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PM to pull troops by 2009; Harper gives Bush notice on Afghan mission as police fire tear gas, pepper spray at protesters outside summit

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to hold back protesters outside the Chateau Montebello resort in Montebello, Que. yesterday as Stephen Harper met U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the North American Leaders' Summit. For more on the protest see C9. ; Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George Bush arrive for dinner in Montebello, Que. yesterday. ;

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, QUE.

BYLINE: TONDA MACCHARLES AND BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH

SOURCE: Toronto Star, with files from Canadian Press

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WORD COUNT: 785

As hundreds of protesters clashed with police outside summit fences here, Prime Minister Stephen Harper served notice to U.S. President George W. Bush that Canadian troops will be pulled out of Afghanistan in February 2009 unless he's able to get a political "endorsement" to extend their mission.

Harper delivered the message during a 90-minute meeting with the U.S. leader yesterday afternoon at Chateau Montebello resort.

But even if there is no parliamentary consensus, senior Canadian government officials made it clear that Canada's role in Afghanistan, which includes \$1.1 billion in development and humanitarian assistance until 2011, would continue.

"Seeking the endorsement of Parliament does not necessarily mean we're leaving," said a senior Canadian official after the two leaders met.

After the meeting, Dan Fisk, a U.S. national security council director, told reporters Bush "now has a better understanding of not only the dynamics here, but the need at some point to go back to Parliament" to decide what the mission will be beyond 2009.

There is little chance that the opposition parties will allow a military mission to continue in Afghanistan beyond February 2009. The NDP wants Canada's 2,500 troops home now and both the Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois want the mission ended by 2009.

Sixty-seven soldiers and one diplomat, Glyn Berry, have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

PM to pull troops by 2009; Harper gives Bush notice on Afghan mission as police fire tear gas, pepper spray

Yesterday's meeting happened as riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to hold back protesters upset about Harper's get together with Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

A line of police in riot gear jostled with demonstrators who had marched on the front gate of the summit compound shouting taunts. Police clashed again with protesters later in the afternoon, firing off rounds of tear gas.

As he stood waiting for the president's arrival, Harper was asked whether he had seen the protesters who were gathering near the summit site to protest the high-level meeting between the three leaders.

"I've heard it's nothing. A couple hundred? It's sad," Harper told reporters.

Calderon is to cut short his Canadian visit and return home today, amid worries that hurricane Dean was on a collision course with the resorts of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. He moved up a one-on-one bilateral meeting with Harper to last night, and today's schedule has been cut back to allow the Mexican leader to head home.

Yesterday, Ottawa announced \$2 million in aid for the countries already hit hard by the hurricane, deployed extra consular staff to the region and said it was working with tour operators and airlines to expedite the evacuation of Canadians.

But much attention was on Harper's 90-minute discussion with the U.S. president. During the meeting, which ran longer than scheduled, Harper raised the contentious issue of border hassles suffered by Canadians travelling to the U.S. for business and leisure.

They spoke about "how we can continue to meet very legitimate security concerns on the border but still continue to ensure that legitimate trade and human movement take place," a senior official said later.

Harper also expressed disappointment that the U.S. had pulled out from discussions of land pre-clearance and the pilot customs projects to help speed truckers across the border. Canada objected to U.S. plans to use widespread fingerprinting, citing Charter of Rights concerns against unreasonable intrusions on privacy rights, and the Americans have refused to give ground.

"I don't think our bottom line has changed on those so we need to find a way forward on that. But Canada is very much ready to do that," the official said.

"We indicated that we would be very much ready to resume those," the official said.

On the issue of forcing Canadians to use passports when driving across the border, Fisk later said Bush reaffirmed his country's intent to move ahead with passport requirements but "we are committed to implementing it in a reasonable way."

Despite a pledge to work toward an "efficient" border, Canadian officials stressed there were many areas the two leaders continue to disagree on.

"One of the important things about a relationship that's as broad and comprehensive as ours with the United States is that it's unrealistic to think that we're going to agree on absolutely everything," an official said.

"But what is really important is that we keep talking about even those things that we don't necessarily agree on," she said.

Among those is the question of Canada's claims of Arctic sovereignty. Harper, said officials, noted his government's recent pledges to invest in new patrol vessels and boost Canada's military presence in the region.

PM to pull troops by 2009; Harper gives Bush notice on Afghan mission as police fire tear gas, pepper spray

"The president was very supportive of those," the official said.

But Harper's effort to flag comments by former U.S. ambassador Paul Cellucci endorsing Canada's claims over the Northwest Passage appeared to be of no avail.

American officials debriefed reporters twice yesterday reiterating the Washington's view the passage is in international waters.

One issue not raised by Harper is the fate of terror suspect Omar Khadr, the young Canadian accused of killing an American soldier who is now stuck in a legal limbo military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Bar Association demanded that Harper open negotiations with the United States to have Khadr returned to face justice at home, a recommendation that the prime minister ignored yesterday.

"It didn't come up in the discussions," the official said.

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DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, QUE.

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Van Doos to 'carry on'; Soldiers of Quebec-based regiment want Quebecers to learn more about Afghan mission in wake of comrade's death

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The first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment has saddened his fellow soldiers but they are asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield yesterday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed on Sunday.

"Everybody's morale is low but at the same time, like we say, it's motivating us (to continue)," said Jean-Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us," Auclair said.

Longtin's body was taken aboard a C-120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home and is expected to arrive back at CFB Trenton today. Auclair will accompany his friend's body back to Canada.

The 23-year-old Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

His death is the first in Afghanistan for the regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

Both Auclair and Scott Bernier, also of the Van Doos 3rd Battalion, said the soldiers believe in their mission and want to carry on.

They both said they want Quebecers "to be better informed" about the objectives of the Canadian mission and its reconstruction work before passing judgment.

"We're here for something, we're doing our job and there's no use taking it out on soldiers," Bernier said of Longtin's death.

Added Auclair: "I still believe in the mission and it's motivating me even more to keep going. Simon was aware of the risks, he knew what he was doing and I'm sure he wouldn't regret anything."

Canada has about 2,300 troops in the war-torn country as part of the NATO force supporting the Afghan government, of which about 1,100 are from Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002. The fatalities include a couple of other soldiers from Quebec, but Longtin is the first from the Royal 22nd.

Speaking to soldiers at the Van Doos home base in Valcartier, Que., Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Kandahar can hope for a peaceful future with the perseverance of Canadian troops, in the same way Canada has done in other parts of the world.

"Know that this mission is no less important, no less valid and takes no less valour," MacKay said.

Exercise shows reliance on reservists

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A massive Afghanistan combat training exercise at a remote military base in Alberta underscores the Canadian Forces' growing dependence on reservists to fill the boots of regular soldiers serving in the war-ravaged country, says the commander of the exercise.

"The reliance on reservists is increasing," said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the training exercise and commander of 32 Brigade Group which is leading operation.

The 13-day exercise at CFB Wainwright, an isolated military base more than 400 kilometres northeast of Calgary, is meant to simulate combat conditions in Afghanistan. Troops live within a makeshift Kandahar Air Field — the verdant, rolling prairie terrain serving as a stand-in for the parched Afghan desert — as if they are taking over from the previous rotation.

Roughly 1,200 troops — mostly Primary Reservists — are here from 31, 32 and 33 Canadian Brigade Groups, the military police, and the health services unit. It's the largest training exercise this year for reserve soldiers from Ontario.

The growing dependence on reservists gives the regular troops a chance to rest after a tour of duty, allowing them to pass on knowledge to soldiers soon to be deployed, and gives reservists combat experience, said Troop Warrant Jamie Knight.

"There's always a continuation of keep—

ing reservists at the highest level that we can. It's actually the perfect system," he said.

Military scientists research hidden brain injuries from explosions

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Canadian military scientists are trying to develop a technology to detect possible brain injuries as more soldiers are being exposed to powerful blasts that can leave them with dangerous yet hidden wounds.

Researchers are looking at several methods that could be used on the battlefield to help determine what happens to soldiers who are near improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, when they detonate, or when they suffer other forms of head trauma.

The problem now is that there is no way to know whether troops who are exposed to blasts but bear no visible injuries have suffered a mild form of brain trauma even if they are a distance from the explosion.

"This tool would be very useful because you'd be able to diagnose a non- visible injury, because right now if you don't have any penetrating wound we presume that you're OK," Dr. Bob Cheung, a scientist with Defence Research and Development, said in a recent interview from his office in Downsview, Ont.

Medical experts and both the U.S. and Canadian militaries have started examining the issue of traumatic brain injury more closely as the number of troops coming in contact with blasts rises steadily. The U.S. recently dedicated \$450 million for research into treatment of brain injuries in the wake of studies that show roughly 40 per cent of combat soldiers in Iraq have suffered some form of head injury.

While physicians know what to do with soldiers who have a penetrating wound from an IED or are knocked unconscious, they have no way of knowing what kind of impact the over-pressure from a blast has on the brain.

Dr. Homer Tien, a trauma surgeon at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, said soldiers that are even one kilometre away from a blast site may suffer damage, even if they're not knocked out or visibly wounded. A bomb's acceleration force can stretch the brain's nerve fibres, but that stretching may not manifest itself until days or weeks later in the form of confusion, anxiety, behavioural changes and hearing loss.

"Our current ability to screen for these people will show nothing," he said, referring to CAT scans and other conventional methods that won't detect subtle injuries. "Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in civilian and military traumas. What's new is this idea of mild traumatic brain injury that is really subclinical, but only manifests itself months or years."

Tien, who is in the reserves, plans to take his research to Afghanistan later this year when he begins a two-month rotation in Kandahar.

Brain injuries can be defined as severe, moderate or mild. Severe and moderate can result from a penetrating injury, such as a bullet or shrapnel wound, or a blunt trauma injury that could be caused by a knock on the head inside a military vehicle, for example.

A severe injury can leave someone in a coma, while a moderate brain trauma might cause confusion, blurred vision, vomiting and numbness after a bleed in the brain. The difficulty for physicians is diagnosing troops who have a mild brain injury and might black out momentarily, but, like hockey players who get hit, say they're OK and want to carry on without knowing that can cause further damage.

Soldiers urge Quebecers to learn about mission; Van Doo regiment pushes forward after suffering its first casualty in Afghanistan

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SOURCE: CP

BYLINE: Martin Ouellet

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

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The first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment has saddened his fellow soldiers but they are asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield yesterday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed on Sunday.

"Everybody's morale is low, but at the same time, like we say, it's motivating us [to continue]," said Jean-Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us," Auclair said.

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Soldiers urge Quebecers to learn about mission; Van Doo regiment pushes forward after suffering its first ca

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Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002. The fatalities include a couple of other soldiers from Quebec, but Longtin is the first from the Royal 22nd. Bernier described Longtin as a great guy who believed in his work.

"He was a very good soldier, proud of what he was doing. He was always ready to serve. He believed in the cause and that was to help people."

Auclair noted that Longtin was quick to make people laugh.

"What we'll remember is his sense of humour."

Auclair will return to Kandahar after the funeral. Details aren't yet available.

"It's going to be hard, but I know he would be happy that I'm doing this for him."

One of the most difficult tasks that Auclair faces is to meet with Longtin's parents and especially his girlfriend.

"That's going to be hard. Those two were so much in love."

Military's reliance on reservists growing

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BYLINE: Steve Rennie

DATELINE: CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta.

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A massive Afghanistan combat training exercise at a remote military base in Alberta underscores the Canadian Forces' growing dependence on reservists to fill the boots of regular soldiers serving in the war-ravaged country, says the commander of the exercise.

"The reliance on reservists is increasing," said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the training exercise and commander of 32 Brigade Group which is leading the operation.

The 13-day exercise at CFB Wainwright, an isolated military base more than 400 kilometres northeast of Calgary, is meant to simulate combat conditions in Afghanistan. Troops live within a makeshift Kandahar Air Field – the verdant, rolling prairie terrain serving as a stand-in for the parched Afghan desert – as if they are taking over from the previous rotation.

Roughly 1,200 troops – mostly Primary Reservists – are here from 31, 32 and 33 Canadian Brigade Groups, the military police, and the health-services unit. It's the largest training exercise this year for reserve soldiers from Ontario.

Until this year, the annual Maple Defender reserve exercise had been held at CFB Petawawa, a military base about 170 kilometres north of Ottawa.

The location may have changed, but the endgame for the troops remains the same: to emerge from the training better prepared for the real thing.

The growing dependence on reserve soldiers gives members of the military's regular force a chance to rest after a tour of duty, allowing them to pass on their knowledge to soldiers soon to be deployed overseas, and gives reservists combat experience, said Troop Warrant Jamie Knight of 61 reconnaissance squadron.

"The army is only so big and we've been operational for a long time," said Knight. "What this does is ... it's like a rest plan. It allows some of the members of the regular force to come down and it gives the reserves a chance to send people over.

"There's always a continuation of keeping reservists at the highest level that we can. ... It's actually the perfect system," he added. The exercise is taking place across a 640-square kilometre training area, marked by big prairie skies and desolate fields and dirt roads.

Makeshift villages, some constructed from large shipping containers, mimic Afghan villages of the same names. Actors of Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani origin play the roles of locals and a handful of Canadian soldiers are assuming the part of the Afghan National Army. Reserve soldiers are pitted against fellow Canadian soldiers who try to replicate insurgents' techniques, such as roadside and suicide bomb attacks. The soldiers playing the part of the insurgents use information gleaned from the military's own intelligence in

Afghanistan.

A reservist's war within; Part-time soldiers face a tough question: To deploy or not to deploy

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig-Standard (ON)
DATE: 2007.08.21
SECTION: Front
PAGE: 1
BYLINE: Brock Harrison
PHOTO: Brock Harrison/The Whig-Standard Brock Harrison/The Whig-Standard Brock Harrison/The Whig-Standard
ILLUSTRATION: RMC business administration student Pte. Simon Farrell is unsure if he wants to be deployed to Afghanistan.; After training, Cpl. Sean Jump will be serving in Afghanistan next spring.; Kingston's Sean Warshawski will make law his career, but says the military will always remain a part of his life.
WORD COUNT: 725

The Whig-Standard's Brock Harrison is in CFB Wainwright, Alta., to examine how Canada's reservists are trained for deployment to Afghanistan.

Kingston's Sean Warshawski has a law degree from Queen's University, an articling job lined up with a corporate firm in Calgary and a wedding date set for next summer following a recent marriage proposal in Santa Monica, Calif.

But while he sits in a makeshift trench, his face smudged with dirt and green army paint and his modified C7 assault rifle resting on his lap, the 25-year-old reservist with the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment admits there's at least one thing that has escaped him in his otherwise charmed life.

"I never got to go over," the corporal laments, overlooking a yawning canyon that separates his platoon from the mock Afghan village of Nakhonay. The hillside outpost is believed to be teeming with mock Taliban.

While Warshawski doesn't plan on leaving the reserves, a part-time job he's enjoyed for nearly five years, he knows his new legal career and marriage won't yield enough time to allow him to deploy into Afghanistan.

Yearning to go on tour, Warshawski joined the reserves in 2003 after being told he'd have a better chance of being deployed as a reservist than as a regular force member. That never came to pass.

This exercise, Exercise Maple Defender, likely won't be his last as member of the Canadian Forces reserves. He says he wants to become a master corporal and assume a leadership position in the reserves. But this simulated Afghanistan training area will be closest he will get to the real thing.

"I'm not old by any means, but unfortunately that part of my life is behind me now," Warshawski said. "Law will be my career, but the army will always be my escape."

About a dozen Kingston reservists from the PWOR are here as part of a real-time simulated war zone intended to replicate the theatre of operations Canadian troops are in over in Afghanistan.

Including Warshawski, three of them found themselves perched high atop a soaring and grassy embankment on Sunday afternoon, keeping a watchful eye on Nakhonay and the bridge leading into town.

The day before, this platoon helped capture the bridge from Taliban control, killing 17 insurgents and capturing one in the process. Another platoon moved in to secure the bridge area after the gun fight [which also saw 10 Canadians killed] and Warshawski's crew retreated back to the hill to keep watch on the area and await orders for a full-out assault on Nakhonay.

Among them was 19-year-old Pte. Simon Farrell, who despite his youth has already been in the reserves for 18 months. His imposing frame, booming voice and confident demeanour belie his teenager status.

By serving in uniform, Farrell is following in family footsteps. His great-grandfather served in the First World War, his grandfather in the Second World War and his recently-retired father served in Cyprus, Israel and Afghanistan. He is borrowing some of his father's old gear for this exercise.

Farrell, a business administration student at Royal Military College, is not sure if he wants to be deployed and join the ranks of his forefathers who all served overseas. At least, not yet. That's part of the reason he's here.

"If you don't show up to an exercise like this, how do you expect to know what it would be like?" he asks hypothetically, holding his rifle in a trench. "It's something that's always been a thought in my mind. Right now, it's kind of hard to make that decision."

In the trench next to Farrell sits Cpl. Sean Jump, the only PWOR member currently scheduled for Afghan deployment. After this exercise concludes tomorrow, Jump will prepare for deployment training in Petawawa. He hopes to join the next rotation into Kandahar.

The 21-year-old Jump is a full-time reservist and is quartermaster staff at the PWOR armouries on Montreal Street. The Bath Public School graduate only joined the reserves in 2005, but this exercise is his fifth.

"This is a lot more real," Jump says through a new moustache he's reluctant to show, when a reporter asks for his picture. "Instead of making things up, this is based on what actually can and can't happen."

Jump notified his supervising officer that he wished to deploy in April. His request took just two weeks to travel up the chain of command and Jump got the answer he was looking for.

"I was thrilled," he said. "I've been wanting to go for long."

This exercise is not compulsory for troops headed overseas, but Jump is confounded at why a soldier not planning to deploy would undertake such an intense exercise. For him, CFB Wainwright is just the beginning.

"It just seems like a waste of training if I don't go," he said.

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Van Doos hope for "informed" response in Quebec

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.08.21

SECTION: World

PAGE: A6

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Martin Ouellet

ILLUSTRATION: More than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin on Monday at a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield. Longtin's body was taken aboard a C–120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home. (MARTIN OUELLET / CP)

WORD COUNT: 326

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment has saddened his fellow soldiers but they are asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

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"Everybody's morale is low but at the same time, like we say, it's motivating us (to continue)," said Jean–Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us," Auclair said.

Longtin's body was taken aboard a C–120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home and is expected to arrive back at CFB Trenton today. Auclair will accompany his friend's body back to Canada.

The 23–year–old Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., died when his light armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

His death is the first in Afghanistan for the regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

Both Auclair and Scott Bernier, also of the Van Doos 3rd Battalion, said the soldiers believe in their mission and want to carry on.

They said they want Quebecers "to be better informed" about the objectives of the Canadian mission and its reconstruction work before passing judgment.

"We're here for something, we're doing our job and there's no use taking it out on soldiers," Bernier said of Longtin's death.

Added Auclair: "I still believe in the mission and it's motivating me even more to keep going. Simon was aware of the risks, he knew what he was doing and I'm sure he wouldn't regret anything."

Canada has about 2,300 troops in the war–torn country as part of the NATO force supporting the Afghan government, of which about 1,100 are from Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment.

Sixty–seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002. The fatalities include a couple of other soldiers from Quebec, but Longtin is the first from the Royal 22nd. Bernier described Longtin

as a great guy who believed in his work.

"He was a very good soldier, proud of what he was doing. He was always ready to serve. He believed in the cause and that was to help people."

Auclair noted that Longtin was quick to make people laugh.

"What we'll remember is his sense of humour."

Auclair will return to Kandahar after the funeral. Details aren't yet available.

"It's going to be hard but I know he would be happy that I'm doing this for him."

Reservists playing key military role

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.08.21
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A6
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
WORD COUNT: 422

CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta. – A massive Afghanistan combat training exercise at a remote military base in Alberta underscores the Canadian Forces' growing dependence on reservists to fill the boots of regular soldiers serving in the war–ravaged country, says the commander of the exercise.

"The reliance on reservists is increasing," said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the training exercise and commander of 32 Brigade Group which is leading operation.

The 13–day exercise at CFB Wainwright, an isolated military base more than 400 kilometres northeast of Calgary, is meant to simulate combat conditions in Afghanistan. Troops live within a makeshift Kandahar Air Field – the verdant, rolling prairie terrain serving as a stand–in for the parched Afghan desert – as if they are taking over from the previous rotation.

Roughly 1,200 troops – mostly Primary Reservists – are here from 31, 32 and 33 Canadian Brigade Groups, the military police, and the health services unit. It's the largest training exercise this year for reserve soldiers from Ontario.

Until this year, the annual Maple Defender reserve exercise had been held at CFB Petawawa, a military base about 170 kilometres north of Ottawa.

The location may have changed but the endgame for the troops remains the same: to emerge from the training better prepared for the real thing.

The growing dependence on reserve soldiers gives members of the military's regular force a chance to rest after a tour of duty, allowing them to pass on their knowledge to soldiers soon to be deployed overseas, and gives reservists combat experience, said Troop Warrant Jamie Knight of 61 reconnaissance squadron.

"The army is only so big, and we've been operational for a long time," said Knight. "What this does is . . . it's like a rest plan. It allows some of the members of the regular force to come down and it gives the reserves a chance to send people over.

"There's always a continuation of keeping reservists at the highest level that we can. . . It's actually the perfect system," he added. The exercise is taking place across a 640–square kilometre training area, marked by big prairie skies and desolate fields and dirt roads.

Makeshift villages, some constructed from large shipping containers, mimic Afghan villages of the same names. Actors of Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani origin play the roles of locals and a handful of Canadian soldiers are assuming the part of the Afghan National Army. About 2,500 Canadian soldiers are serving in Afghanistan, of which the military says an estimated 15 to 30 per cent are reservists.

Van Doos seek "informed" response; Soldiers have message for folks at home

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.08.21

SECTION: World

PAGE: A6

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Martin Oullett

ILLUSTRATION: More than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin on Monday at a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield. Longtin's body was taken aboard a C–120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home. (MARTIN OUELLET / CP)

WORD COUNT: 315

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"Everybody's morale is low but at the same time, like we say, it's motivating us (to continue)," said Jean–Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us," Auclair said.

Longtin's body was taken aboard a C–120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home and is expected to arrive at CFB Trenton today. Auclair will accompany his friend's body to Canada.

The 23–year–old Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., died when his light armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

His death is the first in Afghanistan for the regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the mission.

Both Auclair and Scott Bernier, also of the Van Doos 3rd Battalion, said the soldiers believe in their mission and want to carry on.

They said they want Quebecers "to be better informed" about the objectives of the Canadian mission and its reconstruction work before passing judgment.

"We're here for something, we're doing our job and there's no use taking it out on soldiers," Bernier said of Longtin's death.

Added Auclair: "I still believe in the mission and it's motivating me even more to keep going. Simon was aware of the risks, he knew what he was doing and I'm sure he wouldn't regret anything."

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Sixty–seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

Bernier described Longtin as a great guy who believed in his work.

"He was a very good soldier, proud of what he was doing. He was always ready to serve. He believed in the cause and that was to help people."

Auclair noted that Longtin was quick to make people laugh.

"What we'll remember is his sense of humour."

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"It's going to be hard but I know he would be happy that I'm doing this for him."

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Van Doos want Quebecers to learn more about mission after soldier's death

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.08.21

SECTION: National

PAGE: B6

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Martin Ouellet

DATELINE: Kandahar, Afghansitan

ILLUSTRATION: More than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin Monday at a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield. Longtin's body was taken aboard a C-120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home. It is expected to arrive back at CFB Trenton today. – Photo by The Canadian Press

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Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002. The fatalities include a couple of other soldiers from Quebec, but Longtin is the first from the Royal 22nd. Speaking to soldiers at the Van Doos home base in Valcartier, Que., Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Kandahar can hope for a peaceful future with the perseverance of Canadian troops, in the same way Canada has done in other parts of the world.

"Know that this mission is no less important, no less valid and takes no less valour," MacKay said.

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"What we'll remember is his sense of humour."

Goodbye kisses

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.08.21

SECTION: National

PAGE: A8

ILLUSTRATION: Cpl Louis-Francois Hamel hugs his wife, Genevieve Samson, and his five-year-old daughter, Marie Jeanne, as 73 soldiers leave for Afghanistan Monday at Valcartier CFB Que. – Photo by The Canadian Press

Police in Afghanistan free German captive and arrest 4 suspects

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE JUSTICE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 571

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) _ Four suspected kidnappers were captured Monday as Afghan police freed a German aid worker who had been snatched from a restaurant while she ate with her husband, officials said.

Hundreds of police freed the 31-year-old woman in a raid after midnight in western Kabul, not far from the area where she was taken captive on Saturday, said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemerai Bashary.

He said authorities arrested and are interrogating ``four suspects who are directly involved in this case." He said more than 300 police took part in the operation.

Police are searching for other accomplices, Bashary said.

Preliminary investigations indicate that it was a criminal gang _ and not Islamic insurgents _ who carried out the kidnapping, and that they demanded \$1 million for the woman's release.

A video broadcast Sunday said the kidnappers were demanding a prisoner swap.

Amrullah Saleh, the head of the Afghan intelligence service, said the leader of the criminal gang had been freed from a northern Afghan prison two months earlier.

Saleh and Interior Minister Zarar Ahmad Muqbal oversaw the operation, which involved police and intelligence officers.

A spokeswoman for Germany's Foreign Ministry in Berlin confirmed the woman was ``in safety at the German Embassy" in Kabul. She declined to give any further details.

Earlier in the day, the captive, who identified herself as Christina Meier, appeared on a video broadcast by a local television station.

Meier, who worked for the Germany-based Christian organization Ora International in Kabul, was taken by four men who pulled up to the restaurant in a gray Toyota Corolla. One went inside and asked to order a pizza, two others waited outside the restaurant, and a third remained in the car, intelligence officials investigating the incident said.

The man in the restaurant pulled out a pistol, walked up to a table where Meier was sitting with her husband and took her, the officials said on customary condition of anonymity. The husband was not abducted.

Police spotted the speeding car and opened fire, but hit a nearby taxi and killed its driver.

In the video broadcast Sunday, Meier was shown sitting on the floor inside a room, her head covered with a white scarf.

She was prompted to make remarks both in English and in the Afghan language Dari by a man speaking in broken English. The man then instructed her to show a copy of her German passport and an ID card issued by the aid group she works for.

Tolo TV, which broadcast the video, did not say how it obtained the footage.

"I am fine. There are no threats against me. I want my country to do what it can for my release," she said in Dari, reading from a piece of paper, occasionally looking toward the camera.

A male voice off camera prompted her to say, "to help" and told her to also use the word "urgent."

"Please help for my release, and help me," she said.

A man wearing sunglasses, and his head covered with a scarf, later appeared in the video and demanded that the Afghan government release a number of unidentified prisoners. He said a member of their group would provide the government with a list.

Authorities, meanwhile, detained a suspect involved in the murder of two German journalists, killed last October in the northern province of Baghlan, Bashary said.

The suspect was detained last week in the same province where the murder happened, Bashary said, without elaborating.

Karen Fischer and Christian Struwe, freelance reporters working for Deutsche Welle, Germany's state-owned broadcast outlet, were shot to death outside a small village where they had set-up a tent to spend the night.

In southern Afghanistan, dozens of Taliban insurgents attacked an Afghan army compound, and the ensuing gunbattle left 10 suspected militants dead and four others wounded, an official said Monday. There were no casualties among Afghan troops.

The clash began Sunday night when the Taliban fired on the compound in the Sangin district of Helmand province, said Eizatullah Khan, the district chief.

Van Doos want Quebecers to understand Afghan mission after soldier's death

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 408

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) _ The first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment has saddened his fellow soldiers but they are asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

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“What we’ll remember is his sense of humour.”

Auclair will return to Kandahar after the funeral. Details aren’t yet available.

“It’s going to be hard but I know he would be happy that I’m doing this for him.”

One of the most difficult tasks that Auclair faces is to meet with Longtin’s parents and especially his girlfriend.

“That’s going to be hard. Those two were so much in love.”

It was the third attack on Canadians in a week. Seven soldiers were injured in two separate attacks earlier.

sib adds quote via lcn

No Quebec election until 2009; Charest reaffirms support for Afghan mission

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: POLITICS SOCIAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 186

SHAWINIGAN, Que. (CP) _ Quebec Premier Jean Charest says there won't be another provincial election in Quebec until at least 2009.

The leader of the Quebec Liberal Party says there's a good chance they will be able to regain some of the ridings lost to the Action democratique du Quebec during the last election.

``There won't be an election in 2007 and there won't be one in 2008 either _ 2008 is the year of the 400th anniversary of Quebec City," Charest said Monday.

Charest also spoke briefly about a fallen Quebec soldier, Pte. Simon Longtin, who died Sunday in Afghanistan.

Longtin's death is an example of the sacrifice that Canadian soldiers make in the name of their country and democracy, Charest said.

On the question of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, Charest remained steadfast, despite a recent poll suggesting that 70 per cent of the population does not approve of Canadian troops being involved in Afghanistan.

``The decision was made to stay in Afghanistan until 2009," he said. ``As Quebec citizens, we have the responsibility to support the men and women who are there, who are doing this job in our name and who are making the greatest sacrifice we can ask of any human.

``We must not politicize the presence in Afghanistan."

(Le Nouvelliste)

Harper dismisses `sad' summit protest as police fire tear gas

DATE: 2007.08.20

KEYWORDS: ECONOMY ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SOCIAL TRADE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 1083

MONTEBELLO, Que. (CP) _ As riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to hold back demonstrators outside the Montebello summit, Stephen Harper shook hands with George W. Bush and dismissed the protest as a ``sad" spectacle.

The prime minister welcomed Bush to the North American Leaders' Summit after the U.S. president landed by helicopter on Monday at the posh _ and heavily guarded _ Chateau Montebello.

``I've heard it's nothing," the prime minister said when asked whether he'd seen the protesters.

``A couple hundred? It's sad."

Bush looked over his shoulder and smiled when asked the same question, but remained silent and walked with the prime minister into the building.

The men discussed border issues, trade and Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic, said Canadian officials.

Harper drew the president's attention to comments made last weekend by the former U.S. ambassador to Canada, Paul Cellucci, who said it makes sense to recognize Canadian sovereignty over Arctic waters.

The president was unpersuaded.

A White House official said the meeting left Bush with a better understanding of Canadian concerns but does not change the traditional U.S. view: that Canada owns the Arctic islands, but not the vast and potentially resource-rich waters that surround them.

"We continue to believe that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway," said State Department official Robert Fisk.

"There is an international navigational right through the Northwest Passage."

Officials said Harper also told Bush that he regretted the U.S. withdrawal from talks to establish border pre-clearance rules that would speed up traffic at land borders, and added that he hoped to relaunch them.

Harper and Bush are to meet Tuesday with Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who arrived later Monday afternoon, to discuss the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).

With Mexico bracing for the potentially disastrous effects of hurricane Dean, Calderon planned to leave immediately after the summit on Tuesday instead of remaining in Canada for an extra day as expected.

Sources have told The Canadian Press that the leaders will wrap up their summit with a call Tuesday for a new border disaster protocol to avoid a repeat of the crippling tie-ups that occurred after 9-11.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe confirmed that the issue is up for discussion, but he downplayed expectations about the summit.

“I don't expect any major announcements to come from the meeting,” he said. “I think it's a continuance of discussions that we have regularly with our two closest neighbours.”

While the meetings inside were cordial, it was far less cozy outside the massive Nordic-style log hotel and the surrounding estate.

Lines of police in riot gear jostled with dozens of demonstrators _ the vanguard of hundreds who marched on the front gate of the summit compound shouting taunts.

Officers used pepper spray and tear gas to hold off the protesters, who responded by flinging rocks and branches. Two people were hauled away in handcuffs.

The confrontation settled into a face-to-face standoff between a hardcore group of protesters and police until demonstrators began to drift off in the late afternoon.

As about 200 demonstrators lingered, police pushed them back, firing many rounds of tear gas to clear the road. By early evening, only a handful of protesters remained milling about.

Angry anarchists and family-friendly activists converged on the hamlet of Montebello by bus to protest the summit, but concerns about huge, violent demonstrations fizzled.

Early in the afternoon, about 1,500 people marched along the road toward the gate of the summit compound which is ringed by a four-metre-high steel security fence. They chanted slogans and carried banners, including one reading: “Say No To Americanada.”

Riot police lined up in front of the front gate as the marchers _ some wearing anarchist red-and-black flags and carrying signs condemning Bush as a war criminal _ approached.

Despite the jostling, the tear gas and the pepper spray, it was a far cry from previous meetings _ such as the G-8, APEC and the Summit of the Americas _ when thousands of people turned out and demonstrations turned violent.

Protesters were barred from the compound but their activities were relayed to the hotel lobby where they could be viewed on two video monitors.

There are seemingly as many causes as protesters, who condemn North American integration, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the leaders' performance on the environment, the plight of aboriginals, and human-rights abuses committed in the war on terror.

One common complaint echoed by all is the secrecy surrounding the meeting.

Susan Howard-Azzey, a homemaker from St. Catharines, Ont., criticized what she called the lack of transparency and consultation in the SPP process.

“I'm not impressed that the SPP is making such big decisions on behalf of Canadians without consulting us and when we go out to the streets we're criminalized.”

A group of powerful business executives has been invited to make a closed-door presentation Tuesday at the summit on changes they believe the continent needs. No such invitation was extended to scientists,

environmentalists or other social activists.

While the aim of some protesters was to disrupt the summit, most were orderly. A few hundred labour activists from Ottawa called for a ``family-friendly" demonstration and stood back from the police lines.

In Ottawa, things were remarkably calm. There were no demonstrators at the heavily-guarded U.S. Embassy and the only strangers on Parliament Hill were camera-toting tourists.

The final communique from the two-day summit will include an order from Harper, Bush and Calderon to their respective cabinet ministers to create new border regulations for emergencies, said sources in two countries.

The leaders want to see rules on who and what would be allowed to cross North American borders amid crises like a terrorist attack or an outbreak of avian flu.

The move is the latest effort to increase security while allowing goods to flow freely, and stems from the chaotic aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. The security clampdowns and protracted lineups six years ago cost the North American economy billions of dollars.

The border announcement is one of several expected at the summit.

The leaders also plan to announce that they will recognize the research of each country's food and drug regime in an effort to reduce costs and avoid duplication.

A Canada-Mexico deal is also brewing that would allow more Mexican migrant workers into Canada under an expanded program for agricultural labourers.

Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians said people shouldn't be fooled about who really sets the agenda at these summits: the 30 business leaders who sit on the North American Competitiveness Council and advise the three national governments on facilitating trade.

Barlow called for a moratorium on the ``profoundly anti-democratic" SPP until the citizens of all three countries are consulted and their elected representatives are given oversight over the business-driven initiative.

Flanked by U.S and Mexican opponents of the scheme and Canadian labour activists, Barlow told a news conference on Monday that big business is trying to create a competitive North American trade bloc.

``And for this they need regulatory, resource, labour and environmental convergence to the lowest common standards," she said, predicting that it will ultimately include a common passport, common currency and free trade in resources, including oil, gas and water.

``This is not about security for people, social security, security for the poor, environmental security or job security. This is about security for the big corporations for North America."

Massive Afghan training exercise highlights growing need for reserve soldiers

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 476

CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta. (CP) _ A massive Afghanistan combat training exercise at a remote military base in Alberta underscores the Canadian Forces' growing dependence on reservists to fill the boots of regular soldiers serving in the war-ravaged country, says the commander of the exercise.

“The reliance on reservists is increasing,” said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the training exercise and commander of 32 Brigade Group which is leading operation.

The 13-day exercise at CFB Wainwright, an isolated military base more than 400 kilometres northeast of Calgary, is meant to simulate combat conditions in Afghanistan. Troops live within a makeshift Kandahar Air Field _ the verdant, rolling prairie terrain serving as a stand-in for the parched Afghan desert _ as if they are taking over from the previous rotation.

Roughly 1,200 troops _ mostly Primary Reservists _ are here from 31, 32 and 33 Canadian Brigade Groups, the military police, and the health services unit. It's the largest training exercise this year for reserve soldiers from Ontario.

Until this year, the annual Maple Defender reserve exercise had been held at CFB Petawawa, a military base about 170 kilometres north of Ottawa.

The location may have changed but the endgame for the troops remains the same: to emerge from the training better prepared for the real thing.

The growing dependence on reserve soldiers gives members of the military's regular force a chance to rest after a tour of duty, allowing them to pass on their knowledge to soldiers soon to be deployed overseas, and gives reservists combat experience, said Troop Warrant Jamie Knight of 61 reconnaissance squadron.

“The army is only so big, and we've been operational for a long time,” said Knight. “What this does is...it's like a rest plan. It allows some of the members of the regular force to come down and it gives the reserves a chance to send people over.

“There's always a continuation of keeping reservists at the highest level that we can... It's actually the perfect system,” he added.

The exercise is taking place across a 640-square kilometre training area, marked by big prairie skies and desolate fields and dirt roads.

Makeshift villages, some constructed from large shipping containers, mimic Afghan villages of the same names. Actors of Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani origin play the roles of locals and a handful of Canadian soldiers are assuming the part of the Afghan National Army.

Reserve soldiers are pitted against fellow Canadian soldiers who try to replicate insurgents' techniques, such as roadside and suicide bomb attacks. The soldiers playing the part of the insurgents use information gleaned

from the military's own intelligence in Afghanistan.

The Wainwright training exercise is centred on three areas: direct combat operations, cordon and searches of suspected weapons and drug caches and providing humanitarian aid to those playing Afghan villagers.

About 2,500 Canadian soldiers are serving in Afghanistan, of which the military says an estimated 15 to 30 per cent are reservists.

Dieppe-65

DATE: 2007.08.20

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE SOCIAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 167

DIEPPE, France — Veterans of the ill-fated Dieppe raid were given a rousing reception from the people of the French port on the 65th anniversary of the battle.

It was an emotional reunion yesterday because, for many old soldiers, this will be the last time they see the town and its residents.

The town holds many memories for the members of the 2nd Canadian Division, which tried and failed to take the port in Operation Jubilee.

There are deep emotional bonds, especially with members of Les Fusiliers Mont Royal, the only French-speaking unit to land in Dieppe.

Francoise Cloux has taken in one particular veteran whenever he has come back for a visit and, in turn, she has taken trips to Montreal.

She says she always wants to thank the Canadians because, without their sacrifices, the world might have been a different place.

Yesterday's celebration was partly overshadowed by the death of Private Simon Longten in Afghanistan.

John Edmondson, formerly of the South Saskatchewan Regiment, wasn't afraid to bluntly assess the reasons for Canada's mission in the war-torn country.

He says if the terrorists weren't there, they'd be here and soldiers know the dangers they face.

(BN)

mub

Afghan-Cda-Soldier-Killed

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 148

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Canadian Colonel Christian Juneau says ``we'll mourn, we'll pay respects to the family and our fallen comrade and we'll carry on with the mission."

The deputy commander of the Canadian joint task force in Afghanistan was responding to the death of the 67th Canadian soldier in Afghanistan.

Twenty-three-year-old Private Simon Longtin of Montreal was killed yesterday when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Longtin is the first of the famed Quebec-based Van Doos to be killed in a war that is especially unpopular in Quebec.

But Chief Warrant Officer Pierre Marchant says it hasn't shaken the troops' resolve to continue their reconstruction mission.

There have been three attacks on Canadian soldiers in the past week.

And on Saturday, Taliban leader Mullah Omar issued a call for Afghans to wage a jihad — or holy war — against foreign troops.

Meanwhile in Toronto yesterday, about 100 people at the Canadian National Exhibition interrupted their day to join Canadian soldiers in observing a moment of silence in honour of Private Longtin.

(CP)

ScH

INDEX:International, Defence

DATE: 2007.08.20
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 122

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – An Afghan official says 10 militants were killed after dozens of Taliban insurgents attacked an Afghan army compound last night.

Eizatullah Khan, the district chief, says four Taliban were also wounded during the two-hour battle in the Sangin district of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

There were no casualties among Afghan troops.

Khan says the Taliban left behind the dead bodies and fled with the wounded.

Helmand has been the frontline of battles between the Taliban and international forces in recent months and has seen some of the bloodiest fighting in the past two years. It is also the largest opium-producing area in the world.

Insurgency-related violence has claimed more than 3,800 lives so far this year, most of them militants, according to an Associated Press tally of figures from Afghan and western officials.

(AP)

Troops out by '09, Bush told; Montebello summit: Harper discusses mission in Afghanistan with U.S. president; Parliament okay needed for extension, PM says; protests shrugged off as 'nothing' and 'sad'

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EDITION: Met
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PAGE: A01
BYLINE: Tonda MacCharles and Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 740

As hundreds of protesters clashed with police outside summit fences here, Prime Minister Stephen Harper served notice to U.S. President George W. Bush that Canadian troops will be pulled out of Afghanistan in February 2009 unless he's able to get a political "endorsement" to extend their mission.

Harper delivered the message during a 90-minute meeting with the U.S. leader yesterday afternoon at Chateau Montebello resort.

But even if there is no parliamentary consensus, senior Canadian government officials made it clear that Canada's role in Afghanistan, which includes \$1.1 billion in development and humanitarian assistance until 2011, would continue in other ways.

"Seeking the endorsement of Parliament does not necessarily mean we're leaving," a senior Canadian official said after the meeting.

Dan Fisk, a U.S. national security council director, told reporters Bush "now has a better understanding of not only the dynamics here, but the need at some point to go back to Parliament" to decide what the mission will be beyond 2009.

There is little chance that the opposition parties will allow a military mission to continue in Afghanistan beyond February 2009. The NDP wants Canada's 2,500 troops home now and both the Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois want the mission ended by 2009.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat, Glyn Berry, have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began.

The meeting happened as riot police used tear gas and pepper spray to hold back protesters trying to disrupt the summit with Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon. A line of police jostled with demonstrators who had marched on the front gate of the summit compound shouting taunts. Police clashed again with protesters later in the afternoon, firing off rounds of tear gas.

As he stood waiting for the president's arrival, Harper was asked whether he had seen the protesters.

Troops out by '09, Bush told; Montebello summit: Harper discusses mission in Afghanistan with U.S. president

"I've heard it's nothing. A couple hundred? It's sad," Harper told reporters.

Calderon is to cut short his Canadian visit and return home today because of worries of Hurricane Dean hitting Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

He moved up a one-on-one bilateral meeting with Harper to last night, and his schedule today has been cut back.

Yesterday, Ottawa announced \$2 million in aid for the countries already hit hard by the hurricane, deployed extra consular staff to the region and said it was working with tour operators and airlines to expedite the evacuation of Canadians.

But the most attention was on Harper's 90-minute talk with the U.S. president. During the meeting, which ran longer than scheduled, Harper raised the contentious issue of border hassles suffered by Canadians travelling to the U.S. for business and leisure.

The topic also came up in Washington yesterday, where U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff expressed strong support for using high-technology drivers' licences as alternatives to passports when crossing the Canada-U.S. border, saying Vermont is developing them.

The statement will be welcomed by Canadian officials who have lobbied the U. S. to endorse the licences, saying the plan to require passports is already seriously denting tourism and could damage trade.

Fisk later said Bush reaffirmed to Harper his country's intent to move ahead with passport requirements but "we are committed to implementing it in a reasonable way."

Harper and Bush spoke about "how we can continue to meet very legitimate security concerns on the border but still continue to ensure that legitimate trade and human movement take place," a senior Canadian official said later.

Harper also expressed disappointment that the U.S. pulled out from discussions of pilot projects to help speed truckers across the border. Canada objected to American plans to use widespread fingerprinting, citing Charter of Rights concerns against unreasonable intrusions on privacy rights.

The U.S. has refused to give ground.

Despite a pledge to work toward an "efficient" border, Canadian officials stressed there were many areas the two leaders continue to disagree on.

"One of the important things about a relationship that's as broad and comprehensive as ours with the United States is that it's unrealistic to think that we're going to agree on absolutely everything," the official said. "But what is really important is that we keep talking about even those things that we don't necessarily agree on."

Among those is the question of Canada's claims of Arctic sovereignty. Harper, officials said, noted his government's recent pledges to invest in new patrol vessels and boost Canada's military presence in the North.

"The president was very supportive of those," the official said.

But Harper's effort to flag comments by former U.S. ambassador Paul Cellucci endorsing Canada's claims over the Northwest Passage appeared to be of no avail.

"We look at the Northwest Passage as an international waterway, and want the international transit rights to be

Troops out by '09, Bush told; Montebello summit: Harper discusses mission in Afghanistan with U.S. president

respected there," White House spokesperson Gordon Johndroe told reporters.

One issue not raised by Harper is the fate of terror suspect Omar Khadr, the young Canadian accused of killing an American soldier who is now stuck in a legal limbo military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"It didn't come up in the discussions," the official said.

With files from Canadian Press

Dealing with challenges of military interventions

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ILLUSTRATION: Dean Rohrer illustration;
BYLINE: Jeremy Kinsman
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 776

There are actually fewer shooting wars today than usual. But Canadian politics have been unusually linked to the three main internal conflicts that have already killed more than half a million civilians in and around Darfur, Afghanistan and Iraq and displaced several millions more.

Darfuris, who are victims of cruel internal repression by Sudan, have not been protected because of strategic distraction elsewhere, but numerous Canadians believe we ought to be there.

The international interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq triggered insurgencies whose consistently underestimated force has tied the West down. The Afghan intervention was sanctioned as necessary by the international community, and so Canada took part. The Iraqi intervention was a war of bad political choice that was not internationally sanctioned and Canada stayed out.

Afghanistan dominates our news coverage because Canadian soldiers are at risk. While the nature of our involvement is unpopular, there is a wish to see Afghanistan succeed. But the Iraq conflict that superseded Afghanistan as the U. S. priority is reported as a hopeless imbroglio and viewed in Canada more as a Washington political story.

To humanitarian interventionists, the Darfur agony has been under-reported. They blame the duty in Afghanistan for preventing Canada from sending troops to protect civilians in Darfur. Contrary to rosy advice given Paul Martin when he launched his impromptu Darfur peace initiative, it is a current fact we could not do both. In any event, Canadian or any NATO forces are politically unacceptable to Africans for front-line Darfur duty.

Where are these three conflicts going?

First, there is no "winning." These are internal conflicts involving unusually dangerous methods and antagonists prepared to go on and on.

Western democratic publics are not prepared to battle on and on in faraway internal conflicts, despite the guff put around about "staying the course." At best, by containing the violence and stemming the influence of the insurgents, the aim is to provide host communities with breathing space to permit construction of governance, authority and stability.

There is anecdotal evidence that Canadian and British forces are approaching this limited goal in southern Afghanistan, though at high cost. U.S. Gen. David Petraeus optimistically spies a trend toward military stabilization in Iraq.

No question – without a basic stabilization there will be no negotiated settlements, which are the only positive political/military outcomes available.

And no question – to succeed, all neighbours and parties to these conflicts who are not Al Qaeda terrorists need to be involved. The United States is going to be put to a different test of leadership by dismounting its high horse and talking to adversaries, including those in the all-important Middle East. Russia and China will need to be contributors and co-guarantors, not competitors or spoilers.

In the case of Afghanistan, it means including Pakistan and Iran, regional warlords and the Taliban. For Iraq, it means Iran and Syria and all sectarian leaders as well as Baathists. For Darfur, it means dealing from co-ordinated strength with the dictatorial regime of President Omar al-Bashir, as well as engaging Egypt and Libya, and afflicted neighbours such as Chad.

Essential to eventual success will be credible, transparent and inclusive governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, instead of the cronyism, sectarianism and endemic corruption that reign today.

Democracy and development need a generation or two to take and hold. Canadians accept that we and others will be engaged as aid donors for years but won't stand for corrupt beneficiaries.

What have we learned? We knew that security and development are interdependent. But internationally, we share burdens and balance priorities badly. The international community needs the leadership to co-ordinate and apply triage to crisis work. The multilateral world is never easy but the unipolar world being a delusion, we need to make it work.

It's a smart move for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to place in defence a minister who has been in foreign affairs, since the scene is shifting in the three conflicts from the battleground to gradual negotiation. Plus, there is a wider world scene for Canadian responsibilities. Continuing to make Afghanistan our be-all and end-all will incur penalizing opportunity costs. Inevitably, more states will dangerously fail, partly because we are all neglecting other humanitarian crises such as HIV/AIDS in Africa.

It will be up to Defence Minister Peter MacKay to inform NATO allies now that we are redeploying from Kandahar province in 2009 so that the alliance can credibly continue the superb work of Canadian forces there. We can then better equip and deploy our military and diplomacy to meet the multiple challenges of the dangerous world ahead.

Jeremy Kinsman was Canada's Head of Mission in Moscow, Rome, London, and Brussels. He now works with the Community of Democracies.

MackKay pays respects in Quebec; Visits CFB Valcartier to bolster troop morale, public support in wake of Van Doo's death

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PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
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PAGE: A03
ILLUSTRATION: MARTIN OUELLET CP More than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin yesterday at a ramp ceremony at Kandahar airfield in Afghanistan. ;
BYLINE: Sean Gordon
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 462

As the fallout from Pte. Simon Longtin's death continued to wash over his home province of Quebec, Defence Minister Peter MacKay travelled to the soldier's former base to help bolster both troop morale and public support.

The 23-year-old Longtin, who hailed from the Montreal suburb of Longueuil, died Sunday evening, barely three weeks after arriving in Afghanistan to serve a six-month tour.

He is the first member of the storied Royal 22nd Regiment to die since the Quebec-based battle group began shipping out earlier this year.

MacKay said in previous battles involving the Royal 22nd, like Vimy Ridge and Ortona, "you helped set the conditions for peace. ... Know that this mission is no less important, no less valid and takes no less valour.

"With your perseverance, Kandahar can also lead to a similarly peaceful future in Afghanistan. Your past victories attest that it is possible to create peace in the wake of war," he told an audience of soldiers and their families during a visit to CFB Valcartier, just outside Quebec City. MacKay, appointed to the defence post last week, joined chief of defence staff Gen. Rick Hillier in the provincial capital – where, coincidentally, support for the federal Conservatives is strongest – to see off a contingent of more than 200 "Van Doos," as members of the Royal 22nd are known.

"Canadians are proud that you are continuing to serve them as ambassadors in the world. I say thanks again for your incommensurable service, thanks also to your families for your constant and indispensable support," MacKay said.

A statement last night from Longtin's family painted a picture of a young soldier who embraced military life and his mission in Afghanistan.

"We are devastated by the death of our Simon, who left us in dignity while proudly serving his country with tremendous honour, amongst his brothers in arms in Afghanistan," the statement said.

"He left for his mission at peace with himself and his family. ..."

MackKay pays respects in Quebec; Visits CFB Valcartier to bolster troop morale, public support in wake of Van Doo's death

In Kandahar, Longtin's two closest friends in 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22nd spoke emotionally of their fallen colleague.

"The morale is down in the dumps, but at the same time it motivates us (to carry on)," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 21. Fellow soldier Scott Bernier described Longtin's death as "a slap in the face."

Auclair also pleaded for Quebecers to "continue to support us, so we didn't come here for nothing."

Support for the Afghan conflict in Quebec is charitably described as shaky, and the federal Liberals and NDP have wasted little time in repeating their demands to revisit the mission – and in the NDP's case, to bring the troops home.

Quebec's talk-radio stations were abuzz with discussion of Longtin's death, and the province's major networks and radio stations spent the day at Valcartier interviewing visibly shaken soldiers.

"It's demoralizing. The one thing you don't think about is that this could happen so quickly to someone who is so full of life," one soldier told Radio-Canada.

An Internet poll conducted by the TVA network found 58 per cent of more than 5,000 respondents believe Longtin's death is reason enough to question the mission.

With files from Canadian Press

Why are soldiers' lives on line in Afghanistan, author asks; A witness to the world's most gruesome atrocities, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter/photographer Paul Watson hardest on himself in *Where War Lives*

IDNUMBER 200708210039
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: Life
PAGE: L01
ILLUSTRATION: David Cooper Toronto star "You can't understand the larger wars without understanding the conflicts within yourself," says reporter Paul Watson, author of *Where War Lives*. ;
BYLINE: Vit Wagner
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 655

Paul Watson, the award-winning newspaper reporter who has covered almost every war-torn hell hole from Somalia in the early 1990s to post-9/11 Afghanistan, has a few questions for his former high school chum Stephen Harper.

The foreign correspondent and Canadian Prime Minister haven't been in touch since attending Etobicoke's Richview Collegiate together in the 1970s. Nor has Harper sought out the opinions or insights of Watson, who has seen enough death and destruction over the years to have his own theories on why UN and NATO interventions fail to produce the intended result, no matter how noble the original intentions.

"I would beg him, as a former friend and someone who has access to intelligence that I don't, to explain to me why we're putting soldiers' lives on the line and asking them to kill civilians to defend themselves when all the military people I've spoken to admit that there is no military solution in Afghanistan," said Watson, in Toronto yesterday to promote his memoir, *Where War Lives*.

"There's a political solution and the political trail leads into Pakistan. Why are we fighting a war when our main ally in the region, Pakistan, is pursuing its own security interests against our interests? As someone with access to intelligence, I would ask him to explain this to me. And I would give him a former friend's commitment that I would keep it to myself and not put it in the newspaper because I lie awake at night trying to resolve that one fundamental problem."

The chapter in *Where War Lives* that touches on the somewhat unlikely teenage acquaintanceship between the pot-smoking, academically indifferent Watson and the studious, sober-minded Harper lends a humorous, leavening dimension to an otherwise dark, grim and at times even harrowing tale.

Watson, a former reporter for the Toronto Star who now writes out of Jakarta, Indonesia, for the Los Angeles Times, is best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1993 photo of a dead U.S. soldier, Staff Sgt. William David Cleveland, who was dragged through the streets of Mogadishu by a jeering crowd after his Black Hawk

helicopter was downed.

As much as his coverage of the incident made Watson's career, it left him emotionally scarred to the point where he needed psychiatric help. He also sought absolution at one point by attempting, unsuccessfully, to get in touch with Cleveland's mother.

"As a journalist I can do things that I couldn't as an ordinary human being, " he said. "I can scream in a cop's face to let me through a roadblock, but as an ordinary human being I wouldn't have the courage. As an ordinary human being I wouldn't have gone anywhere near (the mother), but as a journalist trying to figure out my own story I was compelled to do it. And I regret doing it."

A witness to some of the world's most gruesome atrocities, including the ethnic cleansing carried out in Rwanda and Kosovo, Watson casts a jaundiced eye at both the hypocritical policies of Western governments and the failings of his own profession to get out the word. The harshest criticisms, however, are often reserved for the author's unvarnished portrait of himself.

"It was the lies, as much as the killing, that drove me over the edge," said Watson. "So when it came time for me to write this, I wanted to probe as deeply as possible into my own truths. You can't understand the larger wars without understanding the conflicts within yourself.

"The book includes as much of the truth as I could get on myself, good or bad. If readers say, 'I don't really like that guy' – at least in the middle part of the book – then I've succeeded.

"I hope they like me a little more toward the end. But I don't think I was a very good person. I don't think anyone involved in these kinds of conflicts can be good people. There are no heroes in war."

Guns, tanks and plenty of recruiters make military 'busiest booth' at CNE

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PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.08.21
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SECTION: News
PAGE: A03
ILLUSTRATION: Ron Bull toronto star Paramedic Mike Doherty, at the CNE yesterday, is thinking of re-enlisting. ;
BYLINE: Robyn Doolittle
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 431

Operation Connection is underway at the CNE.

This year the military has expanded its endeavours at the fair. After more than 650,000 people visited the Canadian Forces' exhibit at the CNE last year, military officials asked organizers for another 743 square metres of real estate. That's almost half again as much as last year's 1,765 square metres.

"We are without question the busiest booth at the CNE," said Capt. Wayne Johnston. "We asked for additional space because of sheer volume. You couldn't move at times last year."

It's all part of Operation Connection, a massive project now in its second year, designed by the military to educate the public about who they are and what they do.

With the Afghanistan mission in the news on a regular basis, it's a chance for the public to speak to men and women who have been there, as many of the 140 military officials who will work the site have been to the front lines.

Recruitment officers are also present. If you walk through the main gates of the CNE, chances are one of the first things you'll notice is a huge canvas banner, "Join Us," billowing high over a fleet of military equipment.

The Canadian Forces has kicked its public education and recruitment initiatives into high gear this year and is well on target to exceed its recruitment goal of 700 GTAers for the year. This past weekend, about 130,000 people went through the exhibit with well over 100 stopping each day to talk seriously with recruitment officers.

"We stopped by to ask for some information on the air force," said Marlene Mangos, 49, whose eldest son wants to be a pilot. "We always thought if you joined up with the air force it doesn't mean you get to fly automatically, you could be put on cook detail or something. But they explained that wasn't the case."

Mangos is what recruitment officers refer to as an "influencer," someone who asks questions on behalf of relatives or friends. From 50 to 100 influencers are visiting the recruitment tent each day to grab pamphlets and other information.

"If he actually signed up? That's scary, but if he really wanted to do it, that'd be fine," she says. "He'd be of age and I can't really stop him. But as a mother, it's still scary."

Others are asking for themselves.

"Since the war in Afghanistan, I've given it a lot of thought. I already went through most of the training, but left to become a paramedic," said Mike Doherty, 21. "Now I'm thinking of going back in as a medic. I know of at least two paramedics from Ottawa who signed up."

Doherty finds the military's camaraderie and benefits program appealing, and he's not worried about any dangers overseas. "The Canadian Forces are well trained."

Charest Defends Afghan Mission; 'Biggest Sacrifice'; Quebec Soldier's Body To Return To Canada Tomorrow

IDNUMBER 200708210131
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: National
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: / Quebec Premier Jean Charest.;
DATELINE: SHAWINIGAN, Que.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service, with files from Philip Authier, ReneBruemmer and Dominique Blain
WORD COUNT: 446

SHAWINIGAN, Que. – The day after news was released that a member of the Quebec-based Van Doo regiment had been killed in action in Afghanistan, the mission and Quebecers' view of the war came into sharp focus yesterday.

Premier Jean Charest offered a spirited defence of the mission, even though support in the province has consistently rated as the weakest in Canada.

"We, as citizens of Quebec, have a duty to support the men and women who are there and who are doing this work in our name and are making the biggest sacrifice that can be asked of a human being," Mr. Charest said, noting Canada was committed to remain in Afghanistan until 2009.

"We have to continue. We must not politicize [our] presence in Afghanistan. We must, on the contrary, especially at this time, remind all the soldiers that Quebecers are behind them in the mission they are conducting in our name."

Private Simon Longtin of Longueuil became the first member of the Quebec-based regiment to be killed in action — other Quebecers have died in Afghanistan but while serving with regiments from outside the province.

Mr. Charest said all of Quebec mourns Pte. Longtin and honours him.

"This young soldier was only 23. It gives us an idea of the sacrifices of the Canadian soldiers in the name of their country, in the name of democracy."

Paul Martin, a professor of political science at University of Montreal, said the death is unlikely to change entrenched opinions on the war.

"This won't have an impact on the distribution of opinion," he said. "Quebecers' opinions sway like the rest of Canadians', it's just more staunchly against the war."

"This is a historic pattern when it comes to the use of force, ever since the conscription crises, except in cases of peace missions," Mr. Martin added.

Stephen Sideman, Canada research chair in International Security and Ethnic Conflict at McGill University, said "there seems to be more pacifism here [Quebec] than in the rest of Canada.

"So when Canadians are out there shooting people, Quebecers ask, 'Why can't we be in Darfur; Why can't we do traditional peacekeeping?' "

Remit Laundry, a retired lieu-tenant-colonel who has 34 years of service with the Van Doos, said there is a schism in Quebec over the war.

"I have met Van Doo families. I have a nephew over there," he said. "What I'm surprised to see is the dichotomy between what the families' opinions are and what the general public's opinion is.

"I can only think that it's because the families have been in contact with more information."

Pte. Longtin's body will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario tomorrow for repatriation ceremonies.

It is expected to be transferred to Quebec for funeral services, but military officials had few details yesterday.

"In these cases, we follow the wishes of the family and try to support the family as best we can," said Lieutenant Ginette Champagne, a spokeswoman with the Royal 22 Regiment, as it is officially known.

The family has asked that their privacy be respected. Pte. Longtin was living in the Quebec City region with his girlfriend. His parents were still in Longueuil, just south of Montreal.

KEYWORDS: PREMIERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC

Canada's missed opportunity in Afghanistan

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ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: Tom Blackwell, National Post / A doctor in the emergency ward of Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar. ;
BYLINE: Keith Martin
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 563

If you wanted to win the hearts and minds of a people, what would you do? Clearly, enabling them to access health care when they are sick and at their most vulnerable must rank near the top. Therefore it makes it utterly mystifying why Canada, with our hundreds of millions of dollars of aid money pouring into Afghanistan, have neglected this most obvious initiative. Nowhere is this need more acute than in Kandahar's Mirwais Hospital, a modern hell on Earth.

The International Committee for the Red Cross, along with other NGOs, have repeatedly said that our development operations in Afghanistan are insufficient and badly directed. The Mirwais General Hospital, a facility that lies only a short distance from our own Canadian Forces base in Kandahar, is a testament to this criticism.

This hospital is the only medical facility in Kandahar accessible to the average Afghan. It treats civilians, such as those suffering not only from the usual diseases and accidents that stalk those who live in one of the poorest countries in the world, but also those who are victims of insurgent and coalition activities. Squalor and filth, and an utter lack essentials — clean water, basic medications, a reliable power supply, simple diagnostics, medical manpower and basic surgical facilities — contribute to an appalling mortality and morbidity rate of admitted patients. In this region, nearly 800 women die in childbirth per 100,000 births (in Canada it's two per 100,000). Afghanistan has an infant mortality rate of 140 per 1,000 births; and the under-five mortality rate of 230 of 1,000 children. Countless others suffer life-long disabilities that are utterly preventable due to an absence of inexpensive, basic medical care.

That this horrific situation at Mirwais is allowed to continue right next to Canada's centre of operations is unconscionable. The ability of our troops to succeed in their mission is dependant on our ability to show to the Afghan people that our presence in their country is a benefit to them and not a liability, that we are there to provide them with the tools to rebuild their lives and not neglect their basic needs.

The Mirwais General Hospital's dilapidated condition is a constant reminder of our failure to effectively help those most in need in this beleaguered country and a political symbol that can be used by those who seek to increase dissent against us. Canada, through our Canadian International Development Agency, should immediately repair the facility. Its depleted stocks of medicine must be replenished, surgical suites made functional, a secure water source found, a generator installed and health care workers hired to provide care. The success of our mission in Afghanistan is dependent on us winning the "hearts and minds" of the local populace as we are continually reminded. Rebuilding the Mirwais General Hospital in Kandahar should be one of Canada's top priorities in this war-torn nation. That it's not is to our country's shame.

–Dr. Keith Martin was the parliamentary secretary to the minister of national defence and is the Member of Parliament for Esquimalt –Juan de Fuca.

KEYWORDS: FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA

Latest soldier to die was joker with serious side

IDNUMBER	200708210029
PUBLICATION:	Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE:	2007.08.21
EDITION:	Final
SECTION:	News
PAGE:	A8
ILLUSTRATION:	Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Pte. Simon Longtin, covering his ears, was known for his practical jokes and affectionate nature. Longtin was killed Sunday in Afghanistan. ;
DATELINE:	KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE:	Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE:	Canwest News Service
WORD COUNT:	636

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend.

But when it came time to talk of solemn things — of being a soldier, of the mission in Afghanistan, of death — Pte. Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, say those who knew him well.

As an orange sun dropped behind blue, dust-shrouded mountains, members of Longtin's platoon carried his flag-draped coffin along the tarmac past two columns of NATO troops standing silently in salute.

A lone piper played Amazing Grace as the young soldiers, their faces glistening with grief, laid the coffin in the belly of a waiting Hercules airplane for transport back to Canada.

Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday when a roadside bomb ripped through the armoured vehicle he was driving along a supply route about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

He is the first member of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doo, to die while serving in Afghanistan. The regiment assumed command of Canada's military operations here this month.

Yesterday, the shock of Longtin's death was still rippling through the company.

"Everybody's morale is really low right now. But at the same time, it motivates us," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 19, who will escort Longtin's body back to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ont. He choked back tears as he eulogized his friend.

A video posted on the YouTube website shows a cackling Longtin pouring Tabasco into the mouth of a sleeping friend, who runs to the kitchen sink to douse his burning tongue.

Despite his reputation as a practical joker, Longtin was a dedicated soldier who believed in the Afghanistan mission, according to his colleagues.

"He was a very good soldier. He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve," said Pte. Scott Bernier, 21, who spoke to Longtin the night before he died.

"He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others."

Longtin, who hailed from Longueuil, Que., was also an affectionate young man who was deeply in love with his girlfriend and told his mother he loved her every time they spoke on the phone.

He was on his first overseas mission after having trained for about two years with the Van Doos. He had arrived in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

A rifleman in Charlie Company, an infantry unit in Canada's battle group, Longtin had spent most of his time at the rugged forward operating base of Masum Ghar, southwest of Kandahar City. Longtin's vehicle, a LAV III, was part of a resupply convoy that was returning to Masum Ghar from Kandahar Airfield. None of the other soldiers in the vehicle was injured.

Longtin was evacuated to the airfield hospital for emergency treatment but was pronounced dead on arrival. His comrades back at Masum Ghar were informed of his death around five o'clock in the morning.

The deployment of an entire regiment of Quebec-based troops to Afghanistan has been controversial in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province. The death of the first Van Doo has dominated network news coverage and newspaper headlines in Quebec over the past two days.

On online forums, some Quebecers expressed their condolences for the deceased soldier. Others voiced their opposition to the mission.

"One of our soldiers, a brave Quebecer, has given his life for ... I don't know what," said one reader on the website of Le Devoir, a newspaper in Montreal.

Longtin's comrades bristled when asked about the lack of support for the war in their home province.

"They should inform themselves better. We're not here for nothing," said Auclair.

Derrick Farnham, a lieutenant with Quebec's Black Watch regiment who is stationed in Kandahar, agreed. If there's a message soldiers in Afghanistan would like to convey, Farnham said in an e-mail, "it's that we want to be here and we want to finish the job we have come to do."

Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in February 2009, although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that it could be extended through the will of Parliament.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. Canada has about 2,500 soldiers posted here as part of a NATO-led coalition.

Dead rifleman kept things light during training; 'Morale really low . . . but at the same time, it motivates us,' says private escorting soldier's body back to Canada

IDNUMBER 200708210014

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Cpl. Ken Fenner, Department of Defence / Thecasket with the body of Canadian soldier Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, is carried by his comrades during a ramp ceremony in Kandahar on Monday. His death has dominated news in Quebec. ; Colour Photo: (Pte. Simon Longtin) ;

KEYWORDS: COURT MARTIAL; CANADIANS; WAR; DEATHS

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

NOTE: Obituary of Pte. Simon Longtin.

WORD COUNT: 679

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"There does seem to be one overriding—underlying thought besides the obvious sadness that we all have," said Farnham, of Montreal, "and that is a worry, concern, perhaps even anger, at the possibility that some Quebecers will not want us to stay until 2009 or beyond."

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War, security, sovereignty at top of summit agenda Harper greets Bush, Calderon at summit; Meeting of three leaders out of sight of protesters

IDNUMBER 200708210013

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Jim Young, Reuters / Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (centre) is flanked by U.S. President George W. Bush (right) and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the North American leaders summit at the Chateau Montebello hotel in Montebello, Quebec, on Monday. ;

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

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.

BYLINE: Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 538

MONTEBELLO, Que. — Arctic sovereignty, border security and the war in Afghanistan topped the agenda as the three North American leaders began their summit meeting Monday against the backdrop of stubborn protests and concerns about the threat of Hurricane Dean sweeping toward Mexico.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the heavily fortified Chateau Montebello, an aging luxury resort on the banks of the Ottawa River. The serene scene was out of sight of angry clashes between protesters and police, and Harper brushed off reports of their activities.

"I've heard it's nothing," he commented to reporters over his shoulder as he waited to greet the U.S. president. "A couple of hundred? It's sad."

The prime minister then ushered Bush inside for a private meeting as Secret Service personnel pulled parts of a presidential bicycle from a golf cart and carried them into the lodge. Bush and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, also on hand for the summit, later took a spin around the grounds on their bikes.

Meanwhile, outside the gates of the luxury compound, numerous noisy scrums and shoving matches erupted between bandanna-clad demonstrators, linked arm to arm, and Quebec provincial police squads armed with batons, shields and gas masks.

There were also reports of pepper spray being used to subdue some unruly protesters.

Video of the outside events was played on two monitors inside the lobby of the chateau, but a Canadian official said the prime minister had barely had time to glance at it.

In their private meeting, Harper and Bush discussed Canada's efforts to assert its sovereignty over the Northwest Passage.

Harper specifically mentioned comments on the weekend by Paul Cellucci, a Bush-appointed former U.S. ambassador to Canada, that the Northwest Passage should be considered part of Canada. The U.S. insists it is international waters, but a Canadian official said after the meeting that the U.S. president "took note" of Cellucci's comments on the issue.

On Afghanistan, Canadian officials said Harper restated his position that the Canadian military mission in the war-ravaged country would not be extended without parliamentary consensus.

The two leaders also talked at length about security concerns at the border. They are expected to announce an agreement today that is aimed at finding ways to keep people and goods flowing across the border in the event of a crisis.

Hanging over the two-day summit were mounting worries about the toll Hurricane Dean, which already devastated Jamaica overnight Sunday, might take as it headed toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and possibly on to the U.S. mainland. In a sign Calderon may leave earlier than expected, he and Harper rushed to hold their bilateral meeting before their dinner with Bush. The Canadian and Mexican leaders had been scheduled to continue their talks on Wednesday.

The Canadian government has offered up to \$2 million in immediate relief to countries hit by the hurricane.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told reporters aboard Air Force One the president was being kept abreast of developments with hurricane Dean, getting repeated updates on its potential effect on Mexico and Texas.

The summit has been a source of angry protests for weeks, primarily because of the three leaders' plan, conceived in 2005, to try to more closely integrate the security and commerce of the continent. The process is known as the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

Rifleman remembered as the joker of platoon; 'Morale really low . . . but at the same time, it motivates us,' says private escorting soldier's body back to Canada

IDNUMBER 200708210011

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final C

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

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KEYWORDS: COURT MARTIAL; CANADIANS; WAR; DEATHS

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BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

NOTE: Obituary of Pte. Simon Longtin.

WORD COUNT: 679

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War, security, sovereignty at top of summit agenda Harper greets Bush, Calderon at summit; Meeting of three leaders out of sight of protesters

IDNUMBER 200708210010

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final C

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Jim Young, Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper (centre) is flanked by U.S. President George W. Bush (right) and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the North American leaders summit at the Chateau Montebello hotel in Montebello, Quebec, on Monday. ;

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BYLINE: Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 570

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The prime minister then ushered Bush inside for a private meeting as Secret Service personnel pulled parts of a presidential bicycle from a golf cart and carried them into the lodge. Bush and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, also on hand for the summit, later took a spin around the grounds on their bikes.

Meanwhile, outside the gates of the luxury compound, riot police used tear gas, pepper spray and plastic bullets as they went face-to-face with protesters rallying against North American integration. The afternoon-long demonstration ended at 6 p.m. local time in clouds of greenish-white smoke as hundreds of Surete du Quebec, RCMP and OPP officers, armed with batons, shields and gas masks faced more than 1,000 protesters on site. Many protesters took direct hits to their eyes, staggering back for medical attention. Several more tear gas canisters exploded as the crowd began retreating back towards the village. In response, protesters in gas masks, goggles, and balaclavas hurled rocks, tomatoes, and bottles filled with stones at the police, who blocked a highway and an adjacent cemetery.

Riot squads had earlier prevented Council of Canadians chairwoman Maude Barlow from delivering a 10,000-signature petition to the gate. Council officials claimed this violated a prior arrangement with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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Soldier remembered as joker of platoon

IDNUMBER 200708210043

PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: B5

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / The casket containing the body of Canadian soldier Pte. Simon Longtin is carried by his comrades during a ramp ceremony in Kandahar on Monday. Longtin was killed Sunday when the vehicle he was travelling in, a LAV III, struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 568

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Triad down to business Harper sets Bush straight on Canada's future in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG: 0708210338

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Sean Kilpatrick Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush arrive for the official dinner last night at Chateau Montebello.

BYLINE: ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO

WORD COUNT: 617

Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday afternoon and served notice that the future of Canada's Afghan mission is in question beyond 2009.

During a bilateral Canada–U.S. meeting lasting about 90 minutes, Harper repeated recent statements that extending Canada's commitment beyond 2009 will require the support of Parliament, a senior government official told reporters after the meeting.

However, the unnamed official stressed that Canada's international commitment to the war–torn country stretches beyond 2009 in some form, such as technical or humanitarian aid, even if it requires parliamentary approval.

"I will only go back to the fact that the prime minister has been quite clear, and that is that any future engagement in Afghanistan will need the endorsement of the Parliament," said the official.

Harper, Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon flew in over the heads of angry protesters yesterday afternoon to kick off a 24–hour, closed–door huddle tucked inside this small Quebec village's posh Fairmont resort.

Bush and Harper's meeting kicked things off, also touching on border issues and Canada's claims on Arctic sovereignty. All three leaders later dined together to discuss what were characterized as Western Hemisphere issues.

Other topics to be discussed include emergency and pandemic preparedness, food safety, toys imported from China, and the controversial Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) aimed at easing trade in the high–security, post–9/11 world, and making the continent more competitive globally.

En route to Ottawa yesterday, White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe acknowledged in a press briefing on Air Force One that security and emergency preparedness will be part of the discussions.

CORPORATE INPUT

The protesters outside the resort's gate, Opposition party critics and various interests from both the left and

right wing of the political spectrum have all gathered to condemn the gathering and SPP partnership as everything from undemocratic to a move toward a North American union and a common currency called the Amero.

One of the most contentious issues is an exclusive advisory board of CEOs from some of each country's largest corporations, including Wal-Mart, Home Depot Canada and Lockheed Martin, which will meet with the three leaders this morning.

However, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters president Jayson Myers said the partnership is essential in ensuring that cross-border trade can continue to fuel the economy.

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COMPANY ROLL

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- IMCO (Secretariat) KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Organizers of this Friday's Support Our Troops rally at the CNE are hoping to see red. 70,000 are expected.

SOURCETAG 0708210517

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 9

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Greg Henkenhaf, Sun Media Capt. Wayne Johnson hopes to set a record with this Friday's Red Rally for the troops at the automotive building of the CNE.

BYLINE: JOE WARMINGTON

WORD COUNT: 618

It's a Red Friday Rally where you can show your support for the troops, go for a roller coaster ride and have some cotton candy, too.

It doesn't get any more Canadian than that.

It could go down as another piece of history for the Canadian National Exhibition — a giant Red Rally to support the troops on Friday near the automotive building inside the Exhibition grounds.

"I really want to break the record," Capt. Wayne Johnston said yesterday. "I really think we can do it."

The previous record was Canada's first Red Rally for the troops in Afghanistan in Ottawa last September. "They had 10,000 people and it was fabulous," said Johnston. "It would be so great if we could be even bigger."

There is a good chance of it happening since about 70,000 people are expected down there Friday. Johnston, the man behind organizing the Sapper Mike McTeague Wounded Warrior Fund, says tourists from the U.S. and abroad are invited as well.

At 2 p.m. Friday, not too far from the Princes' Gates, he hopes to see a sea of red. The famous freelance photographer known as Smitty is going to go up in a helicopter and take a picture and send it to Afghanistan.

"We are hoping to line up some celebrity speakers," said Johnston.

PM NEEDED

I think it would be cool if new Defence Minister Peter McKay and Prime Minister Harper could be there. I am sure Mayor David Miller and Premier Dalton McGuinty will be on hand.

Johnston has already received a commitment from the La Musique des Fusiliers de Sherbrooke rock and blues band to play. "They actually sound like The Commitments and are excellent."

The Toronto Sun and the CNE are backing this event. Just consider with all of the people at The Ex, this could be quite memorable. For me, the important thing is not the record but a massive show of support so those men

Organizers of this Friday's Support Our Troops rally at the CNE are hoping to see red. 70,000 are expected.

and women who serve overseas understand that we at home not only care about them but are with them 100%.

Toronto and area has come up so big in this area so far. Last Sept. 29, I will never forget the emotion as 3,000 or came to the GTA's first Red Rally at Yonge–Dundas Square.

So many municipalities have followed suit. I was at terrific rallies in Barrie and Whitby myself and I know there have been big ones in places like Kingston, Kitchener and, of course, Petawawa.

We should also not forget to mention that the Highway of Heroes is Hwy. 401 — from Trenton to Toronto. It has become a sad but real ritual for people to line the highway and overpasses to say thank you to the soldiers coming home in flag–draped caskets.

Our country is about to receive another one. Far too many for any of our liking.

But the rallies are all part of the morale boost we want to send our troops doing such a good job abroad.

I was watching the CBC news yesterday morning and I noticed the interviewer asking a retired Van Doos officer all about whether this latest casualty would shake the support of Quebecers, who some claim are not as onside.

NONSENSE

I thought it was nonsense since in Quebec City they had a huge parade of support this summer for the Van Doos — albeit it was less covered than a few protesters. Canadians are behind their soldiers, sailors and air personal.

You often hear about the one person who will not let an amputee veteran park his donated motorcycle somewhere and less about the thousands of people who wrote–in, e–mailed or called in outrage. People love the men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Wearing red, or placing a yellow support ribbon on your car, does not mean you support war. This war or any war. What it does mean though is the enemy understands that the men and women in battle are being backed up here in the home front.

In Toronto our city council unanimously supported the idea of our emergency vehicles having support ribbons on their vehicles. Our fire trucks and ambulances already have them and there are discussions under way as we speak to see them added to the police cars — as the Durham force and the OPP have done.

It doesn't take much to throw your support behind the troops.

Every gesture matters. Every gesture helps. Wear red on Friday and go down to the Ex and do your part.

And then go have some fun in a ride in a safe, free society provided for us by soldiers just like the ones right now at war in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=CANADA

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Another hero heads home Latest Canadian to fall honoured in Kandahar

SOURCETAG: 0708210515

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 8

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Cpl. Ken Fenner, Dept. of Defence and Reuters The casket containing the body of Pte. Simon Longtin is carried by his comrades during a ceremony in Kandahar yesterday. Longtin was killed by a roadside bomb. 2. photo of SIMON LONGTIN Killed by bomb

BYLINE: MARTIN OUELLET, CP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR

WORD COUNT: 221

After the first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment, his comrades are asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield yesterday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed by a roadside bomb on Sunday.

"Everybody's morale is low but at the same time, I still believe in the mission and it's motivating me even more to keep going," said Jean-Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment, who will accompany his friend's body back to Canada.

The coffin of Longtin, 23, from Longueuil, Que., was taken aboard a C-120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home and is expected to arrive back at CFB Trenton today.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

Longtin's death is the first in Afghanistan for the Van Doos, a regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

Both Auclair and Scott Bernier, also of the Van Doos, said they want Quebecers "to be better informed" about the objectives of the Canadian mission and its reconstruction work before passing judgment.

"Simon was aware of the risks, he knew what he was doing and I'm sure he wouldn't regret anything," Auclair said.

Bernier described Longtin as a great guy who believed in his work.

"He was a very good soldier, proud of what he was doing. He was always ready to serve. He believed in the cause and that was to help people."

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us," Auclair said. "What we'll remember is his sense of humour."

Auclair will return to Kandahar after the funeral.

One of the most difficult tasks that Auclair faces is to meet with Longtin's parents and especially his girlfriend.

"That's going to be hard. Those two were so much in love." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Triad down to business Harper sets Bush straight on Canada's future in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG: 0708210510

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Sean Kilpatrick Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush arrive for the official dinner last night at Chateau Montebello.

BYLINE: ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO

WORD COUNT: 617

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During a bilateral Canada–U.S. meeting lasting about 90 minutes, Harper repeated recent statements that extending Canada's commitment beyond 2009 will require the support of Parliament, a senior government official told reporters after the meeting.

However, the unnamed official stressed that Canada's international commitment to the war–torn country stretches beyond 2009 in some form, such as technical or humanitarian aid, even if it requires parliamentary approval.

"I will only go back to the fact that the prime minister has been quite clear, and that is that any future engagement in Afghanistan will need the endorsement of the Parliament," said the official.

Harper, Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon flew in over the heads of angry protesters yesterday afternoon to kick off a 24–hour, closed–door huddle tucked inside this small Quebec village's posh Fairmont resort.

Bush and Harper's meeting kicked things off, also touching on border issues and Canada's claims on Arctic sovereignty. All three leaders later dined together to discuss what were characterized as Western Hemisphere issues.

Other topics to be discussed include emergency and pandemic preparedness, food safety, toys imported from China, and the controversial Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) aimed at easing trade in the high–security, post–9/11 world, and making the continent more competitive globally.

En route to Ottawa yesterday, White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe acknowledged in a press briefing on Air Force One that security and emergency preparedness will be part of the discussions.

CORPORATE INPUT

The protesters outside the resort's gate, Opposition party critics and various interests from both the left and

right wing of the political spectrum have all gathered to condemn the gathering and SPP partnership as everything from undemocratic to a move toward a North American union and a common currency called the Amero.

One of the most contentious issues is an exclusive advisory board of CEOs from some of each country's largest corporations, including Wal-Mart, Home Depot Canada and Lockheed Martin, which will meet with the three leaders this morning.

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A Republican congressman, a U.S. veterans' group and singer Pat Boone all issued statements condemning the move toward more open U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico.

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"We will be looking to the federal government to protect Canada --- and I can say Ontario --- but all Canada in terms of the industry of tourism, and of course trade as well," said Bradley.

The summit's agenda was sped up as Hurricane Dean swept toward Mexico. A meeting between Harper and Calderon scheduled for tomorrow was bumped ahead to last night. The final meeting is set to end at 12:30 this afternoon.

COMPANY ROLL

One of the central complaints among critics of this week's North American Leaders' Summit is that a group of elite corporate leaders is issuing a list of recommendations directly to the three nations' leaders.

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Honouring all warriors Parade at the Ex in its 86th year pays tribute to Vimy Ridge soldiers, Afghanistan veterans

SOURCETAG: 0708190200

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Ernest Doroszuk, Sun Media D-Day veteran Charles Cline marches proudly with his peers in memory of their fallen comrades in the 86th annual Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE yesterday.

BYLINE: JAMIE NGO, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 258

Salutes and cheers greeted vets from past wars and current conflicts as they marched through the Princes' Gates at the CNE to celebrate the 86th annual Warriors' Day parade yesterday morning.

Over 10,000 onlookers lined the sidewalks to watch 2,500 in the parade that commemorated the 90th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge and paid tribute to wounded heroes of the Sept. 18, 2006, bicycle suicide bombing in Afghanistan — Master Cpl. Dwayne Orvis, Cpl. Denver Williams and Sapper Mike McTeague who marched, too.

"It's a chance to honour our fallen comrades," said Bob Fraser, 83, who has been marching in the parade for three years.

"If we hadn't done what we did, life would be a lot more different today," said the 48th Highlanders vet who served from 1943 to 1945.

Veterans have marched proudly at the Ex since 1921 — the longest running parade of its kind to support Canadian troops.

"If it wasn't for the veterans, we might not be here today," said Sgt. Solamon Ross, who served two tours in Afghanistan — returning this past March with a new found respect for life.

"It's not a very nice place over there," he said.

The parade was initially held to recognize veterans of the Great War of 1914–1918, but has evolved to honour all servicemen and women.

"It brings back memories — a lot of it you don't want to talk about," said Bruce Porter, 75, who was a drummer in the Irish Regiment of Canada Pipe Band. Although he was not on the frontline, he carried stretchers of his fallen comrades.

"We were stretcher barriers," he said. "To pick up the wounded is a pretty dirty job."

Spectator Kevin Galbraith, 51, of Toronto, attends the parade yearly and said it's an opportunity to show his appreciation for the gift of freedom given to us by our veterans.

"Here's these guys who fought in the war and they're still here marching today."

Galbraith's father was in the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and attending the parade brings back memories.

KEYWORDS=TORONTO AND GTA

PM lays out Afghan plan The U.S. President is told Canada's military role could end after 2009.

SOURCETAG: 0708210406

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1

2 photos 1. photo by Jonathan Hayward, CP RESISTANCE: Police and protesters clash in Montebello, Que., yesterday. Riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to hold back protesters outside the Chateau Montebello resort as Stephen Harper met U.S. President George W. Bush to kick off the North American Leaders' Summit. 2. photo by Adrian Wyld, CP THREE AMIGOS: Prime Minister Stephen Harper is flanked by Mexican President Felipe Calderon and U.S. President George Bush as they arrive for dinner at the North American Leaders' Summit in Montebello, Que., yesterday.

BYLINE: ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, QUEBEC

WORD COUNT: 715

Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday afternoon and served notice that the future of Canada's Afghan mission is in question beyond 2009.

During a bilateral Canada–U.S. meeting lasting about 90 minutes, Harper repeated recent statements that extending Canada's commitment beyond 2009 will require the support of Parliament, a senior government official told reporters.

However, the unnamed official stressed that Canada's commitment to the war–torn country would stretch beyond 2009 in some form such as technical or humanitarian aid, even if it requires Parliamentary approval.

"I will only go back to the fact that the prime minister has been quite clear, and that is that any future engagement in Afghanistan will need the endorsement of the Parliament," the official said.

Harper, Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon flew in over the heads of protesters yesterday for a 24–hour, closed–door huddle tucked inside this Quebec village's posh Fairmont resort.

Bush and Harper's meeting kicked things off, also touching on border issues and Canada's claim to Arctic sovereignty.

The leaders dined together in the evening to discuss what were characterized as western hemisphere issues.

Harper's only public words of the day were during a photo op when he dismissed the lower–than–expected turnout of protesters gathered outside, calling it "sad."

The three leaders were scheduled to discuss a range of issues yesterday and this morning. Other topics include emergency and pandemic preparedness, food safety and BSE, toys imported from China and the controversial Security and Prosperity Partnership, or SPP, which is aimed at easing trade in the high–security, post–9/11 world and making the continent more competitive globally.

The leaders are to hold a news conference this afternoon to announce initiatives such as a new border plan to avoid clogged crossings in the event of major emergencies such as a pandemic.

Calderon had planned on staying in Canada through tomorrow, but said he would go home tonight because of hurricane Dean.

En route to Ottawa yesterday, White House spokesperson Gordon Johndroe acknowledged in a press briefing on the president's aircraft that security and emergency preparedness will be part of the discussions.

However, "I don't expect any major announcements to come from the meeting," he said.

The protesters outside the resort's gate, Opposition party critics and various interests from both the left and right wing of the political spectrum have gathered to condemn the gathering and SPP partnership as everything from undemocratic to a move toward a North American union and a common currency called the Amero.

One of the most contentious issues is an exclusive advisory board of chief executives from some of each country's largest corporations, including Wal-Mart, Home Depot Canada and Lockheed Martin, that will meet with the three leaders this morning.

Supporters of the process, however, describe it as little more than an effort to minimize regulatory and bureaucratic differences between the countries to ease trade and compete better with burgeoning economies such as China.

Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters president Jayson Myers said the partnership is essential to ensuring that cross-border trade can continue to fuel the economy.

"The borders, both as security and making sure they work efficiently, have to be a mainstay of North American competitiveness," said Myers.

While the most vocal criticisms north of the border have come from the left-leaning parties, environmentalists and social groups such as the Council of Canadians, a conservative coalition from the U.S. visited Ottawa to warn against the SPP.

A Republican congressman, a U.S. veterans' group and singer Pat Boone all issued statements condemning the move toward more open U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico.

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Ontario Tourism Minister Jim Bradley hoped Harper will keep the pressure on Bush to rethink the U.S. plan requiring passports for Americans and Canadians crossing into the U.S. by land or sea within two years. Passports are already required for air travellers entering the U.S.

"We will be looking to the federal government to protect Canada -- and I can say Ontario -- but all Canada in terms of the industry of tourism, and of course trade as well," Bradley said.

ELITE CORPORATE LEADERS

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Triad down to business Harper sets Bush straight on Canada's future in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG: 0708210715

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 30

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Sean Kilpatrick From left, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush arrive for the official dinner last night at Chateau Montebello.

BYLINE: ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO

WORD COUNT: 616

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However, the unnamed official stressed that Canada's international commitment to the war–torn country stretches beyond 2009 in some form, such as technical or humanitarian aid, even if it requires parliamentary approval.

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- IMCO (Secretariat) KEYWORDS=CANADA

Slain soldier's comrades urge mission support

SOURCETAG 0708210627

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 20

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Cpl. Ken Fenner, Reuters The casket containing the body of Pte. Simon Longtin is carried by comrades at a ramp ceremony in Kandahar. 2. Longtin was killed Sunday when the vehicle he was travelling in was struck by a bomb.

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR

WORD COUNT: 127

The first death for Quebec's Van Doo regiment has saddened his fellow soldiers but they're asking Quebecers to learn more about the Canadian mission before passing judgment.

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield yesterday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed Sunday.

"Everybody's morale is low but at the same time, like we say, it's motivating us (to continue)," said Jean-Philippe Auclair of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

"For sure, we're never going to forget him and he will always be with us."

Longtin's body was taken aboard a C-120 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home and is expected to arrive at CFB Trenton today.

The 23-year-old Longtin died when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

His death is the first in Afghanistan for regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the mission.

Both Auclair and Scott Bernier, also of the Van Doos 3rd Battalion, said the soldiers believe in their mission.

"We're here for something ... there's no use taking it out on soldiers," Bernier said of Longtin's death.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Summit protest flares At least three protesters arrested as cops confront demonstration with tear gas

SOURCETAG: 0708210597

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos by Blair Gable, Sun Media 1. A riot police officer wields a tear gas gun as protesters advance during the first day of the North American leaders' summit in Montebello. 2. A protester burns an American flag hanging from a light standard. Protesters chanted, wearing Bush masks and handkerchiefs to protect their faces.

BYLINE: LAURA CZEKAJ, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.

WORD COUNT: 311

As riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray outside the Montebello summit, Stephen Harper shook hands with George W. Bush and dismissed the protest as a "sad" spectacle.

The prime minister welcomed Bush to the North American Leaders' Summit after the U.S. president landed by helicopter yesterday at the posh and heavily guarded resort.

"I've heard it's nothing," the prime minister said when asked whether he'd seen the protesters. "A couple hundred? It's sad."

Bush looked over his shoulder and smiled when asked the same question, but remained silent and walked with the prime minister into the building.

The men discussed border issues, trade and Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic, said Canadian officials.

Outside, protesters and police traded rocks and debris for tear gas and pepper spray in front of the gates leading to the resort.

At least three protesters were seen being arrested during a scuffle earlier in the day and more arrests appeared imminent as tensions between police and demonstrators flared.

Police had only confirmed one arrest as of late afternoon.

Several hundred protesters converged on this small Quebec community east of Ottawa, where the prime minister is hosting Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon for a meeting to discuss forging a stronger North American union.

A wide variety of issues brought protesters to Montebello, ranging from Canada's role in Afghanistan to free trade to the summit itself, which was closed to the public under high security.

Foster Griezic, a professor from the University of Victoria, was one of the many demonstrators to feel the effects of tear gas.

"There is something fundamentally wrong with how our system works," he said, eyes still stinging from the gas.

And an attempt to broadcast images of protesters ended on a grim note when the cameraman taping the event was assaulted, summit organizers said.

"He was roughed up pretty badly, but his injuries weren't bad enough to require a hospital visit," a spokesman said.

"As a result, the camera crew won't be coming back."

Although the leaders were shielded from yesterday's melee, Griezic said the message he and his fellow protesters were trying to get across would still resonate.

"The real problem is to get the public on side," he said.

"In all the instances when that happens you can have a really positive impact," said Griezic.

Wearing Bush masks and covering their faces with handkerchiefs for protection against tear gas, protesters danced and taunted police.

Two officers suffered minor injuries.

The confrontation settled into a face-to-face standoff between a hardcore group of protesters and police until demonstrators began to drift off in the late afternoon.

More protesters are expected today as the leaders wrap up their discussions. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Afghan mission requires political endorsement beyond '09: Harper

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BYLINE: Tonda Maccharles and Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
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As hundreds of protesters clashed with police outside summit fences here, Prime Minister Stephen Harper served notice to U.S. President George W. Bush that Canadian troops will be pulled out of Afghanistan in February 2009 unless he's able to get a political "endorsement" to extend their mission.

Harper delivered the message during a 90-minute meeting with the U.S. leader yesterday afternoon at Chateau Montebello resort.

But even if there is no parliamentary consensus, senior Canadian government officials made it clear that Canada's role in Afghanistan, which includes \$1.1 billion in development and humanitarian assistance until 2011, would continue.

"Seeking the endorsement of Parliament does not necessarily mean we're leaving," a senior Canadian official said after the two leaders met.

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A line of police in riot gear jostled with demonstrators who had marched on the front gate of the summit compound shouting taunts. Police clashed again with protesters later in the afternoon, firing off rounds of tear gas.

As he stood waiting the president's arrival, Harper was asked whether he had seen the protesters who were gathering near the summit site to protest the high-level meeting between the three leaders.

"I've heard it's nothing. A couple hundred? It's sad," Harper told reporters.

PM distancing himself from Bush

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COLUMN: James Travers
DATELINE: Ottawa
BYLINE: James Travers
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 574

For once, the elephant in the room is the elephant in the room. After twice winning presidential elections under the Republican pachyderm banner, George W. Bush is now such a pariah at home and abroad that just his presence changes this week's Montebello summit.

"Bush is viral," says a longtime insider who has seen two generations of Canadian and Mexican leaders interact privately with this Uncle of Sam. "Politically, no one can afford to get too close to him."

An infectious president creates two problems: One for the staggering process to advance shared North American interests, the other for a minority prime minister struggling for a majority.

Bush's unpopularity makes it virtually certain leaders will leave the nearby Montebello resort having accomplished little more than deepening conspiracy theories that the security and prosperity agenda is a cover for accelerated continental integration.

Sure, a final communique, both written and leaked before the meeting began, boasts new commitments to open borders, but progress on most of the 300-item, two-year-old to-do list is too small to measure.

Canadians can take special comfort that nearly \$2 billion a day in sustaining two-way trade with the United States may be insulated from another 9/11. And while evolving pandemic controls should reassure citizens of all three countries, there just isn't enough political will to fast-forward changes needed to ensure a reasonably safe North America is globally competitive.

Intriguingly seen by both the Canadian left and U.S. right as threats to sovereignty, reforms to better flex the muscles of three countries with a bigger combined economy than the European Union will have to wait at least until the crossbreed of elephant and lame-duck limps into history. At least that will provide time to rethink a widely misunderstood process that began by foolishly inflating expectations and is now routinely pricked by unnecessary secrecy and an unseemly skew to corporate elites.

Chairing a meeting that's an elaborate and costly photo opportunity is only one worry for Stephen Harper. Different as Canada is from the United States and Conservatives are in detail from Republicans, there are enough similarities for Harper to see himself in Bush.

Along with leading parties defined by low taxes, picket-fence values and politicized patriotism, the prime minister and president share constraints. Branded by unpopular wars and facing skeptical electorates increasingly fretting about social inequities, they can't rely on neo-conservative movements flagging after a long U.S. run and still looking for that burst of energy needed here to make Conservatives Canada's default party.

Political realities encourage behavioural modification. Harper no longer sounds — as he did on his first visit to Afghanistan — like Bush, the last Conservative budget could have been written by Liberals in pre-election mode and, in hopes of a parliamentary majority, the prime minister is staying safely away from the moral majority.

He's doing little more publicly with Bush than protocol imposes. One-on-one exposure was minimal yesterday, briefings made a point of the differences between the two leaders, and the prime minister is spending more, um, quality time with the Mexican president.

There are negative international consequences for a superpower diminished by a U.S. leader who in making the Middle East worse made a mess of his presidency. But in the here and now of the Montebello summit, fears are more immediate and personal.

No one with a political future wants to be caught cleaning up after the passing elephant.

James Travers writes on national affairs.

jtravers@thespec.com

PM distancing himself from Bush

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COLUMN: James Travers
DATELINE: Ottawa
BYLINE: James Travers
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 574

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DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.
BYLINE: Tonda Maccharles and Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
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WORD COUNT: 303

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"I've heard it's nothing. A couple hundred? It's sad," Harper told reporters.

Charest defends war after first Van Doo death

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DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
COLUMN: Canada Digest
KEYWORDS: PREMIERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC
DATeline: SHAWINIGAN, Que.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 133

SHAWINIGAN, Que. – The day after news was released that a member of the Quebec-based Van Doo regiment was killed in Afghanistan, Premier Jean Charest gave the war a spirited defence even though his province has consistently rated as the weakest supporter of the Afghan mission. Dismissing criticism of the war in Quebec, Charest said a decision was made for Canada to be in Afghanistan until 2009. "We, as citizens of Quebec, have a duty to support the men and women who are there and who are doing this work in our name and are making the biggest sacrifice that can be asked of a human being," Charest said. "We have to continue."

Slain Van Doo a rookie who 'believed in the cause'; Death reignites Quebec controversy over Afghan mission

IDNUMBER 200708210013

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Cpl Ken Fenner, DOD; Reuters / The casket containing the body of Canadian soldier Private Simon Longtin is carried by his comrades during a ramp ceremony in Kandahar on Monday. Longtin was killed on Sunday when the vehicle he was travelling in struck an Improvised Explosive Device west of Kandahar City. ;

KEYWORDS: COURT MARTIAL; CANADIANS; WAR

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 517

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend.

But about solemn things — being a soldier, the mission in Afghanistan, death — Pte. Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, say those who knew him well.

At sunset on Monday, members of Longtin's platoon carried his flag-draped coffin along the tarmac, past two columns of NATO troops, to a waiting Hercules airplane for transport back to Canada.

Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday when a roadside bomb ripped through an armoured vehicle as he drove a supply route about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

He was the first member of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doos, to die in Afghanistan. The regiment assumed command of Canada's military operations here this month.

On Monday, the shock of Longtin's death still rippled through the company.

"Everybody's morale is really low right now. But at the same time, it motivates us," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 19, who will escort Longtin's body back to the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ont. He choked back tears as he eulogized his friend.

A video posted on YouTube.com shows a cackling Longtin pouring Tabasco into the mouth of a sleeping friend, who runs to the kitchen sink to douse his burning tongue.

Despite his reputation as a practical joker, Longtin was a dedicated soldier who believed in the Afghanistan mission, colleagues say.

"He was a very good soldier. He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve," said Pte. Scott Bernier, 21, who spoke to Longtin the night before he died. "He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others."

Longtin, from Longueuil, Que., was also an affectionate man who was deeply in love with his girlfriend and told his mother he loved her every time they spoke on the phone.

He arrived about three weeks ago for his first overseas mission after two years' training with the Van Doos.

A rifleman in Charlie Company, an infantry unit in Canada's battle group, Longtin spent most of his time at Masum Ghar, a rugged forward operating base southwest of Kandahar City. Longtin's vehicle, an LAV III, was part of a resupply convoy that was returning to Masum Ghar from Kandahar airfield. The other soldiers in the vehicle escaped injury.

Longtin was evacuated to the airfield hospital for emergency treatment, but was pronounced dead on arrival. His comrades back at Masum Ghar were informed of his death around 5 a.m.

The Van Doos' deployment has been controversial in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province. The death has dominated news coverage in the province over the past two days.

Online forums included condolences for the slain soldier, but also opposition to the mission.

"One of our soldiers, a brave Quebecer, has given his life for ... I don't know what," said one reader on the website of Le Devoir, a daily newspaper based in Montreal.

Longtin's comrades bristled when asked about opposition to the war in their home province. "They should inform themselves better. We're not here for nothing," Auclair said.

Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in February 2009, although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said it could be extended through the will of Parliament.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. Canada has about 2,500 soldiers here as part of a NATO-led coalition trying to secure and rebuild the country.

THE AFGHAN MISSION The boyish charm of a fallen Voodoo

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL
IDN: 072330190
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PAGE: A1 (ILLUS)
BYLINE: CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD
SECTION: Column
EDITION: Metro
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
WORDS: 1211
WORD COUNT: 1126

CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN God but he seems to have been a funny, warm young man.

In one of the pictures the Canadian military gave reporters here yesterday, Private Simon Longtin, clearly on exercise and wearing the dark green camouflage soldiers wear when training at home, has his fingers in his ears as a friend uses his shoulder to steady the aim of his rifle; Pte. Longtin appears full of mischief, and indeed that is just how his buddies here remember him.

In a video from YouTube, he is the guy you see only at the tail end of a 120-second clip called Sleeping Man Owned; almost the whole of the video is of another young man (by the tattoo across his back, and the sweet, utterly hairless chest, another young soldier) snoozing on a couch, his mouth agape.

In the rest, only Pte. Longtin's hand and a bit of his arm are shown, because of course he's the guy pouring Tabasco into his sleeping friend's mouth and it's Pte. Longtin's voice giggling madly as the friend first licks his lips in his sleep, makes a face, and then wakes up with his mouth on fire. Pte. Longtin's face shows up only in the last shot; he's still giggling.

Those were boyish pranks, the typical innocent stuff of young males in groups, but Pte. Longtin (Longwong to his buddies, two of them, Private Jean-Philippe Auclair, 21, and Private Scott Bernier, 19, admitted yesterday, grinning as they said it) was no boy.

He had a girl, and was in love, Pte. Auclair said. He was close to his family. He was a serious, professional soldier with deadly responsibilities – he drove an eight-wheeled light armoured vehicle, or LAV-3, over some of the most lethal and treacherous ground in the world, carried a weapon and knew how to use it, and shared with his fellows the life-and-death burden of looking after one another.

They are all so young, and so old.

The day before Pte. Longtin was killed by an improvised explosive device that blew up under the driver's compartment of his LAV-3, I was at the forward operating base at Masum Ghar, about 30 klicks west of Kandahar, where he was stationed with most of the rest of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

There is a lot of waiting-around time in soldiering – for tasks; for orders; for tasks and orders to change as

they so often do – and I was talking for a while to Captain Blair McNaught, a 27-year-old from Port Hope, Ont. with recce platoon. (The Vandoos, as the Royal 22nd are also called, may be a proud francophone regiment, but they have a sizable number of anglophones from across the country. Capt.

McNaught is one of several young men I spoke to who, while schooled in French in other provinces, only embraced with enthusiasm their second language, shall we say, when they found themselves with delight in the embrace of a French girlfriend.) Somehow, we got talking about the enormous discussions and decisions soldiers have to have and make.

Capt. McNaught said that before he deployed to Kandahar, he prepared a big package – updated will and documents; his banking and investment information; spare keys, and letters to his family. The latter, he said, were so difficult to write, but sometimes, he said, when you talk to your folks and "you're kind of, 'whatever.' " He was haunted by the thought that if the worst happened, his parents might be left with such a conversation as their last one with him.

I told him of a soldier I knew, just 21 when he was killed in action here last summer, who left such letters for his mom and dad, telling them how he loved them so, and how comforted they were.

The relief on Capt. McNaught's face was plain.

Or consider the next few days facing Pte. Auclair.

He is the escort officer for his great friend, Pte. Longtin; the two knew one another as civilians, shared an apartment at one point, and trained together for the past two years.

The job description of escort officer probably would go like this: "Accompany the body of fallen soldier home," but the task is far more profound and complex than that.

Pte. Auclair will sit with his dead friend in the Hercules aircraft taking him on the long trip home, first to Trenton, and then Toronto, where all soldier autopsies are performed, and then either to Valcartier, where the 3rd Battalion is based, or the Montreal area where Pte.

Longtin's family lives; he will greet the weeping parents (and they will want to know how Pte. Longtin was, was he happy, when did he last speak to him?) and Pte. Longtin's girl; he will make sure his friend is dressed properly, that the casket is lifted and moved with proper honour; at various places, he will walk into rows of cameras and dignitaries he may not even recognize; always, he will have to find the right words for those whose world has collapsed.

And Pte. Auclair will do all this, of course, seriously and gracefully, because Pte. Longtin would have done it for him, and because it's right, and because he loved his brother in arms.

Ptes. Auclair and Bernier met a few reporters at the Kandahar base yesterday, to talk about their friend.

They were composed, though Pte. Auclair wept several times. They said two important things, one that they loved Pte. Longtin and will never forget him, the other that they believe even more deeply in the Afghanistan mission, and will get on with the job.

Not two hours later, the ramp service was held on the tarmac.

As usual, it was brief, moving and formal. Those carrying Pte. Longtin's casket held it together pretty well until they got closer to the worst sight in their world – the gaping maw of the waiting Herc, its belly empty but for a huge Canadian flag draped across it. A few faces crumpled; some of the young men cried.

It was retired Lieutenant-Colonel Romeo Dallaire in his book *Shake Hands with the Devil* who, quoting a grizzled old army padre he asked for advice when deciding if he should enlist, wrote: "Aaah, soldiers.

"You know, soldiers are very unusual people.

"On the outside, they are the hardest, most demanding, severe people, but underneath that they are the most human, the most feeling, the most emotionally attached people who exist." cblatchford@globeandmail.com
***** Family statement A statement last night from Private Simon Longtin's family echoed the comments of his fellow Vandoos in recent days, painting a picture of a young soldier who embraced military life and his mission in Afghanistan.

"It is never easy for parents to lose one of their children," the statement said. "We are devastated by the death of our Simon, who left us in dignity while proudly serving his country with tremendous honour, amongst his brothers in arms in Afghanistan." The family, requesting privacy as they grieve, remembered Pte.

Longtin as a soldier committed to the cause and always looking out for his friends. CP

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; war deaths; canadians; bombs; statements; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Simon Longtin

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

AFGHANISTAN Talks stall on Koreans abducted by Taliban

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL
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BYLINE: SARDAR AHMAD
SECTION: International News
SOURCE: AFP
EDITION: Metro
DATELINE: KABUL, AFGHANISTAN
WORDS: 531
WORD COUNT: 495

SARDAR AHMAD Agence France–Presse KABUL, AFGHANISTAN Afghan police rescued a female German aid worker in a dramatic pre–dawn swoop yesterday, but efforts to free 19 South Koreans and another German are deadlocked amid growing Taliban impatience, officials said.

The Interior Ministry, which handles police matters, said a criminal gang motivated by money was behind the weekend kidnapping of the woman, Christina Meier, in the Afghan capital Kabul.

"The motive behind the kidnapping was mainly ransom. They had demanded a big sum – about a million dollars," ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary told reporters. "Initial investigations indicate that this group is a criminal gang and their main aim on this issue was to get money." Ms. Meier was freed after police surrounded the house in southwest Kabul where she was being held, officials said.

Police Colonel Ghulam Rasoul, who took part in the operation, said that six kidnappers were arrested, but Mr. Bashary said only four – including the gang leader – were in custody and being questioned.

"We located the house where she was kept. We surrounded the house and called on the kidnappers to surrender to police. They came out one by one and surrendered and then we freed the hostage. She's fine," Mr. Rasoul said.

The German Foreign Ministry confirmed that Ms. Meier – who was seized at gunpoint in broad daylight on Saturday at a Kabul restaurant – had been rescued and taken to the German embassy in the capital.

Her kidnapping, the latest in a string of such incidents involving foreigners, had stoked fears of a drawn–out hostage crisis when one of her apparent captors, his face covered, used a video released on Sunday to demand the release of jailed Afghans in exchange for her freedom.

The hard–line Islamic militia has been insisting on a prisoner release in exchange for the Korean Christian aid workers it has been holding since July 19. Face–to–face talks over hostages failed Saturday.

Taliban militants holding the South Koreans signalled growing impatience late yesterday with the drawn–out negotiations, as sources close to the talks said they had turned down a cash ransom.

The kidnappers accused Korean hostage negotiators of not doing enough to persuade the Afghan government to accept their demands.

"The Korean nation must understand that if their hostages are harmed, their government will be responsible, because it doesn't do much to gain their release," a purported Taliban statement said.

"Their efforts are not sufficient," according to the statement, read over the telephone by a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahed.

He said the South Korean hostage negotiators had pleaded for more time during a telephone conversation with the Taliban yesterday.

An Afghan source involved in mediation between the two sides said earlier the South Koreans sent a group of tribal chiefs yesterday to plead their case with the Taliban.

The U.S.-backed government of President Hamid Karzai has refused to bow to the Taliban's demands.

The militants killed two men in the 23-member group shortly after they were seized in insurgency-plagued south Afghanistan on July 19. They then released two female hostages, leaving 19 in captivity.

The extremists are also still holding a German man, Rudolph Blechschmidt, 62, kidnapped on July 18.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; terrorism; kidnapping; hostages; south koreans; rescues

PERSONAL NAME: Christina Meier

POLITICS: HARPER, BUSH AND CALDERON Border among key issues at summit's opening Mexican President will leave earlier than planned as threat of hurricane Dean looms

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072330188

DATE: 2007.08.21

PAGE: A4 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: ALAN FREEMAN AND BILL CURRY

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, QUEBEC

WORDS: 846

WORD COUNT: 810

ALAN FREEMAN AND BILL CURRY MONTEBELLO, QUEBEC Border issues, Arctic sovereignty and Canada's mission in Afghanistan topped the agenda yesterday as Prime Minister Stephen Harper met U.S. President George W. Bush at the start of a North American summit that has been shortened to allow Mexican President Felipe Calderon to return to his hurricane-threatened nation.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Harper met for 90 minutes at the historic Chateau Montebello resort on the banks of the Ottawa River before a dinner with Mr. Calderon. At the meeting, Mr. Harper raised Canadian concerns about U.S. passport rules, its about-face on border pre-clearance proposals and Canada's territorial claims over the Northwest Passage.

"It is really important that we keep talking about those things we don't necessarily agree on," a senior Canadian official said.

The White House said the meeting allowed Mr. Bush to gain a better understanding of Canadian positions on a number of key bilateral and multilateral issues.

Dan Fisk, senior director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, told reporters that Mr. Harper explained to Mr. Bush "the dynamic" of how Afghanistan is considered within Canada, noting Parliament would have to vote on an extension of the combat mission beyond February, 2009.

Mr. Bush repeated the U.S. commitment to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which imposes the passport requirement, but said the two leaders "were also sensitive to the need to facilitate the exchange and the movement between legitimate travellers and commerce." Mr. Fisk also said that Mr. Bush came "away with a far better understanding of Canada's position" on Arctic sovereignty, but he repeated the U.S. policy that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway. The White House had doused any expectations of significant accomplishments even before the meeting started. White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told the press corps aboard Air Force One that he didn't expect any major announcements.

In separate discussions with Mr. Calderon, Mr. Bush discussed plans for U.S. support for a Mexican plan to fight the drug trade and criminality. Talks are believed to be under way for a massive program similar to Plan Colombia, which involves U.S. aid to the Colombian government to fight cocaine trafficking.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Calderon announced he would be leaving Canada early this afternoon to oversee Mexico's response to what is expected to be the devastating impact of hurricane Dean on its Yucatan Peninsula. Mr. Harper's office later announced that the summit, called to discuss the Security and Prosperity Partnership, will end about 90 minutes early.

Mr. Calderon had planned to stay in Ottawa until tomorrow for a series of bilateral talks with Mr. Harper. Instead, bilateral talks were held last night, after which Canada and Mexico announced plans to set up a working group to discuss labour mobility and a second on forestry and the environment.

As the three leaders met behind a massive police security cordon, several hundred anarchists, activists and the Raging Grannies group made their objections known, in spite of efforts to keep them well away.

Quebec police in full riot gear used tear gas to disperse the protesters, who had gathered just outside the entrance of the hotel and launched rocks, boards, apples and other projectiles at police.

CTV reported that rubber bullets were also fired at protesters.

Police had urged protesters to restrict their demonstration to a field about one kilometre west of the resort, but that plan was shelved. "We're going to reject the field. We're not sheep. We're not cows," shouted veteran protester Bill Clennett, who is best known for having his face grabbed by former prime minister Jean Chretien during another protest.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Calderon and five of his ministers attended a luncheon at Ottawa's Rideau Club with about 30 senior Canadian executives and 15 Mexican businessmen, most of whom represent Mexico on the North American Competitiveness Council, a high-profile business group formed last year to advise the Partnership.

The laid-back nature of the meeting was evident from the arrival of the leaders at the sprawling cedar-log hotel. All three left their neckties behind and were wearing matching light-blue open-neck shirts. Instead of limousines, Mr. Harper and Mr. Calderon used golf carts on the hotel grounds, while Mr. Bush dived into a crowd of hotel workers who greeted him on his arrival.

After completing his bilateral meetings with his two NAFTA (North American free-trade agreement) allies, Mr. Bush took a spin on his mountain bike around the huge property, accompanied by Canadian Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day.

The protesters objected to what they said was the secrecy of the meetings and the fact that the decisions do not require the approval of their elected legislatures.

"The police presence here is appalling and I find it obscene," said Maude Barlow, head of the Council of Canadians.

When asked earlier in the day about the protesters, Mr. Harper said there were only a few hundred outside.

"It's sad," he said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States; Mexico

SUBJECT TERM: summit conference; foreign relations; foreign policy

POLITICS: HARPER, BUSH AND CALDERON Border among key issues at summit's opening Mexican Pres

PERSONAL NAME: George W. Bush; Stephen Harper; Felipe Calderon

POLITICS: HARPER, BUSH AND CALDERON Border among key issues at summit's opening Mex-Can Pres

JUSTICE To release Khadr from Guantanamo

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072330146

DATE: 2007.08.21

PAGE: A14

BYLINE:

SECTION: Editorial

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 489

WORD COUNT: 472

Canada has been largely silent on the fate of Omar Khadr, this country's only citizen at Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. prison for suspected terrorists.

By its silence, Canada gave tacit consent to the United States to have its way with Mr. Khadr, who was 15 when incarcerated five years ago. Canada must now speak up for him and make clear that the U.S.

no longer has Canada's consent to detain him.

No purpose is served by holding him any longer. A military tribunal threw out the charges against him in June; an appeal is scheduled, but the United States has said that even if he is found not guilty it could continue to hold him. Any intelligence value he represents has been exhausted. After years of rough interrogations, he has paid a great deal for any crimes he may have committed, including the alleged murder of U.S. marine Christopher Speer by throwing a grenade.

A prisoner of war and an accused criminal would have had the right to refuse to be interrogated. But Mr. Khadr was legally a non-person, a crushing state for anyone to survive intact, let alone a teenager in a tiny underground cell. His Canadian lawyer, Dennis Edney of Edmonton, described the detention facilities as "bereft of any semblance of humanity. They are designed to stifle and suffocate the human spirit." Holding an accused juvenile in these conditions for this length of time is cruel and wrong. Canada should say so.

It is not just the government that has been mute. Until recently, most of civil society was silent. The Canadian Bar Association, representing the country's lawyers and judges, took four years before denouncing Guantanamo, and another year before it mentioned Mr.

Khadr by name. At its national conference in Calgary this month, it called publicly on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to press for Mr. Khadr to be returned to Canada and tried under Canadian law.

Good that it turned its attention, belatedly, to Mr. Khadr, but Canadian law probably has no place here. What should apply is the universal principle that juveniles bear diminished responsibility for their actions. This particular juvenile grew up in an al-Qaeda family that put him in harm's way.

Most other Western countries have asked to repatriate their nationals at Guantanamo. Britain has succeeded in freeing several citizens.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard intervened in the case of David Hicks, who received a nine-month sentence to be served in Australia. These inmates, unlike Mr. Khadr, were not juveniles.

Canada has nothing to be ashamed of in asking for Mr. Khadr to be sent home. It has earned its war-on-terror stripes in fighting terrorists in Afghanistan. A country that fights terrorists abroad while also sticking up for the humanity of an accused juvenile terrorist would make the very statement of bold democratic purpose Mr. Harper claims to want for Canada.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Guantanamo Bay; United States

SUBJECT TERM: justice; prisoners of war; terrorism; suspects; human rights; foreign relations

PERSONAL NAME: Omar Khadr

ARMY RESERVISTS Giving their jobs away

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072330145

DATE: 2007.08.21

PAGE: A14

BYLINE:

SECTION: Editorial

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 404

WORD COUNT: 401

There are few greater sacrifices Canadians can make for their country than to put their lives on the line serving with our armed forces overseas. But some of the men and women willing to do so are being let down by others for whom a much smaller sacrifice is evidently too much to ask.

Earlier this month, it was reported that Major Wallace Noseworthy, a military reservist from Newfoundland, had been compelled to quit his job at a car dealership because his employer refused to grant him leave to serve in Afghanistan. When Major Noseworthy returned home from a six-month tour of duty, he did so unemployed.

At first glance, it seemed an isolated case of a particularly insensitive workplace. Not so. The Canadian Forces Liaison Council, a group of Canadian business people that lobbies for the voluntary granting of leaves of absence to reservists, reports that it deals with about 40 disputes between these part-time soldiers and their employers each year. Many more disputes, it suggests, go unreported because the reservists don't want to make waves.

This is largely a new problem. Rarely have reserve units been called upon for overseas duties. But while reservists cannot be forced overseas, the military is strongly encouraging them to serve in Afghanistan because full-time soldiers are spread so thinly. As a result, several hundred are now participating in the mission. And thousands more must take leave from work to participate in vigorous training exercises.

The selfishness of the minority of employers who attempt to prevent them from doing so is staggering. No doubt it is inconvenient to lose a worker for an extended period. But anyone with a modicum of patriotism should take pride in doing his or her small part to serve the country, even if it just means ensuring that a soldier has a stable home life to return to.

Three provinces – Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan – have passed laws requiring workplaces to keep jobs open for reservists on leave. The other seven should do likewise; alternatively, the federal government could enact a single law to protect part-time soldiers across the country.

That is not something that governments should have to do, of course.

It is in the interests of all Canadians to have a strong military, and absurd that some would weaken it to serve their own interests.

But for some, it seems, sacrifice is a foreign concept.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: defence; unemployment; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Wallace Noseworthy

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Army Reserves

Joker a solid soldier, comrades remember

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.08.21

PAGE: A7

SECTION: World Wire

WORD COUNT: 299

CNS Andrew Mayeda KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend.

But when it came time to talk of solemn things — of being a soldier, of the mission in Afghanistan, of death — Pte. Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, say those who knew him well.

As an orange sun dropped behind blue, dust-shrouded mountains, members of Longtin's platoon carried his flag-draped coffin along the tarmac past two columns of NATO troops standing silently in salute.

A lone piper played Amazing Grace as the young soldiers, their faces glistening with grief, laid the coffin in the belly of a waiting Hercules airplane for transport back to Canada.

Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday when a roadside bomb ripped through the armoured vehicle he was driving along a supply route about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

He is the first member of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doos, to die while serving in Afghanistan.

The regiment assumed command of Canada's military operations here this month.

"Everybody's morale is really low right now. But at the same time, it motivates us," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 19, who will escort Longtin's body back to the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ont. He choked back tears as he eulogized his friend.

Despite his reputation as a practical joker, Longtin was a dedicated soldier who believed in the Afghanistan mission, his colleagues said.

"He was a very good soldier. He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve," said Pte. Scott Bernier, 21, who spoke to Longtin the night before he died. "He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others." He was on his first overseas mission after training for about two years with the Van Doos. He arrived in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

— CanWest News Service

Protests, hurricane cloud summit Arctic sovereignty, Afghanistan, border security top trio's agenda

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.08.21

PAGE: A6

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 536

CNS Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson MONTEBELLO, Que.

— Arctic sovereignty, border security and the war in Afghanistan topped the agenda as the three North American leaders began their summit meeting Monday against the backdrop of stubborn protests and concerns about the threat of hurricane Dean sweeping toward Mexico.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the heavily fortified Chateau Montebello, an aging luxury resort on the banks of the Ottawa River.

The serene scene was out of sight of angry clashes between protesters and police, and Harper blew off reports of their activities.

"I've heard it's nothing," he commented to reporters over his shoulder as he waited to greet the U.S. president. "A couple of hundred? It's sad." Meanwhile, outside the gates of the luxury compound, numerous noisy scrums and shoving matches erupted between bandana-clad demonstrators, linked arm in arm, and Quebec provincial police squads armed with batons, shields and gas masks. There were also reports of pepper spray being used to subdue some unruly protesters.

Video of the outside events was played on two monitors inside the lobby of the chateau, but a Canadian official said the prime minister had barely had time to glance at it.

In their private meeting, Harper and Bush discussed Canada's efforts to assert its sovereignty over the Northwest Passage. Harper specifically mentioned comments on the weekend by Paul Cellucci, a Bush-appointed former U.S. ambassador to Canada, that the Northwest Passage should be considered part of Canada. The U.S. insists it is international waters, but a Canadian official said after the meeting that the U.S. president "took note" of Cellucci's comments on the issue.

On Afghanistan, Canadians officials said Harper restated his position that the Canadian military mission in the war-ravaged country would not be extended without parliamentary consensus.

The two leaders also talked at length about security concerns at the border. They are expected to announce an agreement today that is aimed at finding ways to keep people and goods flowing across the border in the event of a crisis.

Hanging over the two-day summit were mounting worries about the toll hurricane Dean, which devastated southern Jamaica overnight Sunday, might take as it headed toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and possibly on to the U.S. mainland.

Calderon, who will return to Mexico as soon as the summit ends early this afternoon, squeezed in a bilateral meeting with Harper, which was scheduled for Wednesday, before their dinner with Bush.

The Canadian government has offered up to \$2 million in immediate relief to countries hit by the hurricane.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told reporters aboard Air Force One the president was being kept abreast of developments with hurricane Dean, getting repeated updates on its potential effect on Mexico and Texas.

The summit has been a source of angry protests for weeks, primarily because of the three leaders' plan, conceived in 2005, to try to more closely integrate the security and commerce of the continent.

The process is known as the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

Opponents in all three countries have denounced what they say are secret negotiations over everything from energy trade to border security that they see as an assault on their respective countries' sovereignty.

The three leaders had their first trilateral meeting of the summit at a working dinner Monday evening inside an opulent mansion on the Montebello property that normally operates as a heritage museum.

— CanWest News Service

Comrades remember Van Doos soldier; Fallen Canadian soldier known as a practical joker

IDNUMBER 200708210099
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: C8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / The casket containing the body of Pte. Simon Longtin is carried by his comrades during a ramp ceremony in Kandahar on Monday ;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
NOTE: Obituary of Pte. Simon Longtin.
WORD COUNT: 688

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend.

But when it came time to talk of solemn things — of being a soldier, of the mission in Afghanistan, of death — Pte. Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, say those who knew him well.

As an orange sun dropped behind blue, dust-shrouded mountains, members of Longtin's platoon carried his flag-draped coffin along the tarmac past two columns of NATO troops standing silently in salute.

A lone piper played Amazing Grace as the young soldiers, their faces glistening with grief, laid the coffin in the belly of a waiting Hercules airplane for transport back to Canada.

Longtin, 23, was killed early Sunday when a roadside bomb ripped through the armoured vehicle he was driving along a supply route about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

He is the first member of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doos, to die while serving in Afghanistan. The regiment assumed command of Canada's military operations here this month.

On Monday, the shock of Longtin's death was still rippling through the company.

"Everybody's morale is really low right now. But at the same time, it motivates us," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 19, who will escort Longtin's body back to the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ont.

He choked back tears as he eulogized his friend.

A video posted on YouTube shows a cackling Longtin pouring Tabasco into the mouth of a sleeping friend, who runs to the kitchen sink to douse his burning tongue.

Despite his reputation as a practical joker, Longtin was a dedicated soldier who believed in the Afghanistan mission, according to his colleagues.

"He was a very good soldier. He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve," said Pte. Scott Bernier, 21, who spoke to Longtin the night before he died.

"He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others."

Longtin, who hailed from Longueuil, Que., was also an affectionate young man, who was deeply in love with his girlfriend and told his mother he loved her everytime they spoke on the phone.

He was on his first overseas mission after having trained for about two years with the Van Doos. He had arrived in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

A rifleman in Charlie Company, an infantry unit in Canada's battle group, Longtin had spent most of his time at the rugged forward operating base of Masum Ghar, southwest of Kandahar City. Longtin's vehicle, a LAV III, was part of a resupply convoy that was returning to Masum Ghar from Kandahar Airfield. None of the other soldiers in the vehicle were injured.

Longtin was evacuated to the airfield hospital for emergency treatment, but was pronounced dead on arrival. His comrades back at Masum Ghar were informed of his death around five o'clock in the morning.

The deployment of an entire regiment of Quebec-based troops to Afghanistan has been controversial in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province. The death of the first Van Doo has dominated network news coverage and newspaper headlines in Quebec over the past two days.

On online forums, some Quebecers expressed their condolences for the deceased soldier. Others voiced their opposition to the mission.

"One of our soldiers, a brave Quebecer, has given his life for . . . I don't know what," said one reader on the website of Le Devoir, a daily newspaper based in Montreal.

Longtin's comrades bristled when asked about the lack of support for the war in their home province.

"They should inform themselves better. We're not here for nothing," said Auclair.

Derrick Farnham, a lieutenant with Quebec's Black Watch regiment who is stationed in Kandahar, agreed. If there's a message soldiers in Afghanistan would like to convey, Farnham said in an e-mail, "it's that we want to be here and we want to finish the job we have come to do."

"There does seem to be one overriding/underlying thought besides the obvious sadness that we all have," said Farnham, of Montreal, "and that is a worry, concern, perhaps even anger, at the possibility that some Quebecers will not want us to stay until 2009 or beyond."

Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in February 2009, although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that it could be extended through the will of Parliament.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. Canada has about 2,500 soldiers posted here as part of a NATO-led coalition that is trying to secure and rebuild the country.

Charest defends war after first Van Doo death

IDNUMBER 200708210058
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: National
PAGE: B7
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Charest;
DATELINE: SHAWINIGAN, Que.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 486

SHAWINIGAN, Que. — The day after news was released that a member of the Quebec-based Van Doo regiment, was killed in action in Afghanistan, the mission and Quebecers view of the war came into very sharp focus on Monday.

Premier Jean Charest gave the war a spirited defence even though his province has consistently rated as the weakest supporter of the Afghan mission. Dismissing criticism of the war in Quebec, Charest said a decision was made for Canada to be in Afghanistan until 2009.

"We, as citizens of Quebec, have a duty to support the men and women who are there and who are doing this work in our name and are making the biggest sacrifice that can be asked of a human being," Charest said.

"We have to continue. We must not politicize (our) presence in Afghanistan. We must, on the contrary, especially at this time, remind all the soldiers that Quebecers are behind them in the mission they are conducting in our name in Afghanistan."

Pte. Simon Longtin of Longueuil, became the first member of a Quebec-based regiment, the Van Doo, to be killed in action — other Quebecers have died in Afghanistan but while serving with regiments from outside the province.

Charest said all of Quebec mourns the loss of Longtin and honours him.

"This young soldier was only 23. It gives us an idea of the sacrifices of the Canadian soldiers in the name of their country, in the name of democracy."

But Paul Martin, a professor of political science at University of Montreal, says the death is unlikely to change entrenched opinions on the war.

"This won't have an impact on the distribution of opinion," Martin said. "Quebecer's opinions sway like the rest of Canadians', it's just more staunchly against the war."

"This is a historic pattern when it comes to the use of force, ever since the conscription crises, except in cases of peace missions," Martin added.

Stephen Sideman, Canada Research Chair in International Security and Ethnic Conflict at McGill University said "there seems to be more pacifism here (Quebec) than in the rest of Canada."

"So when Canadians are out there shooting people, Quebecers ask, 'Why can't we be in Darfur; why can't we do traditional peace-keeping?' "

Remit Laundry, a retired lieutenant-colonel who has 34 years of service with the Van Doos, said there is a schism in Quebec over the war. "I have met Van Doo families. I have a nephew over there," he said. "What I'm surprised to see is the dichotomy between what the families' opinions are, and what the general public's opinion is. I can only think that it's because the families have been in contact with more information."

Pte. Longtin's body will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario Wednesday for repatriation ceremonies.

It is expected to be transferred to Quebec for funeral services, but military officials had few details Monday.

"In these cases we follow the wishes of the family and try to support the family as best we can," said Lt. Ginette Champagne, a spokesperson with the Royal 22 Regiment, as it is officially known.

The family has asked that their privacy be respected. Longtin was living in the Quebec City region with his girlfriend. His parents were still in Longueuil, just south of Montreal.

(Montreal Gazette)

'He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others'; Pte. Simon Longtin liked to joke, but his fellow Van Doos remember his dedication most, writes Andrew Mayeda in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

IDNUMBER 200708210021

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Early

SECTION: News

PAGE: A5

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Cpl. Ken Fenner, Reuters / The body of Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed by a roadside bomb Sunday, is put on a plane in Kandahar for transport to Canada after a ceremony yesterday. Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. ; Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Pte. Simon Longtin, right, was a very good soldier, colleagues say. 'He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve,' said Pte. Scott Bernier. ;

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 520

He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend. But when it came time to talk of solemn things — of being a soldier, of the mission in Afghanistan, of death — Pte. Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, say those who knew him well.

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"They should inform themselves better. We're not here for nothing," said Pte. Auclair.

More Online: Citizen reporter Andrew Mayeda is in Afghanistan covering the war for the CanWest newspaper chain.

To read his blog, go to ottawacitizen.com

The Big 3: Sovereignty, security and war; Leaders get busy as Hurricane Dean threatens Mexico, U.S.; Harper shrugs off protests

IDNUMBER 200708210004

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Early

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his North American counterparts, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, left, and U.S. President George W. Bush, met yesterday at the serene Château Montebello, a stark contrast to the protester-police clashes taking place out of sight. ;

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.

BYLINE: Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson, with files from Jack Aubry

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 626

MONTEBELLO, Que. – Arctic sovereignty, border security and the war in Afghanistan topped the agenda as the three North American leaders began their summit meeting yesterday against the backdrop of stubborn protests and concerns about the threat of Hurricane Dean sweeping toward Mexico.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the heavily fortified Château Montebello, an aging luxury resort on the banks of the Ottawa River. The serene scene was out of sight of angry clashes between protesters and police.

"I've heard it's nothing," he commented to reporters over his shoulder as he waited to greet the U.S. president. "A couple of hundred? It's sad."

Meanwhile, outside the gates of the luxury compound, numerous noisy scrums and shoving matches erupted between bandanna-clad demonstrators, linked arm-in-arm, and Sûreté du Québec squads armed with batons, shields and gas masks. Police also used pepper spray to subdue some unruly protesters.

Video of the outside events was played on two monitors inside the lobby of the resort, but a Canadian official said the prime minister had barely had time to glance at it.

In their private meeting, Mr. Harper and Mr. Bush discussed Canada's efforts to assert its sovereignty over the Northwest Passage.

Mr. Harper specifically mentioned comments made on the weekend by Paul Cellucci, a Bush-appointed former ambassador to Canada, that the Northwest Passage should be considered part of Canada. The U.S. insists it is international waters, but a Canadian official said after the meeting that the U.S. president "took note" of Mr. Cellucci's comments on the issue.

On Afghanistan, Canadian officials said Mr. Harper restated his position that the Canadian military mission there would not be extended without parliamentary consensus.

The two leaders also talked at length about security concerns at the border. Today, they are expected to announce an agreement aimed at finding ways to keep people and goods flowing across the border in the event of a crisis.

Hanging over the two-day summit were mounting worries about the toll Hurricane Dean, which already devastated Jamaica overnight Sunday, might take as it headed toward Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, and possibly on to the U.S. mainland.

Mr. Calderon, who will return to Mexico as soon as the summit ends early this afternoon, squeezed in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Harper — originally scheduled for Wednesday — before their dinner with Mr. Bush.

The Canadian government has offered up to \$2 million in immediate relief to countries hit by the hurricane.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told reporters on Air Force One that the president was being kept abreast of developments with Dean, getting repeated updates on its potential impact on Mexico and Texas.

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Opponents in all three countries have denounced what they call secret negotiations over everything from energy trade to border security that they say is an assault on their respective countries' sovereignty.

The three leaders had their first trilateral meeting of the summit at a working dinner last night inside an opulent mansion on the Montebello property that normally operates as a heritage museum.

They will meet today with the North American Competitiveness Council, a group of 30 CEOs and corporate chairmen, 10 from each country. The independent body created under the SPP is to advise leaders on how to strengthen North American integration. Council members will release a report to the three leaders, showing what progress has been made so far on the SPP, and what still needs to be done.

Critics say the council is proof that the three governments are only consulting big business, and ignoring everyone else, in their pursuit of closer economic and security ties.

On The Summit

Tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and protesters, A3

Deirdre McMurdy: Chances of real progress are slim, A3

Editorial: Anti-SPP sentiment is like a free-trade time warp, A10

For more coverage on the Montebello meeting, go to ottawacitizen.com

The Big 3: Sovereignty, security and war; Leaders get busy as Hurricane Dean threatens Mexico, U.S.; Harper shrugs off protests

IDNUMBER 200708210001

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.08.21

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his North American counterparts, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, left, and U.S. President George W. Bush, met yesterday at the serene Château Montebello, a stark contrast to the protester-police clashes taking place out of sight. ;

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BYLINE: Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson, with files from Jack Aubry

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 643

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On Afghanistan, Canadian officials said Mr. Harper restated his position that the Canadian military mission there would not be extended without parliamentary consensus.

The two leaders also talked at length about security concerns at the border. Today, they are expected to announce an agreement aimed at finding ways to keep people and goods flowing across the border in the event of a crisis.

The Big 3: Sovereignty, security and war; Leaders get busy as Hurricane Dean threatens Mexico, U.S.; Harper shrugs off protests

Hanging over the two-day summit were mounting worries about the toll Hurricane Dean, which devastated Jamaica overnight Sunday, might take as it headed toward Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, and possibly the U.S. mainland. Mr. Calderon, who will return to Mexico as soon as the summit ends early this afternoon, squeezed in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Harper — originally scheduled for Wednesday — before their working dinner with Mr. Bush last night.

The Canadian government has offered up to \$2 million in immediate relief to countries hit by the hurricane.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told reporters on Air Force One that the president was being kept abreast of developments with Dean, getting repeated updates on its potential impact on Mexico and Texas.

Mr. Bush was met at the Ottawa airport by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean.

The president's arrival caused some delays for travellers, as the airspace around the airport was restricted for more than an hour due to security measures, although the airport itself remained open. Krista Kealey, vice-president of communications for the Ottawa Airport Authority, said normal operations quickly resumed once the restrictions were lifted.

The summit has been a source of angry protests for weeks, primarily because of the Security and Prosperity Partnership. Conceived in 2005, it's the three leaders' plan to try to more closely integrate the security and commerce of the continent.

Opponents in all three countries have denounced what they call secret negotiations over everything from energy trade to border security that they say is an assault on their respective countries' sovereignty.

The three leaders will meet today with the North American Competitiveness Council, a group of 30 CEOs and corporate chairmen, 10 from each country. The independent body created under the SPP is to advise leaders on how to strengthen North American integration. Council members will report to the leaders on what progress has been made so far on the SPP, and what still needs to be done.

Critics say the council is proof that the three governments are only consulting big business, and ignoring everyone else, in their pursuit of closer economic and security ties.

On the Summit

Tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and protesters, A3

Deirdre McMurdy: Chances of real progress are slim, A3

Editorial: Anti-SPP sentiment is like a free-trade time warp, A10

For more coverage on the Montebello meeting, go to ottawacitizen.com

Jester in the Van Doos pack

IDNUMBER 200708210014

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Lighter Side of Soldiering: (Pte. Simon Longtin goofing around with fingers in ears) and saluting. ; Colour Photo: CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Lighter Side of Soldiering: Pte. Simon Longtin goofing around with fingers in ears and (saluting). ; Colour Photo: DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE / To the tune of Amazing Grace, Pte. Simon Longtin's coffin is carried on the tarmac at Kandahar on the first stage of his journey home. ;

BYLINE: ANDREW MAYEDA

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 628

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – He was the joker of the platoon, the one who kept things light during training, who poured Tabasco sauce in the mouth of his sleeping friend.

But when it came time to talk of solemn things – of being a soldier, of the mission in Afghanistan, of death – Pte.

Simon Longtin showed an unyielding conviction, those who knew him well say.

As an orange sun dropped behind blue, dust-shrouded mountains, members of Longtin's platoon carried his flag-draped coffin along the tarmac past two columns of NATO troops standing silently in salute.

A lone piper played Amazing Grace as the young soldiers, their faces glistening with grief, laid the coffin in the belly of a waiting Hercules airplane for transport back to Canada.

Longtin, 23, was killed early on Sunday when a roadside bomb ripped through the armoured vehicle he was driving along a supply route about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

He is the first member of Quebec's Royal 22e Régiment, known in English Canada as the Van Doos, to die while serving in Afghanistan. The last Van Doo to be killed in action was Cpl. Daniel Gunther, on June 18, 1993, in Bosnia.

Yesterday, the shock of Longtin's death was still rippling through the company.

"Everybody's morale is really low right now. But at the same time, it motivates us," said Pte. Jean-Philippe Auclair, 19, who will escort Longtin's body back to the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ont. He choked back tears as he eulogized his friend.

A video posted on YouTube shows a cackling Longtin pouring Tabasco into the mouth of a sleeping friend, who runs to the kitchen sink to douse his burning tongue.

Despite his reputation as a practical joker, Longtin was a dedicated soldier who believed in the Afghanistan mission, according to his colleagues.

"He was a very good soldier. He was proud of what he was doing and was always ready to serve," said Pte. Scott Bernier, 21, who spoke to Longtin the night before he died.

"He believed in the cause, the cause of helping others."

Longtin, who hailed from Longueuil, was also an affectionate young man, who was deeply in love with his girlfriend and told his mother he loved her every time they spoke on the phone.

He was on his first overseas mission after having trained for about two years with the Van Doos. He arrived in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

A rifleman in Charlie Company, an infantry unit in Canada's battle group, Longtin had spent most of his time at the rugged forward operating base of Masum Ghar, southwest of Kandahar City. Longtin's vehicle, a LAV III, was part of a resupply convoy that was returning to Masum Ghar from Kandahar Airfield. None of the other soldiers in the vehicle was injured.

The deployment of an entire regiment of Quebec-based troops to Afghanistan has been controversial in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province. The death of the first Van Doo has dominated network news coverage and newspaper headlines in Quebec over the past two days.

On online forums, some Quebecers expressed their condolences for the dead soldier. Others voiced their opposition to the mission.

"One of our soldiers, a brave Quebecer, has given his life for ... I don't know what," said one reader on the website of Montreal's *Le Devoir* newspaper.

Longtin's comrades bristled when asked about the lack of support for the war in their home province.

"They should inform themselves better. We're not here for nothing," Auclair said.

Montrealer Derrick Farnham, a lieutenant with Quebec's Black Watch regiment who is stationed in Kandahar, agreed. If there's

a message soldiers in Afghan-

istan would like to convey,

Farnham said in an email, "it's that we want to be here and we want to finish the job we have come to do."

"There does seem to be one overriding/underlying thought besides the obvious sadness that we all have, and that is a worry, concern, perhaps even anger, at the possibility that some Quebecers will not want us to stay until 2009 or beyond."

Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in February 2009, although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that it could be extended through the will of Parliament.

Sixty-seven Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have now died in Afghanistan since 2002. Canada has about 2,500 soldiers posted here as part of a NATO-led coalition that is trying to secure and rebuild the country.

'Simon left us in dignity,' family says

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KEYWORDS: COURT MARTIAL; CANADIANS; WAR
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 225

The grief-stricken family of Quebec infantryman Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed Sunday in Afghanistan, issued a message yesterday that was unwavering in its support of Canada's mission.

"We are devastated by the death of our Simon, who left us in dignity while proudly serving his country with tremendous honour, amongst his brothers in arms in Afghanistan," the message said.

"He left for his mission at peace with himself and his family."

Longtin's family thanked Canadians for their support, and also asked that their privacy be respected during this period of mourning.

Longtin's body will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario tomorrow for repatriation ceremonies.

It is expected to be transferred to Quebec for funeral services, but military officials had few details yesterday.

"In these cases we follow the wishes of the family and try to support the family as best we can," said Lt. Ginette Champagne, a spokesperson with the Royal 22e Régiment, as it is officially known.

Longtin's family said funeral details would be made known when confirmed.

Longtin was living in the Quebec City region with his girlfriend. His parents are still in Longueuil. He also has a brother.

At the regiment's headquarters in Quebec City, there is a communal sense of loss over the death of someone from a regiment that refers to itself as a very large, extended family.

"The military population is very sad today," Champagne said. "We knew it was something that would happen, but we didn't think it would be so soon."

Longtin had only been in Afghanistan for 20 days.

He was described as a dedicated soldier who believed strongly in his mission.

"He volunteered to come to Afghanistan," Champagne noted. "He wanted to be there."

"He was only with us for two years, but he made an impression. I know that he was very appreciated here."

rené bruemmer of the gazette contributed to this report

We need more information on the mission: experts

IDNUMBER 200708210009
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
KEYWORDS: PREMIERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC
BYLINE: DOMINIQUE BLAIN
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 302

When it comes to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Quebecers, as well as the rest of the country, need to know more, said Stephen Saideman, Canada Research Chair in International Security and Ethnic Conflict at McGill University, and other experts.

And so the death on Sunday of 23-year-old Pte. Simon Longtin, of Longueuil, the first member of the Quebec-based Royal 22e Régiment to die in Afghanistan, won't help marshal support for the mission.

"This death is not clearly connected to victory," Saideman said. "The Canadian government has to show that it's not a wasted death. (Afghanistan) is a place where Canada is making a real, good difference, and the government is not communicating that."

The portrait of a serious, intense young man stared out of the front pages of every paper in the province yesterday, but probably won't transfer the young soldier's passion for his mission to the papers' readers.

"I have met Van Doo families. I have a nephew over there," said Rémi Landry, a retired lieutenant-colonel who has 34 years of service with the Van Doos.

"What I'm surprised to see is the dichotomy between what the families' opinions are, and what the general public's opinion is.

"I can only think that it's because the families have been in contact with more information."

"This won't have an impact on the distribution of opinion," Paul Martin, a professor of political science at Université de Montréal, said. "Quebecers' opinions sway like the rest of Canadians', it's just more staunchly against the war.

"This is a historic pattern when it comes to the use of force, ever since the conscription crises, except in cases of peace missions," Martin said.

"There seems to be more pacifism here than in the rest of Canada," Saideman said. "So when Canadians are out there shooting people, Quebecers ask, 'Why can't we be in Darfur; why can't we do traditional peace-keeping?'"

"But that would involve guns, too."

Martin added that Premier Jean Charest's support for the war in Afghanistan also won't change anything.

"Supporting the troops is like apple pie. No one's going to want bad things for them.

"But will the young man's death affect priorities in Quebec? I think not."

dblain@thegazette.canwest.com

Our duty is to support the troops: Charest; Every Quebecer should back our soldiers in their sacrifice, premier says

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PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE / All of Quebec honours Simon Longtin, Jean Charest says. ;
KEYWORDS: PREMIERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC
DATELINE: SHAWINIGAN
BYLINE: PHILIP AUTHIER
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 243

It's the duty of every Quebecer to support the Canadian men and women fighting in Afghanistan, Premier Jean Charest said yesterday.

One day after news that Pte.

Simon Longtin of Longueuil, a member of the Quebec-based Van Doos regiment, was killed in action on Sunday, Charest said that all of Quebec mourns his loss and honours him today.

Charest said he personally relayed on the condolences of the Quebec people to the soldier's family, saying all of Quebec "bows" before such a sacrifice in the name of peace, freedom and the security of the civilian population.

"The death of Simon Longtin greatly saddened us," Charest said at a news conference here. "This young soldier was only 23. It gives us an idea of the sacrifices of the Canadian soldiers in the name of their country, in the name of democracy."

Charest's strong defence of the mission comes as opinion polls continue to suggest a strong majority of Quebecers are opposed to the presence of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.

Dismissing criticism in Quebec of the war, Charest said a decision was made for Canada to be in Afghanistan until 2009.

"We, as citizens of Quebec, have a duty to support the men and women who are there and who are doing this work in our name and are making the biggest sacrifice that can be asked of a human being," he said.

"We have to continue. We must not politicize (our) presence in Afghanistan. We must, on the contrary, especially at this time, remind all the soldiers that Quebecers are behind them in the mission they are conducting in our name in Afghanistan."

Let's do the right thing for reservists

IDNUMBER 200708210040
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: The Editorial Page
PAGE: A12
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Calgary Herald Archive / Shawna Taylor's husband, Cpl. Jeffrey Taylor, was deployed to Afghanistan in February. ;
KEYWORDS: ARMED FORCES; CANADA
BYLINE: Jocelyn Burgener
SOURCE: For The Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 522

The story of Cpl. Jeffrey Taylor, member of the Reserve Forces and employee with the City of Calgary, returning from his tour of duty in Afghanistan should not go without comment.

As the MLA for Calgary Currie (1993–2001), I served as the premier's representative overseeing the closure of CFB Calgary. In that capacity, I became familiar with the recruitment and training of our reserve forces.

Though the Canadian Forces Liaison Council, (CFLC) which serves to support members of the reserve force through connections with the business community, I had the opportunity to participate in their Executec program.

Spending a day at CFB Wainwright, together with more than 30 business leaders from across the province, we participated in the training programs experienced by our reservists.

As part of the exercises, I rappelled unsuccessfully off a 10–metre–plus tower. Once on the ground, a young soldier asked me the following questions.

"You OK ma'am?" Despite scrapes and bruises, I answered yes.

"You going again, ma'am?"

"I don't think so."

"Yes, you can, ma'am."

I don't know at what point I realized his level of commitment, but I knew I had to respond affirmatively. I strapped on my helmet and climbed back up. I did successfully rappel off the tower and discovered a whole new meaning for the term ass–backward, but I digress.

I will never forget the determination in that soldier's voice, encouraging me to try again. As the day progressed, I gained an appreciation for the commitment of our reservists, demonstrated through the leadership skills they exhibited, the discipline they practised and training they experienced.

Following my tour, and with the support of community leaders, we approached the government for an appropriate recognition of the role of reservists. The relocation of CFB Calgary to Edmonton provided an

opportune time for that recognition which culminated in a day of appreciation supported by the province in June 1999.

Today, further work continues to identify the barriers reservists experience in the absence of specific legislation, as they make the commitment to training and future deployment. These barriers include exempting training time from paid holiday time and maintaining seniority and benefits while on active duty.

Prior to 9/11, providing reservists with this support was a nice-to-have initiative. Today, it is imperative. Fortunately, many companies, recognizing the benefits to their organizations, voluntarily address these specific issues. It is time to do more and approach this nationally, as has been demonstrated by the situation with the City of Calgary.

Canadians appreciate the role of our armed forces, whether historically in armed combat, as peacekeepers or in times of national emergency, as in the ice storm in Quebec and the flooding in Manitoba, or as members of UN-sanctioned, multi-national forces in today's conflicts.

It is time for a concerted effort to inform business and industry of the commitment and dedication made not only by their employees serving as reservists, but by their families as well.

Reservists demonstrate citizenship at the highest level through voluntary service to their country and they should be supported by every measure possible.

More information on the role of the reserve forces is available at www.forces.ca

Specific information on the Canadian Forces Liaison Council, chaired in Alberta by human resources specialist Gary Agnew and regional directors for the Calgary area, Ralph Scurfield and Dianne Colley-Urquhart, can be found at www.cflc.forces.gc.ca

Jocelyn Burgener, former MLA for Calgary Currie, is a business consultant.

Charest defends mission in wake of death

IDNUMBER 200708210015
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.08.21
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SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Courtesy, Department of Defence, Reuters / The body of Pte. Simon Longtin begins the trip home in a ramp ceremony in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Monday. ;
KEYWORDS: PREMIERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; QUEBEC
DATELINE: SHAWINIGAN, Que.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 282

The day after news was released that a member of the Quebec-based Van Doo regiment was killed in action in Afghanistan, the mission and Quebecers' view of the war came into very sharp focus on Monday.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest gave the war a spirited defence even though his province has consistently rated as the weakest for support of the Afghan mission.

Dismissing Quebec criticism of the war, Charest said a decision was made for Canada to be in Afghanistan until 2009.

"We, as citizens of Quebec, have a duty to support the men and women who are there and who are doing this work in our name and are making the biggest sacrifice that can be asked of a human being," Charest said.

"We have to continue. We must not politicize (our) presence in Afghanistan. We must, on the contrary, especially at this time, remind all the soldiers that Quebecers are behind them in the mission they are conducting in our name in Afghanistan."

Pte. Simon Longtin of Longueuil, became the first member of a Quebec-based regiment, the Van Doo, to be killed in action. Other Quebecers have died in Afghanistan but while serving with regiments from outside the province.

Paul Martin, a professor of political science at University of Montreal, says the death is unlikely to change entrenched opinions on the war.

"This won't have an impact on the distribution of opinion," Martin said. "Quebecers' opinions sway like the rest of Canadians', it's just more staunchly against the war."

Stephen Sideman, Canada Research Chair in International Security and Ethnic Conflict at McGill University said "there seems to be more pacifism here (Quebec) than in the rest of Canada.

"So when Canadians are out there shooting people, Quebecers ask, 'Why can't we be in Darfur; why can't we do traditional peacekeeping?' "

Longtin's body will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario Wednesday for repatriation ceremonies.

Protesters rally against integration; Police fight back as North American leaders meet

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PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Christinne Musch, Reuters / Police and a protester come face to face outside the Chateau Montebello hotel in Montebello, Que., on Monday. Prime Minister Stephen Harper is meeting U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon for a two-day summit to discuss deepening the integration of North America. ; Photo: Christinne Musch, Reuters / Police take cover in a cemetery near Chateau Montebello and fire tear gas. ; Photo: Christinne Musch, Reuters / Protesters and police clash outside the heavily fortified resort. ;

KEYWORDS: DEMONSTRATIONS; ECONOMIC SUMMITS; FREE TRADE; G-8; VANDALISM; CRIME

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.

BYLINE: Andrew Thomson

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 583

Riot police used tear gas, pepper spray and plastic bullets outside the Chateau Montebello on Monday as they went face-to-face with protesters rallying against North American integration.

Both sides were trying to hold their ground at the heavily fortified resort for the two-day summit involving Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Mexican President Felipe Calderon and U.S. President George W. Bush. The three leaders are meeting as part of the Security and Prosperity Partnership — an initiative aimed at deepening the integration of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Arctic sovereignty, border security and the war in Afghanistan topped the agenda as the three North American leaders began their summit meeting Monday. Talks were also supposed to include regulations over food-colour dyes, common standards for hazardous materials containers and navigation systems for North American airways.

The afternoon-long demonstration ended at 6 p.m. local time in clouds of greenish-white smoke as hundreds of Surete du Quebec, RCMP and OPP officers, armed with batons, shields and gas masks, faced a belligerent faction of the more than 1,000 protesters on site. Many protesters took direct hits to their eyes, staggering back for medical attention.

Several more tear gas canisters exploded as the crowd began retreating toward the village. In response, protesters in gas masks, goggles and balaclavas hurled rocks, tomatoes and bottles filled with stones at the police, who blocked a highway and an adjacent cemetery.

Two large bonfires burned in the middle of the street as the protest's last vestiges withdrew into Montebello.

Five police officers suffered minor injuries. Two men and two women were arrested, said RCMP Cpl. Elaine Lavergne, adding police considered the day an overall success without serious injuries.

Riot squads had earlier prevented Council of Canadians chairwoman Maude Barlow from delivering a 10,000–signature petition to the gate. Council officials claimed this violated a prior arrangement with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"We are not going to be stopped," Barlow said. "We are going to get our petition through."

Montebello's main roads were closed by police soon after most of the protesters arrived at noon Monday.

Faced with police resistance, the Council of Canadians and others pulled back from the front line about 300 metres for fear of escalation. Most front–line protesters opted for an impromptu sit–in. Others began dousing their bandannas with vinegar in anticipation of tear gas attacks and forcefully pushing against the wall of police shields.

Protesters expected tear gas once the riot squads appeared on the street, said Matthew Morgan, 22, an Ottawa student protesting Bush's presence. A U.S flag was burned atop a lamppost.

Hundreds of police officers are keeping a watchful eye on the protesters, who condemn the Security and Prosperity Partnership meetings as secretive and anti–democratic.

Protesters worry that measures to strengthen economic ties between the North American countries will erode national sovereignty.

Critics of the partnership say the three governments are consulting only business leaders and ignoring everyone else — scientists, labour leaders, human rights experts, police associations, environmentalists, even legislators.

Behind the security fence that was erected around the posh resort for the meeting, RCMP officers were stationed about every 20 metres and hundreds more lined the road into the resort, along with officers from the Quebec police force. Police were also patrolling the adjacent Ottawa River.

On Sunday, a large warm–up demonstration was held in Ottawa where protesters marched peacefully through the streets, passing by the American and Mexican embassies before rallying on Parliament Hill under the watchful eyes of a large police contingent.

Residents and business owners in Montebello are hoping for the same tone over the next two days but have braced for the worst.

Some businesses are closing until Wednesday and have boarded up their storefronts to try to prevent vandalism.

The village's two banks and municipal offices are closed during the summit, though the post office remained open.

Three amigos kick-start summit; Harper shrugs off 'sad' protest

IDNUMBER 200708210002
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.08.21
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / Prime MinisterStephen Harper is flanked by U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon during the North American leaders summit on Monday in Quebec. ;
KEYWORDS: PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT;CANADA
DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.
BYLINE: Norma Greenaway, Richard Foot and Andrew Thomson, withfiles from Jack Aubry, CanWest News Service
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 875

Arctic sovereignty, border security and the war in Afghanistan topped the agenda as the three North American leaders began their summit meeting Monday against the backdrop of stubborn protests and concerns about the threat of Hurricane Dean sweeping toward Mexico.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at the heavily fortified Chateau Montebello, an aging luxury resort on the banks of the Ottawa River.

The serene scene was out of sight of angry clashes between protesters and police, and Harper blew off reports of their activities.

"I've heard it's nothing," he commented to reporters over his shoulder as he waited to greet the U.S. president. "A couple of hundred? It's sad."

The prime minister then ushered Bush inside for a private meeting as Secret Service personnel pulled parts of a presidential bicycle from a golf cart and carried them into the lodge. Bush and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, also on hand for the summit, later took a spin around the grounds on their bikes.

Meanwhile, outside the gates of the luxury compound, riot police used tear gas, pepper spray and plastic bullets to quell protesters rallying against North American integration.

Hundreds of Surete du Quebec, RCMP and OPP officers, armed with batons, shields and gas masks faced a belligerent faction of the more than 1,000 protesters on site.

Video of the outside events was played on two monitors inside the lobby of the chateau, but a Canadian official said the prime minister had barely had time to glance at it.

In their private meeting, Harper and Bush discussed Canada's efforts to assert its sovereignty over the Northwest Passage.

Harper specifically mentioned comments on the weekend by Paul Cellucci, a Bush-appointed former U.S. ambassador to Canada, that the Northwest Passage should be considered part of Canada. The U.S. insists it is international waters, but a Canadian official said after the meeting that the U.S. president "took note" of Cellucci's comments on the issue.

On Afghanistan, Canadian officials said Harper restated his position that the Canadian military mission in the war-ravaged country would not be extended without parliamentary consensus.

The two leaders also talked at length about security concerns at the border. They are expected to announce an agreement today that is aimed at finding ways to keep people and goods flowing across the border in the event of a crisis.

Hanging over the two-day summit were mounting worries about the toll hurricane Dean, which already devastated Jamaica overnight Sunday, might take as it headed toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and possibly on to the U.S. mainland.

In a sign Calderon may leave earlier than expected, he and Harper rushed to hold their bilateral meeting before their dinner with Bush. The Canadian and Mexican leaders had been scheduled to continue their talks on Wednesday.

The Canadian government has offered up to \$2 million in immediate relief to countries hit by the hurricane.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told reporters aboard Air Force One the president was being kept abreast of developments with hurricane Dean, getting repeated updates on its potential effect on Mexico and Texas.

The summit has been a source of angry protests for weeks, primarily because of the three leaders' plan, conceived in 2005, to try to more closely integrate the security and commerce of the continent. The process is known as the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

Opponents in all three countries have denounced what they say are secret negotiations over everything from energy trade to border security that they say is an assault on their respective countries' sovereignty.

The three leaders had their first trilateral meeting of the summit at a working dinner Monday evening inside an opulent mansion on the Montebello property that normally operates as a heritage museum.

The Canadian-themed menu included appetizers of smoked duck and seared scallops, followed by rack of Nunavut caribou with cranberries, plus pralines, English cream and red berry coulis for dessert.

Protesters were supposed to be kept far from the leaders' private talks at two staging areas about two kilometres away. But many, armed with banners and painted signs, gathered on the main road through Montebello that passes the hotel complex. They were met there by a wall of riot-equipped police officers. Montebello's main roads were closed by police soon after most of the protesters — estimated at about 1,000 people — arrived at noon Monday.

Faced with police resistance, most front-line protesters opted for an impromptu sit-in.

Dozens of journalists from the three countries were packed into the resort's curling rink, and given only minimal access to the leaders.

The three leaders will meet today with the North American Competitiveness Council, a collection of 30 CEOs and corporate chairmen, 10 from each country. The independent body was created under the Security and

Prosperity Partnership to advise leaders on how best to strengthen North American integration.

The Canadian members of the council, each appointed by Ottawa last summer, are Dominic D'Alessandro, of Manulife Financial; Paul Desmarais Jr., of Power Corporation; David Ganong, of Ganong Bros.; Rick George, of Suncor Energy; Hunter Harrison, of Canadian National; Linda Hasenfratz, of Linamar Corp.; Michael Sabia, of Bell Canada; Jim Shepherd, of Canfor Corp.; Annette Verschuren, of The Home Depot, and Richard Waugh, of Scotiabank.

Council members from the three countries will release a report to the three leaders, showing what progress has been made so far on the partnership, and what still needs to be done.

Critics say the council is proof that the three governments are only consulting big business, and ignoring everyone else, in their pursuit of closer economic and security ties.

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