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# Trooper 'died doing what he believed in'; Darryl Caswell is 57th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

His mother Darlene Cushnam said Caswell's return date to Canada was timed to coincide with his birthday.

"I know he believed in what he was doing," she said outside her family's red brick home. "I just wanted him to come home for his 26th birthday."

Caswell was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

"He was good at whatever he set his mind to, whether it was martial arts or the military ... he could do it," Cushnam said.

Caswell was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED — an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Trooper 'died doing what he believed in'; Darryl Caswell is 57th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan

Also yesterday, family and friends in CFB Gagetown, N.B., laid to rest Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, 30, who was killed on May 30 while flying over Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, Ont., who said she was heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away. ... Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is ... we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day," she wrote. "And too often we lose them. My deepest sympathies go out to Darryl's family and friends and everyone who loved and will miss him. May he rest in peace."

# Improvised bombs have deadly impact on Cdn. troops; Canadian Forces commander says while homemade bombs have become less sophisticated, that hasn't made them less deadly

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of almost one-third of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, died Monday in the lead vehicle of an elephantine supply convoy plodding its way toward Canadian troops fighting alongside the Afghan National Army and coalition forces in a northern district of Kandahar province.

Part of a reconnaissance squadron, Caswell was riding in a Coyote armoured vehicle when it struck the improvised explosive device — known by its acronym IED — on a dusty secondary road en route to Khakriz district, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City.

It's not an altogether new area for Canadians, but they have pulled back from there last year in favour of focusing on the more heavily populated regions in the south.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to IEDs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

IEDs are unlike mines, which are sown by the millions throughout the parched deserts and lush valleys of Afghanistan and explode indiscriminately, maiming or killing untold numbers of innocent people.

Instead, IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops — as they did last summer and fall.

IEDs require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings that wreak greater havoc when the device explodes.

Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated — a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

Improvised bombs have deadly impact on Cdn. troops; Canadian Forces commander says while homemade

That hasn't made them less deadly.

Less than three weeks ago, Cpl. Matt McCully was killed when he stepped on an IED during a patrol that was part of Operation Hoover, considered Canada's largest offensive against insurgents in recent months.

In April, six Canadian soldiers were killed when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the Maywand district.

Altogether, at least 17 of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been slain by these homemade bombs.

Roadside bombs don't always have devastating effect. Depending on the strength of the explosives and the vehicle that triggers it, an IED blast sometimes results in nothing more than a blown tire.

"We can mitigate the impact of IEDs, we can change it up," Cessford said yesterday. "We've had good success in reducing effectiveness in this enemy tactic."

"But we can't provide 100 per cent security."



# Slain soldier remembered for dedication; Master Cpl. Darrell Priede was killed when helicopter shot down in Afghanistan

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The sun of late spring mixed with the vivid colours of military tradition yesterday, creating a picture that even Darrell Priede might have appreciated.

As saddened and grief-stricken comrades carried the late master corporal's casket out of St. Luke's Chapel at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown — following a full military funeral — the familiar clicking sounds of media cameras could be heard.

In many ways, it was a fitting goodbye from members of a profession that Priede was a part of for the last several years.

Priede, one of the top photographers in the Canadian military and a member of the Army News Team at CFB Gagetown, was killed May 30 when the U.S. helicopter he was a passenger in was shot down in Afghanistan.

Priede was en route to photograph an operation Canadian soldiers were involved in when his chopper was attacked by Taliban forces. He had only been in the country for a few weeks.

"He would have been right here (had another soldier been killed) shooting stills and taking video," said Sgt. Jack Walsh, who worked with Priede at Army News.

"He was born with a viewfinder stuck to his eye."

Walsh was one of an estimated 800 people to pay their last respects to the popular soldier, whose body was serenaded in and out of the church by the sound of a lone bagpiper playing Amazing Grace.

"When he left for Afghanistan, no photographer had been injured and we thought it was a safe position," said Walsh. "But it was not meant to be."

The funeral service was closed to the media but Capt. Greg Costen, the Protestant padre at CFB Gagetown, said the service touched on several aspects of Priede's career and his personality.

Capt. Dan Fraser of Oromocto said Priede was a professional who knew what he had to do and did it without a mumble or a grumble. "I always said he was one of five people in the whole of the Canadian Forces who didn't complain," Fraser said. "He was very quiet, did every job and never did he say a word of complaint. He was top notch."

Slain soldier remembered for dedication; Master Cpl. Darrell Priede was killed when helicopter shot down in

Fraser said there are times when he can't believe his friend is dead.

"I have known people who have died in the service before but this was just so unexpected," he said. "No one expected him to be in that type of position.

"It's amazing that he went over there to basically shoot some feel-good pictures of the PRT (provincial reconstruction team) and he still managed to get himself out there on the front lines. That says a lot about Master Cpl. Priede as a person."

Brig.-Gen. Rick Parsons, the commander of the army in Atlantic Canada, said the work done by the Army News team is like that of combat soldiers on the front lines. They face risks, but they know their jobs and they are well-trained, he said.

"They are committed and professional and I have no doubt that every single member of the Army News team, every photo tech that is in the Canadian Forces, feels the loss today as does every other member of the Forces."

Col. Ryan Jestin, the commander of CFB Gagetown, said evidence of Priede's professionalism will remain forever.

"His work is going to live on," Jestin said. "That's the great part about being in his profession ... After we are all gone, (people will) be able to look at his pictures."

Harold Perrin, a veteran of the Korean War and past president of the Oromocto Legion, said it was important to show respect to the veterans who are in Afghanistan and especially to those who have fallen.

"As a Korean vet, I realize that when I was there, very little was said about it," Perrin said. "We were told that we didn't belong there in the first place and when we came home, we were shunned and nobody talked to us. It was many years later before they finally recognized it."

Perrin said he didn't want to see the same thing happen to today's fallen members of the Forces, such as Priede.

Born in Burlington, Ont., Priede grew up near Grand Forks, B.C. He is survived by his wife Angela and by his parents, who live in British Columbia.

Priede's funeral came on the day after the Canadian military announced that another soldier had been killed in Afghanistan, becoming the 57th soldier to die since 2002.

Trooper Darryl Caswell of The Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD), based at CFB Petawawa, was killed Monday when a roadside bomb detonated near the vehicle he was travelling in.

Slain soldier remembered for dedication; Master Cpl. Darrell Priede was killed when helicopter shot down in

# The birthday call that never came; Instead of soldier's phoning best wishes, family got news of his death

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Darryl Caswell's mother Darlene Cushman (right) embraces her daughter Jolene and Caswell's stepfather Chris Welsh yesterday outside their home in Clarington, Ont., east of Toronto. Caswell became the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on Monday. ;  
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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in Clarington, a quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday. "It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added. "He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July. He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the bomb — an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 km north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

The birthday call that never came; Instead of soldier's phoning best wishes, family got news of his death

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, Ont., who said the news left her heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however, those are moments that never go away. . . Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is . . . We are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day. And too often we lose them," she wrote.

Canadian troops have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area -- a place where Canadian troops have already suffered heavy losses.

"The Taliban have consistently demonstrated their disregard for peace and improvements to the quality of life for those Afghan citizens that desire peace," Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor said in a statement.

"We are making a difference and the Government of Canada stands proudly with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen as they strive to protect Canadians, our interests and our values."

Born in Bowmanville, Caswell grew up in Clarington and later lived with his mother in Whitby and Sarnia. When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his father and stepmother.

"He just kept wanting to live with his dad. He took to it like a fish to a worm," his stepmother said. "He and his dad had a special bond."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered his condolences to the family. "Without security there can be no development in Afghanistan, and thanks to soldiers like Trooper Caswell, we are making significant progress," he said in a statement.

The birthday call that never came; Instead of soldier's phoning best wishes, family got news of his death

# 'What a great man he was'; Hundreds gather for funeral of army photographer

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A Canadian military photographer who died two weeks ago in Afghanistan was remembered yesterday as a professional whose photographs will live on forever.

Hundreds gathered at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown for the funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his work.

"After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown," Jestin said after the service. "What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him."

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

"Nobody is safe — it's a risky business," said Brig.-Gen. Rick Parsons, commander of Land Force Atlantic.

Parsons praised the work of Priede and others involved in the Afghan mission. "The work that's done by photo techs, and by everybody that's involved in the mission . . . they all contribute to an end goal which is to provide the very best possible assistance they can in achieving the mission and providing the stability that we need in Afghanistan," he told reporters.

Roxanne Priede said her son volunteered to go to Afghanistan and was eager to capture images of Canada's mission there. "He really wanted to do something that would show more of what the military stood for."

# Roadside bombs take toll

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of 17 of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, died Monday in the lead vehicle of a supply convoy plodding its way toward Canadian troops fighting in a northern district of Kandahar province.

Part of a reconnaissance squadron, Caswell was riding in a Coyote armoured vehicle when it struck the improvised explosive device on a dusty secondary road.

It's not a new area for Canadians, but they pulled back from there last year to focus on the more heavily populated regions in the south.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to the roadside bombs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

The bombs are not like mines, which are already sown by the millions throughout the parched deserts and lush valleys of Afghanistan and explode indiscriminately, maiming or killing untold numbers of innocent people.

Instead, they are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops — as they did last summer and fall.

The devices require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings that wreak greater havoc when the device explodes.

Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated — a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

Roadside bombs don't always have devastating effect. Depending on the strength of the explosives and the

vehicle that triggers it, a blast sometimes results in nothing more than a blown tire.

"We can mitigate the impact of IEDs, we can change it up," Cessford said yesterday. "We've had good success in reducing effectiveness in this enemy tactic. But we can't provide 100 per cent security."

Recognizing the impact the devices are having, the Department of National Defence announced last month it's buying 16 Expedient Route Opening Capability systems — a trio of vehicles that detect, dispose of and destroy buried bombs and mines. The vehicles are expected to begin arriving in Kandahar in August, in time for the next rotation of troops.

# Afghan police, U.S. military attack each other

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Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.-led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight officers dead before dawn Tuesday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps — and apparent mistrust — between U.S. and Afghan security forces.

President Hamid Karzai's office called Tuesday's deaths "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co-operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted early Tuesday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.-led coalition said a joint coalition-Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safehouse was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support.

It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

A Canadian soldier was killed Monday by a roadside bomb about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar city.

Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was the 57th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan.

The death brings to at least 78 the number of soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, including at least 39 Americans.

A spokesman for Karzai said Afghan police initiated the shooting.

Officers at the isolated post on a barren stretch of desert in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

"The Americans came close to our checkpoint with the lights of their vehicles off," said Esanullah, commander of the roadblock.

"We shouted at them to stop, but they didn't, and they opened fire on us."

He said eight policemen were killed and four wounded.

Officers at the post fired 49 of their 50 rocket-propelled grenades and called for assistance from reserve police during the three-hour firefight, said Esanullah, who goes by one name.



Karzai's spokesman said the incident underscored the need for better communication.

# Son was supposed to call the day he died; Disbelief | Family says he had so much he wanted to do

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130080  
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**SECTION:** Dgcanada  
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**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 413

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said Tuesday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," she said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said.

"He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED — an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, Ont., who said the news left her heartbroken.

Son was supposed to call the day he died; Disbelief | Family says he had so much he wanted to do 4

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away ... Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day. And too often we lose them," she wrote.

My deepest sympathies go out to Darryl's family and friends and everyone who loved and will miss him. May he rest in peace."

Canadian forces have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan National Army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area — a place where Canadian forces have already suffered heavy losses.

Last year, an IED killed four Canadians in the neighbouring district of Sha Wali Kot.

Until recently, Canadian forces had been slowly pulling back from the region.

# "He was born with a viewfinder stuck to his eye." Sgt. Jack Walsh

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130068  
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**SECTION:** Dgfront; Dgcity  
**PAGE:** A1  
**BYLINE:** MICHAEL STAPLES staples.michael@dailygleaner.com  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 500

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The sun of late spring mixed with the vivid colours of military tradition Tuesday creating a picture that Darrell Priede would have likely appreciated.

As saddened and grief-stricken comrades carried the late master corporal's casket out of St. Luke's Chapel at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown — following a full military funeral — the familiar clicking sounds of media cameras could be heard.

In many ways, it was a fitting goodbye from members of a profession that Priede was a part of for the last several years.

Priede, one of the top photographers in the Canadian military and a member of the Army News Team at CFB Gagetown, was killed May 30 when the U.S. helicopter he was a passenger in was shot down in Afghanistan.

Priede was en route to photograph Canadian soldiers when his chopper was attacked by Taliban forces. He had been in the country for a few weeks.

"He would have been right here (had another soldier been killed) shooting stills and taking video," said Sgt. Jack Walsh, who worked with Priede at Army News. "He was born with a viewfinder stuck to his eye."

Walsh was one of an estimated 800 people to pay their last respects to the popular soldier, whose body was serenaded in and out of the church by the sound of a lone bagpiper playing Amazing Grace.

"When he left for Afghanistan, no photographer had been injured and we thought it was a safe position," said Walsh. "But it was not meant to be."

The funeral service was closed to the media but Capt. Greg Costen, the Protestant padre at Gagetown, said the service touched on several aspects of Priede's career and his personality.

Capt. Dan Fraser of Oromocto said Priede was a professional who knew what he had to do and did it without a mumble or a grumble.

"I always said he was one of five people in the whole of the Canadian Forces who didn't complain," Fraser said.

"He was very quiet, did every job and never did he say a word of complaint. He was top notch."

Fraser said there are times when he can't believe his friend is dead.

"He was born with a viewfinder stuck to his eye." Sgt. Jack Walsh

"I have known people who have died in the service before but this was just so unexpected," he said. "No one expected him to be in that type of position.

"It's amazing that he went over there to basically shoot some feel-good pictures of the PRT (provincial reconstruction team) and he still managed to get himself out there on the front lines. That says a lot about Master Cpl. Priede as a person."

Brig.-Gen Rick Parsons, the commander of the army in Atlantic Canada, said the work done by the Army News team is like that of combat soldiers on the front lines.

They face risks, but they know their jobs and they are well-trained, Parsons said.

"They are committed and professional and I have no doubt that every single member of the Army News team, every photo tech that is in the Canadian Forces, feels the loss today as does every other member of the Forces."

Col. Ryan Jestin, the commander of CFB Gagetown, said evidence of Priede's professionalism will remain forever.

"His work is going to live on," Jestin said. "That's the great part about being in his profession.

"After we are all gone, (people will) be able to look at his pictures."

Born in Burlington, Ont., Priede, grew up near Grand Forks, B.C. He is survived by his wife Angela and by his parents, who live in British Columbia.

Priede's funeral came on the day after the Canadian military announced that another soldier had been killed in Afghanistan, becoming the 57th soldier to die since 2002.

Trooper Darryl Caswell of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, based at CFB Petawawa in Ontario, was killed Monday when a roadside bomb exploded.

# Close call for family

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130064

**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)

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**SECTION:** Dgfront; Dgcity

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** DON MACPHERSON macpherson.don@dailygleaner.com

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)

**WORD COUNT:** 217

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Not long after emergency officials reached Jennifer Cossette to inform her that her house was on fire Tuesday, her husband just happened to call her from work on her cellphone.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to drop what he was doing and rush to the scene, since his workplace is in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Steve Cossette and his wife's home at 30 Parkside Dr. was the scene of a structure fire Tuesday afternoon.

Assistant deputy fire chief Bob Martin said the fire was contained in the attic.

He said it's too early to speculate about a cause.

Fire investigators were on the scene Tuesday as well.

Jennifer Cossette said the fire is distressing but she's relieved no one was home when the blaze broke out.

She and her husband have three children: a seven-year-old son and two-year-old twin girls.

"My babysitter didn't have them here," she said.

Fire officials on the scene told her the cause appears to have been electrical, she said.

While speaking with a reporter, she clutched her cellphone, waiting for her husband, who's a combat engineer, to call her back.

Cossette said that his call after his wife was notified about the fire was a coincidence.

Hearing his wife say their home was ablaze wasn't what he was expecting, she said.

"He didn't really believe me at first."

Cossette said the home is insured and that she and her children will either stay in a hotel or with family in the region.

She said she's been told it will be a week before insurance issues are worked out, cleanup is completed and repairs are carried out.

Smoke billowed from the roof of the house when the fire department arrived on the scene shortly before 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Two firefighters picked away at shingles and wood at the roof's peak to allow smoke and heat to escape.

Martin said other firefighters sprayed the fire from underneath and within the house.

Four Fredericton Fire Department trucks were dispatched to the scene, and traffic was blocked on Parkside Drive near the intersection of Smythe Street for more than an hour.

# Battle kills eight officers Afghan police fire on coalition troops

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A10

**SECTION:** World Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 438

---

CP Wire Jason Straziuso KABUL — Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.-led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight officers dead before dawn Tuesday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps — and apparent mistrust — between U.S. and Afghan security forces. President Hamid Karzai's office called the deaths "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co-operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted early Tuesday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.-led coalition said a joint coalition-Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safehouse was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support.

It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

A spokesman for Karzai said Afghan police initiated the shooting.

Officers at the isolated post on a barren stretch of desert in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

"The Americans came close to our checkpoint with the lights of their vehicles off," said Esanullah, commander of the roadblock.

"We shouted at them to stop, but they didn't, and they opened fire on us." He said eight policemen were killed and four wounded.

Officers at the post fired 49 of their 50 rocket-propelled grenades and called for assistance from reserve police during the three-hour firefight, said Esanullah, who goes by one name.

Karzai's spokesman, Karim Rahimi, said the incident underscored why the president has repeatedly called for increased co-operation between Afghan and international troops, which would help solve the problem of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

"The police forces were not aware of the coalition's operation," Rahimi said. "The police checkpoint in the area thought that they were the enemy, so police opened fire on the coalition, and then the coalition thought that the enemies were firing on them, so they returned fire back." Maj. Chris Belcher, a coalition spokesman, said the troops were fired at by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from two sides while on the way to conduct an operation against the suspected Taliban safehouse.

"Afghan and coalition forces took incoming fire and they responded to it," Belcher said.



The coalition said in a statement that there was nothing "to indicate the opposing force was friendly. The individuals who fired on coalition forces were not in uniform." "Prior to the onset of the mission, coalition forces co-ordinated with officials to ensure no conflicting operations were occurring in that area," the coalition said, without specifying if Afghan police had been informed.

Mistaken killings by international troops has been a problem in Afghanistan, and nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces in particular have been criticized for causing civilian casualties.

— Associated Press

# Birthday hopes shattered by knock at door

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A10

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 202

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CP Wire Jered Stuffco CLARINGTON, Ont. — Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said Tuesday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting." Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

His mother Darlene Cushnam said Caswell's return date to Canada was timed to coincide with his birthday.

"I know he believed in what he was doing," she said outside her family's red brick home. "I just wanted him to come home for his 26th birthday." Caswell was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

Caswell was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol when it struck an IED.

— Canadian Press

# Warning issued over deadly route Road too risky for troops

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A10

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 336

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CNS Tom Blackwell SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan -- A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and high points on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit. They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road." Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments.

However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt.

Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Thompson.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with American infantry and special forces.

-- CanWest News Service

## Editorial – Path to peace

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A14

**SECTION:** Editorial Leaders

**WORD COUNT:** 501

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None Demonstrators were protesting in Ottawa against Canada's role in the Afghan war this week, as they frequently do. They held up placards saying "Peace Now" which is a pretty hard sentiment to argue with if that is what it really means. But in this case, it does not really mean that. What it means is "Surrender Now," that Canada should give up, walk away and leave the Afghans to fight the war against terror, the battle for freedom and democracy, by themselves. It means that Canada should abandon its allies in NATO, walk away from its international commitments and betray its principles.

The demonstrators have a right to demand that Ottawa do all those things, but it should be clearly understood that this is what is wanted, even if it would make for a rather wordy placard. That would help those Canadians who oppose the war think through what they mean when they say "peace now" or "peace pretty soon" when asked their opinion of their country's involvement in Afghanistan.

A Decima Research poll released Monday indicated that a substantial majority of Canadians — two– thirds — agree with the opposition parties that Canadian troops should be brought home from Afghanistan sooner rather later, and no later in any case than February 2009, when Canada's current commitment expires.

Some of those Canadians are more militant in their commitment to withdrawal than others. A coalition of Quebec peace groups has been sending letters to soldiers and families of Quebec–based regiments, in particular the Royal 22nd Regiment, the legendary "Vandoos," who are scheduled to leave for Afghanistan next month. The letters urge the soldiers to refuse deployment, even to desert rather than participate in what the so–called peace activists call "complicity with civilian deaths and other activities ... tantamount to war crimes." That story broke on the same day as the news that another Canadian soldier has been killed in Afghanistan, the 57th to die while trying to "protect the peace," not just in Afghanistan but in Canada as well, as one member of the Vandoos commented after receiving the letter. It is a crime to "incite or induce a member of the Canadian Forces to commit a traitorous or mutinous act," as the letter urges, but it seems doubtful that any of the surrender activists will be prosecuted for it. It is not a crime to sully the reputations of brave men and women who have died fighting for their country and for the freedom of strangers in faraway lands. And while it may not be criminal, it is shameful — a reminder that peace now, peace at any cost, comes with a high price.

# Afghan police killed by American troops; 'Tragic incident' blamed on lack of communication

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** 16

**SOURCE:** The Associated Press

**BYLINE:** Amir Shah

**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 400

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Afghan police mistakenly thought U.S. troops on a nighttime mission were Taliban fighters and opened fire on them, prompting U.S. forces to return fire and call in attack aircraft, killing seven Afghan police, officials said yesterday.

U.S.–led coalition and Afghan troops, meanwhile, killed more than 24 suspected Taliban fighters during an eight–hour battle in southern Afghanistan on Monday, the coalition said.

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman labelled the shooting at a remote police checkpoint in the eastern province of Nangarhar "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of communication.

"The police forces were not aware of the coalition's operation," said spokesman Karim Rahimi. "The police checkpoint in the area thought that they were the enemy, so police opened fire on the coalition, and then the coalition thought that the enemies were firing on them, so they returned fire back."

The commander at the post, Esanullah, who goes by one name, said U.S. gunfire and helicopter rockets killed seven policemen and wounded four.

Maj. Chris Belcher, a spokesman for the U.S.–led coalition, said a combined coalition–Afghan force was ambushed by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades from two sides while on the way to conduct an operation against a suspected Taliban safe house.

"Afghan and coalition forces took incoming fire and they responded to it," Belcher said. The forces called in air support, he said.

A policeman at the remote checkpoint said police called out for the U.S. forces to cease their attack.

"I thought they were Taliban, and we shouted at them to stop, but they came closer and they opened fire," said Khan Mohammad, one of the policemen at the post. "I'm very angry. We are here to protect the Afghan government and help serve the Afghan government, but the Americans have come to kill us."

Rahimi said the incident showed why Karzai has repeatedly called for increased co–operation and communication between Afghan and international troops. He said an investigation into the incident had been opened.

The killings of civilians by international troops has been an ongoing problem in Afghanistan, and several recent civilian shootings prompted the upper house of parliament to pass a bill last month that would prohibit international forces from launching military operations unless they are attacked or have first consulted with

the Afghan army, government or police.

In Nangarhar province in March, 19 civilians were killed and 50 wounded by Marines Special Operations Forces who fired on civilians while speeding away from the site of a suicide bomb attack, casualties that sparked angry protests and denunciations of the U.S. presence there.

# 'Not the call we were expecting'; Fallen soldier planned to phone home for brother's birthday

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** 13

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Jered Stuffco

**PHOTO:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON

**ILLUSTRATION:** Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother, Darlene Cushman (right), embraces her daughter, Jolene, and stepfather, Chris Welsh, outside their family home in Clarington yesterday. Caswell was the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

**WORD COUNT:** 591

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

His mother, Darlene Cushman, said Caswell's return date to Canada was timed to coincide with his birthday.

"I know he believed in what he was doing," she said outside her family's red brick home. "I just wanted him to come home for his 26th birthday."

Caswell was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa. He was deployed with the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

"He was good at whatever he set his mind to, whether it was martial arts or the military ... he could do it," Cushman said.

Caswell was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol – a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED

– an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Also yesterday, family and friends in CFB Gagetown, N.B., laid to rest Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, 30, who was killed on May 30 while flying over Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London who said the news left her heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away. Live, love [and] laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is ... we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day," she wrote. "And too often we lose them."

"My deepest sympathies go out to Darryl's family and friends and everyone who loved and will miss him. May he rest in peace."

Canadian forces have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan National Army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area – a place where Canadian forces have already suffered heavy losses.

Last year, an IED killed four Canadians in the neighbouring district of Sha Wali Kot. Until recently, Canadian forces had been slowly pulling back from the region.

"The Taliban have consistently demonstrated their disregard for peace and improvements to the quality of life for those Afghan citizens that desire peace," Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor said in a statement.

"We are making a difference and the government of Canada stands proudly with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen as they strive to protect Canadians, our interests and our values."

Born in Bowmanville, Caswell grew up in Clarington – an hour's drive east of Toronto – and later lived with his mother in nearby Whitby, as well as the southwestern Ontario border city of Sarnia. When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his father and stepmother.



# Military honours slain photographer; Total grows to 57 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A5

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Kevin Bissett

**ILLUSTRATION:** The coffin carrying Master Cpl. Darrell Priede is carried into St. Luke's Chapel at CFB Gagetown, N.B., on Tuesday. Priede, a military photographer, was killed in a helicopter crash late last month while serving in Afghanistan. (ANDREW VAUGHAN / CP); John and Roxanne Priede, parents of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, watch as his coffin is carried from St. Luke's Chapel at CFB Gagetown, N.B., on Tuesday. (ANDREW VAUGHAN / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 606

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CFB GAGETOWN, N.B. – As the family of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede gathered yesterday in a small, military chapel to mourn his death, word came that yet another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH–47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

"Nobody is safe, it's a risky business," said Brig.–Gen. Rick Parsons, commander of Land Force Atlantic.

Parsons attended Tuesday's funeral service and praised the work of Priede and others involved in the Afghan mission.

"The work that's done by Army News teams, the work that's done by photo–techs, and by everybody that's involved in the mission ... they all contribute to an end goal which is to provide the very best possible assistance they can in achieving the mission and providing the stability that we need in Afghanistan," he told reporters outside the chapel.

Roxanne Priede said her son, who was born in Burlington, Ont., and raised in Grand Forks, B.C., volunteered to go to Afghanistan and was eager to capture images of Canada's mission there.

"He really wanted to do something that would show more of what the military stood for," she said in an earlier interview from her home in Grand Forks.

Some of the photos the soldier took are on display at the provincial reconstruction team base outside Kandahar.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

"After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown," Jestin said after the service. "What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him."

Jestin, who is about to retire from the military, has been visibly shaken by the deaths of soldiers from his base. He told reporters there are no words to adequately express his feelings.

"Long after I'm gone here, I'll be remembering all those soldiers . . . all the names of the ones we've lost during the last four months over there, and I just pray there's absolutely no more," he said.

Priede entered the military in 1996 as a gunner, later served as a peacekeeper in Bosnia, and applied to become a military photographer while on his second tour in the Balkans.

His funeral service was held in St. Luke's chapel at Gagetown, not far from where Priede lived with his wife, Angela, in the town of Oromocto.

The chapel, which can hold about 400 people, was full. Another chapel on the base, which holds 600, was also opened for the ceremony with an audio and video feed provided.

The private service was attended by family members and soldiers from the base. The eulogy was delivered by Master Cpl. Mike Selig, a friend of Priede's.

Rev. Greg Costen said the mood of the service was sombre but with a few lighter moments as Selig recalled moments of Priede's life.

"The theme that kept emerging with the family and through the proceedings was Darrell's smile that could light up a room," said Costen. "He was the kind of person that seemed to have a personality that could bring light to a space."

Priede's death brought to 56 the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002. But before Priede's family and friends paid their last respects, the toll increased to 57.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, of Clarington, Ont., was killed Monday by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar City, in an area outside where the Canadians normally operate.

Caswell, a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based at CFB Petawawa in eastern Ontario, was the third Canadian soldier to die in as many weeks. He was helping resupply troops establishing security in Kandahar province.

Two other Canadians soldiers were hurt by the blast. Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Canada's military in Afghanistan, said they were reported in good condition.

# "It wasn't the call we were expecting'; Soldier's brother was awaiting birthday wishes when family heard news of death

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** Front

**PAGE:** A1

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Jared Stuffco

**ILLUSTRATION:** Trooper Darryl Caswell of The Royal Canadian Dragoons was killed Monday in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb. (DND); Trooper Darryl Caswell of The Royal Canadian Dragoons was killed Monday in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb. (DND)

**WORD COUNT:** 636

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CLARINGTON, Ont. Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said Tuesday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," she said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol, a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED, an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting'; Soldier's brother was awaiting birthday wishes when family heard news of death

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, Ont., who said the news left her heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away. . . . Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is . . . we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day. And too often we lose them," she wrote.

"My deepest sympathies go out to Darryl's family and friends and everyone who loved and will miss him. May he rest in peace."

Canadian forces have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan National Army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area – a place where Canadian forces have already suffered heavy losses.

Last year, an IED killed four Canadians in neighbouring of Sha Wali Kot district. Until recently, Canadian forces had been pulling back from the region.

"The Taliban have consistently demonstrated their disregard for peace and improvements to the quality of life for those Afghan citizens that desire peace," Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor said in a statement.

"We are making a difference and the government of Canada stands proudly with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen as they strive to protect Canadians, our interests and our values."

Born in Bowmanville, Ont., Caswell grew up in Clarington – an hour's drive east of Toronto – and later lived with his mother in nearby Whitby, as well as in the southwestern Ontario border city of Sarnia. When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his father and stepmother.

"He just kept wanting to live with his dad. He took to it like a fish to a worm," his stepmother said. "He and his dad had a special bond."

After high school, Caswell enrolled in the Police Foundations program at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough, Ont., before joining the Canadian military in 2004.

"Without security, there can be no development in Afghanistan, and thanks to soldiers like Trooper Caswell, we are making significant progress," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement that offered Canada's condolences to the Caswell family.

"He has left a valuable legacy and we will be forever grateful for the ultimate sacrifice he has made for our country."

"It wasn't the call we were expecting"; Soldier's brother was awaiting birthday wishes when family heard news

# Arms report: U.S. world's biggest military spender

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** Deaths/World

**PAGE:** B7

**SOURCE:** AP

**DATELINE:** STOCKHOLM, Sweden

**WORD COUNT:** 113

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The United States remained the world's biggest military spender last year, devoting about US\$529 billion to arms, while China overtook Japan as Asia's top arms spender, a Swedish research institute said Monday.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said the U.S. spent the most on arms, well ahead of Britain and France at about \$59 billion and \$53 respectively.

"The large increase in the USA's military spending is to a great extent due to the costly military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq," SIPRI said in its annual report, noting that the U.S. spent \$505 billion in 2005.

China's growing military expenditures reached nearly \$50 billion, making it the fourth-biggest arms spender in the world.

# Photos by soldier killed will live on; Hundreds gather for funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A12

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CFB GAGETOWN, N.B.

**WORD COUNT:** 428

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A Canadian military photographer who died two weeks ago in Afghanistan was remembered Tuesday as a professional whose photographs will live on forever.

Hundreds of people gathered at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown for the funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

"After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown," Jestin said after the service. "What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him."

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

"Nobody is safe – it's a risky business," said Brig.-Gen. Rick Parsons, commander of Land Force Atlantic.

Parsons attended the funeral service and praised the work of Priede and others involved in the Afghan mission.

"The work that's done by Army News teams, the work that's done by photo techs, and by everybody that's involved in the mission ... they all contribute to an end goal which is to provide the very best possible assistance they can in achieving the mission and providing the stability that we need in Afghanistan," he told reporters outside the chapel.

Roxanne Priede said her son, who was born in Burlington, Ont., and raised in Grand Forks, B.C., volunteered to go to Afghanistan and was eager to capture images of Canada's mission there.

"He really wanted to do something that would show more of what the military stood for," she said in an earlier interview from her home in Grand Forks.

Some of the photos the soldier took are on display at the provincial reconstruction team base outside Kandahar.

"The theme that kept emerging with the family and through the proceedings was Darrell's smile that could light up a room," said Costen. "He was the kind of person that seemed to have a personality that could bring light to a space."

Jestin, who is about to retire from the military, has been visibly shaken by the deaths of soldiers from his base. He told reporters there are no words to adequately express his feelings.

"Long after I'm gone here, I'll be remembering all those soldiers ... all the names of the ones we've lost during the last four months over there, and I just pray there's absolutely no more," he said.

Priede's death brought to 56 the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002. But before Priede's family and friends paid their last respects, the toll increased to 57.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, of Clarington, Ont., was killed Monday by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar City.

# Trooper Darryl Caswell died doing what he believed in, stepmother says

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A12

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON, Ont.

Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother Darlene Cushman, left, and stepmother Christine Caswell hold photos as they speak with the media outside their family home in

**ILLUSTRATION:** Clarington, Ont., Tuesday. Caswell became the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on Monday. Canadian Press photo

**WORD COUNT:** 199

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

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"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said Tuesday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," she said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol – a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in.



# Crash victim left behind young children; Jolene LaRade was spending precious time on P.E.I. with fiancé

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** The Province

**PAGE:** A2

**SOURCE:** Transcontinental Media

**BYLINE:** Lori A. Mayne

**DATELINE:** PICTOU, N.S.

**WORD COUNT:** 232

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Jolene LaRade arrived on P.E.I. last week to share a few precious days with her new fiancé.

Her time with Pete Silvea was cut short by a crash in Hartsville.

Silvea had been on leave from serving in Afghanistan to visit his family. The couple, from Oromocto, N.B., came here for a getaway.

LaRade's aunt, Theresa Welsh, recalled her niece anticipating the homecoming of her man in uniform.

"She knew he was bringing her back the ring," Welsh explained in a phone interview. "He had proposed and then they had made their plans to go to Cavendish for a couple of days, but they didn't make it."

Their Chevy Cavalier collided with an SUV at an intersection Thursday night. LaRade, 29, was pronounced dead at the scene. Silvea remains in Moncton hospital.

LaRade was born and raised in Pictou, N.S.

Welsh described her as a fun-loving girl who hung out with her own children growing up.

"She and my daughter pierced their noses against my knowledge, in my bathroom –which I was not happy about," she said lightheartedly.

Now she's remembering her niece as a wonderful mother to her 10-year-old son and 11-month-old twins.

Welsh didn't have the chance to see LaRade since her engagement; her niece had been spending time with Silvea.

"She never left the house much because she hadn't seen him in so long."

Welsh and others have been posting messages in a memorial group set up for LaRade on the social networking site Facebook.

"You were just so young, and it is truly not fair," Welsh writes. "But it is my belief that you are up there smiling down on us now with your beautiful smile. I will always remember your kindness, loving and wonderful personality. I will miss being at work, the little blue window coming up on MSN, saying 'Hi Aunt

Crash victim left behind young children; Jolene LaRade was spending precious time on P.E.I. with fiancé

T., whatcha doin?' It always made me smile."

LaRade's funeral takes place this morning in Pictou.

# Trooper died doing what he believed in: stepmother

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** National

**PAGE:** A11

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Jered Stuffco

**DATELINE:** Clarington, Ont.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Canadian Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother Darlene Cushman(right) embraces her daughter Jolene after speaking with the media outside their family home in Clarington, Ont., east of Toronto Tuesday. – Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 487

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

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"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

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He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol – a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED – an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, Ont., who said the news left her heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away ... Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is ... we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day. And too often we lose them," she wrote.

My deepest sympathies go out to Darryl's family and friends and everyone who loved and will miss him. May he rest in peace."

Canadian forces have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan National Army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area – a place where Canadian forces have already suffered heavy losses.

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# Mourners say photos by soldier killed in Afghanistan will live on

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** National

**PAGE:** A10

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Kevin Bissett

**DATELINE:** CFB Gagetown, N.B.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The coffin carrying Master Cpl. Darrell Priede is carried into St. Luke's Chapel at CFB Gagetown, N.B., Tuesday. Priede, a military photographer, was killed in a helicopter crash late last month while serving in Afghanistan. – Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 391

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Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

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Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

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# Improvised bombs have deadly impact on Canadian soldiers

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** A7

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan

**ILLUSTRATION:** Darryl Caswell

**WORD COUNT:** 473

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of almost one-third of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, died Monday in the lead vehicle of an elephantine supply convoy plodding its way toward Canadian troops fighting alongside the Afghan National Army and coalition forces in a northern district of Kandahar province.

Part of a reconnaissance squadron, Caswell was riding in a Coyote armoured vehicle when it struck the improvised explosive device – known by its acronym IED – on a dusty secondary road en route to Khakriz district, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City.

It's not an altogether new area for Canadians, but they have pulled back from there last year in favour of focusing on the more heavily populated regions in the south.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to IEDs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

IEDs are unlike mines, which are sown by the millions throughout the parched deserts and lush valleys of Afghanistan and explode indiscriminately, maiming or killing untold numbers of innocent people.

Instead, IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops – as they did last summer and fall. IEDs require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings that wreak greater havoc when the device explodes. Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated – a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

That hasn't made them less deadly.

Less than three weeks ago, Cpl. Matt McCully was killed when he stepped on an IED during a patrol that was part of Operation Hoover, considered Canada's largest offensive against insurgents in recent months.

In April, six Canadian soldiers were killed when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the Maywand district.

Altogether, at least 17 of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been slain by these homemade bombs.

Roadside bombs don't always have devastating effect. Depending on the strength of the explosives and the vehicle that triggers it, an IED blast sometimes results in nothing more than a blown tire.

"We can mitigate the impact of IEDs, we can change it up," Cessford said Tuesday.

"We've had good success in reducing effectiveness in this enemy tactic. But we can't provide 100 per cent security."



# U.S. diplomat says Iran transferring weapons to Taliban in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 191

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PARIS (AP) \_ Iran is transferring weapons to Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan, a senior U.S. diplomat said Tuesday in the one of the most direct comments yet on the issue by a ranking American official.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, speaking to reporters in Paris, said Iran was funding insurrections across the Middle East \_ and ``Iran is now even transferring arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan."

Iran's possible role in aiding insurgents in Iraq has long been hotly debated, and last month some western and Persian Gulf governments accused Tehran of secretly bolstering Taliban fighters.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Monday, U.S. army Gen. Dan McNeill said Taliban fighters were showing signs of better training, using combat techniques comparable to ``an advanced western military" in ambushes of U.S. Special Forces.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote in the May 31 edition of the Economist that he believed ``the Taliban is receiving support, including arms from ... elements of the Iranian regime."

Iran, which is also in a dispute with the West over its nuclear program, denies the Taliban accusation, calling it part of a broad anti-Iranian campaign.

Tehran says it makes no sense that a Shiite-led government like itself would help the fundamentalist Sunni movement of the Taliban.

# U.S.–Afghan force mistakenly kills 8 Afghan officers after police open fire

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 882

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KABUL (AP) \_ Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.–led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight officers dead before dawn Tuesday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps \_ and apparent mistrust \_ between U.S. and Afghan security forces. President Hamid Karzai's office called the deaths ``a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co–operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted early Tuesday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.–led coalition said a joint coalition–Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safehouse was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support. It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

A Canadian soldier was killed Monday by a roadside bomb about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar city. Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was the 57th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan, the Canadian military said.

The death brings to at least 78 the number of soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, including at least 39 Americans.

As for Tuesday's deadly incident, a spokesman for Karzai said Afghan police initiated the shooting. Officers at the isolated post on a barren stretch of desert in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

``The Americans came close to our checkpoint with the lights of their vehicles off," said Esanullah, commander of the roadblock. ``We shouted at them to stop, but they didn't, and they opened fire on us." He said eight policemen were killed and four wounded.

Officers at the post fired 49 of their 50 rocket–propelled grenades and called for assistance from reserve police during the three–hour firefight, said Esanullah, who goes by one name.

Karzai's spokesman, Karim Rahimi, said the incident underscored why the president has repeatedly called for increased co–operation between Afghan and international troops, which would help solve the problem of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

``The police forces were not aware of the coalition's operation," Rahimi said. ``The police checkpoint in the area thought that they were the enemy, so police opened fire on the coalition, and then the coalition thought that the enemies were firing on them, so they returned fire back."

Maj. Chris Belcher, a coalition spokesman, said the troops were fired at by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from two sides while on the way to conduct an operation against the suspected Taliban safehouse.

“Afghan and coalition forces took incoming fire and they responded to it,” Belcher said.

The coalition said in a statement that there was nothing “to indicate the opposing force was friendly. The individuals who fired on coalition forces were not in uniform.”

“Prior to the onset of the mission, coalition forces co-ordinated with officials to ensure no conflicting operations were occurring in that area,” the coalition said, without specifying if Afghan police had been informed.

Mistaken killings by international troops has been a problem in Afghanistan, and nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces in particular have been criticized for causing civilian casualties.

Recent incidents prompted the upper house of Afghanistan's parliament to pass a resolution last month that would prohibit foreign soldiers from launching military action unless they are attacked first or have consulted Afghan officials. The resolution hasn't been acted on by the lower house.

NATO officials have said they are working on ways to increase involvement of Afghan troops on missions to cut down on mistaken killings, but those mechanisms apparently are not yet in place yet.

The U.S.-led coalition conducts counterterrorism missions, while the NATO force in Afghanistan, which includes some American troops, is responsible for counterinsurgency operations.

The eight police deaths in Nangarhar occurred in the same province where U.S. marines killed 19 civilians and wounded 50 in March while speeding away from the site of a suicide bomb attack, casualties that sparked angry protests and denunciations of the U.S. presence there. A U.S. military commander later determined the marines used excessive force.

At the scene of Tuesday's clash, bloodstains and shredded police clothing littered the ground and officers were angry.

“We are here to protect the Afghan government and help serve the Afghan government, but the Americans have come to kill us,” said Khan Mohammad, a policeman who said the officers thought they were under attack by the Taliban.

Noorullah, a villager who lives about a kilometre away, said: “The Americans are here for destruction. They are not here for reconstruction. Look, they are killing our innocent police. They cannot kill Taliban but they are firing at our police.”

Violence has escalated in recent weeks. More than 2,300 people, many of them militants, have been killed in insurgent-related violence this year, according to an Associated Press count based on U.S., NATO and Afghan figures.

The International Red Cross said Tuesday that the impact of violence on Afghan civilians is worse now than a year ago and that fighting had intensified significantly in the south and east of the country since 2006 and is spreading to the north and west.

In violence Tuesday, gunmen on motorbikes killed two schoolgirls in central Afghanistan, and NATO and Afghan forces killed 12 Taliban fighters in Zabul province in the southeast, said an Afghan army commander, Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi. A suicide bomber killed one policeman and wounded two in southern Helmand

province, police said.

Officials also said the U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops killed more than 24 suspected Taliban fighters during a battle in the south Monday.

# Angry MPs summon four bureaucrats to appear or face being held in contempt

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 142

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ Angry MPs have ordered four bureaucrats to appear before their committee next week or face the prospect of being found in contempt.

The members of the Commons committee on ethics and access to information issued the formal summons after they were brushed off by Leonard Edwards, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs.

The MPs had invited the lower-level bureaucrats to appear, but Edwards wrote to say they wouldn't show and that he would answer the committee's questions about the department's handling of an access request about human rights in Afghanistan.

Committee members called that a slap in the face.

They agreed to hear Edwards next week, but also passed a motion calling the other four as well, saying its not up to Edwards to decide who appears and who does not.

If the four don't show up, they could be found in contempt of the committee, which could then ask the Commons as a whole to declare them in contempt of Parliament.

# Mourners says photos by soldier killed in Afghanistan will live on

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 617

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CFB GAGETOWN, N.B. (CP) \_ A Canadian military photographer who died two weeks ago in Afghanistan was remembered Tuesday as a professional whose photographs will live on forever.

Hundreds of people gathered at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown for the funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

“After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown,” Jestin said after the service. “What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him.”

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

“Nobody is safe \_ it's a risky business,” said Brig.-Gen. Rick Parsons, commander of Land Force Atlantic.

Parsons attended the funeral service and praised the work of Priede and others involved in the Afghan mission.

“The work that's done by Army News teams, the work that's done by photo techs, and by everybody that's involved in the mission ... they all contribute to an end goal which is to provide the very best possible assistance they can in achieving the mission and providing the stability that we need in Afghanistan,” he told reporters outside the chapel.

Roxanne Priede said her son, who was born in Burlington, Ont., and raised in Grand Forks, B.C., volunteered to go to Afghanistan and was eager to capture images of Canada's mission there.

“He really wanted to do something that would show more of what the military stood for,” she said in an earlier interview from her home in Grand Forks.

Some of the photos the soldier took are on display at the provincial reconstruction team base outside Kandahar.

Priede entered the military in 1996 as a gunner, later served as a peacekeeper in Bosnia, and applied to become a military photographer while on his second tour in the Balkans.

His funeral service was held in St. Luke's chapel at Gagetown, not far from where Priede lived with his wife, Angela, in the town of Oromocto.

The chapel, which can hold about 400 people, was full. Another chapel on the base, which holds 600, was also opened for the ceremony with an audio and video feed provided.

The private service was attended by family members and soldiers from the base.

The eulogy was delivered by Master Cpl. Mike Selig, a friend of Priede's.

Rev. Greg Costen said the mood of the service was sombre but with a few lighter moments as Selig recalled moments of Priede's life.

“The theme that kept emerging with the family and through the proceedings was Darrell's smile that could light up a room,” said Costen. “He was the kind of person that seemed to have a personality that could bring light to a space.”

Jestin, who is about to retire from the military, has been visibly shaken by the deaths of soldiers from his base. He told reporters there are no words to adequately express his feelings.

“Long after I'm gone here, I'll be remembering all those soldiers ... all the names of the ones we've lost during the last four months over there, and I just pray there's absolutely no more,” he said.

Priede's death brought to 56 the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002. But before Priede's family and friends paid their last respects, the toll increased to 57.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, of Clarington, Ont., was killed Monday by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar City, in an area outside where the Canadians normally operate.

Caswell, a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based at CFB Petawawa in eastern Ontario, was the third Canadian soldier to die in as many weeks in Afghanistan. He was helping resupply troops involved in an operation to establish security in Kandahar province.

Two other Canadians soldiers were hurt by the blast. Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Canada's military in Afghanistan, said they were reported in good condition.

# Global National News, Tuesday, Jun. 12, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 269

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OTTAWA \_ The House of Commons is voting on the Conservative budget, while the Tories try to get the support of all their Atlantic MPs. CVD.

OTTAWA \_ The federal auditor-general and her Quebec counterpart have discovered that Quebec's former lieutenant-governor spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on unofficial activities. CVD.

HALIFAX \_ Health Canada is tightening the rules on how much radon gas is safe to have in your home. CVD.

TORONTO \_ Greenpeace is warning the Ontario government to be more careful about the radioactive waste from its nuclear power plants. CVD.

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. \_ An Alberta jury has heard disturbing testimony in the trial of a 13-year-old girl accused of killing a family. Forensics officers testified that all three victims were stabbed to death and covered in blood. CVD.

WINNIPEG \_ The federal government has laid out plans to try to defuse the issue of native land claims. CVD.

KANDAHAR \_ A Canadian soldier died in Afghanistan when the lead vehicle in a supply convoy he was in hit a roadside bomb. CVD.

CFB GAGETOWN, N.B. \_ The body of the 56th Canadian killed in Afghanistan has been laid to rest. A funeral service for combat photographer Darrell Priede was held at CFB Gagetown. CVD.

CFB VALCARTIER, Que. \_ There is anger among some military families around a military base in Quebec which has been targeted by an anti-war letter writing campaign. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD; CHECKING FOR UPDATE.

TORONTO \_ One of Canada's most recognized wheelchair athletes has been suspended for two years for failed drug test. CVD.

TORONTO \_ A study from Stats Can shows the wage gap between men and women is as wide as ever. CVD.

TORONTO \_ An Ontario family continues a desperate search for a missing daughter who disappeared in Syria over two months ago. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD PREVIOUSLY.

WASHINGTON \_ A judge in Washington is suing a dry cleaner for \$54 million for losing a pair of his pants. CVD.

CP TORONTO



# Trooper Darryl Caswell died doing what he believed in, says stepmother

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 375

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CLARINGTON, Ont. (CP) \_ Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's 26th birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

``He was going to do all he could to call," Caswell's stepmother Christine said Wednesday.

``It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

``He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," Christine said. ``He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol \_ a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED \_ an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Canadian forces have been in Khakriz working with the Afghan National Army in Operation Adalat, an offensive against insurgents in the northern sector of Canada's command area \_ a place where Canadian forces have already suffered heavy losses.

Last year, an IED killed four Canadians in the neighbouring district of Sha Wali Kot. Until recently, Canadian forces had been slowly pulling back from the region.

Born in Bowmanville, Ont., Caswell grew up in Clarington \_ an hour's drive east of Toronto \_ and later lived with his mother in nearby Whitby, as well as the southwestern Ontario border city of Sarnia. When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his Dad and his stepmother.

``He just kept wanting to live with his Dad. He took to it like a fish to a worm," Christine Caswell said. ``He and his dad had a special bond."

After high school, Caswell enrolled in the Police Foundations program at Sir Stanford Fleming College in Peterborough, Ont., before joining the Canadian military in 2004.

Darryl had been serving in Afghanistan since January.

“He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in,” Christine said.

# Improvised bombs have deadly impact on Canadians in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 730

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) \_ As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of almost one-third of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, died Monday in the lead vehicle of an elephantine supply convoy plodding its way toward Canadian troops fighting alongside the Afghan National Army and coalition forces in a northern district of Kandahar province.

Part of a reconnaissance squadron, Caswell was riding in a Coyote armoured vehicle when it struck the improvised explosive device \_ known by its acronym IED \_ on a dusty secondary road en route to Khakriz district, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City.

It's not an altogether new area for Canadians, but they have pulled back from there last year in favour of focusing on the more heavily populated regions in the south.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to IEDs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

IEDs are unlike mines, which are sown by the millions throughout the parched deserts and lush valleys of Afghanistan and explode indiscriminately, maiming or killing untold numbers of innocent people.

Instead, IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops \_ as they did last summer and fall.

IEDs require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings that wreak greater havoc when the device explodes.

Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated \_ a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

That hasn't made them less deadly.

Less than three weeks ago, Cpl. Matt McCully was killed when he stepped on an IED during a patrol that was part of Operation Hoover, considered Canada's largest offensive against insurgents in recent months.

In April, six Canadian soldiers were killed when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the Maywand district.

Altogether, at least 17 of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been slain by these homemade bombs.

Roadside bombs don't always have devastating effect. Depending on the strength of the explosives and the vehicle that triggers it, an IED blast sometimes results in nothing more than a blown tire.

“We can mitigate the impact of IEDs, we can change it up,” Cessford said Tuesday. “We've had good success in reducing effectiveness in this enemy tactic.”

“But we can't provide 100 per cent security.”

Recognizing the impact IEDs are having, the Department of National Defence announced last month it's buying 16 Expedient Route Opening Capability systems \_ a trio of vehicles that detect, dispose of and destroy buried IEDs and mines.

The vehicles that make up the system are expected to begin arriving in Kandahar in August, in time for the next rotation of troops.

Still, as soldiers fan out across the province, going into unknown territories or returning to old ones, the threat of insurgent activity and IEDs increases.

Caswell was part of a combat logistics patrol resupplying Canadian troops working from a forward operation based in Khakriz, a district north of Kandahar bordering Sha Wali Kot, another area that's seen new movement by Canadian troops in recent weeks.

Four Canadian soldiers were killed in Sha Wali Kot last year by an IED.

Cessford acknowledged recently that when Canadian troops pulled back from the area, insurgents were given the chance to regroup. But he said it was a choice worth making.

“In this operation, in this sort of mission, it is all about the people,” he said.

“There's a great line \_ we must secure the people where they sleep. We must provide for the personnel, for the citizens of Afghanistan so we've gone to where they are and that allows us to focus development and aid, assist in the governance and provide for the security for the vast majority of the people in Kandahar province.”

That security is being threatened now, Cessford said. This is why Canadian troops joined other coalition forces for Operation Adalat, launched earlier this month.

Its mission is to cut off insurgent access to the secure areas of the south, eventually paving the way for development projects.

“This is a different security area,” Cessford said Tuesday. “It's outside our normal development zone, our normal focus and we have surged to support operations in this area.”

# Canadian death toll in Afghanistan: 57 soldiers, one diplomat

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

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Since 2002, 57 Canadian soldiers and one Canadian diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

2007

June 11 \_ Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, killed in a roadside bombing 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City.

May 30 \_ Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, a combat photographer based at CFB Galetown, N.B., killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban in Helmand province.

May 25 \_ Cpl. Matthew McCully, 25, a signals operator from 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signals Squadron based at Petawawa, Ont., killed by an improvised explosive device in Zhari district.

April 18 \_ Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower, 25, of Listowel, Ont., died after falling from a communications tower while on duty with the elite Special Operations Forces Command, conducting surveillance in Kandahar City.

April 11 \_ Master Cpl. Allan Stewart, 30, and Trooper Patrick James Pentland, 23, both of the Royal Canadian Dragoons based in Petawawa, Ont., killed when their Coyote vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

April 8 \_ Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, 20, of St. Lawrence, Nfld., Sgt. Donald Lucas, 31, of Burton, N.B., Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, 23, of Lincoln, N.B., Pte. David R. Greenslade, 20, of Saint John, N.B., Cpl. Brent Poland, 37, of Sarnia, Ont., all of Galetown, N.B.-based 2nd Battalion, RCR; and Cpl. Christopher Stannix, 24, of Dartmouth, N.S., from the Halifax-based Princess Louise Fusiliers, killed when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the Maywand district.

March 6 \_ Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, of Stellarton, N.S., a member of 1st Battalion of Nova Scotia Highlanders, killed by accidental shooting at NATO base in Kandahar.

2006

Nov. 27 \_ Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Girouard, his battalion's regimental sergeant major, and Cpl. Albert Storm, both of Royal Canadian Regiment based in CFB Petawawa, killed when suicide car bomber attacked their Bison armoured personnel carrier on outskirts of Kandahar City.

Oct. 14 \_ Sgt. Darcy Tedford, based at CFB Petawawa, and Pte. Blake Williamson from Ottawa killed in ambush west of Kandahar.

Oct. 7 \_ Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson of Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed when his armoured vehicle hit by roadside bomb in Panjwaii district.

Oct. 3 \_ Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell of Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed in series of mortar, rocket attacks just west of Kandahar City.

Sept. 29 \_ Pte. Josh Klukie of First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed by explosion in Panjwaii while on foot patrol.

Sept. 18 \_ Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Shane Keating and Cpl. Keith Morley, all of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Shilo, Man., and Cpl. Glen Arnold, 2 Field Ambulance, based in Petawawa, Ont., killed in suicide bicycle bomb attack while on foot patrol in Panjwaii.

Sept. 4 \_ Pte. Mark Graham, based at CFB Petawawa, killed when two NATO planes accidentally strafed Canadian troops in Panjwaii district.

Sept. 3 \_ Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan, all based at CFB Petawawa, Ont., killed in fighting in Panjwaii district.

Aug. 22 \_ Cpl. David Braun, based at Shilo, Man., killed in suicide bomb attack in Kandahar City.

Aug. 11 \_ Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom, 23, of Comox, B.C., stationed with 1st Field Ambulance, based in Edmonton, killed in suicide attack.

Aug. 9 \_ Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh, 33, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Man., killed by apparent accidental discharge of rifle.

Aug. 5 \_ Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt, 31, of Loyal Edmonton Regiment, killed when large truck collided head-on with his G-Wagon patrol vehicle.

Aug. 3 \_ Cpl. Christopher Reid, 34, of 1st Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, killed by roadside bomb. Three other members of same battalion killed in rocket-propelled grenade attack by Taliban forces west of Kandahar: Sgt. Vaughan Ingram, 35, Cpl. Bryce Keller, 27, and Pte. Kevin Dallaire, 22.

July 22 \_ Cpl. Francisco Gomez, 44, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, and Cpl. Jason Warren, 29, of Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, based in Montreal, killed when car packed with explosives rammed their armoured vehicle.

July 9 \_ Cpl. Anthony Boneca, 21, reservist from Lake Superior Scottish Regiment based in Thunder Bay, Ont., killed in firefight.

May 17 \_ Capt. Nichola Goddard, artillery officer based in Shilo, Man., with 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, killed in Taliban ambush during battle in Panjwaii region. She was first Canadian woman to be killed in action while serving in combat role.

April 22 \_ Cpl. Matthew Dinning of Richmond Hill, Ont., stationed with 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade in Petawawa, Ont., Bombardier Myles Mansell of Victoria, Lt. William Turner of Toronto, stationed in Edmonton, and Cpl. Randy Payne, born in Lahr, Germany, stationed at CFB Wainright, Alta., all killed when their G-Wagon destroyed by roadside bomb near Gumbad.

March 29 \_ Pte. Robert Costall of Edmonton, machine-gunner, killed in firefight with Taliban insurgents in Sangin district of Helmand province.

March 2 \_ Cpl. Paul Davis of Bridgewater, N.S., and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson of Grande Prairie, Alta.,

killed when their armoured vehicle ran off road in Kandahar area.

Jan. 15 \_ Glyn Berry, British-born Canadian diplomat who had served with Foreign Affairs Department since 1977, killed in suicide bombing near Kandahar.

2005

Nov. 24 \_ Pte. Braun Woodfield, born in Victoria and raised in Eastern Passage, N.S., killed when his armoured vehicle rolled over near Kandahar.

2004

Jan. 27 \_ Cpl. Jamie Murphy, 26, of Conception Harbour, Nfld., killed in suicide bombing while on patrol near Kabul.

2003

Oct. 2 \_ Sgt. Robert Short, 42, of Fredericton, and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger, 29, of Ottawa, killed in roadside bombing southwest of Kabul.

2002

April 17 \_ Sgt. Marc Leger, 29, of Lancaster, Ont., Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, 24, of Montreal, Pte. Richard Green, 21, of Mill Cove, N.S., and Pte. Nathan Smith, 27, of Tatamagouche, N.S., all killed when U.S. F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians on pre-dawn training exercise. Eight other Canadians wounded in friendly-fire incident.

# Afghanistan–Cda–Death–Update (Harper)

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 107

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OTTAWA — Prime Minister Harper is extending his condolences to the family of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Trooper Darryl Caswell became the 57th Canadian soldier to lose his life in the current mission, the victim of a roadside bomb yesterday in the northern reaches of Khandahar province.

In a statement, the prime minister says the thoughts of all Canadians are with the soldier's family and friends.

Harper says Caswell leaves a valuable legacy, noting that without security there can be no development in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Caswell's stepmother said he had six weeks left to serve before he was to return home to his family in Clarington, Ontario.

Christine Caswell said he was planning to come home on his 26th birthday.

Two other soldiers were injured in the explosion and are expected to make a full recovery.

(BN)

RMo



# INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

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TORONTO – The stepmother of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan had six weeks left to serve before he was to return home to his family in Clarington, Ont.

Trooper Darryl Caswell's stepmother Christine says he was planning to come home on his 26th birthday.

Instead, Caswell became the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when a combat logistics patrol struck an improvised explosive device Monday in northern Kandahar province.

Christine Caswell says her stepson, who always liked to take the lead, was riding in the convoy's lead vehicle when the explosion occurred.

Born in Bowmanville, Ont., Caswell grew up in Clarington, a quiet bedroom community east of Toronto, and later lived with his mother in nearby Whitby and also Sarnia, Ont.

When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his father and his stepmother.

(BN)

# Afghan–Al–Qaida Tape

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

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---

NEW YORK — Al–Qaida has released a new video that it claims shows an ambush on an Afghan police convoy in April.

The video shows about a dozen attackers firing rifles and rocket–propelled grenades as a line of vehicles approach with sirens blaring.

Three bodies are shown.

One attacker is quoted as saying this sends a message to the "apostates and hypocrites" that the mujahadeen will "never leave them alone."

The videotape carries the logo of al–Qaida's media production wing, and was obtained by a Virginia–based firm that tracks terrorism transmissions on the Internet.

Police have reported that on April 1st, suspected Taliban insurgents ambushed two Afghan police convoys and killed seven policemen in southern Afghanistan.

It's not known if the video shows one of those attacks.

(APB)

RMo

# Iran–Taliban

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 83

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PARIS — A senior U.S. diplomat is adding his voice to accusations that Iran is helping arm the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns told reporters Paris today that Iran is funding insurrections across the Middle East.

Iran's possible role in aiding insurgents in Iraq has long been hotly debated.

Last month some western and Persian Gulf governments accused Tehran of secretly bolstering the Taliban.

Iran denies the accusation, calling it part of a broad anti–Iranian campaign that also involves its nuclear program.

Tehran says it makes no sense that a Shiite–led government like itself would help the Taliban, a Sunni fundamentalist movement.

(AP)

bmc

# Afghan–Violence

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

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**WORD COUNT:** 126

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Officials say that Afghan police mistakenly thought U–S troops on a nighttime mission were Taliban fighters and opened fire on them.

The incident prompted U–S forces to return fire and call in attack aircraft, killing seven Afghan police and injuring four.

U–S–led coalition and Afghan troops, meanwhile, killed more than 24 suspected Taliban fighters during an eight–hour battle in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

President Hamid Karzai's spokesman is labelling the shooting at a remote police checkpoint in the eastern province of Nangarhar ``a tragic incident" caused by a lack of communication.

A spokesman for the U–S–led coalition says a combined coalition–Afghan force was ambushed by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades from two sides while on the way to conduct an operation against a suspected Taliban safe house.

(AP)

lde

# Pearson's goal consistently ignored

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**BYLINE:** Carol Goar  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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You can't blame Jeffrey Sachs for being bitter.

As head of the United Nations' anti-poverty program, he counted on Canada to set an example for other privileged nations. As a student of history, he knew that Canada's 14th prime minister, Lester Pearson, challenged the world's rich countries to share 0.7 per cent of their wealth with the poor in 1969. As America's foremost development economist, he believed Ottawa could provide the leadership that was missing in Washington.

"Wouldn't it be great if Canada tipped the balance?" he asked two years ago.

Today Sachs, a professor at Columbia University, is disillusioned and angry.

"There is no life in Canada's efforts. We don't hear Canada's voice on major issues. It's a huge surprise for us who believe in Canada's role in the world."

How could things have gone so wrong?

Not only has Ottawa forsaken the goal Pearson set 38 years ago, it has fallen short of its own modest foreign aid target. It has shifted its focus from humanitarian assistance to security building. It has fudged its numbers to conceal its poor performance.

To a degree, Sachs is the victim of his own expectations.

The Canada he envisaged was a romanticized version of the real place. Pearson may be fondly eulogized, but his worldview has been ignored for decades.

The former prime minister's spirit of global service no longer pervades Ottawa. His belief that a middle power could show moral leadership no longer guides policy makers.

There still are Canadians who would like their country to play a generous and creative role in the world. But most of them see the voluntary sector, not the government, as the vehicle for action.

To a degree, Sachs is also the victim of Paul Martin's overblown rhetoric.

Like many Canadians, he was encouraged when the former prime minister promised "to move the world in a more positive direction." Like many aid activists, he believed Martin understood and cared about Africa. Like

many diplomats, he assumed the money would be there to back up the Liberal leader's grand pronouncements.

The letdown began at the 2005 economic summit in Gleneagles, Scotland. Martin refused to join European leaders in pledging to devote 0.7 per cent of the country's wealth to foreign aid by 2015.

He merely affirmed his government's longstanding promise to double Canada's assistance to Africa. According to the documents he released at the time, that meant a commitment of \$2.4 billion this year and \$2.8 billion next year.

But shortly after the meeting, federal officials realized they had based their projection on an overestimate of what Canada actually spent in Africa. They quietly revised the numbers.

Finally Sachs – like everyone else who hoped Canada would live up to its reputation for global responsibility – is the victim of events.

On Jan 23, 2006, Canadians elected a new Prime Minister for whom aid to the world's poorest countries was not a priority.

Stephen Harper poured development dollars into Afghanistan, intent on buttressing Canada's military mission in Kandahar. The troubled Asian country is now the largest recipient of Canadian bilateral assistance.

He said he had no interest in being lobbied by anti-poverty activists such as Bono and Bob Geldof, "Meeting celebrities isn't my shtick."

And he served notice that his government would give increased precedence to Latin America in its development spending.

At last week's economic summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, Harper announced that Canada would provide \$2.1 billion in assistance to Africa next year – a \$700 million drop from Martin's commitment. That triggered a testy round of finger pointing between the Liberals and Conservatives over who was to blame for the shortfall.

It wasn't an uplifting sight.

Sachs watched with a mix of disgust and weariness.

It is true that he set his sights higher than Canada's behaviour warranted.

But it is sad that Canada chose not to improve its behaviour.

Carol Goar's column appears on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

# 'You got to carry your friends'; Darryl Caswell's death comes 2 months after he bore the casket of a slain comrade

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**PAGE:** A03

**ILLUSTRATION:** Adrian Wyld cp photo Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother DarleneCushman, right, embraces her daughter Jolene and stepfather Chris Welsh after speaking with the media outside their home in Clarington yesterday. In mid-April, Caswell, front, was a casket bearer for during a ramp ceremony for Patrick Pentland. ;

**BYLINE:** Iain Marlow and Jim Byers  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 459

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Trooper Darryl Caswell – "Caz" to his friends – wouldn't want to be remembered by an official Department of National Defence blurb and a photo of himself posed next to a limp Canadian flag.

He wasn't that kind of guy.

For one, the picture doesn't show Caswell's tattoos. Or the Velcro patch that reads: "61 Delta Ghost rider," for a leather-clad, chain-whipping motorcycle rider whose head is a skull engulfed in flames, which Caswell would rip off and hide when an officer came around.

And it certainly doesn't depict Caswell as a soldier who'd race around CFB Petawawa on his orange and black motorcycle with his friend Trooper Patrick Pentland.

In early April, Caswell acted as a pallbearer for his friend, after a bomb blew apart Pentland's vehicle, killing him and Master Cpl. Allan Stewart.

And now Keith Rombough – who slept in the same 32-person tent as the rest of his and Caswell's troop and who also helped bear Pentland's flag-draped casket – hopes he can do Caswell the same honour.

"You got to carry your friends," said Rombough, 23, who arrived in Canada for his 21/2 week leave from Afghanistan on June 5.

Caswell, 25, was killed Monday when a bomb ripped apart his LAV-25.

Christine Caswell, his stepmother, said the family got the news about his death late Monday.

"His little brother was celebrating his 12th birthday and we got a long distance call. We thought it was Darryl calling to say 'Happy birthday,' but it was someone calling to say Darryl had been killed."

'You got to carry your friends'; Darryl Caswell's death comes 2 months after he bore the casket of a slain comrade

Caswell's cousin, Jennifer Stainton of Bowmanville, told the Star last night that Caswell was "really funny and kind and a softie."

She added: "He may not have looked like it with his tattoos, but he's a sweetheart."

Rombough agreed. "He seemed gruffer than he actually was," he said, noting the soldier's booming voice and surplus of ink.

"He was proud of his troublesome reputation...he was a big presence."

Rombough laughed as he remembered his buddy's antics.

The weirdest, perhaps, was Caswell's SOG – Special Operations Gnome – which he brought from Canada. A friend's wife had painted the gnome into combat fatigues. Caswell and the rest of his vehicle's tightknit four-person crew, who all sported Ghost rider patches, would fasten the gnome to their vehicle and drive across Kandahar.

The gnome is no more – shattered either in the explosion that killed Caswell or in an earlier bomb attack in late March, which detonated on the far side of the LAV Caswell was driving at the time.

Caswell deployed to Afghanistan in February. Rombough, who is home on leave, learned of his friend's death yesterday morning on the networking website Facebook, when he saw a members' group named: "In loving memory of Darryl Caswell."

"I thought it was a joke," he said.

When Caswell, who "liked to party," had the opportunity to exit Afghanistan on leave, he flew to Australia, Rombough said.

But Caswell liked being a soldier and volunteered for extra work whenever officers called – and the rest of his troop vanished.

"He hated when other people dodged work," Rombough said.

Their troop is scheduled to leave Afghanistan on July 31, his birthday. Caswell had planned on fixing up his bike, getting a paint job to add a memorial to his biker friend Pentland, whose death is eerily parallel to Caswell's – friends who both lived extremely fast and died in a shower of metal and flames.

'You got to carry your friends'; Darryl Caswell's death comes 2 months after he bore the casket of ~~an~~ slain co



# Denied war or throne, Harry finds fun

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130010  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A02  
**BYLINE:** Rosie DiManno  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 566

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What's the point of being a prince if a lad can't even score with the wenches, sans grief?

Harry Windsor – if he were to sign bar tabs as a commoner – is a soldier and a scoundrel, which not that infrequently go hand in hand. Just as firefighters could take their pick of the lasses in New York City after 9/11, so popular was the breed in an era short on heroes, so, too, are warriors babe–magnets these days. Add HRH to Second Lieutenant status and Harry is yummy rogue all over.

Even Canada, so conflicted about having troops that actually fight, is gaga for its men in uniform.

And Canada is where Prince Harry finds himself at the moment, more specifically the doldrums of Greater Medicine Hat, poor thing, sharpening his skills with the British Army Training unit in preparation for possible combat deployment to Afghanistan.

Released from the rigours of training, soldiers do what comes most naturally to young men, especially when a real war assignment looms – drink and shag.

HRH Harry, increasingly notorious for his full–bore clubbing, certainly did the former.

It does not appear – despite the best scandal–mongering efforts of that paragon of journalism, the News of the World – that the prince actually did get a leg–over with Cherie Cymbalisty (surely a nom de va–va–vooom), buxom (34C) barmaid at Calgary's Cowboys Niteclub.

Didn't take Skanky Girl much coaxing to sell her story to the chequebook tabloid, even as she apparently waits by the phone for a call from the prince, who departed the premises with her number. Which just proves that even Alberta beef–fed voluptuaries can kiss–and–tell cha–ching with the best of 'em.

What transpired was a bit of last–call "snogging," as the Brits call it, which was no more than booze–breath smooching in this case. "I would love to see him again," Cherie crooned to the paper, which surely put some provocative words in her mouth, where the prince's tongue had just been. "I've texted him and asked him for a dinner date. He hasn't got back to me yet. I wouldn't mind being a princess."

Uh–huh.

Harry may be burning the candle at both ends, but what's a privileged 21– year–old to do when that carrot–head will never wear a crown, his royal jewels being once removed from the throne?

Primogeniture has guaranteed older brother William purpose and the family firm succession. Meanwhile, courtiers have separated a man from his mates – the spare separated from his Blues and Royals regiment, Iraq deemed too dangerous an environment for the third in line to the throne.

That's the chronic trouble with Harry – superfluous but not expendable.

The prince's Calgary carousing happened to coincide with Britain's 150th casualty in Iraq; hence all the disapproval from the scolding class – as if a direct corollary can be drawn between Harry's escapades and death on the battlefield.

Presumably, if the royal spawn were really torn up about being denied the Iraq tour, as he's bitterly claimed, then he'd stay shuttered in barracks rather than cavorting with silly ditzes.

Obligingly, Cherie gave good quote: "Harry didn't once mention Iraq or Afghanistan. It couldn't have been further from his thoughts. The only thing on his mind was whether or not I was wearing underwear."

As if she weren't panting to take them off.

One feels sorry for Harry. Poor boy was dragged to AIDS hospices and soup kitchens when he was a sprout, his less than saintly mother aggressively exposing both sons to the humbler side of life. He's had self-conscious noblesse oblige coming out the ying-yang since childhood.

So now he wants to toot.

Blow your horn, kid. Just beware of tootsie rolls in the Alberta hay.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

# Troops warned route too dangerous to drive; 'They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road,' says vehicle leader who saw Canadian driver killed in explosion

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130014

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell, CanWest News Service / Theremains of the Coyote armoured vehicle in which Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Second Batallion was killed Monday night in a roadside explosion while on patrol about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City. ;

**KEYWORDS:** CANADIANS; WAR

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 380

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan — A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher-ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them in by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit. . . . They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members were injured but are expected to recover.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada had sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments.

Troops warned route too dangerous to drive; 'They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road,' says ve

However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Thompson.

Monday's assault came after the "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with U.S. infantry and special forces.

It stopped first at a rustic outpost being used by Hotel Company, from the Royal Canadian Regiment's second battalion, then headed out on the four-hour drive to the more northern base.

"The Coyote was going down into a ravine, dead ground it is called, and I saw a puff of black smoke" said Master Cpl. Kirk Blank, who was in a truck three vehicles behind the Coyote.

The blast tore most of the wheels from the driver's side of the Coyote and appears to have blown the hatch off the driver's compartment.

Troops warned route too dangerous to drive; 'They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road' says ve

# Trooper killed on road well-suited for ambushes

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130001  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** D12

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Getty Images / U.S. soldier Lieutenant William Krabes from the 1st Platoon Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82 Airborne Division, secures an area as an Afghan girl looks out from the doorstep of her house during a search for Taliban insurgents in an unidentified village in Ghazni province, some 200 kilometres west of Kabul on Tuesday. ;

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 414

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan — A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and high points on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

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Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

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However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Thompson.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with American infantry and special forces.

It stopped first at a rustic outpost being used by Hotel Company, from the Royal Canadian Regiment's second battalion, then headed out on the four-hour drive over a bumpy, winding road to the more northern base. It never got there.

"The Coyote was going down into a ravine, dead ground it is called, and I saw a puff of black smoke," said Master Cpl. Kirk Blank, a "right seater" in a 10-tonne truck that was three vehicles behind Caswell's Coyote.

"At almost the same moment, what I assume was one of the driver's side tires flew off into the air, and was jettisoned I would say a good 50 metres."

# Driver warned officers road was dangerous; Military won't comment on corporal's claim route where soldier was killed invited sudden attacks

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130151  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Journal Stock / (Darryl) Caswell;  
**KEYWORDS:** CANADIANS; WAR; WORLD WAR I  
**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** National Post; CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 369

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan – A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

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Driver warned officers road was dangerous; Military won't comment on corporal's claim route where soldier was killed invited sudden attacks

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# 7 police die in U.S. air strike; Taliban suspected of killing schoolgirls

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130132

**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A12

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters / An Afghan policeman searches through the debris Tuesday at a police post destroyed by a U.S.-led air attack in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Coalition forces mistakenly killed seven policemen in an air strike after Afghan forces came under attack from the Taliban and asked for help, a provincial official said. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; BOMBINGS; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN

**DATELINE:** JALALABAD, Afghanistan

**SOURCE:** Reuters

**WORD COUNT:** 276

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JALALABAD, Afghanistan – U.S.-led forces killed seven Afghan policemen, an official said Tuesday, and three people were shot dead at a NATO checkpoint, raising concern about friendly fire incidents in Afghanistan.

In a separate incident, gunmen riding on a motorbike opened fire on schoolgirls on their way home, killing two and wounding six, officials said.

The schoolgirls were killed in Logar province, south of the capital Kabul, at the end of the school day. The unidentified attackers fled.

Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months and with it, civilian casualties and cases of friendly fire.

Efforts to cut civilian casualties will top the agenda of a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels Thursday amid growing concern the incidents could undermine public support for the mission in Afghanistan and in NATO countries. The policemen were killed in an air strike after the Taliban stormed police posts late Monday in Khogiani district in Nangarhar, said district police chief Adel Balwal.

Police sent reinforcements and called for help from U.S. forces, he said. "In the coalition bombing, seven policemen lost their lives."

A U.S. military spokesman said he was aware of the raid, but had no other details. Thirteen policemen were missing, Balwal said. If confirmed, the incident would be one of the most serious cases of friendly fire on western or Afghan forces by the U.S.-led coalition.

A Taliban spokesman said by telephone from an undisclosed location the militants had killed 12 policemen.

About 50,000 foreign troops led by the U.S. military and NATO are in Afghanistan, battling a resurgent Taliban and their al-Qaida allies. Last year was the bloodiest since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

On Monday, more than two dozen insurgents were killed in the southern province of Kandahar in an

eight-hour battle that began when the militants ambushed coalition and Afghan police, the U.S. military said.

# U.S. diplomat accuses Iran of arming Taliban

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130131  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**KEYWORDS:** NUCLEAR POWER; NUCLEAR REACTORS; TERRORISM; URANIUM;  
NUCLEARWEAPONS  
**DATELINE:** PARIS  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 174

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PARIS – Iran is arming the Taliban in Afghanistan, U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said Tuesday, accusing Tehran of fuelling insurrection around the Middle East and misjudging the international mood.

Paying a brief visit to France, Burns warned Iran that it would face increasingly tough sanctions if it refused to negotiate over its nuclear ambitions in the "next week or two."

Burns said Iran was a destabilizing force and was funding extremists in the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Iraq.

"Iran is now transferring arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan. It is a country that is trying to flex its muscles, but in a way that is injurious to just about everyone else in the world. I think it is a major miscalculation," Burns said.

Earlier this month, U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said he could not link Tehran to a flow of weapons into Afghanistan and Afghan President Hamid Karzai hailed his country's relations with Iran as especially good.

Looking to up the pressure on Iran, Burns said Tehran would have to decide swiftly to talk to major world powers over its nuclear enrichment program or see new sanctions imposed.

# U.S.-led forces kill Afghan allies

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130163  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Rafiq Shirzad, Reuters / A policeman inspects a police post damaged by a U.S.-led air attack on Tuesday which killed seven Afghan police officers. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** JALALABAD, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 146

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U.S.-led forces killed seven Afghan policemen, an official said on Tuesday, and three people were shot dead at a NATO checkpoint, raising concern about mistaken fire incidents in Afghanistan.

In a separate incident, gunmen riding on a motorbike opened fire on schoolgirls on their way home, killing two and wounding six, officials said.

Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months and with it, civilian casualties and cases of mistaken fire.

Efforts to cut civilian casualties will top the agenda of a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels on Thursday amid growing concern the incidents could undermine public support for the mission both in Afghanistan and in NATO countries.

The policemen were killed in an air strike after the Taliban stormed police posts late on Monday in Khogiani district of the eastern province of Nangarhar, district police chief Adel Balwal told Reuters.

Police sent reinforcements and called for help from U.S. forces, he said.

"In the coalition bombing, seven policemen lost their lives."

A U.S. military spokesman said he was aware of the raid but had no other details.

Thirteen policemen were missing, Balwal said.

# Canadian soldier died on risky road

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130151  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Trooper Darryl Caswell;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 216

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A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged superiors to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit . . . They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments.

# Afghanistan an unwinnable war

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130139  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** The Editorial Page  
**PAGE:** A22  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN  
**BYLINE:** Susan Riley  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 758

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A recent poll reveals two things: that two-thirds of Canadians want our soldiers out of Afghanistan by the February 2009 deadline — and, by extension, that Canadians are not easily fooled.

They understand that however noble our ambitions for that battered country, however idealistic our soldiers (another of whom died Monday) and diplomats, this is a war the West will never win. The best we can hope for is a lull in hostilities lasting long enough to allow NATO to declare victory and get the heck out.

Despite military attempts to limit independent reporting, and the difficulty of getting the story in a county where few outside reporters speak the language, a picture is emerging of what is really going on. It is incomplete and complicated, but it doesn't much resemble the sunny accounts delivered in bland unison by Stephen Harper's ministers.

Not long ago, PBS Frontline sent veteran reporter Sam Kiley on an outing with Canadian troops stationed at Camp Martello, south of Kandahar. His report catalogued a comedy of errors, as well-meaning Canadian soldiers tried to secure spark plugs to get village wells running. This involved lumbering down dangerous roads in tanks, shooting at a civilian truck that came too close and injuring its passengers, failing to secure the necessary parts and, finally, abandoning the villagers to the mercies of the Taliban.

Kiley was filled with admiration for the soldiers; his report was not intended to ridicule their efforts, but to illustrate — as he did, brilliantly—the difficulty of winning hearts and minds from inside a tank. It is like trying to remove a sliver wearing down mittens. Even the most skilled surgeon is doomed to fail.

Rather than rethinking military strategy, however, the Harper government marches on, down the same explosive-strewn path. It talks more about reconstruction these days, but according to recent figures, of 36,000 foreign soldiers in Afghanistan, only 2,000 to 2,500 are engaged in rebuilding.

Only a portion of international aid money has been spent, either because there is no security or because there is confusion over who will supervise proposed projects.

Yet, all we hear from senior ministers is happy talk. Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay last week reported that "in the last few weeks, our provincial reconstruction team hosted an important human rights workshop" attended by Afghan army, security and police officials.

What's next? Gourmet cooking classes to help Afghan widows get back on their feet?

MacKay also reported that one of the "most touching" experiences of his recent visit to Afghanistan was

watching Canadians distribute new uniforms to Afghan police: "The pride they felt in receiving those uniforms, which sported the Afghan flag, was nothing short of amazing. It was very reminiscent, I'm sure, of the feeling our own RCMP have on graduation." Also reminiscent of a scene from Evelyn Waugh's novel, *Scoop*, a timeless spoof of war reporting. (In a country where 50 per cent of men are unemployed, could it be the steady paycheck, not the uniforms, that inspired excitement?)

As for the fate of detainees handed over to Afghan authorities, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor explains that under an improved monitoring regime, every time a detainee is turned over, Afghan authorities get a copy of Canada's expectations regarding proper treatment, with a carbon copy going to the prisoner (who, as Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day points out, "are suspected terrorists, people who know no limits when it comes to the suicide killing of others.") Despite the sinister nature of detainees, and Afghanistan's history of "brutal revenge upon enemies," its prisons have moved "in very short time" from the revenge system to respect for human rights, Day claims.

As for how many detainees we have handed over, MacKay says he can't say because many Afghans have the same name and no street addresses or birth certificates — making it difficult to track individuals, "particularly those whose stated purpose is to avoid detection." But, apart from not knowing where detainees are, and despite Afghanistan's history of "brutal revenge," all is now well on that front.

"Rome was not built in a day," Secretary of State Helena Guergis chirpily reminded the Commons defence committee recently. As to why her government didn't protest the ejection of human rights activist Malalai Joya from the Afghan parliament for comparing fellow members to zoo animals, Guergis replied: "It's their parliament." Still, it sounds as if they could use another human rights workshop.

Susan Riley is a columnist with the *Ottawa Citizen*.

# Knock brought terrible news

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130947

**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 13

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Adrian Wyld, CP Darlene Cushman holds a photo of son Darryl Caswell as she's comforted by daughter Jolene and Darryl's father Paul Caswell.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON, Ont.

**WORD COUNT:** 206

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

'HE WAS SO YOUNG'

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," Caswell's stepmother Christine said yesterday said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED — an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was providing security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 km north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck. KEYWORDS=CANADA



# U.S. forces kill 8 Afghan cops Friendly fire incident blamed on poor communication

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130585

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 37

**BYLINE:** AP

**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 252

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Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.-led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight Afghan officers dead before dawn yesterday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps — and apparent mistrust — between U.S. and Afghan security forces. President Hamid Karzai's office called the deaths "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co-operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about raids by U.S. Special Forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted yesterday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.-led coalition said a joint coalition-Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safehouse was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support. It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

A Karzai spokesman also said police initiated the shooting, but officers at the isolated post on a barren stretch of desert in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

"The Americans came close to our checkpoint with the lights of their vehicles off," Esanullah, commander of the roadblock, said. "We shouted at them to stop, but they didn't, and they opened fire on us." He said eight police officers were killed and four wounded.

Officers at the post fired 49 of their 50 rocket-propelled grenades and called for assistance from reserve police during the three-hour firefight, said Esanullah, who goes by one name.

Karzai's spokesman, Karim Rahimi, said the incident underscored why the president has repeatedly called for increased co-operation between Afghan and international troops. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Canuck trooper killed on brother's birthday heralded as a loyal, caring, strong leader -- true characteristics of a soldier

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130544

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** 4 photos 1. photo of LOGAN CASWELL Killed in action 3 photos by Pete Fisher, Sun Media 2. Jolene Cushman, 16, weeps as she looks at a picture of her brother Darryl Caswell, who was killed in Afghanistan. 3. Darryl's brother Logan, 12, shows his brother's dog tags. 4. Dad Paul Caswell and stepmom Christine grieve the loss of Darryl, who was killed in Afghanistan on Monday.

**BYLINE:** JOE WARMINGTON

**DATELINE:** BOWMANVILLE

**WORD COUNT:** 571

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It was supposed to be a long-distance phone call from Afghanistan to wish his kid brother happy birthday.

There would be nothing happy about Logan Caswell's 12th birthday.

The call that came was every family's worst nightmare. "I couldn't believe it," said a stunned Logan outside his home yesterday.

"They told me my brother had been killed in action. He was killed on my birthday."

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, was Canada's 57th soldier killed in Afghanistan -- on Monday, June 11 the very day he had promised to call his brother 13 years his junior.

If not for a roadside bomb near Kandahar, he would have for sure. "He was an incredible brother," said young Logan. "He always looked out for me."

The death of the member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons out of CFB Petawawa is every Canadian's loss. But to a family in this tiny town east of Toronto, it's devastating because he was their "pride and joy and hero" all wrapped up in one.

The Caswells gathered yesterday at his childhood home and cried, laughed and remembered the extraordinary local kid who went halfway across the world to defend his country and to make life better for the people of Afghanistan. You could not miss the house on a quiet street here. It was the one with a yellow ribbon on the step next to the Canadian flag and where people outside were crying and hugging each other.

The family was brave, just like their much-loved Darryl, as they shared their memories.

Of course there was Logan, wearing his brother's dog tags around his neck. And then there was his sister, Jolene, 16, clutching a picture of him. His mom, Darlene, his stepmom, Christine, his dad, Paul, and his stepdad, Chris Walsh.

Canuck trooper killed on brother's birthday heralded as a loyal, caring, strong leader -- true characteristics

Somewhere running around the house was his dog Nugget. In front of me was a portrait of what every military family dreads. It was a portrait of pain.

And a portrait of grief. It's not pretty and oh, so real. "My heart goes out to every family that has experienced this," said his mom, Darlene, fighting tears. "When I used to watch other soldiers being killed I would think, 'Oh my God' how is that family feeling? I would cry for them but now that it is happening I realize I didn't really know how they felt."

Crushed. There is no other way to put it.

"There were so many things that were not finished," said his mom. "His first home, a wife and babies." But his family said they have no regrets because serving his country was Darryl's dream.

"This has been the worst experience of my life but this is what my son wanted to do," said Darlene. "The military has been so supportive. It must be hard to have to bring families such bad news. It could not have been done any better."

'PROUD CANADIAN'

"He was a proud Canadian," adds his dad, Paul, who works at the Goodyear plant and says, "I kind of wish Darryl had have kept working there, too." But then he remembers how many people his son helped and how important it was for him to do that.

When he was on leave earlier this year in Australia his mom asked, "If you could just come home, would you come home and not go back? He said, 'No, mom, I am going to go back and finish the job because my guys are still there.'"

Loyal, caring, strong. It was his character as a soldier.

"He was such a leader," said his stepmom, Christine. "He left his mark." He wanted to be in the lead vehicle heading in any direction and was actually hit by a roadside bomb in April. He survived that one. Not this time.

But it was his approach of keeping people safe that sister Jolene said she will miss the most. "He was more than just a brother really," she said. "He was the most protective older brother imaginable. I am going to do everything possible to keep him with me."

Same goes for young Logan who knows, although his birthday will never ever be the same, he is so proud to share June 11 with his hero brother. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Military photog buried

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130543  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of MASTER CPL. DARRELL PRIEDE Killed in Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** CFB GAGETOWN, N.B.  
**WORD COUNT:** 150

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A Canadian military photographer who died two weeks ago in Afghanistan was remembered yesterday as a professional whose photographs will live on forever.

Hundreds of people gathered at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown for the funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede. The 30-year-old died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

"After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown," Jestin said.

"What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him."

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone.

"Nobody is safe — it's a risky business," said Brig.-Gen. Rick Parsons. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# No logic in Khadr call

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130140  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 15  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**WORD COUNT:** 428

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While it's flattering to have one's views attacked by the Sun's founding editor, it would be nice if his arguments were logical and consistent.

Monday, Peter Worthington criticized my June 5 "Point of View" that the U.S. should try Omar Khadr — he's been held for five years at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo, Cuba — or free him.

Worthington is a stickler for due process and following proper legal procedures, or at least for what he argues should be due process and proper legal procedures, whenever it comes to deporting alleged Nazi war criminals/collaborators from Canada — a point he made in his column.

I would have thought, then, he would be as demanding of the U.S. in its handling of Khadr who, like it or not, is a Canadian citizen.

Not so. Worthington appears unconcerned military prosecutors have twice been unable even to get a murder charge against Khadr to trial, let alone obtain a conviction, in a case he says they've called a "slam dunk."

Really? The first time, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Bush administration's process for bringing the case to trial (and others like it) was unconstitutional.

The second time, a military judge (!) ruled he had no jurisdiction to hear it because the military, contrary to a new law passed by Congress and signed by U.S. President George W. Bush to replace the unconstitutional one, failed to classify Khadr (or any Guantanamo detainees) as "unlawful enemy combatants." Instead they called them "enemy combatants."

For a stickler for due process and following proper legal procedures, one would have thought Worthington would appreciate the significance of this ruling, since "enemy combatants" unlike "unlawful" ones, are permitted under the Geneva Conventions and the rules of war to fight back.

One would have presumed Worthington would have praised the decision, and its implications, since he also argues the U.S. should never have charged Khadr, 15 at the time, with the murder of U.S. army medic Sgt. Christopher Speer at the end of a firefight in 2002 in Afghanistan.

"People who kill one in combat should not be tried, or even charged with murder," Worthington wrote of Khadr on June 5. "Nor is that terrorism, it is war."

Well, if it's war, why is Khadr being held at Guantanamo, set up not to hold prisoners of war, but the "worst of the worst" terror suspects, according to the Bush administration?

Worthington described Guantanamo in November, 2006 as holding, "432 Taliban and al-Qaida core leaders." But given his March 2007 description of Khadr as "a soldier" who was "clearly ... fighting against what to him was an invading army," what was Khadr a "core leader" of exactly?

Yet Worthington agrees with the Bush administration's position to hold Khadr indefinitely at Guantanamo, no matter what U.S. courts or military tribunals decide.

I'll remember that the next time he argues for due process and proper legal procedures for alleged Nazi war criminals/collaborators.

And ask why he apparently doesn't support due process for all.

# A dutiful son Petawawa's latest casualty was 'doing what he wanted to do'

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130125

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Adrian Wyld, CP Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother Darlene Cushman is supported as she holds a photo of her son while speaking with the media outside their family home in Clarington yesterday. Caswell was killed when his vehicle struck an IED Monday.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON

**WORD COUNT:** 282

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that the Petawawa-based trooper had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday. "It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," she said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission that involves supplying forward operating bases and soldiers in the field.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

Born in Bowmanville, Caswell grew up in Clarington and later lived with his mother in nearby Whitby, as well as the southwestern Ontario border city of Sarnia. When he turned 12, Darryl moved to Clarington to live with his father and stepmother.

"He just kept wanting to live with his dad. He took to it like a fish to a worm," his stepmother said. "He and his dad had a special bond."

After high school, Caswell enrolled in the Police Foundations program at Sir Stanford Fleming College in Peterborough, before joining the Canadian military in 2004.

"Without security there can be no development in Afghanistan, and thanks to soldiers like Trooper Caswell, we are making significant progress," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement that offered Canada's condolences to the Caswell family. KEYWORDS=CANADA



# Explosive threat

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130124  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of MIKE CESSFORD Enemy tactic  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 238

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of Trooper Darryl Caswell, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of almost one-third of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to IEDs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops — as they did last summer and fall.

IEDs require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings that wreak greater havoc when the device explodes.

Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated — a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

Roadside bombs don't always have devastating effect. Depending on the strength of the explosives and the vehicle that triggers it, an IED blast sometimes results in nothing more than a blown tire.

KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Trooper died doing what he believed in

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130465  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Adrian Wyld, CP MOMS' GRIEF: Trooper Darryl Caswell's mother, Darlene Cushman, and his stepmother, Christine Caswell, hold photos as they speak outside the family home in Clarington yesterday. Caswell became the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on Monday.

**BYLINE:** JERED STUFFCO, CP

**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON

**WORD COUNT:** 339

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away Monday to mark his brother's birthday at the family home in this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

"He was due to come back on his birthday on the 31st of July," she said. "He was so young, he had so much to do and (so much) he wanted to do."

Caswell, 25, was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa. He was deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

He was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol — a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water.

Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED — an ever-present threat in Canada's ongoing battle with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 kilometres north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Over the course of the day, a Facebook page created in Caswell's memory continued to grow with expressions

of grief and condolence from friends, many of whom were former high school classmates.

"I was in my kitchen making coffee when I heard the name over the news," wrote Pippa Boothman, a university student in London, who said the news left her heartbroken.

"I have only seen Darryl a few times since high school, however those are moments that never go away . . . Live, love (and) laugh is what Darryl did."

Another high school friend, Michelle Richard, expressed support for those Canadians who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of their country.

"How sad it is . . . we are so blessed to have people like him willing to stand up and protect us every day. And too often we lose them," she wrote. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Soldier's war photos will live on

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130464

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Andrew Vaughan, CP PARENTS' ANGUISH: John and Roxanne Priede, parents of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, watch as his coffin is carried from St. Luke's Chapel at CFB Gagetown, N.B., yesterday.

**BYLINE:** KEVIN BISSETT, CP

**DATELINE:** CFB GAGETOWN, N.B.

**WORD COUNT:** 151

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A Canadian military photographer who died two weeks ago in Afghanistan was remembered yesterday as a professional whose photographs will live on forever.

Hundreds gathered at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown for the funeral of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Col. Ryan Jestin, commander of CFB Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

"After we're all gone, (others) will be able to look at his pictures from Afghanistan and his pictures from CFB Gagetown," Jestin said after the service. "What a great professional he was. What a great man he was, and we're going to miss him."

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan less than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors that he believed his job was one of the safest to be had in a war zone. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Military aims to halt rash of road bombs

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130463  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** STEPHANIE LEVITZ, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 220

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of these crude explosive devices.

But the bombs, responsible for the deaths of almost one-third of the 57 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, are throwing up deadly roadblocks to Canada's push for security throughout Kandahar province.

Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, died Monday in the lead vehicle of an elephantine supply convoy plodding its way toward Canadian troops fighting alongside the Afghan National Army and coalition forces in a northern district of Kandahar province.

Part of a reconnaissance squadron, Caswell was riding in a Coyote armoured vehicle when it struck the improvised explosive device — known by its acronym IED — on a dusty secondary road en route to Khakriz district, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City.

It's not an altogether new area for Canadians, but they have pulled back from there last year in favour of focusing on the more heavily populated regions in the south.

The vacuum created by the lack of national and international forces in the area has allowed the insurgency to rise again. They are resorting to IEDs as a cheap and easy way of hindering coalition efforts.

IEDs are unlike mines, which are sown by the millions throughout the deserts and valleys of Afghanistan and explode indiscriminately, maiming or killing untold numbers of innocent people.

Instead, IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Deadly mistake costs eight lives Afghan police and U.S. forces clash in confusion

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130838

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 51

**BYLINE:** AP

**DATELINE:** KABUL

**WORD COUNT:** 368

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Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.-led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight officers dead before dawn yesterday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps – and apparent mistrust – between U.S. and Afghan security forces.

President Hamid Karzai's office called the deaths "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co-operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about nighttime raids by U.S. Special Forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted early yesterday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.-led coalition said a joint coalition-Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safehouse was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support. It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

## ISOLATED

As for yesterday's deadly incident, a spokesman for Karzai said Afghan police initiated the shooting. Officers at the isolated post on a barren stretch of desert in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

"The Americans came close to our checkpoint with the lights of their vehicles off," said Esanullah, commander of the roadblock. "We shouted at them to stop, but they didn't, and they opened fire on us." He said eight police officers were killed and four wounded.

Officers at the post fired 49 of their 50 rocket-propelled grenades and called for assistance from reserve police during the three-hour firefight, said Esanullah, who goes by one name.

Karzai's spokesman, Karim Rahimi, said the incident underscored why the president has repeatedly called for increased co-operation between Afghan and international troops, which would help solve the problem of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

## UNAWARE

"The police forces were not aware of the coalition's operation," Rahimi said.

"The police checkpoint in the area thought that they were the enemy, so police opened fire on the coalition, and then the coalition thought that the enemies were firing on them, so they returned fire back."

Maj. Chris Belcher, a coalition spokesman, said the troops were fired at by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from two sides while on the way to conduct an operation against the suspected Taliban safehouse.

"Afghan and coalition forces took incoming fire and they responded to it," Belcher said. The coalition said in a statement that there was nothing "to indicate the opposing force was friendly. The individuals who fired on coalition forces were not in uniform." KEYWORDS=WORLD

# IEDs cheap but deadly roadblocks to coalition

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130813  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 19  
**BYLINE:** STEPHANIE LEVITZ, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 336

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As yet another roadside bomb claimed the life of a Canadian soldier, military leaders in Afghanistan say they are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of the crude explosive devices.

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Instead, IEDs are deliberately constructed explosive devices planted in specific locations. They are designed, at a minimum, to cripple a vehicle or, at maximum, to kill.

Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, has said the insurgents' reliance on these homemade devices shows they are no longer able to mount larger co-ordinated attacks against coalition troops – as they did last summer and fall.

IEDs require little more than some sort of explosives and a detonator, though they've been adapted to include things like nails or ball bearings.

Cessford said the bombs have become less sophisticated – a recent patrol in Spin Boldak, on the border of Pakistan, spotted one that was little more than a bucket and a battery.

That hasn't made them less deadly.



Less than three weeks ago, Cpl. Matt McCully was killed when he stepped on an IED during a patrol in Operation Hoover, considered Canada's largest offensive against insurgents in recent months.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Door knock casts pall on birthday

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130812  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 19  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of TROOPER DARRYL CASWELL 57th Canadian casualty  
**BYLINE:** JERED STUFFCO, CP  
**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON, Ont.  
**WORD COUNT:** 267

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"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmother Christine Caswell said yesterday.

"It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she added.

His mother Darlene Cushnam said Caswell's return date to Canada was timed to coincide with his birthday.

"I know he believed in what he was doing," she said outside her family's home. "I just wanted him to come home for his 26th birthday."

Caswell was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont. He was deployed with the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

"He was good at whatever he set his mind to, whether it was martial arts or the military ... he could do it," Cushnam said.

Caswell was riding in the lead vehicle in what the Canadian Forces call a combat logistics patrol – a perilous mission that involves restocking forward operating bases and soldiers in the field with everything from ammunition and equipment to rations and water. Caswell had been serving in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said. "He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the IED.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 km north of the city of Kandahar when it was struck.

Also Tuesday, family and friends in CFB Gagetown, N.B., laid to rest Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, 30, who was killed on May 30 while flying over Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Due process

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130805  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN, TORONTO SUN  
**WORD COUNT:** 419

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## FOR OMAR

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Yesterday, Peter Worthington criticized my June 5 "Point of View" column that the U.S. should try Omar Khadr — he's been held for five years at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo, Cuba — or free him.

## NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

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Really? The first time, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Bush administration's process for bringing the case to trial (and others like it) was unconstitutional.

## STICKLER FOR DUE PROCESS

The second time, a military judge (!) ruled he had no jurisdiction to hear it because the military, contrary to a new law passed by Congress and signed by U.S. President George Bush to replace the unconstitutional one, failed to classify Khadr (or any Guantanamo detainees) as "unlawful enemy combatants."

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## 'IT IS WAR'

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Well, if it's war, why is Khadr being held at Guantanamo, set up not to hold prisoners of war, but the "worst of the worst" terror suspects, according to the Bush administration?

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Yet Worthington agrees with the Bush administration's position to hold Khadr indefinitely at Guantanamo, no matter what U.S. courts or military tribunals decide.

I'll remember that the next time he argues for due process and proper legal procedures for alleged Nazi war criminals/collaborators.

And ask why he apparently doesn't support due process for all.

# Officers were warned of dangers on road where soldier was killed

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**IDNUMBER:** 200706130103  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Caswell: Died on route filled with deadly ravines; Photo: Tom Blackwell, CanWest News Service / A Coyote armoured vehicle in which Trooper Darryl Caswell was killed lies in ruins in Shahwali Kot, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City. ;

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 286

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan — A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew suffered injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments. However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of attack, none would ever leave the main base, said

Thompson.

Monday's assault came with no warning and no chance to fight back. The patrol had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to a Canadian artillery unit.

# Soldier's pride remembered 'Home-grown' photographer mourned while nation's death toll rises

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130710

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 27

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo of DARRELL PRIEDE Shot down 2. photo by Noel Chenier, CP

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CFB GAGETOWN

**WORD COUNT:** 298

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As the family of Master Cpl. Darrell Priede gathered yesterday in a small, military chapel to mourn his death, word came yet another Canadian soldier had been killed in Afghanistan.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

Before the crash, he was photographing coalition forces trying to capture a valley from insurgents.

Priede, who had been in Afghanistan for fewer than six weeks, had recently remarked to his superiors he believed his job was one of the safest in a war zone.

Roxanne Priede said her son, who was born in Burlington, Ont., and raised in Grand Forks, B.C., volunteered to go to Afghanistan and was eager to capture images of Canada's mission there.

"He really wanted to do something that would show more of what the military stood for," she said in an earlier interview from her home in Grand Forks.

Some photos the soldier took are on display at the Provincial Reconstruction Team base outside Kandahar.

Col. Ryan Jestin, the commander of Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, said Priede was highly regarded for his contributions to various in-house publications, including Army News.

In an earlier interview, Jestin said he will always remember a photograph taken of Priede holding the Stanley Cup when the vaunted trophy arrived for a brief visit to Afghanistan several weeks ago.

"That's the image that will stay with me," Jestin said.

"That sort of pride and that sort of home-grown Canadian boy we're all going to miss."

Priede's funeral service was held in St. Luke's chapel at CFB Gagetown, not far from where Priede lived with his wife, Angela, in the town of Oromocto, N.B.

His death brought to 56 the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

But before Priede was laid to rest, the toll increased to 57. Darryl Caswell, 25, was killed Monday by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar City, in an area outside where the Canadians normally operate.

Cpl. Darrell Priede's parents, John and Roxanne Priede, watch tearfully as his coffin is taken to a waiting hearse outside St. Luke's Chapel at CFB Gagetown, N.B. yesterday. Priede, a military photographer, was killed in a helicopter crash late last month while serving in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Slain soldier's mom 'just wanted him home'

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**SOURCETAG** 0706130708  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 21  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of DARRYL CASWELL Family mourns  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON, Ont.  
**WORD COUNT:** 127

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away to mark his brother's birthday.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads.

"He was going to do all he could to call," stepmom Christine Caswell said yesterday. "It wasn't the call we were expecting."

Caswell had six weeks left in Afghanistan before he was set to return home, she said.

His mother Darlene Cushnam said Caswell's return date to Canada was timed to coincide with his birthday.

"I know he believed in what he was doing," she said. "I just wanted him to come home for his 26th birthday."

Caswell was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont.

"He was good at whatever he set his mind to, whether it was martial arts or the military ... he could do it," Cushnam said.

Caswell had been in Afghanistan since January, his stepmother said.

"He was doing what he wanted to do and what he believed in."

The convoy was en route to the district of Khakriz in northwestern Kandahar province when it struck the improvised mine.

Caswell was helping to provide security for the convoy as it travelled along a secondary road 40 km north of Kandahar.

Also Tuesday, family and friends in CFB Gagetown, N.B., laid to rest Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, 30, who was killed May 30. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# THE AFGHAN MISSION Afghanistan risks becoming another Iraq, Blair warns

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071640227

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** SOPHIE WALKER

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** REUT

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** London ENGLAND

**WORDS:** 309

**WORD COUNT:** 295

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SOPHIE WALKER Reuters News Service LONDON Afghanistan risks being overwhelmed by the same anti-Western violence that has torn up Iraq, British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned yesterday.

Asked about the Iraq war, which cast a huge shadow over his 10 years in office, the departing leader said the West had failed to take into account the extent of al-Qaeda's reach and that Iraq would attract militants seeking to attack Western forces.

"The mistake was not understanding the fundamentally rooted nature of this global movement that we face and that actually in a situation – whether Iraq or Afghanistan – where you are trying to bring about a different form of government, these people will try to stop us," he said after a speech on media at Reuters headquarters in London.

"Actually," he said "the worry is that we must be careful that Afghanistan is not then subject to the same attempt to undermine and collapse the proper support for democracy." Mr. Blair is due to resign on June 27.

This year is seen to be a decisive one in the battle for Afghanistan.

NATO troops are taking on Taliban fighters in the worst fighting since the Islamist militia was ousted in 2001. The Taliban have since been boosted by safe havens and training grounds in Pakistan, their former sponsor.

They have expanded their tactics to include al-Qaeda-style suicide bombs, and recently tried to kill Afghan President Hamid Karzai in a rocket attack.

Britain has ramped up troop levels in Afghanistan this year to about 7,000 from 5,000, as part of a 30,000-strong NATO force. Top military and diplomatic officials have lined up to warn of the increasing depth of the insurgency.

"We face a serious situation . . . clearly in the south and east there is a serious and chronic insurgency," Sherard Cowper-Coles, Britain's ambassador to Afghanistan, said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Iraq; Great Britain; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; foreign policy; foreign relations; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Tony Blair

ORGANIZATION NAME: al-Qaeda

# DEVELOPMENTS Coalition forces kill Afghan police by mistake

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071640226

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A16

**BYLINE:**

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** AP AFP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 251

**WORD COUNT:** 224

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AP/AFP Mistaking each other for the enemy, Afghan police fired four dozen grenades and U.S.-led coalition troops fought back with helicopter gunships in a fierce battle that left eight officers dead before dawn yesterday, officials said.

The deadly lapse in communication underscored the wide gaps, and apparent mistrust, between U.S. and Afghan security forces. President Hamid Karzai's office called the deaths "a tragic incident" caused by a lack of co-operation and communication.

U.S. officials have said they are wary of telling Afghan forces about nighttime raids by U.S. special forces, the kind of operation apparently being conducted early yesterday, out of fear the target might be tipped off.

The U.S.-led coalition said a joint coalition-Afghan force on a mission against a suspected Taliban safe house was fired on first and responded with their own weapons, then summoned air support.

It said no U.S. casualties were reported.

A presidential spokesman also said police initiated the shooting, but officers at the isolated post in the eastern province of Nangarhar said U.S. troops fired first.

A senior U.S. diplomat yesterday accused Iran of supplying arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan and backing several radical movements in the Mideast.

"Iran is now even transferring arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan," Nicholas Burns, the third most senior figure at the State Department, told a conference in Paris.

"They remain a country that is a primary funder for Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic jihad," he said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; United States

SUBJECT TERM: strife

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Taliban

# THE AFGHAN MISSION 'He couldn't wait to come home' Killed in roadside bombing, soldier was a funny, down-to-earth guy, friend says

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071640225

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A16 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** MATT HARTLEY

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 738

**WORD COUNT:** 695

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MATT HARTLEY It was after dinner on Logan Caswell's 12th birthday when Canadian military officials showed up at the door to deliver the grimmest news possible: Logan's big brother, Trooper Darryl Caswell, was dead, the latest Canadian soldier to be killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan.

Logan's was not the only birthday that would forever after carry a dark taint: Trooper Caswell was set to come back on July 31st, the day he would have turned 26.

"I still can't believe that he's gone," his stepmother Christine Caswell told The Globe and Mail from the family's Clarington home, about an hour east of Toronto. "I'm just still in denial. He couldn't wait to come home." Ms. Caswell said her stepson was looking forward to being an "average Joe" again. Her husband Paul, Trooper Caswell's father, had spoken with him by phone Saturday, and what would turn out to be the last e-mail from their son arrived from Afghanistan on Sunday.

Trooper Caswell was killed while travelling with a convoy carrying supplies to a forward operating base in Khakriz, a northwestern district of Kandahar province, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City, when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle at 6:25 a.m.

local time. Two other soldiers were injured in the blast and transported via helicopter to Kandahar airfield for medical treatment. Both are expected to recover and return to active duty soon. He was the third member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based out of CFB Petawawa near Ottawa, to be killed by Taliban attacks in the past three months.

Trooper Caswell was deployed as part of the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group.

Those who served with Trooper Caswell remembered him as a tough soldier and tireless worker who was never afraid to speak his mind.

Trooper Keith Rombough, was a member of that same group. Together they trained at CFB Petawawa, braved patrols in Afghanistan and slept through dusty nights in the same tent, talking of their families back in Canada.

He said Trooper Caswell and the soldiers he rode with dubbed their vehicle Ghost Rider after the Marvel comic book character. Monday's explosion wasn't the first time Trooper Caswell's patrol had been the target of a Taliban strike. A few months ago, during a similar patrol, a rocket attack blew the front wheels off his vehicle, Trooper Rombough said.

"He'd always joke around about it," he said. "He took a small amount of pride in that." Trooper Caswell was born in Bowmanville, Ont., and his parents divorced when he was 2. Growing up, he spent time living with his mother in the Toronto satellite communities of Clarington and Whitby as well as Sarnia, Ont., before moving in with his father and stepmother in Clarington when he was 12. When his father remarried, young Darryl Caswell was best man.

"One thing I'll never forget was that when Paul proposed to me, Darryl got down on his hands and knees and proposed to me, too," Ms. Caswell said. "He was such a character. He was a good kid, with a good heart." A funny, down-to-earth guy, that's how Matt Adams, Trooper Caswell's best friend of 12 years will always remember him.

Being a soldier and serving his country was the fulfilment of a lifelong dream for Trooper Caswell, Mr. Adams said. It was all he talked about as a kid, and his face lit up when he spoke of his experiences with the military. A fierce patriot, Trooper Caswell once jokingly chastised Mr. Adams's father for flying a frayed Canadian flag in the family's backyard.

"It was pretty hilarious how he shamed him into getting a new one," Mr. Adams said.

Just a few weeks ago, Trooper Caswell and his crew took a few weeks of leave and travelled to Australia, where he met up with Kayla Myers, an old friend from high school, now studying education there. It turns out she would be one of the last of his friends to see him alive.

"He was very proud to serve his country. He was just such a great guy," she said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper extended his sympathy to the Caswell family and praised the ongoing efforts of Canadian soldiers in a written statement released yesterday.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; deaths; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Darryl Caswell

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# THE ATLANTIC ACCORD: BUDGET FALLOUT Harper quells Atlantic storm; tide of anger still remains Talks with Nova Scotia end in impasse

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071640217

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**PAGE:** A1 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** GLORIA GALLOWAY

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 1024

**WORD COUNT:** 911

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GLORIA GALLOWAY OTTAWA Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrambled yesterday to prevent a bitter dispute with Nova Scotia over offshore resources from causing further ruptures in his party and irreparable damage to Conservative fortunes in Atlantic Canada.

Talks with Rodney MacDonald, Nova Scotia's Conservative Premier, ended without resolution – a day after Mr. Harper challenged the province to sue the federal government to prove allegations that Ottawa broke a contract ensuring the province's fiscal prosperity.

But the two remaining Conservative MPs from Nova Scotia (a third was kicked out of caucus last week) are still in the fold after voting with their party to pass a budget bill that Mr. MacDonald denounces. And both sides are holding out hope that further discussions will resolve the impasse.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and MP Gerald Keddy, who represents the riding of South Shore–St. Margaret's, spent much of the day behind closed doors with Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Harper and federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

When the two Nova Scotia MPs strolled into the dinner-hour vote with smiles on their faces and Mr. Flaherty at their side, it was apparent that the federal government had won the battle for their allegiance.

Bill Casey, another Nova Scotia MP, got the boot for voting against the same legislation.

The bill, he says, changes the Atlantic Accord that preserves payments the province receives for being a so-called have-not province even if its natural-resource revenues rise.

There had been speculation, from Mr. Casey and others, that a vote for the budget would leave Mr. MacKay and Mr. Keddy politically damaged in their home province.

But Mr. MacKay, who was booed by opposition members when he stood to support the government, holds out hope that the negotiations with Mr. MacDonald will lead to a resolution that Nova Scotians can live with.

"What's happened here today is significant. The discussions have reopened. The lines of communication are there.



"The Premier and I had some very meaningful discussions about this issue.

"They have brought forward a proposal that we are looking at," Mr. MacKay said.

He would not elaborate on that proposal, saying he was not prepared to negotiate in the press.

But there will be no special side deals on the budget, he said, echoing words uttered earlier by Mr. Harper.

"What we're talking about here is giving effect to the Atlantic Accord in the context of the new equalization formula [contained in the budget]." Mr. Keddy expressed similar optimism that an agreement would be reached.

"As long as there are ongoing discussions and there is a hope to resolve this, the best place for Nova Scotia's MPs to be is at the table," he told reporters.

Mr. MacDonald said he was disappointed in the outcome of the budget vote, but not surprised.

The federal government has given Nova Scotia and Newfoundland – where Premier Danny Williams is also voicing loud objections to federal equalization schemes – a choice between adopting the new plan contained in the budget or sticking with the old transfer–payment plan and the Atlantic Accord.

Mr. MacDonald wants to be able to apply the new formula, which is richer than the old one, but keep the guarantees contained in the accord.

The Atlantic Accord "is a deal that we signed in 2005, it's a deal that we expected . . . this government to continue with and this budget doesn't do it," the Premier said.

But, because of the continuing discussions, Mr. MacDonald said, "it does seem to me that there is some willingness to take a look further at this issue and hopefully to see the spirit of the accord kept in order." In Newfoundland, one of the chief architects of the original Atlantic Accord that was signed in 1985 with a former Conservative government said the budget "undermines" the deal.

Former federal cabinet minister John Crosbie said yesterday that the budget puts Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in a bind that could cost them hundreds of millions of dollars.

"They're changing the equalization formula in a way that will affect and, in fact, nullify the principles of the Atlantic Accord," Mr. Crosbie said in an interview.

"[The budget] would undo the work that the governments of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had been doing since the original Atlantic Accord was entered into by the Mulroney government." Mr. MacDonald had been trying to negotiate an end to the dispute with the federal government for some weeks but broke off talks on the weekend when newspapers published a letter from Mr. Flaherty that said Ottawa would not make deals with provinces.

The Nova Scotia Premier then embarked on a public–relations campaign.

He met yesterday with the leaders of the three opposition parties to press his case.

He has also called on Nova Scotia's senators to delay passage of the bill in the upper chamber.

Liberal senators say they do not hold up bills, but they will review the budget and give it sober second thought as they would with any legislation. The fact that Mr. MacDonald has asked to come before the Senate finance

committee, though, is extraordinary.

"We don't have a definite position, we want to hear the witnesses, we will go through the usual process at the finance committee level," said Senator Celine Hervieux-Payette, the leader of the opposition in the Senate.

But there will be lots of opportunity for the regions to express their views, she said.

The Conservatives argue that more than \$4-billion will be lost if the bill is not passed before the Senate rises on June 29 because any funds budgeted in the 2006-2007 fiscal year must be cleared off the books this summer.

The money that the government says will disappear includes \$1.5-billion to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution; and \$225-million to conserve ecologically sensitive lands.

Also included are \$600-million to address patient waiting-times guarantees; \$30-million for the Rick Hansen Foundation to help those with spinal-cord injuries; \$570-million to Ontario's labour market training, and \$135-million for developmental assistance in Afghanistan.

**ADDED SEARCH TERMS:**

**GEOGRAPHIC NAME:** Newfoundland and Labrador; Nova Scotia; Canada

**SUBJECT TERM:**government finance; budget; federal-provincial relations; political; energy; natural resources; oil; natural gas; royalties

**PERSONAL NAME:** Rodney MacDonald; Peter MacKay; Stephen Harper; Jim Flaherty

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Conservative Party of Canada

# Road too dangerous: soldier; Remote dirt road where soldier killed perfect for ambushes

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130006  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** D6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CanWest News Photo / The remains of the Coyote armoured vehicle in which trooper Darryl Caswell was killed in an IED explosion ;  
**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 459

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan -- A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit. They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesperson for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments.

However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Thompson.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with American infantry and special forces.

It stopped first at a rustic outpost being used by Hotel Company, from the Royal Canadian Regiment's second battalion, then headed out on the four-hour drive over a bumpy, winding road to the more northern base. It never got there.

"The Coyote was going down into a ravine, dead ground it is called, and I saw a puff of black smoke" said Master Cpl. Kirk Blank, a "right seater" in a 10-tonne truck that was three vehicles behind Caswell's Coyote.

"At almost the same moment, what I assume was one of the driver's side tires flew off into the air, and was jettisoned I would say a good 50 metres."

The blast tore most of the wheels from the driver's side of the Canadian-made Coyote and appears to have blown the hatch off the driver's compartment.

As darkness descended quickly on the remote scene, troops with night-vision goggles leapt out of their vehicles and searched for signs of insurgent activity.

Two Afghan men were spotted before they melted into the barren landscape of desert and mountain.

# Afghanistan death toll rises

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130102  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS /;  
**DATELINE:** CLARINGTON, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** Hamilton Spectator wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 190

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Trooper Darryl Caswell's family was waiting for a phone call from half a world away to mark his brother's birthday.

Instead came the knock at the door that every military family dreads, and the terrible news that Caswell had become the 57th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Caswell, a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., had six weeks left before he was set to return home to this quiet bedroom community east of Toronto to celebrate his own 26th birthday.

As Caswell's family mourned his passing yesterday, family and friends in CFB Gagetown, N.B., laid to rest Burlington-born Master Corporal Darrell Priede, a military photographer.

Priede, 30, died May 30 along with five Americans and a Briton when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter they were flying in was shot down in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.

In another development yesterday, eight Afghan police officers were killed in a friendly fire incident with U.S. Special Forces when the two mistook each other for the enemy. The U.S.-led coalition conducts counterterrorism missions, while the NATO force in Afghanistan, which includes some American troops, is responsible for counter-insurgency operations.

# Exploiting reservists' love of their regiments

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130074  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A6  
**COLUMN:** Guest Column  
**BYLINE:** Bob Bergen  
**SOURCE:** Special to The Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 704

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It seems like such a simple concept, but capitalizing on Canadian Forces reservists' love for their regiments and sense of purpose could be both short-term and long-term solutions for its nationwide manpower shortage. The wonder is why the Canadian Forces don't take better advantage of that.

Here is why: Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently singled out the Calgary Highlanders and praised them for their extraordinary effort raising 64 soldiers who will deploy to Afghanistan in February 2008.

Perhaps only the Regiment de Voltigeurs in Quebec and one or two others match their success, according to Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, the Forces chief of land staff.

Those efforts are remarkable, given that reservists are civilians who have school, jobs and families which come first and part-time military duties that come second.

They usually train one night a week and one weekend a month.

To commit to a six-month deployment to Afghanistan is not just half a year's commitment — it's more than a year, because they must undergo full-time predeployment training, as well.

As a result, although their rotation begins next February, 58 Highlanders are now training in either Shilo, Man., with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry or with the Patricia's 1st Battalion in Edmonton.

The question is: What did the Highlanders do with such spectacular success that is different than what most other Canadian reservist units are doing?

Lt.-Col. Tom Manley, the Highlanders commanding officer, thinks it began when he took command in 2005.

## SHORT OF COMMITMENTS

Manley knew the Forces were some 5,000 soldiers short of meeting its commitments over the next few years. It would need reservists — lots of them — to make up for that shortfall.

It's no secret that he set a goal to recruit and train a company of about 150 Highlanders who could be sent to Afghanistan as a formation as opposed to being scattered among regular force units.

When his soldiers learned of his plan to potentially send them as a formed company, they became excited and

that excitement kept building.

Unlike regular force soldiers who are posted to different locations about every two years and sometimes to different organizations, most reservists stay for years in the cities and towns where they live and work.

They train with the same people for years, if not spend most of their lives with them.

"The soldiers are deeply in love with their regiment," Manley explains.

At the time, he had 114 volunteers for Afghanistan, which was admittedly short of a full company, but he was close. He gave them more than two years to think about the deployment.

That was enough time for them to think it through with their employers, to talk to their families and to re-arrange their lives sufficiently to make it possible.

"Any time you can take advantage of the incredible love the soldiers have for their regiment and service to their country, they will perform a higher level. That's essentially what we did."

In the end, Manley's plan to send a formed company of Highlanders to Afghanistan was rejected by the Forces' chain of command.

What the army said it needed was individual soldiers to fill individual tasks and, realistically, the Highlanders don't have LAV III drivers, crew commanders and gunners needed for a formed company.

There is also another reason that Manley is loathe to discuss, but you don't have to spend much time around soldiers to learn what it is.

#### ACUTELY AWARE

Strategically, Canadian Forces commanders are acutely aware of the effects casualties have on the Canadian public's support for the mission. The resulting negative publicity is thought bad enough when four soldiers from across Canada are killed in one day, let alone four soldiers from the same city.

Regardless, the idea of a formed Highlander company is a dead horse Manley has stopped beating.

The culmination of his effort, however, is 64 Highlanders who will be serving in Afghanistan next year.

Most of the Highlanders will augment other units, but at least 33 of them will be deployed together as a defence and security platoon that will defend the main camp at Kandahar and perform some convoy protection tasks. Another 10 will deploy with another defence and security platoon.

That's the short-term benefit.

The long-term benefit will take place when those soldiers return to Canada. Coupled with 27 Highlanders who served in Afghanistan in 2006, about half of the 185 Highlanders who normally parade will be Afghan veterans.

That means they will have war zone experience and the ability to train others to a level that hasn't been possible in more than half century.

The Highlanders' Afghanistan effort was sufficiently astounding to warrant the specific attention of the prime minister.

With the Canadian Forces some 5,000 short of its manpower needs, Canadian Forces commanders would be well-advised to pay attention, too.

Bob Bergen is research fellow with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute (CDFAI) in Calgary. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author. Learn more about the CDFAI and its research on the Internet at [www.cdfai.org](http://www.cdfai.org)



# Afghanistan; We are making a difference

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A6  
**SOURCE:** Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 609

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A new poll shows a majority of Canadians want the country to cease operations in Afghanistan as scheduled by 2009. Those results probably have less to do with the rising body count than with the Conservative government's failure to support the troops from the rear with a robust public relations campaign explaining the vital nature of the mission.

A Decima research poll released Monday found two-thirds of those polled wanted the troops home when the mission approved by Parliament expires. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has suggested — and analysts have said it outright — that the mission to restore stability to war-torn Afghanistan won't be achieved by then. But only 26 per cent of poll respondents said the mission should be extended "if that is necessary to complete our goals there."

The poll also queried Canadians on whether Canada was achieving its stated goals for the mission. Slightly less than half of those polled believed Canada was making "sufficient progress" rebuilding the country and fostering democracy while only 41 per cent believed the mission was reducing the threat of global terrorism.

It is these perceptions of a lack of progress that are likely causing support for the mission to wane. The fact Canadians want their brave young men and women to come sooner rather than later, able-bodied and not in flag-draped caskets, is hardly surprising. We support the mission as necessary and just, but we still look forward to the day our soldiers can come home, mission accomplished, for a parade and a well-deserved rest.

Canadians are not a wobbly people. We have a proud and heroic military history that our soldiers are honouring bravely in Afghanistan. Canadians can accept that soldiers will die in the line of duty, but we cannot accept — and should not accept — that our soldiers are dying for nothing.

The deaths so far in Afghanistan, including the death Monday of Trooper Darryl Caswell by an improvised explosive device, have not been in vain. Canadians and their NATO allies are making a difference, slowly, as is the nature of counter-insurgency operations, but measurably. Schools have been opened. Roads have been constructed. Wells and irrigation canals have been dug. The Taliban has lost its footing in its former stronghold near Kandahar, and the reach of Hamid Karzai's government is extending into the lawless south.

But Canadians aren't getting that message, not from this government. Harper has twice visited soldiers in Kandahar and has spoken eloquently about the need to secure a difficult victory and the enduring costs of failure. But Harper's Defence minister, Gordon O'Connor, the man ultimately tasked with explaining the mission to Canadians and trumpeting its successes, is ill-suited for the task.

From the Afghan detainee scandal to the fiasco over reimbursements for soldiers' funeral costs, O'Connor has lurched from one crisis to another and likely done the troops overseas more harm than good. O'Connor, a former general, might be a soldier's soldier, but an effective spokesman, not a soldier, is needed on the homefront.

The message that must be delivered to Canadians is simple and straight-forward. Our soldiers are fighting in Afghanistan to ensure international terrorism never again crests the shores of North America. They are risking their lives today so that we don't die tomorrow. They are making progress. They are winning.

If Canada cuts and runs from Afghanistan with the job undone, the country could once again become a staging ground for international terrorism and 57 young Canadian soldiers would have died in vain. Failure is not an option.

# Scheme to get people to fight wrong, misleading

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** Trevor DeBlock  
**SOURCE:** Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 292

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"Fight with the Canadian Armed Forces" is the slogan now used to recruit new soldiers. What is wrong with this slogan? What does it say about Canada's role as the world's peacekeepers, and is there possibly a deeper, hidden message?

During school years, fighting is usually punished and considered unacceptable social behaviour. This country, founded on Christian beliefs, seems to have forsaken its principles. The Christian Bible tells us to "love thy neighbour as thyself" and says to its followers, "Thou shall not kill." It would seem that since the despicable happenings of 9–11, hatred and fear are acceptable excuses to forget how to love our fellow man, and ourselves. There is dignity in self–defence, but there is shame in aggression.

Asking people to come and fight instead of keeping the peace discloses hypocritical ideals and contradicts previous conceptions. All Canadians should be skeptical of changing our dignified peacekeeping image to one of the dysfunctional schoolyard bully.

Maybe there needs to be a clearer explanation as to the real reason why Canada still has a presence in Afghanistan. Have the people such short a memory, forgetting that the initial target was to find, capture and bring Osama bin Laden to justice? It would seem that the primary mission objective changes year after year. This is very similar to the American reasons for the war in Iraq. First, it was for weapons of mass destruction, then it was the suggestion that Saddam was harbouring terrorists. Then it was the noble idea of America bringing democracy to Iraq. This pattern of leadership is unmistakably deceptive, and brilliantly covert in its schema.

TREVOR DeBLOCK

Windsor

# Army tipped of risk; Afghanistan road unsafe to Canadians

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130054  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9

Colour Photo: Department of National Defence, Handout / 57th Canadian Darryl Caswell of The Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) based at Petawawa, Ont. was killed on June 11, 2007 when a roadside bomb detonated near the vehicle he was travelling in. Trooper

**ILLUSTRATION:** Caswell was part of a Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) convoy conducting a resupply mission for Canadian troops based at the Forward Operation Base Kahkrez. The convoy was operating in support of the ongoing security activities conducted jointly by the Afghan National Security and ISAF forces in the northern region of Kandahar province. ;

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 308

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan – A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit ... They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoon's reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.

A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Breen's comments.

However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson.

Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted.

If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Thompson.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The patrol had been dispatched to take supplies to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district.

It never got there.

# Trooper killed on road well suited for ambushes, commander says; Dirt track to remote base full of narrow ravines perfect for attack

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130128  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Tom Blackwell, National Post, CanWest News Services /Pictured above are the remains of the Coyote armoured vehicle in which Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Second Battalion, was killed in a bomb blast on Monday in Shahwali Kot, about 40 kilometres north of Kandahar City. ;

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** The National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 492

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SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan – A vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed a young army driver says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous, and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen. In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Master Cpl. Breen urged higher-ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

"Maybe now they'll take a look at it," he said a day after the death of Trooper Darryl Caswell, driver of the lead vehicle in Monday's convoy. "I've been telling them the road isn't fit. ... They'll have a hard time getting me back on that road."

Trooper Caswell, 25, from Bowmanville, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons reconnaissance squadron, he was the 57th Canadian to die by accident or enemy attack in Afghanistan since 2002. Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the past several weeks, amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area. A spokesman for the Afghanistan task force said he would not comment directly on Master Cpl. Breen's comments. However, the Forces automatically review such incidents to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from them, said Capt. Martell Thompson. Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted. If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, Capt. Thompson added.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with U.S. infantry and special forces. It stopped first at a rustic outpost being used by Hotel Company, from the Royal Canadian Regiment's second battalion, then headed out

Trooper killed on road well suited for ambushes, commander says; Dirt track to remote base full of narrow ravines perfect for attack

on the four-hour drive over a bumpy, winding road to the more northern base. It never got there.

"The Coyote was going down into a ravine, dead ground it is called, and I saw a puff of black smoke," said Master Cpl. Kirk Blank, a "right seater" in a 10-tonne truck that was three vehicles behind Trooper Caswell's Coyote.

"At almost the same moment, what I assume was one of the driver's side tires flew off into the air, and was jettisoned I would say a good 50 metres."

# U.S. troops kill police mistaken for Taliban; Afghan president blames 'misunderstanding,' 'lack of co-ordination'

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130127  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**DATELINE:** JALALABAD, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Michael Evans  
**SOURCE:** The Times, London; with files from Agence France-Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 482

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JALALABAD, Afghanistan – Seven Afghan police officers were killed by U.S. troops who returned fire, believing that they were targeting Taliban fighters, it emerged yesterday.

The latest deadly incident of "friendly fire" was reported on the day the International Committee of the Red Cross gave warning that civilians were suffering as fighting between international forces and Taliban insurgents spread across the country.

"Civilians suffer horribly from mounting threats to their security, such as increasing numbers of roadside bombs and suicide attacks, and regular aerial bombing raids," said Pierre Krahenbuhl, director of operations for the ICRC.

The situation is worse now than it was a year ago, the ICRC reported. Mr Krahenbuhl said some of the air attacks were carried out without "necessary precautions" to protect civilians. He acknowledged that the Taliban used civilians as cover. The ICRC official criticized airstrikes in western Afghanistan last month that reportedly killed dozens of civilians, damaged 170 houses and left about 2,000 people homeless.

The airstrike that killed the police officers took place in the eastern province of Nangarhar around midnight on Monday. Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the "heartbreaking incident" was the result of "a misunderstanding and lack of co-ordination."

The U.S. said their troops were engaged in an operation against a suspected Taliban safehouse about 30 kilometres southwest of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

"En route to the location, the forces were suddenly ambushed from both sides with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms, and returned fire and called in air support," Major Chris Belcher, a spokesman, said. The Afghan Interior Ministry said the U.S.-led coalition force had attacked a police post in Nangarhar province by mistake, and seven police officers were killed and another five wounded.

"It is not clear what the coalition forces were attacking, if they confused the police post with Taliban, or what," Zemarai Bashary, a spokesman, said.

Mr. Bashary said that when the U.S.-led troops arrived in the area, the Afghan national police thought they were the enemy and opened fire. The U.S. returned fire and called in air support, assuming they were under

U.S. troops kill police mistaken for Taliban; Afghan president blames 'misunderstanding,' 'lack of co-ordination' 102



attack by the Taliban.

Afghan police insisted the U.S. troops opened fire first. "They attacked us from ground and air," Nasir Ahmad Safi, a senior officer, told the BBC. This was denied by the U.S.

The ICRC said in its report that violence was now spreading across Afghanistan. "There has been an intensification of the fighting (and) it has spread to new parts of the country, so it's no longer confined to the south (where British and Canadian troops are based)," Mr. Krahenbuhl said.

The coalition, which led the invasion that removed the Taliban from government in late 2001, operates in Afghanistan alongside a NATO-led deployment drawn from 37 countries and various Afghan security forces.

There have been several incidents of "friendly fire" in the past. A U.S. warplane mistakenly bombed a Canadian unit in April 2002, killing four soldiers. And in April last year, six policemen were killed when coalition helicopters fired rockets and bullets in support of Afghan forces.

# Afghan tragedy and farce

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A16  
**COLUMN:** Susan Riley  
**BYLINE:** Susan Riley  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 770

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A recent poll reveals two things: that two-thirds of Canadians want our soldiers out of Afghanistan by the February, 2009 deadline — and, by extension, that Canadians are not easily fooled.

They understand that however noble our ambitions for that battered country, however idealistic our soldiers (another of whom died yesterday) and diplomats, this is a war the West will never win. The best we can hope for is a lull in hostilities lasting long enough to allow NATO to declare victory and get the heck out.

Despite military attempts to limit independent reporting, and the difficulty of getting the story in a county where few outside reporters speak the language, a picture is emerging of what is really going on. It is incomplete and complicated, but it doesn't much resemble the sunny accounts delivered in bland unison by Stephen Harper's ministers.

Not long ago, PBS Frontline sent veteran reporter Sam Kiley on an outing with Canadian troops stationed at Camp Martello, south of Kandahar. His report catalogued a comedy of errors, as well-meaning Canadian soldiers tried to secure spark plugs to get village wells running. This involved lumbering down dangerous roads in tanks, shooting at a civilian truck that came too close and injuring its passengers, failing to secure the necessary parts and, finally, abandoning the villagers to the mercies of the Taliban.

Kiley was filled with admiration for the soldiers; his report was not intended to ridicule their efforts, but to illustrate — as he did, brilliantly—the difficulty of winning hearts and minds from inside a tank. It is like trying to remove a sliver wearing down mittens: even the most skilled surgeon is doomed to fail.

Rather than rethinking military strategy, however, the Harper government marches on, down the same explosive-strewn path. It talks more about reconstruction these days but, according to recent figures, of 36,000 foreign soldiers in Afghanistan, only 2,000 to 2,500 are engaged in rebuilding. Only a portion of international aid money has been spent, either because there is no security or because there is confusion over who will supervise proposed projects.

Yet all we hear from senior ministers is happy talk. Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay last week reported that "in the last few weeks, our provincial reconstruction team hosted an important human rights workshop" attended by Afghan army, security and police officials.

What's next? Gourmet cooking classes to help Afghan widows get back on their feet?

MacKay also reported that one of the "most touching" experiences of his recent visit to Afghanistan was watching Canadians distribute new uniforms to Afghan police. "The pride they felt in receiving those

uniforms, which sported the Afghan flag, was nothing short of amazing. It was very reminiscent, I'm sure, of the feeling our own RCMP have on graduation." Also reminiscent of a scene from Evelyn Waugh's novel *Scoop*, a timeless spoof of war reporting. (In a country where 50 per cent of men are unemployed, could it be the steady paycheck, not the uniforms, that inspired excitement?)

As for the fate of detainees handed over to Afghan authorities, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor explains that under an improved monitoring regime, every time a detainee is turned over, Afghan authorities get a copy of Canada's expectations regarding proper treatment, with a carbon copy going to the prisoner (who, as Public Security Minister Stockwell Day points out, "are suspected terrorists, people who know no limits when it comes to the suicide killing of others.") Despite the sinister nature of detainees, and Afghanistan's history of "brutal revenge upon enemies," its prisons have moved "in very short time" from the revenge system to respect for human rights, Day claims.

As for how many detainees we have handed over, MacKay says he can't say because many Afghans have the same name and no street addresses, or birth certificates — making it difficult to track individuals, "particularly those whose stated purpose is to avoid detection." But, apart from not knowing where detainees are, and despite Afghanistan's history of "brutal revenge," all is now well on that front.

"Rome was not built in a day," Secretary of State Helena Guergis chirpily reminded the Commons defence committee recently. As to why her government didn't protest the ejection of human rights activist Malalai Joya from the Afghan parliament for comparing fellow members to zoo animals, Guergis replied: "It's their Parliament." Still, it sounds as if they could use another human rights workshop.

Susan Riley's column runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. E-mail: [sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com)

# Trooper died in Afghanistan weeks before coming home

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130062  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City  
**PAGE:** C1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Department of National Defence Photo / TrooperDarryl Caswell, far left, was one of four soldiers called upon in April to carry the casket of a fallen Canadian soldier during a ramp ceremony in Kandahar. ;  
**DATELINE:** PETAWAWA  
**BYLINE:** Katie Daubs  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 855

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PETAWAWA – When Paul Caswell spoke to his son on Saturday, Darryl Caswell sounded tired and ready to come home. On Monday, in the dusty heat of northern Kandahar province, Trooper Caswell died, his convoy hit by a roadside bomb.

It was hard to take. Just a few weeks ago, Trooper Caswell had been touring through Australia with friends. He loved it there and told his father he might one day like to retire in the Southern Hemisphere. But until then, he was ready to serve his country until his tour of duty ended on his 26th birthday — July 31.

"It's quite sad, but we're quite proud of him," said Mr. Caswell.

"He was doing what he wanted to do. We've got a picture of him here when he was eight in the camo gear — He just wanted to go,"

Trooper Caswell spent part of his childhood in Bowmanville, just outside of Toronto, dreaming of becoming a fighter pilot. He lived there with his father, his father's wife, Christine, and his brother, Logan. Yesterday was Logan's 12th birthday.

Trooper Caswell went to high school in Bowmanville and studied law enforcement at Sir Sanford Fleming College. After a year, he decided it wasn't for him. He joined the armed forces and had been serving with the Royal Canadian Dragoons for the past three years. In Afghanistan, he was a trooper with the Reconnaissance Squadron from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regimental battle group.

Trooper Caswell was a family guy, no matter what side of the ocean he was on, according to friends and family. He loved his grandparents and made them proud. He kept in contact with emails and telephone calls. He didn't have a family of his own but recently told his father he'd like to find a serious girl and settle down. He was also thinking of going back to school.

On all accounts, he was a contemplative guy. But the serious side of Darryl Caswell was well matched by his adventurous take on life and his many tattoos — one that said "Kaz," a nickname he had throughout life.

Back at the base, he spoke his mind and loved his motorcycle. He would go on short trips with his roommate

Trooper Patrick James Pentland — out for a coffee, down to Ottawa, anywhere the road would take them.

When Trooper Pentland died in a roadside bomb attack on April 11, Trooper Caswell was devastated.

Yesterday, both Trooper Caswell and Trooper Pentland's bikes could be found in the basement of Banville Yamaha in Petawawa, where they were being stored during the tour.

Troy Warren, who owns the business, said he had a sinking feeling that not all of the bike's owners would be back to pick them up.

The plates on Trooper Caswell's almost new orange Honda bike are set to expire in a month. Trooper Pentland's bike, the plates already expired, is ready to be shipped home to his family.

Mr. Warren saw a lot of the two men. He described Trooper Caswell as an "easy going guy" who loved to be on the road.

Before his death, Trooper Caswell had told friends he planned to honour Trooper Pentland in the only way he saw fit.

"He would tell stories of how when he gets home he was going to get a pair of tires and burn them out on wheelies as a tribute to Pentland," said friend Melissa Wiper, in an email. "He wanted to put a decal on his bike on the right hand side that was of Pentland's initials — because Pentland always drove on the right of him."

Ms. Wiper is engaged to Cpl. Wade Wick, who was also involved in yesterday's roadside attack. Mr. Wick received a few burns and shrapnel wounds but is otherwise fine. Ms. Wiper was able to speak with him last night on the phone, when both cried over the loss of their friend. Ms. Wiper and Cpl. Wick had been travelling with Trooper Caswell in Australia just a few weeks ago. While there, Ms. Wiper had presented Trooper Caswell with a lawn gnome.

It was a replacement. The first gnome she had given him, nicknamed G-Money, was destroyed in the first major roadside attack his unit faced.

"That gnome went everywhere. Everywhere. Scuba diving, caves, clubs, the zoo," she said.

"He's a proud Canadian. Anyone who knew him would tell you that," said Ms. Wiper, who recently joined the Armed Forces. "He is proud, that's what drew him. It's just...what you do."

In Petawawa, those thoughts are echoed in the yellow ribbons tied tightly around the streetlights and the proud signs from community businesses, proclaiming their support.

At the base yesterday, a light wind eased its way through the hot day, furling and unfurling the half-mast flags that gently acknowledged the 22nd death out of Petawawa since the conflict in Afghanistan began.

At the town's McDonalds, some staff members admit it's a scary place to be. There are fiancées, friends, husbands, fathers, wives and mothers to worry about everyday.

"You're afraid to listen to the news," said employee Terry Everick. "You serve these guys daily and some don't come back."

Cortney Harris is also worried. Her father just got back from Afghanistan after an injury.

"Everyone's just scared. It doesn't get easier. It just gets worse," she said.

Down the street at the legion, a small group of retired military and air force men were having a beer and playing instant lottery tickets. The young men and women of the forces don't come around much, they say. But that doesn't make it easier.

Ron Bain, who spent 18 years in the airforce, said Petawawa is a tight-knit community. He said this is the first time in a long time that the deaths have come so close together.

"It used to be that Cyprus was the most dangerous thing going. Nobody was ever killed so it never made the headlines," he said.

# Harper's bullying tactics astound Conservative staffers

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A4  
**COLUMN:** John Ivison  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / Stephen Harper stands to vote on the Budget Implementation Act yesterday. It was supported by the government and Bloc Quebecois. ;  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** John Ivison  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**NOTE:** Andrew Coyne, Page A18.  
**WORD COUNT:** 659

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OTTAWA –It is to be hoped that the Canadian Forces' efforts to win hearts and minds in Afghanistan are more subtle than the gunboat diplomacy the Prime Minister has employed in his attempt to convince Nova Scotians he has a valid position on the Atlantic Accord.

Lost in the fog of federal–provincial war on the equalization issue are the facts, which have been sublimated to threats and bluster by both sides. From Ottawa's point of view that is particularly unfortunate, since the facts suggest that Nova Scotia's case is built on sand.

Under the newly enriched equalization formula proposed in the budget, Nova Scotia's fiscal capacity — the ability of a province to raise its own revenues — will rise above the national average. However, under the budget arrangement, a fiscal capacity cap kicks in to ensure that the province does not start raking in more cash than Ontario or Alberta, the two wealthiest provinces, neither of which receives equalization. What Nova Scotia wants is that this cap be removed — a move that would see Nova Scotia's fiscal capacity rise above that of Ontario. Nova Scotia argues that its offshore revenues and the issue of equalization are separate and unrelated.

According to federal figures, if the cap was removed, Nova Scotia's fiscal capacity in 2008–09 would reach \$6,841 per capita, about \$60 higher than Ontario.

But this is ridiculous. No government could agree to such an arrangement from a simple fairness point of view, even if it made the extremely rash promise to do just that during the heat of a general election campaign.

There is no doubt that the Conservatives have broken another promise. Yet, as in the decision to tax income trusts, they could have made a convincing case that they were doing so for the good of the country, in order to put equalization back on a principled basis after Paul Martin's unprincipled vote–grab.

Despite having the highest debt per capita in the country, neither Nova Scotia nor Newfoundland and Labrador can expect the taxpayers of Ontario to keep shovelling cash eastward to provinces that are bringing in more revenue per head than their own government.

The question is — armed with such a compelling case — how has the Prime Minister contrived to come across like a schoolyard bully, threatening lawsuits against all dissenters?

Conservative MPs, staffers and supporters are united in their condemnation of the way the issue has been handled by the Prime Minister's Office. "The people in PMO communications meant to help MPs understand the audience don't get them. They don't get the pride, the passion and the tribalism of the East," said one source.

"Dropping a sledgehammer on two of the provinces that endorsed you at the last election is not exactly the way to say 'thank you' on a file that clearly touches a chord in Atlantic Canada," said another senior Conservative.

This government's obsession with secrecy and control will be its downfall. The Conservative party has a front-bench overflowing with natural communicators and a strong story to tell, yet it seems either reluctant or unable to do so. It takes a real organizational talent to fritter away that advantage.

While the Atlantic Accord debacle has once more dented the Conservatives' conceit of their own competence, it may not have done the lasting internal damage some have suggested. Some commentators have suggested the coalition between Progressive-Conservatives and Reformers within the federal Conservative party is starting to unravel. That seems to be overdone. There is no doubt that Peter MacKay, the Foreign Affairs Minister and former PC leader, will have been less than pleased with the way things have gone but a major rift looks unlikely.

As one senior Conservative source put it: "There has never been serious opposition to the agenda, only dislike at the approach. This is a political issue that is being poorly handled, not an identity crisis."

jivison@nationalpost.com

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



# Brass warned before Canadian killed: officer; ROADSIDE BOMBING; 'I've been telling them the road isn't fit'

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**IDNUMBER** 200706130166

**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.06.13

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A8

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Tom Blackwell, National Post / A vehicle commander says he warned his superiors of the dangers of the route where this Coyote armoured vehicle hit a powerful mine. Trooper Darryl Caswell of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Second Battalion was killed in the explosion near Kandahar City on Monday. ; Black & White Photo: DND Photo / Trooper Darryl Caswell, killed on Monday, was part of a combat patrol convoy conducting a resupply mission for Canadian troops. ;

**DATELINE:** SHAHWALI KOT, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** National Post

**WORD COUNT:** 493

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Canadians are in the area for the very reason that there is significant Taliban activity there, he noted. If convoys were never sent to places with a risk of improvised explosive devices or other kinds of insurgent attack, none would ever leave the main base, said Capt. Thompson.

Monday's assault came, as roadside bombs usually do, with no warning and no chance to fight back. The "combat logistics patrol" had been dispatched to bring water, food and ammunition to the Canadian artillery unit stationed in north Shahwali Kot district with American infantry and special forces.

It stopped first at a rustic outpost being used by Hotel Company, from the Royal Canadian Regiment's second battalion, then headed out on the four-hour drive over a bumpy, winding road to the more northern base. It never got there.

"The Coyote was going down into a ravine, dead ground it is called, and I saw a puff of black smoke" said Master Corporal Kirk Blank, a "right seater" in a 10-tonne truck that was three vehicles behind Trooper Caswell's Coyote.

"At almost the same moment, what I assume was one of the driver's side tires flew off into the air, and was jettisoned I would say a good 50 metres."

The blast tore most of the wheels from the driver's side of the Canadian-made Coyote and appears to have blown the hatch off the driver's compartment.

Hours later, his flak jacket was still inside — apparently removed by medics — as were the pin-up pictures he had taped to the side of his cockpit.

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Get more news and insight from the scene in Afghanistan on Tom Blackwell's blog at [nationalpost.com/afghanistan](http://nationalpost.com/afghanistan)

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**KEYWORDS:** AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY; AUTOMOBILES

# U.S. TROOPS KILL 7 AFGHAN POLICE

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A17  
**COLUMN:** World Report  
**DATELINE:** JALALABAD, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 193

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JALALABAD, Afghanistan –U.S.–led forces killed seven Afghan policemen and three people were shot dead at a NATO checkpoint, raising concern about mistaken fire incidents in Afghanistan. Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months and with it, civilian casualties and cases of mistaken fire. Efforts to cut civilian casualties will top the agenda of a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels tomorrow. The policemen were killed in an air strike after the Taliban stormed police posts late Monday in eastern Afghanistan. After police sent reinforcements and called for help from U.S. forces, seven of them died in the coalition bombing. Another 13 were missing. A U.S. military spokesman said he was aware of the raid but had no other details. If confirmed, the incident would be one of the most serious cases of mistaken fire on Western or Afghan forces by the U.S.–led coalition. A Taliban spokesman said by telephone from an undisclosed location the insurgents had killed 12 policemen.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM

# Notes from the elephant's shadow; Like it or not, the U.S. is where the world's best go to compete

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**DATE:** 2007.06.13  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Arts & Life  
**PAGE:** AL3  
**COLUMN:** On Television  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: / Sarah Carter stars on the CBS legal drama Shark. ;  
**BYLINE:** Rob McKenzie  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 544

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Outside of Massey Hall a week ago, members of a Canadian actors union picketed CanWest Global's preview of its 2007–08 programming. They said CanWest should be producing more television in Canada and importing less from the United States.

Inside the hall, Winnipeg–raised actress Sarah Carter, who is now a costar on the CBS legal drama Shark, was asked what she thought of the protesters. Her answer came as a slap, implying that what they lack is not patronage so much as talent.

"In today's world," she said, "it's globalization. The talented people, the quality people, are all over the world, and America happens to be where the entertainment business is centred, and it's going to be open to whoever is the best person for the job." (Then again, Carter also said Shark star James Woods "hasn't gotten old," which is true solely if you apply Groucho Marx's dictum that "A man's only as old as the woman he feels.")

That same evening, I watched the Calgary feed of the last game of the Stanley Cup finals, in which Anaheim, a team with Canadians as its captain, goalie, coach, leading playoff scorer and playoff MVP, would defeat Ottawa; this would be construed as keeping the Cup out of Canada.

After the first period, Don Cherry delivered his final Coach's Corner sermon of the season. He started by praising a Web site, [cfpsa.com/supportourtroops](http://cfpsa.com/supportourtroops), where you can buy pro–military merchandise, with the money going to the welfare of our soldiers and their families. He talked about hockey for a bit, then railed against countries that aren't helping us out in Afghanistan, then visited with Justin Morneau, a British Columbian who plays baseball for the Minnesota Twins and was last year's most valuable player in his league. At the baseball game he attended in Los Angeles, Cherry humoured U.S. reporters who interviewed him as a northern oddity. He finished with a moving tribute to Cpl. Christopher Deliva, 27, who died at CFB Wainwright in Alberta when his truck crashed.

At that moment, it seemed that here, in Cherry, was a person able to confidently espouse Canadian virtues without using the U.S. as a target of either antagonism or admiration.

The commercials that followed only increased that sense of patriotism as a force alive and not outdated. The first was for the Canadian Forces. The second, for the Sportchek retail chain, showed men playing a rugged game of hockey. The third was for Rogers' Blackberry service — one Canadian company touting its links to another, and the latter conquering the world market.

A few days later, I interviewed two New Zealand comedians starring in an upcoming series on HBO (more on these two tomorrow). They became successful in the U.S. after broadcasters in New Zealand rejected them. I mentioned that Canadian entertainers often encounter the same scenario, needing to move to the U.S. in order to thrive, but that I was surprised it extended to the Antipodes.

"New Zealand," comic Bret McKenzie said, "is also in the shadow of the U.S."

That shadow means different things to different people. For Sarah Carter, it means she has it made in the shade. For the picketing actors, it's a cold and dark place.

rmckenzie@nationalpost.com

**KEYWORDS:** 0

# Friendly fire kills 7 police in Afghanistan; Gunmen attack schoolgirls. Canadians rethink road use after fatality

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**SECTION:** News

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: DEPT. OF NATIONAL DEFENCE / Trooper Darryl Caswell was driving the lead vehicle when it hit what was probably a mine. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA

**DATELINE:** JALALABAD, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** NOOR RAHMAN

**SOURCE:** Reuters; CanWest News Service contributed to this report

**WORD COUNT:** 277

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U.S.-led forces killed seven Afghan policemen, an official said yesterday, raising again concern about mistaken fire incidents in Afghanistan.

The policemen were killed in an air strike after the Taliban stormed police posts Monday in Khogiani district of the eastern province of Nangarhar, police said.

Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months and with it, cases of mistaken fire and civilian casualties.

Gunmen riding on a motorbike opened fire on schoolgirls on their way home in Logar province, south of Kabul, killing two and wounding six, officials said.

Efforts to cut civilian casualties will top the agenda of a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels tomorrow amid growing concern the incidents could undermine public support for the mission both in Afghanistan and in NATO countries.

"Those who carried out this cowardly attack are the enemies of the country," Education Minister Hanif Atmar told reporters.

The government uses the term "enemies of Afghanistan" to refer to the Taliban and their Al-Qa'ida allies.

During their rule, the Taliban barred girls from education and women from most work outside the home.

The Canadian vehicle commander who watched as a roadside bomb killed Trooper Darryl Caswell says he warned his bosses days ago that the route where the blast took place is too dangerous and should not be used by Canadian troops.

The dirt track to a remote base for U.S. and Canadian forces is full of narrow ravines and highpoints on either side that would be perfect for Taliban ambushes, said Master Cpl. Richard Breen.

In fact, in a report on his last convoy there, Breen urged higher ups to stop trucking supplies into the base and fly them by helicopter instead.

Caswell, 25, from Bracebridge, Ont., was driving a Coyote armoured car when it hit what appears to have been a powerful mine. Two other crew members suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Canada has sent forces to Shahwali Kot district north of Kandahar only in the last several of weeks amid reports of growing insurgent strength in the area.