Khadr a timely trial . . . it should free him . . . justice delayed is justice denied," opined the Sun Media Point of View.

Sounds reasonable, but is it?

When the military judge, Col. Peter Brownback, refused to hear war crime charges against Khadr (accused of murdering a U.S. marine medic and wounding another in Afghanistan in 2002), it was the right decision.

Khadr was wounded three times during an American attack. Trained by al-Qaida, he was with Taliban forces, played dead, then threw a grenade.

If not a uniformed soldier, he was a fighter and an ardent believer in al-Qaida's cause, long before 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

That he was 15 at the time is irrelevant, as is the fact he's Canadian — a useful technicality for the Khadr family, which on radio last week declined to say whether they felt allegiance to this country.

While Khadr shouldn't go on trial for terrorism or war crimes, he most certainly should not be released.

To take a generous view, he is similar to a soldier taken prisoner in war and kept in custody until the war ends.

In the early days of the U.S. civil war, prisoners on both sides were released on their pledge that they wouldn't fight again. This changed when many broke their word and returned to fight for the cause they believed in.

So prison camps sprang up, like the dreaded Andersonville camp that was more deadly (from disease) than actual fighting.

In the Second World War, the Germans kept captured Allied soldiers in camps until the war ended, as we did German prisoners.

None were put on trial unless, like SS general Kurt Meyer, they had committed war crimes — like shooting Allied soldiers who had surrendered.

Does anyone think Omar Khadr has reformed? After five years in Guantanamo, there aren't many detainees who aren't true believers in the cause we are supposedly at war against.

"Free him," as the Sun Media editorial suggests? Why?

As prime minister in 1996, Jean Chretien persuaded Pakistan to free Omar's father, Ahmed Said Khadr, a naturalized Canadian who was imprisoned for complicity in the terrorist bombing of the Egyptian embassy that killed 15.

A friend and fundraiser for Osama bin Laden, the elder Khadr was later killed in a Pakistani ambush. In that fight, a bullet partially paralyzed his youngest son — hence the mother's return to Canada for convenient free medical care for the kid.

When Israel captures prisoners in fights, does it release them without assurances they won't fight again? Yes, on occasion, often with sorry consequences for Israel.

Omar Khadr became a prisoner in a war he had joined, and there's no hint that he wouldn't join it again if he were free. What makes him different from conventional PoWs is that he and his fellow detainees don't abide by the Geneva Conventions as our side does. Yet he expects (and gets) the benefits of that agreement.

Guantanamo is not a holiday resort, but detainees are not tortured; they are well fed (the average weight gain is eight kilograms (18 pounds) a year); and they get better medical and dental care than they would in Afghanistan.

Omar Khadr should remain there until the "war" is over — or until there is solid evidence he won't emulate his father, who benefited from Canadian generosity, and betrayed it.

As for "justice delayed is justice denied," tell that to Jacob Fast, an alleged Nazi collaborator whom Canada delayed deporting for 50 years. Now that he's consumed with Alzheimers, is in his 90s and hasn't a clue what's going on, we want him gone.

Some justice!

Afghan president survives rocket assassination bid

SOURCETAG 0706110305
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A7
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 191

Taliban militants fired rockets near President Hamid Karzai in an apparent assassination attempt in central Afghanistan yesterday, but the missiles fell far from their target and no one was hurt, officials and witnesses said.

The assassination bid was one among a spate of attacks that killed at least 66 people, mostly militants, during the weekend.

Karzai was giving a speech to the elders and residents of Andar district in Ghazni province when rockets were fired nearby, said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, provincial police chief.

No one was hurt, he said.

Witnesses said they heard between three and six rockets, but the Taliban claimed it fired off 12.

The rockets missed their target, with two of them landing about 200 metres away from the crowd, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter attending the event.

"Please sit down," Karzai told a nervous crowd under a tent in a school yard. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses said.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life since he became president following the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Purported Taliban spokesperson Qari Yousef Ahmadi said Taliban militants were behind the attack.

"The Taliban knew Karzai was coming to Andar district. When Karzai was meeting with the people, the Taliban fired 12 rockets," Ahmadi said by satellite phone from an undisclosed location.

Khial Mohammad, a legislator also at the event, said during the speech "we heard the sounds of rockets whizzing over our heads" before slamming in the distance." **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Canada seeks to speed delivery of new aircraft

SOURCETAG 0706110303
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 320

National Defence wants to jump the queue again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the Americans has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9–billion purchase of 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said., adding the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

The U.S. aerospace firm's main competitor — Airbus Military — tried to do an end–run Friday around the Defence Department, dropping an unsolicited proposal on the desks of members of the House of Commons defence committee and called for the C–130J purchase to be scrapped.

The Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan. Flying out of a base in the Middle East, the aircraft are used for supply drops to NATO troops at far–flung desert bases.

But the bulk of Canada's fleet of 32 C–130E and C–130H cargo planes, purchased between 1960 and 1997, is reaching the end of its life.

Last fall, National Defence made a similar queue–jumping request for early delivery of four C–17

Globemaster heavy-lift cargo aircraft and 16 CH-47 Chinook helicopters from U.S.-based Boeing Aircraft Corp. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

'He's with us all the time' Dad says slain soldier was at memorial service

SOURCETAG 0706110466

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 15

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Tim Smith, Special to Sun Media The late Cpl. Francisco Gomez's parents George and Joan Gomez, holding granddaughter Krista Gomez, 3, are presented with a Memorial Cross at the town hall in Beaumont yesterday.

BYLINE: CARY CASTAGNA, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: BEAUMONT

WORD COUNT: 250

George Gomez says his son, Cpl. Francisco Gomez, has made his presence known to his family three times since being killed in Afghanistan last summer.

And the elder Gomez said he has no doubt his slain son was at a memorial ceremony in his honour yesterday in this town south of Edmonton.

"I knew that Francisco would be here. He's with us all the time," Gomez told Sun Media, after being presented with an ironwood cross in memory of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry soldier. "I didn't feel any impressions today, but he's around."

Several months back, Francisco appeared to his mom, Joan, as "light around the basement," Gomez said.

Weeks later, Gomez heard knocks at the door minutes apart, but he didn't see anything either time.

"I said, 'Francisco, come in, you don't have to knock,' " Gomez recalled.

And just a few days ago, Gomez was in his home when the doorbell rang. Gomez said it was daylight and he had a clear view of the entrance – but he couldn't see anyone.

"Life continues and you don't ever lose anyone," he explained.

A memorial cross for Francisco has been erected with the message "We Remember Them All" carved into the sides in French and English.

Yesterday, the cross was unveiled next to a monument outside Beaumont's town office.

The Gomez family was presented with a replica of the cross, which pays tribute to all Canadian soldiers.

During an emotional hour-long ceremony that was attended by government and military representatives along with dozens of military supporters, Francisco was remembered as quiet, unassuming, humble and a "soldier's soldier."

Cpl. James Chad Porter, 30, struggled to maintain his composure at the podium while speaking about his close Edmonton friend.

"When he did have something to say, everybody listened because it was either important or funny," he said.

Francisco, 44, and Montreal native Cpl. Jason Warren, 29, were killed July 22, when a suicide bomber detonated a car filled with explosives beside the Bison armoured vehicle that Gomez was driving in a convoy west of Kandahar. Eight other soldiers were injured in the attack.

Since 2002, 56 Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

Freedom denied Keep Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father

SOURCETAG 0706110463

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 11

BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 493

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Sounds reasonable, but is it?

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Played dead

Khadr was wounded three times during an American attack. Trained by al-Qaida, he was with Taliban forces, played dead, then threw a grenade.

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Beats Afghanistan

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Some justice!

Taliban rockets try to take out Karzai

SOURCETAG 0706110456
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI Didn't flinch
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 124

Taliban militants trained a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai yesterday as he spoke with a group of elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing the Afghan leader.

A purported Taliban spokesman said militants planned the strike after learning in advance about Karzai's arrival in Ghazni.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life as president. The Afghan leader did not flinch as the rockets landed about 200 metres away, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter.

"Please sit down, sit down," Karzai told the gathering under a tent in a schoolyard, gesturing for them to be seated after the rockets landed with a thud. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Several bearded men seated in front broke out in applause.

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said. A police chief said no one had been wounded. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Harry holed up, buxom barmaid parties on

SOURCETAG 0706110452

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of CHERIE CYMBALISTY Still awaiting call 2. photo of PRINCE HARRY Confined to barracks?

BYLINE: TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: CALGARY

WORD COUNT: 325

Despite rumours of a dinner date with Prince Harry, Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalisty was spotted having a low-key night out with friends over the weekend.

Meanwhile the royal soldier, whose evening last week with the busty brunette has been splashed across a British tabloid, has reportedly been sequestered at a southern Alberta army base since his night out in Calgary.

Cymbalisty, who sold her story and photos of her cavorting with Harry at Cowboys Niteclub to Britain's News of the World, had been hoping for a rendezvous with her prince charming over the weekend, her boss Doug Donald said yesterday.

"I think she's more than a bit disappointed," he said. "I doubt that will happen now."

The prince, who flew to Alberta about two weeks ago for training at CFB Suffield near Medicine Hat, partied at Cowboys into the wee hours last Thursday and spent much of the evening ogling Cymbalisty.

After closing down the bar at 2 a.m., Harry returned to hang out with Cymbalisty, who aspires to be a Playboy bunny, and fellow bartenders as they finished up for the night.

Before receiving a parting kiss on the cheek from the red-headed royal, Cymbalisty gave him her mobile number with hopes of a date.

Donald said he has learned from sources close to the prince's RCMP protection that the 22-year-old didn't have an opportunity to hook up with Cymbalisty this past weekend.

"They say on Thursday, following his Wednesday night party, he was woken up very early in the morning and was escorted down to Suffield and he's been confined to barracks ever since," said Donald.

"I don't think he's going anywhere."

News of the World criticized Harry for partying in Calgary while Britain lost its 150th soldier in Iraq.

The prince was held back from serving with his unit in Iraq, but army chiefs are reportedly planning to quietly deploy Harry to Afghanistan so he doesn't quit the army.

In her candid interview with the paper, Cymbalisty dishes about the prince's passion for her ample assets, his

flirty ways, how he jokingly introduced himself as 'Gary' and his bid to get her to drop her top.

"He was obsessed about my outfit and bra top (and) he was very forward," she told News of the World.

"Then he told me, 'Your skirt is really short,' and asked if I was wearing underwear –which I was. The only thing on his mind was whether or not I was wearing underwear."

TARINA.WHITE@CALGARYSUN.COM KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

A hit with troops Maclean's cover girl becomes favourite pinup

SOURCETAG 0706110451

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos by Dave Thomas, Sun Media 1. Kinga Ilyes is seen Saturday in Toronto. The model has reportedly become the most popular pinup among Canadian troops since appearing on the cover of Maclean's magazine's university student issue in April. She actually graduated from university two years ago. 2. Kinga Ilyes's 'natural beauty' puts her way ahead of pinups from the average men's magazine, says a Kandahar-based soldier.

BYLINE: SARAH GREEN, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: TORONTO

WORD COUNT: 241

Canada's troops prefer brains over booty.

Toronto's Kinga Ilyes, a University of Western Ontario graduate who was featured on the cover of Maclean's university student issue in April, has become the pinup of choice for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The photo shows a serious-looking Ilyes, 24, dressed in the student uniform of a sweater and jeans in a university classroom.

But in a letter to Maclean's, a Kandahar-based sergeant said soldiers were drawn to Ilyes's "natural beauty" over the plastic images found in Playboy and other male magazines.

"The amazing thing is looking at Playboy or some other such magazine just does not excite anymore seeing as how it is all rather superficial and very overdone," Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wrote.

"The very refreshing image on your cover, given this girl's natural beauty and incredible sexiness, had most of us in agreement that she is the best pinup in our collection.

"Who would have thought that our most impressive female photo would come from Maclean's?"

The soldiers' reaction to the magazine cover has caught Ilyes, a human resources manager at Abercrombie and Fitch who graduated from university two years ago, by surprise.

"It's not something I would have ever expected, it's really not," said Ilyes, who's a bit overwhelmed by the attention. "It's very, very surprising to hear people have had this reaction to it."

The Romanian-born Ilyes, who came to Canada in 1991 when she was eight years old, said her modelling experience is limited to charity fashion shows in university.

Her pictures are also on file at an agency for non-professional models, which led to the Maclean's cover.

The image of a "girl next door" on the cover of a Canadian magazine may be what appeals to homesick troops, Ilyes mused.

"The fact it comes from home was something they thought was pretty neat," she said.

"It could be someone from their hometown, someone they went to school with." KEYWORDS=OTHER
NEWS

Paris not diggin' her new Hilton 'Jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done'

SOURCETAG 0706110445

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 2

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Dan Steinberg, AP Paris Hilton's sister Nicky, left, and ex-beau Stavros Niarchos arrive at the Twin Towers detention centre for a visit yesterday. 2. photo of PARIS HILTON No appeal

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

WORD COUNT: 301

Paris Hilton's sister Nicky Hilton and ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos were seen going into L.A.'s Twin Towers detention centre yesterday on one of two days during the week that inmates are allowed visitors.

The hotel heiress has been at the downtown maximum-security facility since Friday, when she was dragged out of court wailing for her mommy after Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer ordered her back to jail.

Sheriff Lee Baca had released her to house arrest the day before for undisclosed health reasons. Late Saturday her lawyer said she wouldn't appeal her 45-day sentence.

"Being in jail is by far the hardest thing I have ever done," she said in a statement Saturday. "During the past several days, I have had a lot of time to think and I believe that I am learning and growing from this experience."

She also said she was "shocked" by the attention her case has received and suggested the public and media focus on "more important things like the men and women serving our country in Iraq."

Media image consultant Michael Sands said Hilton's only hope at selling her new found humility is a genuine change of behaviour.

"Showing is doing," he said. "If Paris is really concerned about the media paying attention to the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, then why didn't she sign autographs at military bases and hospitals?"

This would be a big deviation for Hilton, who is more famous for where she parties and who she parties with than her philanthropy -- or talent as a singer and actor, said celebrity publicist David Brokaw. "The next step is hopefully to reveal by her words and actions that she has taken responsibility for being an adult," he said.

Last week Hilton's lawyers sought to have her released on grounds that the 26-year-old was suffering an unspecified medical condition. But Sauer suggested that could be taken care of at jail medical facilities.

Hilton was expected to serve only 23 days because of a state law that requires shorter sentences for good behaviour. She was convicted of two driving offences while on probation for a DUI charge.

KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

FRONTPAGE Darling of Kandahar 'Girl next door' top pin-up for our troops

SOURCETAG 0706110444

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 1

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Kinga Ilyes is "the best pinup in our collection," according to Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan. 2. photo ROYAL BRUSH-OFF? Cherie still waiting, Harry not calling

WORD COUNT: 0

Freedom denied Keep Khadr in custody until we're sure he won't emulate his father

SOURCETAG 0706110652

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 15

BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 493

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PLAYED DEAD

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Omar Khadr became a prisoner in a war he had joined, and there's no hint that he wouldn't join it again if he were free. What makes him different from conventional PoWs is that he and his fellow detainees don't abide by the Geneva Conventions as our side does. Yet he expects (and gets) the benefits of that agreement.

BEATS AFGHANISTAN

Guantanamo is not a holiday resort, but detainees are not tortured; they are well fed (the average weight gain is 8 kg (18 pounds) a year) and get better medical and dental care than they would in Afghanistan.

Omar Khadr should remain there until the "war" is over -- or until there is solid evidence he won't emulate his father, who benefited from Canadian generosity, and betrayed it.

As for "justice delayed is justice denied," tell that to Jacob Fast whom Canada delayed deporting for 50 years. Now that he's consumed with Alzheimers, is in his 90s, and hasn't a clue what's going on, we want him gone.

Some justice!

Taliban rockets try to take out Karzai

SOURCETAG 0706110639
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 10
ILLUSTRATION: photo of HAMID KARZAI Didn't flinch
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 124

Taliban militants trained a barrage of rockets on President Hamid Karzai yesterday as he spoke with a group of elders in central Afghanistan, narrowly missing the Afghan leader.

A purported Taliban spokesman said militants planned the strike after learning in advance about Karzai's arrival in Ghazni.

It was the third attempt on Karzai's life as president. The Afghan leader did not flinch as the rockets landed about 200 metres away, said Arif Yaqoubi, a local reporter.

"Please sit down, sit down," Karzai told the gathering under a tent in a schoolyard, gesturing for them to be seated after the rockets landed with a thud. "Don't be scared. Nothing is happening."

Several bearded men seated in front broke out in applause.

Karzai finished his speech and his security detail whisked him off by helicopter to Kabul, witnesses and officials said. A police chief said no one had been wounded. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Canada may butt in for military aircraft

SOURCETAG 0706110638
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.06.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 8
ILLUSTRATION: photo of STEPHEN HARPER Tories talking
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 208

National Defence wants to jump the queue once again to get faster delivery of new Hercules tactical–lift aircraft and has formally asked the Pentagon if it can butt into line ahead of the U.S. military.

Canada is hoping to start receiving the new model of the venerable C–130 by 2009, a full year ahead of the previously established schedule, according to a senior Defence official.

The Pentagon is "favourable to the idea," said Dan Ross, the department's assistant deputy minister of material.

An official decision by the U.S. has yet to be made because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is still negotiating a final contract with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin for the \$4.9–billion purchase 17 C–130J Hercules.

"We're hoping we'll be able to get the opportunity to start training new crews and technicians on the 130J before 2010," Ross said.

He added the Americans see it as being in their interest to help Canada get the aircraft as quickly as possible.

"I mean, we work together around the world and (we're) obviously co–operating very, very closely in Afghanistan," said Ross. "So they need Canada to be as militarily self–sufficient as possible."

One of the biggest problems facing NATO countries in Afghanistan is a shortage of air transport, including tactical–lift and helicopters.

Ottawa's intention to buy new tactical–lift aircraft was first announced last summer, but opposition and industry critics stepped up their attacks in November when the Conservatives acknowledged they were negotiating exclusively with Lockheed Martin.

At present, the Canadian air force employs a small group of Hercules transports in Afghanistan.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Barmaid royally let down

SOURCETAG 0706110636

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of CHERIE CYMBALISTY Sold her story 2. photo of PRINCE HARRY Back at base

BYLINE: TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 273

Despite rumours of a dinner date with Prince Harry, Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry was spotted having a low-key night out with friends.

Meanwhile the royal soldier, whose evening with the 22-year-old last week was splashed across a British tabloid yesterday, has reportedly been sequestered at a southern Alberta army base since his night out in Calgary.

Cymbalistry, who sold her story and photos of her cavorting with Harry at Cowboys Niteclub to Britain's News of The World, was hoping for a rendezvous with her prince charming over the weekend, her boss Doug Donald said yesterday.

But a date with Harry didn't happen Saturday, said Donald.

"I think she's more than a bit disappointed," he said.

"I doubt that will happen now."

The prince, who flew to Alberta about two weeks ago for training at CFB Suffield, near Medicine Hat, partied at Cowboys into the wee hours last Thursday and reportedly spent much of the evening ogling Cymbalistry.

After closing down the bar at 2 a.m., Harry returned to hang out with Cymbalistry, who aspires to be a Playboy bunny, and fellow bartenders as they finished up for the night.

Before receiving a parting kiss on the cheek from the red-headed royal, Cymbalistry gave him her cellphone number with hopes of a date.

Donald said he has learned from sources close to the prince's RCMP protection detail that Cymbalistry didn't have an opportunity to hook up with Harry last weekend.

"They say on Thursday, following his Wednesday night party, he was woken up very early in the morning and escorted down to Suffield and he's been confined to barracks ever since," said Donald.

"I don't think he's going anywhere."

News of the World slammed Harry for partying while Britain lost its 150th soldier in Iraq.

The prince was held back from serving with his unit in Iraq, but army chiefs are reportedly planning to quietly deploy Harry to Afghanistan so he doesn't quit the army.

Cymbalistry dished to the U.K. newspaper about the prince's passion for her ample assets, his flirty ways, how he jokingly introduced himself as 'Gary' and his bid to get her to drop her top. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

Canuck student troops' fave

SOURCETAG 0706110635

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Dave Thomas, Sun Media Kinga Ilyes has become a favourite pin-up of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan after she appeared on the cover of Maclean's. A sergeant said they appreciate her natural beauty.

BYLINE: SARAH GREEN, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: TORONTO

WORD COUNT: 167

Canada's troops prefer brains over booty.

Toronto's Kinga Ilyes, a University of Western Ontario graduate featured on the cover of Maclean's April issue, has become the pin-up of choice for soldiers in Afghanistan.

The photo shows a serious-looking Ilyes, 24, in a university classroom.

But in a letter to Maclean's, a Kandahar-based sergeant said soldiers were drawn to Ilyes' "natural beauty."

"The amazing thing is looking at Playboy or some other such magazine just does not excite anymore seeing as how it is all rather superficial and very overdone," Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wrote.

"The very refreshing image on your cover, given this girl's natural beauty and incredible sexiness, had most of us in agreement that she is the best pin-up in our collection. Who would have thought that our most impressive female photo would come from Maclean's?"

The troops' reaction caught Ilyes, a human resources manager who graduated two years ago, by surprise.

"It's not something I would have ever expected, it's really not," said Ilyes. "It's very, very surprising to hear people have had this reaction to it."

The Romanian-born Ilyes said her modelling experience is limited to charity fashion shows in university.

Her pictures are also on file at an agency for non-professional models, which led to the Maclean's cover.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL