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# The British retreat from Iraq

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"The British have given up and they know they will be leaving Iraq soon," said Moqtada al-Sadr, head of the Mehdi army, the country's most powerful militia group, in an interview with the Independent. "They have realized this is not a war they should be fighting or one they can win."

Every word he said is true, and most senior officers in the British army know it. As General Sir Richard Dannatt, head of the British army, said last year, Britain "should get out (of Iraq) some time soon."

There are 5,500 British troops in Iraq, by far the largest foreign army after the Americans, but they control almost nothing except the ground they are standing on. Five hundred of them are under permanent siege in Basra Palace, in the middle of Iraq's second-biggest city, and the rest are at the airport outside of town, under constant attack by rocket and mortar fire. They have almost no influence over the three rival Shia militias and the associated criminals who actually run the city and fight over the large sums of money to be made from stolen oil.

Forty-one British soldiers have died in Iraq already this year, compared to 29 in the whole of last year. The deaths are wasted and it's high time to go home, but Prime Minister Gordon Brown is reluctant to anger the White House by pulling all the British troops out before the Americans are ready to leave. That, however, is unlikely to happen before President George Bush leaves office in January 2009, as British generals are well aware.

The Democrats in Congress have clearly decided that they prefer to see the Republicans go into the election late next year with the albatross of Iraq still tied firmly around their necks, rather than mount a Congressional revolt, cut off funds for the war, and take the blame for the defeat.

President Bush says his policy is to "wait to see what David (Petraeus) has to say" when the commanding general in Iraq reports on what progress the "surge" is making in mid-September. But Mr. Bush didn't fire the previous U.S. commanders in Iraq and give Petraeus the job without knowing in advance what he would say.

Petraeus will see light at the end of the tunnel, as he always does. The Democratic majorities in Congress will criticize his report but not rebel against it, and U.S. troops will probably stay in Iraq at roughly the present numbers until President Bush leaves office 17 months from now. Several thousand American soldiers will have to die to serve these agendas, but so will about 100 British.

British generals are deeply unhappy at this prospect, but as students of the indirect approach in strategy they have chosen to argue not so much that the war in Iraq is lost (though it is), but that the war in Afghanistan is still winnable. So the reason we must get British troops out of Iraq now is not just to avoid more useless deaths, but to win by reinforcing our commitment in Afghanistan, which is the vital theatre in the "war on terror."

General Dannatt was at it again last week, telling the BBC during a visit to Afghanistan that "the army is certainly stretched. And when I say that we can't deploy any more battle groups (in Afghanistan) at the present moment, that's because we're trying to get a reasonable balance of life for our people." The too-frequent cycle of combat deployments is certainly harming Britain's forces, with divorces and suicides soaring and retention rates plummeting, but Dannatt's unspoken subtext was: you can fix this by pulling us out of Iraq.

There are already more British troops in Afghanistan (7,000) than in Iraq, so the argument makes a kind of sense: concentrate your resources where they will make a difference. Except that Afghanistan, in the end, is also unwinnable, at least in the ambitious terms still used in the West.

The war in Afghanistan is unwinnable, too, in the long run, and President Hamid Karzai's best chance of survival is for the Western troops to leave soon. Then he would at least be free to make the deals with warlords, drug-dealers and renegade Taliban, in the traditional Afghan style, that would secure his authority and prolong his life. But if false hope about Afghanistan provides the pretext for pulling British troops out of Iraq, why not?

When Gordon Brown faces parliament again in October, his biggest Iraq problem will not be pressure from the public. It will be pressure from the army.

n Gwynne Dyer is an independent London-based journalist.

# Canadian military tests hi-tech weapons simulator; \$100M training aid mimics bomb blasts, gunfire, chemical attacks

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A weapons simulator that mimics roadside bomb blasts, gunfire and nuclear and chemical attacks is being field tested at this isolated eastern Alberta military base to prepare Canadian Forces reservists for the real thing in Afghanistan.

The Weapons Effects Simulation system — colloquially called "Wes" by the troops — is a \$100-million training aid that military officials say is the "closest thing to live bullets" currently being used.

"Canada, right now, in all the western countries of the world, has the most advanced, state of the art WES system," said Col. Craig King, head of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which is co-ordinating the reserve training exercise in Wainwright, Alta.

"The WES system allows us to portray that in the most realistic possible manner, short of using live munitions," he added.

Each soldier, weapon and vehicle in the 640-square kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright is outfitted with tiny computers that transmit information back to senior commanders. The soldiers' helmets are equipped with a small global positioning device that allows the planners of the exercise, dubbed Maple Defender, to track their every move.

Soldiers wear green camouflaged vests dotted with small black detectors that register when and where they've been shot. The computer determines the severity of each injury — ranging from light wounds to death — based on where, and with what weapon, the soldier was hit.

Small transmitters on each weapon, which are actually loaded with blank rounds, let the planners know what happens to every shot fired. Vehicles are likewise fitted with computers that register the amount of damage they incur when they come under fire or hit a roadside bomb.

# Armed Forces ready with plan, resources to help returning troops settle back home

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Now that most Gagetown troops have returned home from Afghanistan, the after-mission assessment as to how the last six months may have effected their lives begins.

Can we realistically expect the men and women of our armed forces, after surviving half a year in an atmosphere riddled with violence and death, not to show affects?

Of course not.

The real challenge, at this point, will be to be to ensure that the services soldiers need to make the transition back to life in a civilized Canada are, indeed, available.

That's a big job when you consider of the 1,150 members with the Second Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group serving in Afghanistan, about 650 of them based at CFB Gagetown.

That's a lot of looking after.

The good news is that the military is aware problems could pop up.

For the last few years, mental health specialists with the Canadian Forces have deployed with the troops to Afghanistan to catch problems early. Even before troops return to Canada, they are screened for problems. There's also a decompression and reintegration program given to personnel by the military before returning to this country to help soldiers fit back into society.

Robin Geneau, a Fredericton-based licenced psychologist, says it is normal for returning soldiers to experience some difficulties. She believes that some will not adapt and will go on to develop mental-health problems such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, and others including Operational Stress Injuries.

Such individuals, said Geneau, would require psychotherapy from experienced, qualified mental health professionals.

"The long-term prognosis for each individual is unique," Geneau said. "Some will continue to engage in tours and others will ultimately be released from the Forces. Proper treatment will give each individual soldier his best chance at recovery."

The former commander of CFB Gagetown, Ryan Jestin, believes the first few days and weeks are periods of great adjustment for returning soldiers.

"Your adrenaline has been driving you 24-hours a day for almost seven months. It is a bit of a shock to come back to routine life and a seven-to-five type of job, five days a week. I think the guys will find it a challenge to come back down to a normal feeling of being back in the regular scheme of things."

Soldiers are used to "heightened anticipation," Jestin said, because everyday something happened over there.

"It's like you are always on edge and then all of a sudden you come back."

Jestin said it was a good decision to have soldiers spend a few days in Cyprus to decompress before returning to Canada.

Joyce Belliveau, a clinical and consulting psychologist also based in Fredericton, believes one of the main issues for returning soldiers will be reintegration into family and day-to-day life and returning to work. That's why it's so important to have an immediate screening process so more serious mental-health issues can be identified and appropriate referrals be made.

She said proposed 90-day follow-up evaluations should help identify issues at that stage and hopes the new system will encourage members to come forward with any issues.

As for whether problems are long-term, Belliveau said that will be decided on a case by case issue.

"There are many factors that define whether or not therapy will be short- or long-term and what types of therapy would be most effective."

In the meantime, we should keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

If the required resources are not available for these people, then shame on us.

Michael Staples covers the military for The Daily Gleaner. He can be reached at [staples.michael@dailygleaner.com](mailto:staples.michael@dailygleaner.com)



# Rain can't dampen troops' spirit; In a week of simulated attacks, soldiers prove their mettle in the face of real force

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**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**SECTION:** Front

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**BYLINE:** Brock harrison

**PHOTO:** Brock Harrison/The Whig–Standard Brock Harrison/TheWhig–Standard

**ILLUSTRATION:** CFB Wainwright trains Canadian Forces reservists in an atmosphere meant to mimic the theatre of war in Afghanistan.; In Exercise Maple Defender, Canadian Forces reservists encounter mock attacks by "Taliban insurgents," roles played by Canadian soldiers.

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

In Exercise Maple Defender, the rifles shoot harmless lasers, Taliban insurgents are actually Canadian soldiers in disguise and troops who are killed in action are only out of commission for six hours. In other words, everything in this exercise had been fake. At least up until Monday morning.

On Sunday evening, we planted down a few hundred metres from a bridge leading into a mock Afghanistan village overnight. The next day, the platoon would blitz the village. The rain started shortly after midnight, sparing no supposedly waterproof tents or protective gear the soldiers were wearing. Sleep became impossible. By morning, we were all drenched to the bone.

That made our first order of the day particularly loathsome; a two-kilometre hike back up to the hilltop we vacated the night before to guard the bridge. We marched in single file while the harsh winds made the rain droplets feel like tiny chunks of ice as they whipped into our exposed flesh. Water rushed through my Gortex socks and filled my boots.

Laid waste by the uphill hike, the warm and open hilltop plain we knew the day before provided absolutely no shelter from the winds, which sliced through every tactical vest, camouflage suit and waterproof jacket in sight. Still, some managed to keep upbeat.

"You look like you could use some of this," Cpl. Sean Warshawski of Kingston said to me, wearing a broad smile that defied the conditions. He tossed me a water bottle filled with brown fluid. My shrivelled and cold-cramped hands somehow managed to catch it. It was warm. "Fresh coffee. Drink up."

The plan was to regroup at the hilltop with other platoons and launch a heavy and co-ordinated attack on the Afghan village, which was believed to have as many as 70 Taliban in it. Sleep-deprived and now freezing troops scavenged through IMPs (individual meal packs) for anything that would give them an energy boost and keep their calories up. They were as willing to fight the weather as they were the enemy.

But unlike the "Taliban" that awaited them across the valley, this weather was the most real opponent these troops had seen since deploying into the 640-sq.-km. training area. And unlike the "casualties" they had suffered in the days before, this day, soldiers were going down for real.

Rain can't dampen troops' spirit; In a week of simulated attacks, soldiers prove their mettle in the face of real

I watched soldiers loaded onto stretchers, their hands limp and trembling and their eyes drifting back into their heads as reflective blankets were laid on them. I was ordered by a frantic platoon commander to start tearing open meal packs in search of chocolate bars to give to his men, who were quickly succumbing to the hellish conditions Monday morning thrust on us.

"I have more patients than I do medics, sir," screamed a military medic after hoisting a soldier into the back of a truck.

Needing to find a computer to meet my deadline and also beginning to feel the weather's wrath, Cpl. Travis Michaud, the commander of the platoon I was embedded with, flagged down one of the convoy vehicles sent to the area to drop off supplies and pick up the sick so I could hitch a ride back to the base. Inside an MP's G-Wagon, I found out that seven men had come down with hypothermia. Central command contemplated cancelling the exercise all together.

I dumped my rain-filled boots out, took off my undersized helmet and tossed my waterlogged bags onto the empty seat beside me. My notepad was all but ruined. My hands were numb and my fingers wouldn't move. But I peered through the fogged-up window and saw dozens of soldiers who simply wouldn't leave the battlefield if they were cold, tired or miserable. They shipped the seven back to base for medical help and proceeded with the mission as planned. They were as determined as any group or team I've ever been a part of. And during a week of make-believe attacks and enemies, these troops proved their mettle in the face of real force.

bharrison@thewhig.com

Rain can't dampen troops' spirit; In a week of simulated attacks, soldiers prove their mettle in the face of real

# Weapons simulator being tested in Alberta 'closest thing to live bullets'

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CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta. – A weapons simulator that mimics roadside bomb blasts, gunfire and nuclear and chemical attacks is being field tested at this isolated eastern Alberta military base to prepare Canadian Forces reservists for the real thing in Afghanistan.

The Weapons Effects Simulation system – colloquially called "Wes" by the troops – is a \$100–million training aid that military officials say is the "closest thing to live bullets" currently being used.

"Canada, right now, in all the western countries of the world, has the most advanced, state of the art WES system," said Col. Craig King, head of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which is co–ordinating the reserve training exercise in Wainwright, Alta.

"The WES system allows us to portray that in the most realistic possible manner, short of using live munitions." Each soldier, weapon and vehicle in the 640–square kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright is outfitted with tiny computers that transmit information back to senior commanders. The soldiers' helmets are equipped with a small global positioning device that allows the planners of the exercise, dubbed Maple Defender, to track their every move.

Soldiers wear green camouflaged vests dotted with small black detectors that register when and where they've been shot. The computer determines the severity of each injury – ranging from light wounds to death – based on where, and with what weapon, the soldier was hit.

Small transmitters on each weapon, which are actually loaded with blank rounds, let the planners know what happens to every shot fired. Vehicles are likewise fitted with computers that register the amount of damage they incur when they come under fire or hit a roadside bomb.

Throughout the 13–day Wainwright exercise, soldiers have been struck by a number of improvised explosive devices, known commonly as roadside bombs. It's not unusual to see dusty prairie roads outside the makeshift Kandahar Air Field bleached with white talcum powder, which is the training simulation stand–in for the blast crater left behind after a roadside bomb explodes.

Soldiers here face between eight and 12 roadside bomb threats each day, said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the exercise. No roadside bombs were built into last year's reserve training exercise in Petawawa, Ont., he added, later acknowledging the explosives pose the "biggest threat" to soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.

# Canada's reconstruction base target of attacks

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Taliban insurgents attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team twice last week and both attacks were followed by exchanges of gunfire, the Canadian military said Tuesday.

Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain said no Canadians were injured in the two attacks, which happened on Aug. 13 and 18.

It's the first time that Camp Nathan Smith, the base for much of Canada's reconstruction and humanitarian work in Kandahar, has been attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

# Body of fallen Canadian soldier to arrive at CFB Trenton on Wednesday

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**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 155

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TRENTON, Ont. (CP) \_ The body of Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday, will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on Wednesday.

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 Royal 22nd Regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

A statement Monday night from Longtin's family echoed the comments of his fellow Van Doos 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.”

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on Monday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Longtin.

Longtin's body was taken aboard a C-130 Hercules transport plane for the long flight home.

# bc-CCN-ON-GOV-OBT

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**PUBLICATION:** cpw

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^Media Advisory Reminder/DND: Fallen Soldier Returning Home@<

August 21, 2007

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Aug. 21, 2007) – Our fallen soldier, Private Simon Longtin, a member of Task Force Afghanistan Roto 4, based out of Kandahar, Afghanistan, is scheduled to return home to Canada tomorrow.

Where: 8 Wing Trenton, Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ontario.< When: Wednesday, August 22, 11:00 a.m.< What: Media are invited to view the arrival; however no interviews< will be given.<

Present to pay their respects will be Her Excellency, the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and other dignitaries.

Pte Longtin succumbed to his injuries after his armoured vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on August 19th, approximately 20 km west of Kandahar City. At the time of the incident, the Canadian convoy was returning from a Forward Operating Base following a re-supply mission from Kandahar Airfield.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Interested media must contact Major Isabelle Robitaille

8 Wing/CFB Trenton Public Affairs Officer

613-392-2811 ext. 4565

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OR

For flight information:

Air Passenger Terminal

1-800-487-1186

INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,

Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,

homeland etc), Government – State

SUBJECT: OBT

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

# Canada's reconstruction base in Kandahar now target of insurgent attacks

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**DATE:** 2007.08.21  
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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) \_ Taliban insurgents attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team twice last week and both attacks were followed by exchanges of gunfire, the Canadian military said Tuesday.

Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain said no Canadians were injured in the two attacks, which happened on Aug. 13 and 18.

It's the first time that Camp Nathan Smith, the base for much of Canada's reconstruction and humanitarian work in Kandahar, has been attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

There were also exchanges of fire during the attacks.

Chamberlain said the attacks and other recent roadside attacks that have injured seven Canadian troops and killed Pte. Simon Longtin don't indicate a new offensive by the Taliban.

``To me, it's not an indication of any change in our status," said Chamberlain, commander of Camp Nathan Smith for the last eight months.

``It is part of the cost of doing business here. This is a high-threat environment."

It shows that ``we are a constant target as are all the forward operating bases," he said.

Meanwhile, Longtin's body will arrive at CFB Trenton on Wednesday.

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

His death was the first in Afghanistan for the Royal 22nd Regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

Chamberlain said no one has been arrested for the attacks.

``I wouldn't give it greater credibility other than the fact there were a couple of people with RPG (rocket-propelled grenades)," he said.

``We're seeing a trend that things are getting better over time and there's going to be a step back, but I'm seeing a gradual improvement of the security situation."

The camp is the base for Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar and is considered one of the more secure Canadian bases in southern Afghanistan.

It is defended by about 200 soldiers from 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd, known as the Van Doos.



Chamberlain said that Afghans are starting to turn against the Taliban.

“I believe that people have had enough of fighting.”

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

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.

# Military testing high-tech weapons simulator at remote Alberta base

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**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta. (CP) \_ A weapons simulator that mimics roadside bomb blasts, gunfire and nuclear and chemical attacks is being field tested at this isolated eastern Alberta military base to prepare Canadian Forces reservists for the real thing in Afghanistan.

The Weapons Effects Simulation system \_ colloquially called ``Wes" by the troops \_ is a \$100-million training aid that military officials say is the ``closest thing to live bullets" currently being used.

``Canada, right now, in all the western countries of the world, has the most advanced, state of the art WES system," said Col. Craig King, head of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which is co-ordinating the reserve training exercise in Wainwright, Alta.

``The WES system allows us to portray that in the most realistic possible manner, short of using live munitions," he added.

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Small transmitters on each weapon, which are actually loaded with blank rounds, let the planners know what happens to every shot fired. Vehicles are likewise fitted with computers that register the amount of damage they incur when they come under fire or hit a roadside bomb.

Throughout the 13-day Wainwright exercise, soldiers have been struck by a number of improvised explosive devices, known commonly as roadside bombs. It's not unusual to see dusty prairie roads outside the makeshift Kandahar Air Field bleached with white talcum powder, which is the training simulation stand-in for the blast crater left behind after a roadside bomb explodes.

Soldiers here face between eight and 12 roadside bomb threats each day, said Col. Gerry Mann, chief planner of the exercise. No roadside bombs were built into last year's reserve training exercise in Petawawa, Ont., he added, later acknowledging the explosives pose the ``biggest threat" to soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.

That threat has proved all too real in Afghanistan. The latest such casualty came Sunday when Pte. Simon Longtin, a 23-year-old from Longueuil, Que., died after his light armoured vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

The spate of such attacks in recent years has caused the military to put greater emphasis during these training exercises on guarding against the blasts, said Master Warrant Officer Art Chase, one of the technical

co-ordinators of the exercise.

“In the last three years, we're starting to do that because of the situations that we have over in Afghanistan,” Chase said. “We've got to allow the soldiers to prepare for that and react how they need to react.”

Military analysts use the simulation system to evaluate each exercise, and then prepare reports highlighting strengths and weaknesses in the soldiers' performances, “all with the view that if they play it out here before they live it out overseas, we (can) use it as a device for that important aspect of life here called learning,” King said.

The system was developed by a San Diego, Calif.-based defence company and has been in use since August 2006. However, this two-week training exercise in Wainwright is the first time the system has been used on such a large scale for reservists.

King conceded the system still has “some technical issues,” but said it's a marked improvement from the days when a training battlefield was littered with people acting as referees who decided if a soldier had been hit or not by enemy fire.

“It was my opinion versus yours as to whether you took the hit the right way or not. Now, we can actually assess how he used a piece of ground, the number of casualties that were inflicted... That's a tremendous capability,” King said.

# Saint John MP urges Ottawa to follow Brit lead on free mail to overseas troops

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**DATE:** 2007.08.21  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 386

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ Within one day of Britain's top-ranking general leaning into a BBC television camera and saying, "Come on, Royal Mail," the British government did what Saint John MP Paul Zed has been urging the Harper government to do for months.

They made it free to send mail to soldiers serving overseas.

The British made their decision Monday, the day after the chief of the general staff made his public appeal while visiting British soldiers in Afghanistan.

Gen. Sir Richard Dannatt made it clear he was "irritated" that the families of soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq had to pay to send letters and parcels, the Times of London reported.

Britain's quick action leaves Zed frustrated with Canada's slow response to his proposal.

"It's clear to me Canada Post could do this," he said Tuesday. "This confirms it. I literally get an inquiry every day from a military family asking when this will happen."

Zed introduced a private member's bill in early May to allow free letter mail to and from members of the Canadian Forces serving overseas. He tried to get his bill fast-tracked by the House of Commons, but the Conservatives didn't agree.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson has called Zed's idea a good suggestion, and Lawrence Cannon, the minister responsible for Canada Post, has said he's "open-minded" about it. But Cannon's latest letter to Zed, dated Aug. 10, says the financial impact of his proposal is still being evaluated by Canada Post.

Cannon's letter points out that the postal service has a legislated mandate to provide affordable postal service on a financially self-sustaining basis.

Zed said he'll be writing Cannon to tell him about Britain's quick action. Zed worries that if the prime minister prorogues Parliament this fall, he'll have to start all over because that would kill his bill.

"That's one more reason why this initiative is all the more urgent now," said Zed.

Canada Post provided free parcel service to designated Canadian bases for family and friends of deployed Canadian troops last Christmas. As well, Canada Post and the Defence Department have a long-standing agreement under which letter mail may be sent overseas to Canadian Forces members for the domestic rate of 52 cents.

Canadians can also write troops through an electronic bulletin board on the Canadian Forces website.

Zed began his campaign after a constituent, June Dobson of Saint John, complained to him about Canada Post returning an overweight letter because it was six cents shy of the correct postage. She had been writing to her

nephew, a soldier from Hoyt, N.B., in Afghanistan.

# INDEX:Defence, International

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**DATE:** 2007.08.21  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 71

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian military officials say insurgents attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team in Kandahar twice last week.

Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain says no Canadians were injured in the two attacks, which happened on Aug. 13 and 18.

Another military spokesman, Capt. Johanne Blais, says both attacks were followed by exchanges of gunfire.

Chamberlain is commander of Camp Nathan Smith, the base for Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar.

He says no one has been arrested for the attacks.

He also says that the attacks do not mean an escalation of the violence around Kandahar.

(BN)

# Afghan-Cda-Soldier-Killed-Update (arrives in Trenton tomorrow)

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**DATE:** 2007.08.21  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 104

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The body of the latest Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan is headed home.

Private Simon Longtin (see-MON' long-TAH') of Longueuil, Quebec died Sunday when his light-armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

His body will arrive at C-F-B Trenton, in eastern Ontario, tomorrow morning (11 a-m ET)

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield yesterday, more than one-thousand soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Longtin.

Longtin's family released a statement last night, painting a picture of a young soldier who embraced military life and his mission in Afghanistan.

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

(BN)

bp-NMC

# If it's good for Afghans, it should be good for us

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220087  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** Letter  
**PAGE:** AA07  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 78

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Troops out by '09, Bush told

Aug. 21

I was shocked and disgusted to see Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling the protesters in Montebello, Que., "sad." Harper is arrogant and out of touch with his role as a public servant. In Canada, we respect the freedom of any citizen to voice their opinion, even if it is opposed to the government. This same freedom is apparently what we are fighting for in Afghanistan.

Jon Beer, Toronto



# Should Canada keep its military in Afghanistan until 2009?

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220082  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** AA08  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 518

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I believe we must keep our troops in Afghanistan until 2009. To pull them out earlier would leave countless innocents to the brutal will of the Taliban. In the long run, our presence in Afghanistan may amount to dust in the wind but right now there is unfinished business and the Canadian way is to finish the job that has been started.

Jonathan Vezina, Mississauga

I've been totally against our military involvement in Afghanistan right from the start. It's an embarrassing, mindless, ludicrous mission. Our troops should be brought back forthwith.

John Missios, Toronto

This mission is only about following the U.S. and bowing to its pressure. It is about killing innocent people, occupying their land and stealing their money and resources. Bring the army out now.

Mahdad Zarafshan, Richmond Hill

No ! Why we are getting our troops killed when it is not even our fight or war? The amount of government spending on the Armed Forces, as well as keeping our troops in Afghanistan, is a tremendous drain on our tax dollars, which could be used for other pressing matters such as education and the deteriorating health system in Canada.

Surjit Singh Flora , Brampton

I don't think this war on terror is anything more than a brutalization of this region. Any revenge that was to be exacted by the Americans for 9/11 must surely be accomplished by now. Canada has not been attacked by the Taliban. Did we invade the Soviet Union when it was ruled by communism?

Nick Wright, Toronto

We should leave when our commitment is up, if not right now. The U.S. actions in Iraq stole the focus of American military power and resources from what should have been devoted to completing the Afghan mission. This has allowed the Taliban to recruit and regroup and is the reason so many Canadian troops are coming home dead. We have no obligation to spill our children's blood because of the Bush administration's Iraq fantasies.

Randy Kajtar, Thompson, Man.

The sooner we get our boys out of that mess the better. Only a fool would believe we can make a difference in the long run. These people hate the Americans for practising "cultural terrorism" world-wide for more than 60 years. By standing beside them, we pay the price and always will. Someone needs to convince the U.S. that "Yankee go home" is a serious request.

Ralph Smith, Parry Sound, Ont.

Canada should stay the course until 2009. We owe it to the people of Afghanistan to honour the commitment made by the previous Liberal government. In the future, we should pass on helping out troubled situations, such as Darfur. Let's keep in mind how quick Canadians (not our troops) are to run when the going gets tough.

Garry Bilton, Markham

Of course the Canadian military should remain in Afganistan until 2009, to fulfil our commitment to oust an extremely repressive regime, the Taliban. There seems to be a few people who disagree with that. They would be the same people screaming bloody murder at any incident of gender discrimination in Canada. I don't think the Taliban and their thuggish supporters would put up with the likes of them for too long.

Nathan Rosenfeld, Toronto

# Canucks targeted by Taliban

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220356  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 17  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 110

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Taliban insurgents attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team twice last week and both attacks were followed by exchanges of gunfire, the Canadian military said yesterday.

Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain said no Canadians were injured in the two attacks, which happened on Aug. 13 and 18.

It's the first time that Camp Nathan Smith, the base for much of Canada's reconstruction and humanitarian work in Kandahar, has been attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

There were also exchanges of fire during the attacks.

Chamberlain said the attacks and other recent roadside attacks that have injured seven Canadian troops and killed Pte. Simon Longtin don't indicate a new offensive by the Taliban.

"It is part of the cost of doing business here," said Chamberlain, commander of Camp Nathan Smith for the last eight months.

"This is a high-threat environment." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL; WORLD

# PM clear on leaving Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220336  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 8  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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For several months now Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been indicating that our troops' involvement in Afghanistan would be coming to an end in February 2009.

He's repeatedly mentioned that if Canada's mission in Afghanistan were to continue past its mandate, it would have to pass a vote in the House of Commons -- unlikely under the current mix of parties in this minority Parliament.

Yesterday, in a closing press conference of the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit in Montebello, Que., it was made obvious that U.S. President George W. Bush was fully briefed on Afghanistan by Harper and understands that Canada will not continue in a combat role there come 2009.

For his part, Bush was effusive with praise, and rightly so, for the contribution Canada's armed forces and diplomatic corps have made in Afghanistan.

"I believe Canada has done a fabulous job in Afghanistan, and I thank the people of Canada," said Bush who was joined at the joint news conference by Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

"But, more importantly, the people of Afghanistan thank the people of Canada," added Bush, on the heels of the 67th death of a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan on Sunday.

This clear signal of a pullout by Harper will come as a relief to many Canadians whose support for this war grows more tepid as the body count increases.

But, Bush also noted that just because Canada's combat role might end in the troubled Kandahar region, there is no reason why humanitarian efforts there won't continue as they are right now under our Armed Forces CIMIC (Civilian and Military Co-operation) branch.

Canadian CIMIC soldiers have helped build roads, hundreds of schools, hundreds, if not thousands of wells, distributed school supplies to tens of thousands of grateful children and are now helping to build the infrastructure needed in any democratic society.

Liberty, security and increased peace have been the greatest gains made by our soldiers. It's likely that will continue even as their role changes in the future.

Afghanistan's transformation will forever be one of Canada's lasting legacies, whether we're there past 2009 or not.

# PM clear on leaving Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220485  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 18  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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# Hero's home today Slain in Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220479  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SIMON LONGTIN Killed Sunday  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** TRENTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 198

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The body of Pte. Simon Longtin, who was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday, will arrive at Canadian Forces Base Trenton today.

After an 11 a.m. repatriation ceremony on the tarmac at Trenton, Canadians are expected to gather on bridges spanning the 401 to pay tribute to the 23-year-old Van Doo from Longueuil, Que., as his remains are transported by road to Toronto.

The death of Longtin, who died when his light armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, is the first in Afghanistan for the Royal 22nd Regiment based in Quebec.

'DEVASTATED'

In Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission, a statement Monday night from Longtin's family echoed the comments of his fellow Van Doos 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."

At a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on Monday, more than 1,000 soldiers from 37 countries paid tribute to Longtin.

Meanwhile in Afghanistan, Canadian military officials said insurgents unsuccessfully attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team in Kandahar twice last week. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Red rally friday

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220478

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 13

**WORD COUNT:** 90

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Organizers are hoping tens of thousands of people will gather to support our troops in a mass Red Friday Rally at the CNE grounds.

The rally will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Canadian Armed Forces display area outside the Automotive Building near the Princes' Gate.

Capt. Wayne Johnston said there will be entertainment, some celebrities and Afghanistan war veterans who have come forward to offer their services. He said a photo of the rally will be taken from a helicopter and sent to the troops serving overseas to show Canadians' support. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Try to look at the benefits Cutler It appears it is the duty of opposition leaders to never say good things about the government of the day.

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220271  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 15  
**BYLINE:** ALLAN CUTLER  
**WORD COUNT:** 537

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Once again the "cabinet shuffle" has occurred. It doesn't matter which party is in power — Conservative or Liberal — the leaders of the opposition are predictable every time. It appears it is the duty of opposition leaders to never say good things about the government of the day.

They are always disappointed with the changes and criticize them. They claim the prime minister is trying to cover up past mistakes by changing ministers, that he is trying to create a new and fresh look, but that it is the "same old, same old." They criticize the changes as being inadequate and the ministers as not being up to the challenge.

As an example, Stephane Dion said Prime Minister Stephen Harper's failure to bring more gender balance to his cabinet is a clear expression of his own indifference to the role of women in politics and public life. This says more to me about Dion's viewpoint. He is stating that women need affirmative action and should be promoted regardless of merit. This means that he does not consider them truly equal. There are inequalities but affirmative action is not the way to solve them.

One of the greatest disadvantages of a shuffle is when the minister takes his or her staff to the new job. No one at the political level is left with a memory of what has been going on. The deputy ministers and senior bureaucrats are always relieved when this happens. They can quickly change or create — and also quietly reverse — policies. After all, the new ministerial staff is in training and not aware of what has been transpiring.

As for the actual changes, I was disappointed by two: Gordon O'Connor leaving Defence for Revenue and Jim Prentice moving to Industry from Indian Affairs.

Our military has been neglected for years and it is in the process of being restored. This restoration has nothing to do with Afghanistan. O'Connor was doing an excellent job of rebuilding the military. The military respected him and considered him one of their own. Peter MacKay, who replaces him, although more charismatic, will find O'Connor a tough act to follow.

As for Prentice, it appeared that we were finally getting somewhere on aboriginal issues. Prentice was also doing an excellent job and appeared to have the respect of the aboriginal community. Chuck Strahl, who is now Indian Affairs minister will have to work hard. Fortunately, Strahl is also capable and well liked.

On the other hand, I was extremely pleased to see Diane Ablonczy finally being promoted to cabinet, as secretary of state for small business and tourism. Her promotion is long overdue. I am impressed by her clear

Try to look at the benefits Cutler It appears it is the duty of opposition leaders to never say good things about the government of the day.



intelligence and ability to focus on issues. Ablonczy can be nothing but an asset to the cabinet. She will bring new perspectives and intelligent insight to her portfolio. My expectation is that she will be seen as one of the bright lights in the shuffled cabinet.

The task of governing is difficult, having to balance competing priorities — regional considerations, male/female ratios, French/English considerations, skills/experience. I can understand why the opposition, regardless of who is in power, always finds something to criticize. I just wish they would also look at the benefits.

# PM clear on leaving Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220269  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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He's repeatedly mentioned that if Canada's mission in Afghanistan were to continue past its mandate, it would have to pass a vote in the House of Commons -- unlikely under the current mix of parties in this minority Parliament.

Yesterday, in a closing press conference of the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit in Montebello, Que., it was made obvious that U.S. President George W. Bush was fully briefed on Afghanistan by Harper and understands that Canada will not continue in a combat role there come 2009.

For his part, Bush was effusive with praise, and rightly so, for the contribution Canada's armed forces and diplomatic corps have made in Afghanistan.

"I believe Canada has done a fabulous job in Afghanistan, and I thank the people of Canada," said Bush who was joined at the joint news conference by Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

"But, more importantly, the people of Afghanistan thank the people of Canada," added Bush, on the heels of the 67th death of a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan on Sunday.

This clear signal of a pullout by Harper will come as a relief to many Canadians whose support for this war grows more tepid as the body count increases.

But, Bush also noted that just because Canada's combat role might end in the troubled Kandahar region, there is no reason why humanitarian efforts there won't continue as they are right now under our Armed Forces CIMIC (Civilian and Military Co-operation) branch.

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220814  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**WORD COUNT:** 308

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# Bush lauds Canadians' brilliance

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220803

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Tom Hanson, CP THREE AMIGOS: U.S. President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon answer reporters' questions at the closing news conference of the North American Leaders' Summit yesterday in Montebello, Que.

**BYLINE:** ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, QUE.

**WORD COUNT:** 316

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U.S. President George W. Bush heaped on the praise for Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan yesterday, but offered a pitch that the world is only in the first chapter of spreading freedom.

"Canada has performed brilliantly," Bush said at a news conference capping the end of a two-day Security and Prosperity Partnership summit in this tiny village's posh Chateau Montebello resort.

"The question we're all confronted with, who live in comfortable societies: Is it worth it for our own security to help others realize the blessings of freedom. My decision is, absolutely it is. I think it's the calling of the 21st century. I think it's the calling of history."

Bush's remarks came the day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper personally advised him that Canada's combat role against the Taliban beyond 2009 is in the hands of Parliament as a whole. All three Opposition parties oppose an extension of such a combat role.

"This government, along with its Parliament, will make decisions about (what's) best for the Canadian people and the people of Afghanistan," Bush said. "The United States is firmly committed to Afghanistan."

Harper echoed Bush's sentiments that Canadians can be proud of the contributions and sacrifices the country's troops have made, citing Canada's latest lost soldier, 23-year-old Pte. Simon Longtin.

On Sunday, Longtin became Canada's 67th military casualty in Afghanistan and the first from Quebec's recently posted Van Doos.

The issue of Canada's Afghanistan mission was one of several discussed between Harper and Bush among a series of meetings along with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

The trio covered everything from border issues, emergency planning, pandemics, drug trafficking and international trade agreements to peace in the Middle East.

Another contentious issue discussed by Harper and Bush is Canada's claim of Arctic sovereignty over the coveted potential shipping route through the melting Northwest Passage. The Americans maintain that the passageway is international water.

"Having said that, the U.S does not question Canadian sovereignty over its Arctic islands," said Bush.

## BROAD AGREEMENT

Three areas of broad agreement at the Montebello summit:

- Working together to ensure the safety of imported food and other consumer products.
- Developing practical solutions to environmental challenges.
- Assuring efficient and secure borders that keep terrorists out but respect the bonds of friendship between countries. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Reconstruction base in Kandahar a target

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220801  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** SUN MEDIA NEWS SERVICES  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**COLUMN:** News Digest  
**WORD COUNT:** 140

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Taliban insurgents attacked a camp housing Canada's reconstruction team twice in the past week and both attacks were followed by exchanges of gunfire, the Canadian military said yesterday. Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain said no Canadians were injured in the two attacks, which happened on Aug. 13 and Aug. 18. It's the first time that Camp Nathan Smith, the base for much of Canada's reconstruction and humanitarian work in Kandahar, has been attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, he said. There were also exchanges of fire during the attacks. Chamberlain said the attacks and other recent roadside attacks that have injured seven Canadian troops and killed Pte. Simon Longtin don't indicate a new offensive by the Taliban.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Taliban attack forward base Canadian Forces report two assaults on reconstruction team, but no injuries

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220620  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 33  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 264

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There were also exchanges of fire during the attacks.

Chamberlain said the attacks and other recent roadside attacks that have injured seven Canadian troops and killed Pte. Simon Longtin don't indicate a new offensive by the Taliban.

"To me, it's not an indication of any change in our status," said Chamberlain, commander of Camp Nathan Smith for the last eight months.

"It is part of the cost of doing business here. This is a high-threat environment."

It shows that "we are a constant target, as are all the forward operating bases," he said.

Meanwhile, Longtin's body will arrive at CFB Trenton today.

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

His death was the first in Afghanistan for the Royal 22nd Regiment based in Quebec, where support is low for the Canadian mission.

Chamberlain said no one has been arrested for the attacks.

"I wouldn't give it greater credibility other than the fact there were a couple of people with RPG (rocket-propelled grenades)," he said.

"We're seeing a trend that things are getting better over time and there's going to be a step back, but I'm seeing a gradual improvement of the security situation."

Taliban attack forward base Canadian Forces report two assaults on reconstruction team, but no injuries

The camp is the base for Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar and is considered one of the more secure Canadian bases in southern Afghanistan.

It is defended by about 200 soldiers from 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd, known as the Van Doos.

Chamberlain said that Afghans are starting to turn against the Taliban.

"I believe that people have had enough of fighting."

Canada has about 2,300 troops in the wartorn country as part of the NATO force supporting the Afghan government. About 1,100 of the Canadians are from the Royal 22nd.

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. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Taliban attack forward base Canadian Forces report two assaults on reconstruction team, but no injuries



# Simulator mimics bomb blasts

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220619  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 33  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** CFB WAINWRIGHT  
**WORD COUNT:** 158

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A weapons simulator that mimics roadside bomb blasts, gunfire and nuclear and chemical attacks is being field tested at this isolated eastern Alberta military base to prepare Canadian Forces reservists for the real thing in Afghanistan.

The Weapons Effects Simulation system – colloquially called "Wes" by the troops – is a \$100-million training aid that military officials say is the "closest thing to live bullets" currently being used.

"Canada, right now, in all the western countries of the world, has the most advanced, state of the art WES system," said Col. Craig King, head of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which is co-ordinating the reserve training exercise in Wainwright.

"The WES system allows us to portray that in the most realistic possible manner, short of using live munitions," he added.

Each soldier, weapon and vehicle in the 640-square kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright is outfitted with tiny computers that transmit information back to senior commanders.

Throughout the 13-day Wainwright exercise, soldiers have been struck by a number of improvised explosive devices, known commonly as roadside bombs. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# PM clear on leaving Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220588  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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For several months now Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been indicating that our troops' involvement in Afghanistan would be coming to an end in February 2009.

He's repeatedly mentioned that if Canada's mission in Afghanistan were to continue past its mandate, it would have to pass a vote in the House of Commons -- unlikely under the current mix of parties in this minority Parliament.

Yesterday, in a closing press conference of the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit in Montebello, Que., it was made obvious that U.S. President George W. Bush was fully briefed on Afghanistan by Harper and understands that Canada will not continue in a combat role there come 2009.

For his part, Bush was effusive with praise, and rightly so, for the contribution Canada's armed forces and diplomatic corps have made in Afghanistan.

"I believe Canada has done a fabulous job in Afghanistan, and I thank the people of Canada," said Bush who was joined at the joint news conference by Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

"But, more importantly, the people of Afghanistan thank the people of Canada," added Bush, on the heels of the 67th death of a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan on Sunday.

This clear signal of a pullout by Harper will come as a relief to many Canadians whose support for this war grows more tepid as the body count increases.

But, Bush also noted that just because Canada's combat role might end in the troubled Kandahar region, there is no reason why humanitarian efforts there won't continue as they are right now under our Armed Forces CIMIC (Civilian and Military Co-operation) branch.

Canadian CIMIC soldiers have helped build roads, hundreds of schools, hundreds, if not thousands of wells, distributed school supplies to tens of thousands of grateful children and are now helping to build the infrastructure needed in any democratic society.

Liberty, security and increased peace have been the greatest gains made by our soldiers. It's likely that will continue even as their role changes in the future.

Afghanistan's transformation will forever be one of Canada's lasting legacies, whether we're there past 2009 or not.

# Letters to the Editor Column

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220585  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**COLUMN:** Letters to the Editor  
**WORD COUNT:** 602

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Re: Neil Waugh's Aug. 17 POV. The premier's decision to allow provincial employees to voluntarily put the "Support Our Troops" decals on their vehicles had nothing to do with union politics. While it's true that our sheriffs and other groups within our organization lobbied their departments to allow them, the premier was not "forced" to do anything. When his office called to inform me of their decision I simply said that while some members may not support the military mission, all would support the individual Canadian men and women risking their lives to help rebuild Afghanistan.

Doug Knight

President, AUPE

(Noted.)

I was sickened to read of the wave of cat killings and my heart goes out to those owners awaiting the return of a missing pet. These sad reports reminded me of sage advice I received from vets: no cat needs to wander city streets at will, they don't need to hunt for their food, and there are just too many hazards for them to deal with the outdoors. To leave them wandering free is to leave them at the mercy of city traffic, other animals and heartless individuals.

Yvonne Frank

(Meow!)

I am an animal lover myself. I have a beautiful husky that I love immensely. But, all you animal rights activists, please get a life.

S. Normanton

(Is this a cat fight?)

I'd like to remind Edmontonians that the Molson brewery, which has stood since the city's inception and employed 136 people, will be closing at the end of this month. Please visit [www.BoycottMolson.com](http://www.BoycottMolson.com) and consider joining us in a long-term boycott of Molson-Coors. The people of Edmonton should not take this lying down.

S. Enns

(Brewing up a boycott.)

In her letter Tuesday, Deborah Macias commented about the Calgary quadruplets being born in the U.S. and how the Canadian medicare system needed the much-maligned capitalist medical care system of the U.S. The comment below was "At least Canadians don't go bankrupt getting treatment." No, they don't. However, a lot of them helplessly die in the lineups waiting for so-called "free" treatment they pay through the nose for in their taxes.

R. Green

(We need more docs.)

I want Mindelle Jacobs to know that I'm a Catholic male. All women and their human rights do matter to me. Although I agree with some of the points Jacobs makes in her Tuesday column, I find it appalling that the only way she thinks she can get her message across is by attacking Catholics and the Catholic Church. I don't agree with everything the Catholic Church promotes. However, abortion rights are a complicated political and social issue that goes beyond just blaming Catholicism. If Jacobs represents the rhetoric espoused by so-called enlightened and educated Western people, no wonder we continue to see religious wars. She owes her readers an apology.

Curtis Makar

(She stands by her remarks.)

Re: Peter Lougheed's warning about another attack on Alberta's oilsands. Instead of engaging in a fight that Alberta is probably destined to lose – with the federal government, central Canada and the Supreme Court aligning to engineer this legal theft, why not consider selling this resource to the feds for a fair market price and wash our hands of it altogether? If the money is wisely invested, we could probably make as much or more in the long haul than what we would get otherwise.

John Paterson

(Oil's well that ends well?)

Re: plan to charge property owners for graffiti. Great! Does that mean that the city-owned utility boxes and bus shelters in my neighbourhood will finally get cleaned up, possibly paid for by city council salaries?

D. Chapman

(Ha!)

# Part of military padre's job is bearer of bad news

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220582  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of DENNIS NEWHOOK 'They know'  
**BYLINE:** ANDREW HANON, SUN MEDIA  
**WORD COUNT:** 460

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It's a sombre duty with which Capt. Dennis Newhook is all too familiar.

As a Canadian military padre, he's had the grim responsibility of informing families that their loved one has died in Afghanistan.

Since the mission began in 2002, Newhook, an Anglican minister with the Edmonton-based 3 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, has had to deliver death notices to "four or five" families, plus several others whose loved one had been seriously wounded.

He pauses, sighs, and says sadly, "once is too many."

The four other Edmonton-based officers accompanying Newhook, all of whom have played roles in what the military euphemistically calls the repatriation process, nod in grim assent.

Bringing home fallen soldiers is a sacred responsibility to the military, one that is laden with complex procedures and protocols designed to ease the blow to the bereaved and show the utmost respect and honour to the dead.

One of the greatest honours a soldier can receive is to be chosen by his commander to accompany home the body of a fallen comrade. His task is to stay with the body until it's in its final resting place, assuring that it is never unattended.

The process of notifying family begins within seconds of a soldier becoming a casualty. Troops in-theatre are in constant contact with the Kandahar operations centre through a high-security chat line, similar to MSN Messenger.

All communications are monitored by various headquarters in Canada.

As soon as any soldiers are reported wounded or killed, the process begins. Even as they are being tended to, a notification team is assembled in Canada, consisting of the regiment's commanding officer or deputy C.O., a regimental sergeant major and a padre or cleric of the casualty's religion.

Once the identity is confirmed, the notification team heads to the home of the soldier's primary next of kin, who is chosen by the soldier before he or she ships out.

The team is always in uniform, and some officers insist that they be in full formal dress.

When they're about five minutes away, the team calls the relative to let them know they're coming.

They do not say why, even though the relative invariably knows it's bad news.

"As soon as they see me, they know," said Newhook. "I've had all the reactions – shock, disbelief, anger."

In one case, the widow bolted out the front door into the night and the notification team had to track her down and bring her back inside her home.

The soldiers told Sun Media that family members usually ask very detailed questions – what precisely was the deceased doing when they died; who were they with; did they suffer?

In anticipation of those questions, Capt. Larry Cashman's job has been to continue gathering that kind of information from Kandahar and relaying it to the notification team, so they have it before they go to the door.

Tracking down the family can be tricky – in one case, it took 96 hours to locate them because they were on vacation.

The goal is to notify family within six hours of the soldier's death, and for the vast majority of the 67 Canadians killed in Afghanistan, that goal has been reached.

Each family is assigned an "assisting officer," who stays in contact with them in the ensuing months, helping them with funeral arrangements, finding support, filling out paperwork for things like survivor benefits, and more.

Capt. Rod de Roij said while working with a grieving family was emotionally difficult at times, "it was also the most rewarding experience of my life. I've learned how to be a better person" through the experience.  
KEYWORDS=CANADA

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

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708211345

**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

---

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.

"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 more left-leaning parties, environmentalists and social groups, 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.

"We wish our neighbours no harm, but their problems are for them to solve, as ours are for us," Boone's statement declared. "And that's the way it should be."

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 within two years.

"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.

Here are some of the companies whose CEOs are part of the 30-person North American Competitiveness Council:

## CANADIAN COMPANIES

- Canadian Council of Chief Executives (Secretariat)
- CN
- Ganong Bros.
- Home Depot Canada



- Linamar Corporation
- Manulife Financial
- Scotiabank
- Suncor Energy

#### U.S. COMPANIES

- ArcelorMittal
- Campbell's Soup
- FedEx
- Kansas City Southern
- Lockheed Martin
- NBC Universal
- Procter & Gamble
- UPS
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce (Secretariat)
- Wal-Mart

#### MEXICAN COMPANIES

- Consejo Coordinador Empresarial
- Confederacion de Camaras Industriales
- Consejo Mexicano de Comercio Exterior
- Consejo Nacional Agropecuario
- Centro de Estudios Economicos del Sector Privado
- Tubos de Acero de Mexico
- Avicar de Occidente
- Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad
- Consejo Empresarial Mexicano de Comercio Exterior
- IMCO (Secretariat) KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Letters to the Editor Column

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220714  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**COLUMN:** Letters to the Editor  
**WORD COUNT:** 527

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## RESPECT FOR ALL

Columnist Michael Coren's column "Doggone fools," (Aug. 18) is sad and incredibly disturbing. I find it interesting he is so committed to attaining decency and compassion in the world, as expressed in many of his previous articles, yet has such a limited compassion for animals. Yes, animals are living, breathing and decent. In some cases, no -- but then that is the fault of the pet owner, not the animal. Perhaps everyone, animal lover or not, should take a moment to remember compassion and decency should not be limited simply to humans whether evil, good or somewhere in between, but to life entirely.

SARAH GRIFFITTS

(We're with you on that.)

## SHAME ON CALGARY

I see where Calgary city council has ordered 'Support Our Troops' decals off city vehicles and will discipline anyone refusing. Well, shame, shame, shame! Calgarians have the nerve to call Edmontonians Rednecks? If you Calgarians don't vote out the entire council and mayor this fall, then put your heads between your legs and hide. What a poor white-collar city you have. You may not support the war, but show some class and support the troops.

DAVID BLACK

Edmonton

(Who would have ever predicted that Edmonton's council would have more sense than Calgary's?)

## DECISION DAY

Regarding the 'Support our Troops' decals on city vehicles. I hope the people of Calgary remember this fiasco during the October elections.

CAPT. LLOYD SAUNDERS, CD

Innisfail

(Let's hope voters do remember.)

## SHRED RIBBONS

Letters to the Editor Column

I commend city council for taking a principled stand on the issue of placing yellow ribbon decals on city vehicles. Despite the arguments coming from conservative mouthpieces (ALL of whom are in favour of the Afghanistan war), these ribbons symbolize support for the mission, not the troops. Most Calgarians are against turning public property into political billboards, and council has responded adequately. If Ald. Ric McIver and others were to educate themselves about the true origins and meaning of the yellow ribbon, they would withdraw their support for this idea immediately. Many of us support the troops, but believe NATO's presence in Afghanistan is making Canada a target of terrorism. Unfortunately, letters like this will never be published by the Sun, because the idea of an honest, straight– forward debate on this issue is terrifying for war proponents who know they are wrong.

KEN ERICKSON

(Wrong on all counts, Ken.)

FOUR MORE

Re: The Calgary identical quadruplets born in the U.S. The over–promoted Canadian socialized medicare system needed the much–maligned capitalist medical care system of the United States? Say it isn't so!

DEBORAH MACIAS

(Most middle class Americans would love to change places with us.)

CELLPHONE BAN

I certainly hope the province goes ahead with a proposed ban of cellphones while driving. We have all seen the cellphone–aholics who are totally oblivious to everyone and everything around them while deep in the throes of their addiction.

I would also like to see any money collected from fines levied for using a cellphone while driving go into a special fund to help our health care system in the future. This will be needed when all the cellphone–aholics require corrective surgery to repair their 'cellphoner's elbow' in order to be able to straighten their arm or cosmetic surgery to repair their 'cellphoner's ear' deformed by years of addiction.

JOHN ROBERTSON

(Not a bad idea, John.)

# PM clear on leaving Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0708220712  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LICIA CORBELLA  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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For several months now Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been indicating that our troops' involvement in Afghanistan would be coming to an end in February 2009.

He's repeatedly mentioned that if Canada's mission in Afghanistan were to continue past its mandate, it would have to pass a vote in the House of Commons -- unlikely under the current mix of parties in this minority Parliament.

Yesterday, in a closing press conference of the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit in Montebello, Que., it was made obvious that U.S. President George W. Bush was fully briefed on Afghanistan by Harper and understands that Canada will not continue in a combat role there come 2009.

For his part, Bush was effusive with praise, and rightly so, for the contribution Canada's armed forces and diplomatic corps have made in Afghanistan.

"I believe Canada has done a fabulous job in Afghanistan, and I thank the people of Canada," said Bush who was joined at the joint news conference by Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

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# Amigos talk business Harper sets Bush straight on Canada's future in Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG:** 0708210775

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.21

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 23

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Sean Kilpatrick, Sun 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:** 517

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# Canada's Afghan effort 'fabulous'; Summit closes with Bush praise for armed forces' sacrifice

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220007

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Wayne Cuddington, CanWest News Service / Theso-called Three Amigos, President George Bush (left), Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon ended their conference at Quebec's historic Chateau Montebello early, cancelling a dinner Tuesday with the governor-general. ;

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

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; With files from Reuters

**WORD COUNT:** 512

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MONTEBELLO, Que. — U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals . . . the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?" Bush thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Harper said.

Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security cooperation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by Hurricane Dean. A state dinner for Calderon, scheduled for Tuesday night with Gov.-Gen. Michaelle Jean, was cancelled.

Before Calderon left for home, he joined Bush and Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the U.S., and the target of anti-free trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal leader Stephane Dion for his criticisms of the SPP.

"A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and super highways to the continent, maybe interplanetary — I'm not sure."

Critics say broadening economic ties among the three trading partners would erode national sovereignty and closer anti-terrorism cooperation could lead to human rights abuses.

But Harper said it was important to work together, giving an example of a business leader who manufactured jelly beans but had to maintain separate inventories because the content rules were different in Canada and the United States.

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jelly bean? You know, I don't think so," he said.



# Bush praises Canada's war effort

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220060

**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** B12

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper(centre) gestures while standing with U.S. President George W. Bush (left) and Mexico's President Felipe Calderon following a joint news conference at the two-day North American Leaders' Summit in Montebello on Tuesday. ;

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway, with files from Juliet O'Neill, Ottawa Citizen

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; with files from Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 903

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He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals ... the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

"The question we're all confronted with in comfortable societies is, is it worth it for our own security to help others realize freedom? I think it's the calling of the 21st century. It's the calling of history, and I appreciate the strong commitment that the Canadian people have made."

Bush thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Harper said.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

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"We'll manage the differences, because there are differences on the Northwest Passage."

Harper, who recently returned from a tour of the North, said: "Canada's position is that we intend to strengthen our sovereignty in the Arctic area."

Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

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Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion for his criticisms of the SPP.

"I guess I've read some things from my opposition in Canada," said Harper. "A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and super highways to the continent, maybe interplanetary — I'm not sure."

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"He said you know, the rules for jellybean contents are different in Canada and the United States. They have to maintain two separate inventories.

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jellybean? I don't think so. Maybe Mr. Dion thinks so. But I don't think so."

In an interview later Tuesday, Dion mocked Harper in return, saying "I hope he did not take as much time to speak about jellybeans with the presidents as he did at the press conference."

He also dismissed the main agreement from the summit. "If the prime minister needs an international summit to conclude that he needs to ban dangerous products coming into Canada, well Canadians expect more from him."

Dion accused Harper of missing an opportunity to address important issues and provide assurances that bulk water will not be exported, that pesticide standards will not be lowered, and that cross-border traffic delays be eliminated. He warned that Harper implied that Canada's combat mission would be extended beyond February 2009 if he secures a majority government. Dion had urged Harper to tell Bush the mission would not be extended.

At a news conference in Ottawa, three New Democratic Party MPs said Harper owes the public "an apology" on grounds he had insulted Canadians by dismissing protesters, belittling their opinions and trivializing their concerns.

They said 99 per cent of the protesters who came to the gates of Montebello this week were peaceful, and that the heavy police security was provocative.

"It was way over the top," said Ottawa MP Paul Dewar.

# Rethinking intervention

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**PUBLICATION:** The Leader–Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Viewpoints  
**PAGE:** B10  
**BYLINE:** John D. Whyte  
**SOURCE:** Special to The Leader–Post  
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Michael Ignatieff, deputy leader of the federal Liberal Party, recently published in the New York Times Magazine an article admitting that he was wrong to have supported the American invasion of Iraq.

For an article confessing to a serious error in judgment, it is strangely triumphant. Ignatieff takes pride in how much wiser he is since wielding political power than when he was, in his words, "a denizen of Harvard". He rightly claims the highest virtue in political judgment is a grasp of reality. In this endeavour he makes a case for the superiority of experience over pursuit of academic rigour, and argues that "bus drivers can display a shrewder grasp of what's what than Nobel Prize winners."

If Ignatieff's claim that persons of action and power are wiser than mere thinkers because they have the chance to learn from real–life consequences has any purpose, it should lead him to consider what can be learned from the Iraq debacle. But, no such luck. He cites Kant, Burke, Truman, Churchill and deGaulle and, in a general way, praises leaders who are daring, prudent and inspiring. The only account he gives of the failure in Iraq is that Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites failed to stay together in peace as effectively as Hussein held Iraq together through terror. What peace, we want to ask? But, Ignatieff quickly moves on to generalities about power and leadership.

Even if Ignatieff cannot bring himself to think deeply about the nature of his mistake, we must. In particular, we need to do this because Canada is engaged in an analogous military action taken in the name of humanitarian intervention to protect another vulnerable population. Canada's war in Afghanistan has, of course, two stated aims — one is to protect Afghanis from the tyranny of the Taliban. The other is to create a stable political society friendly to the West that will impede the actions of terrorists who might launch attacks. But if Canada's actual aim is to suppress terrorism at home through foreign interventions, it will need to act in more nations than Afghanistan. The last six years have seen a significant rise in both the number and the origins of terrorists. While domestic anti–terrorist policies by western nations have prevented terrorist attacks, it is clear that waging war (or threatening to wage war) in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan has not served to reduce the risk of terrorism by one iota. Rather, international military action against terrorism has helped generate a world terrorist culture.

This brings us back to the core case for Canada's military deployment in Afghanistan — to protect vulnerable populations. Sadly, this mission is futile. Waging war against insurgents does not suppress insurgency, except locally and temporarily. After all, this is what insurgency means — seizing the opportunities to inflict deadly harm that arise in specific contexts. Insurgency is not defeated militarily. It can be deflected and postponed, but what defeats it is the loss of purpose (and legitimacy) within its own nation.

Notwithstanding the noble motives of the armies of the West, those armies fighting in the way that they must — killing innocents, damaging domestic infrastructure, turning people's worlds upside down — serve daily to

renew the insurgents' sense of purpose.

There is a bigger problem with humanitarian intervention conducted through warfare. It is not purely humanitarian. It is driven by missionary zeal to establish in places in the world racked by intra-state conflict, the practices of democracy as a vastly superior mode of resolving difference. Western armies in their military interventions represent claims of western liberal democratic exceptionalism and superiority. Certainly, I believe in the superior virtues of liberal democracy; I am mighty grateful that I live in a working democracy; and I truly wish this kind of political condition for everyone. I do not subscribe to moral relativism or see democratic development as just another ugly face of imperialism. But there is a hard fact of disparity in the social condition of nations, and powerful nations through their dominant forms of politics, economy and culture are seen not as carriers of national salvation but as sources of poverty.

We might be tempted to believe that this disparity arises from advantages inherent in the European enlightenment, but this claim cannot be supported over the longer historical view. The

West too often has been the sponsor of political failure and poor social conditions that have swept across the mid-oriental world and Africa. Its armies are not able to redeem this situation. Neutral diplomacy driven by respect for indigenous political choices might, generous aid might, equally generous trade arrangements might, on occasion peacekeeping and military protection might, affordable technological transfer might, respect for national self-determination might, modesty (or even shame) over our own cultural condition might. We know all about these attitudes and have, in the past, used them. But, powerful western nations seem to have become driven by

the gratifications of wealth, power, influence and military might. Perhaps Ignatieff should have examined how these influences embedded in the Iraq invasion have led to its pointlessness. From that perspective he might have helped Canada begin to re-examine its military role in this widely troubled world.

– Whyte is Senior Policy Fellow, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy.

# High-tech laser tag helps save soldiers' lives

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**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B6  
**BYLINE:** Keith Bonnell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 370

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A combat simulator is giving Canadian soldiers a feel for the chaos of war before they head to Afghanistan — including the ever-present threat of the roadside bombs that have repeatedly claimed Canadian lives.

The Weapon Effects Simulation (WES) system — a high-tech version of Laser Tag — is "definitely" saving Canadian lives, says Maj. Richard Smuck, the Forces' head of land requirements.

About 1,000 reservists from central Ontario were the latest to go through a training session with the system at the sprawling 600-square-kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright in Alberta this month.

"It creates a realism in training now that Canada's never had before," Smuck said Tuesday.

The system is the final combat training soldiers are being given before they're deployed to Afghanistan.

Soldiers use their real gear, weapons and vehicles during the simulations —without the bullets.

Firearms are equipped with laser projectors, and soldiers have sensors attached to their vests that tell them when they've been hit by a simulated bullet or explosion.

When a soldier is hit, he knows it instantly — by the feminine computer voice chiming, "Kill. Small arms fire," or — in the event of a serious "virtual wound" — a "life timer" countdown telling him how many minutes or seconds he has left to live.

Meanwhile, at a command centre, massive amounts of data are analyzed.

The system includes a GPS system that keeps track of everyone on the simulated battlefield — up to 2,300 soldiers, according to Capt. Tom St. Denis, the spokesman for Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre.

After the exercise, soldiers are given a review of the exercise and told what they did wrong.

"It makes the soldiers sit and think about their performance and what they did," Smuck said of the detailed reviews.

"It's definitely bringing up the performance level at a much faster pace ... which in turn saves lives."

The Canadian Forces are in the first year of a 10-year, approximately \$140-million deal with the California-based firm Cubic Defence Applications, for the system, technical support and maintenance.

Canada is one of only about four countries — including Australia and Spain — using the system.

The system simulates artillery, mortars, aircraft bombs and — of particular interest to soldiers leaving for Afghanistan — roadside bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices: The WES system creates the "blast" effect at a particular point on a GPS grid, then sends out a radio signal to soldiers, telling them if they've fallen within the blast radius.

Pte. Simon Longtin of the Quebec-based regiment the Van Doos, who died over the weekend, was the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

# The deal is SEAled

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**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Arts & Life  
**PAGE:** B3  
**DATELINE:** LOS ANGELES  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 219

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LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Universal Pictures has won the battle for the film rights to the nonfiction best-seller Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10.

Peter Berg, who directed the studio's upcoming Middle East thriller The Kingdom, will write and direct the adaptation, which did not come cheap.

Sources say Universal paid an advance of \$2 million US to acquire the rights to the tome as well as the underlying rights.

Written by Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, Survivor tells the true story of how Luttrell led a small team in northern Afghanistan against an al-Qaida leader housed in a Taliban stronghold.

On foot, they encountered two adult men and a teenage boy, and a debate broke out about whether the SEALs should kill the trio to keep them from alerting the Taliban or let them go.

Luttrell decided to spare their lives and free them. An hour later, the SEALs were attacked by the Taliban.

Luttrell, blown off a cliff, was the only one to survive the attack and spent four days hiding out in the mountains. He eventually was taken in by an Afghan tribe, who cared for him and risked everything to protect him when the Taliban arrived on their doorsteps.

For Luttrell, the most important thing now is that any film adaptation would have to respect his fallen comrades, and consequently he wanted to achieve a comfort level with his Hollywood suitors.

Berg and Luttrell took to each other immediately.

The director happens to be a Texan himself — with a love for the SEALs.



# Combat simulator saves lives -- military; CFB Wainwright training system offers a taste of what to expect in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** Keith Bonnell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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# Bush lauds Canada's Afghanistan role; But 'there are differences on the Northwest Passage,' U.S. president notes

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**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / U.S. President George W. Bush, left, holds a news conference with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon as the North American leaders' summit wraps up in Montebello, Que., on Tuesday. ; Photo: Agence France-Presse ; Getty Images / A small group of protesters are outnumbered by police at the entrance to the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit at Montebello on Tuesday. ;

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

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; With files from the Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 629

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MONTEBELLO, Que. – U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals ... the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

Bush thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's

Bush lauds Canada's Afghanistan role; But 'there are differences on the Northwest Passage,' U.S. president

view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We believe it's an international passage," said Bush. "Having said that, the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands.

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Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by hurricane Dean. A state dinner for Calderon, scheduled for Tuesday night with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, was also cancelled.

Before Calderon left for home, he joined Bush and Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the U.S., and the target of anti-free trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

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Harper said one of those executives even raised the issue of regulations governing jellybeans.

"He said you know, the rules for jellybean contents are different in Canada and the United States. They have to maintain two separate inventories.

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jellybean? I don't think so. Maybe Mr. Dion thinks so. But I don't think so."

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**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal

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**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / U.S. President George W. Bush, left, holds a news conference with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon as the North American leaders' summit wraps up in Montebello, Que., on Tuesday. ; Photo: Agence France-Presse ; Getty Images / A small group of protesters are outnumbered by police at the entrance to the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit at Montebello on Tuesday. ;

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**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway

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**WORD COUNT:** 615

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Bush lauds Canada's Afghanistan role; But 'there are differences on the Northwest Passage,' U.S. president

# Bush praises 'fabulous job' by Canadians in Afghanistan; Leaders to act against unsafe imports but disagree over Northwest Passage

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**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / U.S. President George W. Bush, left, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon take a stroll before concluding their meeting. ;

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 460

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Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment — the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Harper said.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over its Arctic islands. But he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush praises 'fabulous job' by Canadians in Afghanistan; Leaders to act against unsafe imports but disagree

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# British army fighting a war it can't win

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton  
Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A17  
**COLUMN:** National Affairs  
**BYLINE:** Gwynne Dyer  
**SOURCE:** Independent  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar  
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**WORD COUNT:** 786

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"The British have given up and they know they will be leaving Iraq soon," said Moqtada al-Sadr, head of the Mehdi army, that country's most powerful militia group, in an interview with the British Independent newspaper. "They have realized this is not a war they should be fighting or one they can win."

Every word he said is true, and most senior officers in the British army know it. As General Sir Richard Dannatt, head of the British army, said last year, Britain "should get out (of Iraq) some time soon."

There are 5,500 British troops in Iraq, by far the largest foreign army after the Americans, but they control almost nothing except the ground they are standing on. Five hundred of them are under permanent siege in Basra Palace, in the middle of Iraq's second-biggest city, and the rest are at the airport outside of town, under constant attack by rocket and mortar fire. They have almost no influence over the three rival Shia militias and the associated criminals who actually run the city and fight over the large sums of money to be made from stolen oil.

Forty-one British soldiers have died in Iraq already this year, compared to 29 in the whole of last year. The deaths are wasted and it's high time to go home, but Prime Minister Gordon Brown is reluctant to anger the White House by pulling all the British troops out before the Americans are ready to leave. That, however, is unlikely to happen before President George W. Bush leaves office in January 2009, as British generals are well aware.

The Democrats in the U.S. Congress have clearly decided that they prefer to see the Republicans go into the election late next year with the albatross of Iraq still tied firmly around their necks, rather than mount a Congressional revolt, cut off funds for the war, and take the blame for the defeat.

Bush says his policy is to "wait to see what David (Petraeus) has to say" when the commanding general in Iraq reports on what progress the "surge" is making in mid-September. But Bush didn't fire the previous U.S. commanders in Iraq and give Petraeus the job without knowing in advance what he would say.

Petraeus will see light at the end of the tunnel, as he always does. The Democratic majorities in Congress will criticize his report but not rebel against it, and U.S. troops will probably stay in Iraq at roughly the present numbers until Bush leaves office 17 months from now. Several thousand American soldiers will have to die to serve these agendas, but so will about 100 British troops.



British generals are deeply unhappy at this prospect, but as students of the indirect approach in strategy they have chosen to argue not so much that the war in Iraq is lost (though it is), but that the war in Afghanistan is still winnable. So the reason we must get British troops out of Iraq now is not just to avoid more useless deaths, but to win by reinforcing our commitment in Afghanistan, which is the truly vital theatre in the "war on terror."

General Dannatt was at it again last week, telling the BBC during a visit to Afghanistan that "the army is certainly stretched. And when I say that we can't deploy any more battle groups (in Afghanistan) at the present moment, that's because we're trying to get a reasonable balance of life for our people."

The too-frequent cycle of combat deployments is certainly harming Britain's forces, with divorces and suicides soaring and retention rates plummeting, but Dannatt's unspoken subtext was: You can fix this by pulling us out of Iraq.

There are already more British troops in Afghanistan (7,000) than in Iraq, so the argument makes a kind of sense: concentrate your resources where they will make a difference. Except that Afghanistan, in the end, is also an unwinnable war, at least in the ambitious terms still used in the West.

The war in Afghanistan is unwinnable, too, in the long run, and President Hamid Karzai's best chance of survival is for the Western troops to leave soon. Then he would at least be free to make the deals with warlords, drug dealers and renegade Taliban, in the traditional Afghan style, that would secure his authority and prolong his life. But if false hope about Afghanistan provides the pretext for pulling British troops out of Iraq, why not?

When Gordon Brown faces parliament again in October, his biggest Iraq problem will not be pressure from the public. It will be pressure from the army.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

# Weapons simulator 'closest thing to live bullets'

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220018  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** CFB WAINWRIGHT, Alta.  
**BYLINE:** Steve Rennie  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 639

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A weapons simulator that mimics roadside bomb blasts, gunfire and nuclear and chemical attacks is being field tested at this isolated eastern Alberta military base to prepare Canadian Forces reservists for the real thing in Afghanistan.

The Weapons Effects Simulation system is a \$100-million training aid that military officials say is the "closest thing to live bullets" being used.

"Canada, right now, in all the western countries of the world, has the most advanced, state of the art WES system," said Colonel Craig King, head of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which is co-ordinating the reserve training exercise here.

"The WES system allows us to portray that in the most realistic possible manner, short of using live munitions," he added.

Each soldier, weapon and vehicle in the 640-square kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright is outfitted with tiny computers that transmit information back to senior commanders. The soldiers' helmets are equipped with a small global positioning device that allows the planners of the exercise, dubbed Maple Defender, to track their every move.

Soldiers wear green camouflaged vests dotted with small black detectors that register when and where they've been shot. The computer determines the severity of each injury -- ranging from light wounds to death -- based on where, and with what weapon, the soldier was hit.

Small transmitters on each weapon, which are actually loaded with blank rounds, let the planners know what happens to every shot fired. Vehicles are likewise fitted with computers that register the amount of damage they incur when they come under fire or hit a roadside bomb.

Throughout the 13-day Wainwright exercise, soldiers have been struck by a number of improvised explosive devices, known commonly as roadside bombs. It's not unusual to see dusty prairie roads outside the makeshift Kandahar Air Field bleached with white talcum powder, which is the training simulation stand-in for the blast crater left behind after a roadside bomb explodes.

Soldiers here face between eight and 12 roadside bomb threats each day, said Colonel Gerry Mann, chief planner of the exercise. No roadside bombs were built into last year's reserve training exercise in Petawawa, Ont., he added, later acknowledging the explosives pose the "biggest threat" to soldiers deployed to

Afghanistan.

That threat has proved all too real in Afghanistan. The latest such casualty came Sunday when Private Simon Longtin, 23, of Longueuil, Que., died after his light armoured vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

The spate of such attacks in recent years has caused the military to put greater emphasis during these training exercises on guarding against the blasts, said Master Warrant Officer Art Chase, one of the technical co-ordinators of the exercise.

"In the last three years, we're starting to do that because of the situations that we have over in Afghanistan. We've got to allow the soldiers to prepare for that and react how they need to react."

Military analysts use the simulation system to evaluate each exercise, then prepare reports highlighting strengths and weaknesses in the soldiers' performances, "all with the view that if they play it out here before they live it out overseas, we (can) use it as a device for that important aspect of life here called learning," King said.

The system was developed by a San Diego, Calif.-based defence company and has been in use since August 2006. However, this two-week training exercise is the first time the system has been used on such a large scale for reservists.

King conceded the system still has "some technical issues," but said it's a marked improvement from the days when a training battlefield was littered with people acting as referees who decided if a soldier had been hit or not by enemy fire.

"It was my opinion versus yours as to whether you took the hit the right way or not. Now, we can actually assess how he used a piece of ground, the number of casualties that were inflicted... That's a tremendous capability."

# City's wartime paranoia revealed

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220003  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Local  
**PAGE:** A1  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR / Hamilton's HomeGuard had an armoured vehicle built during the Second World War. Records reveal a strong concern about the loyalty of new Canadians. ;  
**BYLINE:** Paul Legall  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 750

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It was built of plate steel and paranoia and designed to crush any domestic group from commies to fascists who might try to undermine the war effort.

The Hamilton-built vehicle was a forerunner of today's light-armoured vehicle (LAV) and was trotted out with great fanfare during a public rally at the old Hamilton Civic Stadium in the fall of 1940.

It wasn't just an armoured car. It was also a symbol of the xenophobic attitude of many in this city to immigrants and anyone else who posed a perceived threat to the wartime status quo.

Mounted on a standard truck chassis with rubber tires, it was riveted together with boiler-gauge steel and had several gun slots in the hull as well as a turret on top.

By today's high-tech military standard, it was almost like a Tonka toy on steroids. But in 1940, it was the only vehicle of its kind in Canada and the pride and joy of a group of volunteer soldiers called the Hamilton Auxiliary Defence Corps or Home Guard.

A raft of old documents, including minutes of defence corps meetings, that have recently surfaced reveal a telling story about attitudes of the time.

Consisting mostly of veterans of the Great War, the founders of the auxiliary were obsessed with rooting out disloyal citizens whom they described as "enemy aliens" or "fifth columnists."

They feared non-British immigrants would side with the Axis powers and commit acts of sabotage in Hamilton. During the war, the auxiliary co-operated with the RCMP in drawing up lists of suspected Italian fascists, many of whom were interned in camps without due process.

After the unveiling ceremony, the vehicle was kept under 24-hour guard in a fire station on Sanford Avenue. It disappeared after the war and its fate remains a mystery.

As the war progressed, the ranks of the volunteer corps swelled to the thousands. The guardsmen identified themselves with arm bands and berets and were issued a variety of weapons, including 800 shotguns and six gangster-style Tommy guns like the ones used in the Valentine's Day Massacre.

Hamilton police Sergeant Gary Ostofi, who is also a Navy Captain and president of the Royal Hamilton Military Institute, recently discovered a stack of musty old documents that have cast new light on the history of the auxiliary corps.

The materials, which will be turned over to the archives at the Hamilton Public Library, reveal an almost pathological paranoia of immigrants and suspected dissidents.

In the minutes, the auxiliary leaders suggested pre-emptive measures to lessen the threat of a domestic uprising. They were confident there were no longer any weapons in "the hands of local enemy aliens," after a five-year police roundup of guns.

But the guardsmen were concerned they still owned cars that could be used to form a flying hit squad. As a preventive measure, they suggested their licence plates be revoked and that no foreigners be granted citizenship until the end of the war.

They also expressed concern that alien enemies were running in the municipal elections and recommended taking out newspaper ads to denounce them.

J.F. Cauley urged his colleagues to prevent persons linked with "organizations disloyal to the Empire ... from getting a foothold in municipal candidates."

"This organization is unalterably opposed to the election to city council, or any of the elective body, any person who has been at any time connected with any Nazi, Fascist or Communist party," Cauley stated in a motion.

Members of the auxiliary also discussed how they could arm themselves and got weekly reports on the construction of the armoured car, which was a joint project involving the Hamilton Bridge Company, Dominion Foundries and Turnbull Elevator.

On Aug. 26, 1940, the armoured car committee reported the prototype, which was to be the first of three vehicles, had passed all the tests with "flying colours", including withstanding machine-gun fire at point blank range. It would soon be in the hands of the home guard and ready for action.

To forestall any suggestions they were building a private army, the auxiliary corps members had Hamilton city hall pick up the \$9,000 bill for the armoured car. The other cars were never built.

A police officer for more than 40 years, Ostofi has no idea what happened to the vehicle after the war.

By the time he joined the officers' club in the 1970s, all the old veterans who'd promoted the project were gone.

But the Tommy guns did surface again at the old Hamilton police station in the 1970s. Now considered antiques, the machine guns were sold back to the American company that built them and the proceeds were used to buy assault rifles for the newly formed police tactical team.

"It was a different time, I guess," Ostofi mused when asked about the attitudes of the day. "We were at war. It was a little different than today when we debate whether we should be in Afghanistan.

"There was no debate in this. You were either for us or against us."

plegall@thespec.com



# THE AFGHAN MISSION Quebec media lash out at soldier's death

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072340219

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**PAGE:** A7

**BYLINE:** TU THANH HA

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Montreal PQ

**WORDS:** 447

**WORD COUNT:** 366

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TU THANH HA MONTREAL Critical media reactions are starting to be heard in Quebec in the wake of Sunday's death of Private Simon Longtin, a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment in Afghanistan.

Initial reactions to his death had been non-polemical or supportive of the mission.

But two columnists in yesterday's edition of the daily La Presse raised questions about Canada's role in Afghanistan.

In one, veteran journalist Michele Ouimet recalled being on assignment at the Afghan-Pakistani border, watching the unchecked traffic.

Without being able to stop the Taliban from seeking sanctuary in Pakistan, North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops are powerless in trying to prop up a weak, corrupt Afghan government, she said.

"I think the death Sunday of the young Quebec soldier Simon Longtin, 23, is absurd," she wrote. "I don't dare say pointless." Another columnist, Pierre Foglia, said what was at stake was the future of the Muslim world. He asked why other Muslim countries aren't fighting fundamentalism in Afghanistan.

"Why Simon Longtin?" he wrote. "What could it matter to Simon Longtin whether the Muslim world accedes to modernity or not?" Pte. Longtin wasn't the first Quebecker killed in combat in Afghanistan.

But he is likely the first of what could be more casualties from his province, now that the current troop rotation in Kandahar is made up mainly of soldiers from Quebec-based units.

While opinions are roughly split evenly in the rest of Canada, nearly three-quarters of the population in Quebec is against the mission.

In Le Devoir, an editorial yesterday leaned that way too, faulting the mission for its unclear aims.

"The loss of a soldier from the Royal 22nd Regiment is yet another harsh reminder of the brutal results of a half-humanitarian, half-fighting mission, whose scope is ill-defined." Although an editorial in La Presse took francophone Quebecers to task for their long-held distrust of the military, postings on the Internet and letters to the editors reflected that sentiment.

"We're in this mission to do the dirty job for George W. Bush.

We bent our spine before the U.S. who had their arms full in Iraq," reader Roger Kemp wrote in Trois-Rivieres' Le Nouvelliste.

Whereas military personnel and their families were heavily featured on the news, sharing their grief and putting up a brave face, government representatives kept a low profile.

In Quebec City, Heritage Minister Josee Verner attended the departure of Kandahar-bound soldiers on Sunday. Local journalists reported that she stuck to short, prepared remarks and took no questions.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay attended another departure Monday night and read tentatively from a French text.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Quebec; Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; war deaths; media

PERSONAL NAME: Simon Longtin

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces



# MONTEBELLO SUMMIT Troops doing 'fabulous job,' Bush says U.S. President emphasizes non-combat aspect of Afghan mission, noting Canada is building democratic institutions

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072340218

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**PAGE:** A4 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** ALAN FREEMAN

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, QUE.

**WORDS:** 584

**WORD COUNT:** 605

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ALAN FREEMAN MONTEBELLO, QUE.

U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday praised Canadian troops for the "fabulous job" they are doing in southern Afghanistan but gave no hint as to how NATO would cope with the scheduled end of the Canadian combat mission in February, 2009.

Speaking at the closing news conference of an abbreviated North American summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Mr. Bush was unstinting in his praise for Canada's military contribution to the Afghan mission.

"Canada has performed brilliantly," he said as Mr. Harper listened intently. "And I thank the mothers and fathers or sons and daughters of those who lost their life in this, for the sake of freedom and peace, for the ultimate sacrifice they paid." He said Canada was making an "important contribution in this global struggle against extremists," insisting that "we're in an ideological struggle against people who use murder and death to achieve political objectives." Mr. Bush was clearly anxious to emphasize the non-combat aspect of Canada's mission in the country, noting that Canada was building democratic institutions and helping ensure that Afghan girls are educated and that Afghan women can serve in the country's Parliament.

"We don't believe freedom is just confined to our neighbourhood," Mr. Bush said. "We believe freedom is universal in its application.

. . . We believe people want to be free and if given a chance, they will exercise what is necessary to be free. And that freedom yields peace." He said that by supporting the mission in Afghanistan, the Canadian people are "laying the foundation of peace throughout the 21st century." Mr. Harper added his own praise for Canadian troops and said that Parliament would make its decision on whether to extend the mission beyond February, 2009.

The summit was cut short by a couple of hours to facilitate the early departure of Mr. Calderon, who was anxious to assess the damage to the Yucatan Peninsula by hurricane Dean.

While Mr. Harper got the kind of backing from Mr. Bush on Afghanistan that he was probably looking for, he was not as fortunate when it came to Arctic sovereignty.

Mr. Bush said the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands and he supports the Harper government's recently announced investment in Arctic icebreakers. But he repeated the long-held U.S. view that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Mr. Harper conceded that there remains a difference of opinion between Ottawa and Washington over the Northwest Passage, but he said that the two governments have learned how "to manage these differences," adding, "We think we'll be able to continue to do that." The summit also allowed Mr. Bush and Mr. Calderon to continue discussions on what has become known as Plan Mexico, which would see Washington provide hundreds of millions of dollars in financial and military aid to help Mexico tackle the twin problems of drug trafficking and criminal cartels.

Mr. Bush declined to speculate on the value of the package but said that it would be "robust enough to achieve a common objective, which is to reduce violence on both sides of the border and deal with narco-trafficking." He also indicated for the first time that the Mexican plan would differ from the long-standing Plan Colombia, which aims to help the Colombian government fight the cocaine trade. Unlike in Colombia, the Mexican plan would not include any U.S. armed presence in the country.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States; Mexico; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: summit conference; foreign relations; defence; political; statements

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

# THE AFGHAN MISSION Taliban target Canadians with renewed vigour

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072340200  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**PAGE:** A1 (ILLUS)  
**BYLINE:** CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD  
**SECTION:** Column  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 972  
**WORD COUNT:** 944

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CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Twice in the past 10 days, Canada's small Provincial Reconstruction Team office in the outskirts of Kandahar city has been directly attacked by rocket-propelled grenades.

While hardly kept secret – press releases were apparently sent out – the attacks were never reported, perhaps in part, as the PRT commander Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Chamberlain says with a wry grin, because bases large and small are so routinely rocketed in southern Afghanistan that to the untrained eye another one hardly qualifies as news any more.

Yet that it was the PRT, the home for the "soft-knock" arm of Canada's forces, which was the target is not insignificant.

The camp hasn't been subjected to a direct attack in anyone's recent memory going back about two years, though the violence endemic to this part of the country has been all around the base.

Last year, for instance, two U.S. private security contractors, whose little compound sits near the PRT and who were friends with many Canadians, were killed in a suicide bombing.

But still, as Lt.-Col. Chamberlain acknowledges, "It's the first time [the Taliban] have actually fired RPGs at the camp, the first time there's been a demonstrated attack on the camp." The attacks occurred Aug. 13 and 18, both in the early morning hours, and in at least one instance saw the troops here respond with gunfire. No one was injured either time.

Coupled with two recent roadside bombings against Canadian troops travelling roads just west of Kandahar – one was the blast that last Saturday killed 23-year-old Private Simon Longtin of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment – the obvious conclusion might be that the security situation in Afghanistan's second-largest city and environs is growing worse.

But while Lt.-Col. Chamberlain agrees that the situation is fragile at the moment, he says that the better measure is to take a longer view, over the course of months or a year. "If you look at a year," he says, "there have been vast improvements. But if you look at the wrong point in the cycle, you get a distorted picture." Inarguably, from that perspective, things are much quieter, particularly in the Panjwai-Zhari districts about 30 kilometres west of the city, than they were last summer, when combat was an almost daily fare for Canadian troops and as a result many villages were virtually deserted. This spring and summer, by contrast, there has

been little combat, as such, with the vast majority of Canadian fatalities inflicted by Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, and some of the same villages appear to be thriving.

Yet it remains an iffy time in the city, Panjwai–Zhari and all the places in between.

"The poppy harvest has just recently ended," Lt.–Col. Chamberlain says, "and some folks made a lot of money, and so the insurgency is fuelled." As well, he says, with the Taliban's traditional fighting season usually ending in late fall as winter approaches, "the insurgency is trying to make some sort of concerted gain." With combat forces "too hard of a target" for the Taliban, which suffered heavy losses in fighting last summer and fall, particularly but not exclusively in September's Canadian–led Operation Medusa, the spike in attacks on softer targets such as the PRT and convoys is easier to understand.

There's another factor at play, too.

The oft–criticized and still–fledgling Afghan National Police have taken over more and more of the security duties in the city proper – operating checkpoints and the like – that were in the earliest days performed by Canadian soldiers operating out of the PRT.

This of course is precisely the long–term goal – Afghanistan, as a sovereign nation, must have the capacity to provide its own security – but it isn't a smooth path. While the Afghan National Army has become a much more professional force, its troops generally held in high regard by Afghans, the ANP is estimated to be at least three years behind the army, its policemen (and a handful of women) underpaid, less well trained and less mentored by their Western counterparts.

The ANP also has a history of mistreating its own citizens, the result that police are often not trusted or respected.

All of this is why, for all that the PRT is home base for aid agencies, the Civil–Military Co–operation (or CIMIC) officers who work closely with Afghans and the so–called campaign for local hearts and minds, security, or force protection, remains what Lt.–Col.

Chamberlain calls "our most important task.

"This camp, like any other, is aware, acutely aware, of the reality of attack . . . it's part of the cost of doing business," he says.

Unlike Canadian troops, who are deployed to Afghanistan in six–month chunks, Lt.–Col. Chamberlain is in Kandahar for a year – a deliberate strategy in a country where personal relationships are important to ensure there is a familiar face during the regular rotations.

He has been here eight months now, and seen some terrific gains.

"The curfew [in the city] is gone. There's more police, and more police checkpoints. We have a competent, hardworking police chief . . . I see more people in the markets, and the stores don't have that tired look of selling whatever they own; there's shiny new things. There's more businesses operating." But still, this is Afghanistan, where nothing comes quickly or easily. Those businessmen looking to set up in the city still can't get dependable power, which means they have to buy generators, which enormously increases the cost of doing business. It's but one small illustration of how complex is the Canadian mission here.

"Rome," Lt.–Col. Chamberlain says, "wasn't built in a day, and neither will Afghanistan be."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Bob Chamberlain

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Taliban

# Canadian troops performing 'brilliantly': Bush

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**PAGE:** A6

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 182

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CNS MONTEBELLO, Que. — U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century." Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

— CanWest News Service {Montebello PQ}

# Bush praises Canada for combat role; President defends Afghan war

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220003

**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Christinne Muschi, Reuters / DISSENTER: Protester RaySunstrum from Gatineau, Que., stands at the front gate to Chateau Montebello Tuesday during the summit of the North American leaders. ;

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 554

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MONTEBELLO, Que. – U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament to decide.

But, in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched into a passionate defence of the war in Afghanistan, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada.

"The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals ... the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We'll manage the differences, because there are differences on the Northwest Passage," Bush said.

Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a

trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border.

They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

Shortened by hurricane Dean

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by hurricane Dean.

Before Calderon left for home, he joined Bush and Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the U.S., and the target of anti-free trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal Leader Stephane Dion for his criticisms of the SPP.

"A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and superhighways to the continent, maybe interplanetary — I'm not sure."

Harper said it's important for the three leaders to meet and discuss their huge trading relationship and to work out problems in pragmatic ways.

In an interview later Tuesday, Dion dismissed the main agreement from the summit. "If the prime minister needs an international summit to conclude that he needs to ban dangerous products coming into Canada, well Canadians expect more from him."

Dion accused Harper of missing an opportunity to address important issues and provide assurances that bulk water will not be exported, that pesticide standards will not be lowered, and that cross-border traffic delays be eliminated. He warned that Harper implied that Canada's combat mission would be extended beyond February 2009 if he secures a majority government. Dion had urged Harper to tell Bush the mission would not be extended.



# Bush praises Afghan mission at summit; U.S. and Canada don't agree on Arctic sovereignty issues, hurricane cuts meeting short

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220056  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** B7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / U.S. President George W. Bush (left) speaks with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon ;  
**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.  
**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 486

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MONTEBELLO, Que. — U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

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"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals . . . the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

Bush thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Harper said.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We believe it's an international passage," said Bush. "Having said that, the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands.

Harper, who recently returned from a tour of the North, said: "Canada's position is that we intend to strengthen our sovereignty in the Arctic area."

Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by Hurricane Dean. A state dinner for Calderon, scheduled for Tuesday night with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, was also cancelled.

# We must remain in combat

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220047  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**BYLINE:** Andrew Parkes  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 285

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Re: It's like losing a brother, Aug. 20

It is a sad irony that Pte. Simon Longtin was killed 65 years to the day of the Dieppe raid, one of Canada's bloodiest battles. However, before the inevitable calls for the withdrawal of Canadian troops by opportunistic politicians, perhaps we can use this tragedy as a moment for reflection.

Canada has lost 67 troops in six years of war in Afghanistan. The one day of the Dieppe raid cost 900 Canadian lives, in addition to 2,500 wounded. What if Canada had pulled out of the Second World War because the public was unwilling to endure these losses? Imagine no Canadian troops landing in Normandy on D-Day. No protecting convoys from U-boats trying to stop the flow of vital supplies across the Atlantic. No Canadians in Italy driving back the forces of fascism. No Canadians liberating the Netherlands — actions that are still remembered by the inhabitants to this day.

What if Canada had stayed, but only in a non-combat role, rebuilding damage in London. Would Britain and its Allies have defeated Nazi Germany without Canadian help in combat? The answer is a definitive "no!"

War is ugly. But it must be realized that the humanitarian side of rebuilding and reconstruction cannot come without the use of force to defeat a determined and dogmatic enemy much like it was against fascism and much like it is against the Taliban today.

Canadians are proud of our country's role in liberating Europe. It was hard, bloody and took years, but the ends justified the means. And 65 years from now when we look back on Afghanistan, let us ensure that we are not having to ask ourselves, "Why didn't we stay?"

Andrew Parkes,

Ottawa

# \$140M simulator saves soldiers' lives in Afghanistan: army; High-tech laser tag tells troops when they 'die,' and how to prevent it next time

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220019  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** Keith Bonnell  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 396

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A combat simulator is giving Canadian soldiers a feel for the chaos of war before they head to Afghanistan — including the ever-present threat of the roadside bombs that have repeatedly claimed Canadian lives.

The Weapon Effects Simulation (WES) system — a high-tech version of Laser Tag — is "definitely" saving Canadian lives, says Maj. Richard Smuck, the Forces' head of land requirements.

About 1,000 reservists from central Ontario were the latest to go through a training session with the system at the sprawling 600-square-kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright in Alberta this month.

"It creates a realism in training now that Canada's never had before," Maj. Smuck said yesterday.

The system is the final combat training soldiers are being given before they're deployed to Afghanistan.

Soldiers use their real gear, weapons and vehicles during the simulations — without the bullets. Firearms are equipped with laser projectors, and soldiers have sensors attached to their vests that tell them when they've been hit by a simulated bullet or explosion.

When a soldier is hit, he knows it instantly — by the feminine computer voice chiming: "Kill. Small arms fire," or — in the event of a serious "virtual wound" — a "life timer" countdown telling him how many minutes or seconds he has left to live.

Meanwhile, at a command centre, massive amounts of data are analyzed. The system includes a GPS system that keeps track of everyone on the simulated battlefield — as many as 2,300 soldiers, according to Capt. Tom St. Denis, the spokesman for Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre.

After the exercise, soldiers are given a review of the exercise and told what they did wrong. "It makes the soldiers sit and think about their performance and what they did," Maj. Smuck said of the reviews.

"It's definitely bringing up the performance level at a much faster pace ... which in turn saves lives."

The Canadian Forces are in the first year of a 10-year, approximately \$140-million deal with the California-based firm Cubic Defense Applications, for the system, technical support and maintenance.

Canada is one of only about four countries — including Australia and Spain — using the system.

\$140M simulator saves soldiers' lives in Afghanistan: army; High-tech laser tag tells troops when they 'die,'

The system simulates artillery, mortars, aircraft bombs and — of particular interest to soldiers leaving for Afghanistan — roadside bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices: The WES system creates the "blast" effect at a particular point on a GPS grid, then sends out a radio signal to soldiers, telling them if they've fallen within the blast radius.

Pte. Simon Longtin of the Van Doos, who died over the weekend, was the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

# Bush praises Canada's 'brilliant' Afghan war effort; American president gives thanks for sacrifice at close of North American leaders' summit

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220004

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen / Mayor Larry O'Brien, second from right, said President George W. Bush, right, was a 'remarkable' man and meeting him was 'the highlight of nine short months of being mayor.' ; Photo: Wayne Cuddington, The Ottawa Citizen / Continental counterparts George W. Bush, Stephen Harper and Felipe Calderon yesterday at the close of the Montebello summit. ;

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway, with files from Juliet O'Neill, The Ottawa Citizen.

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 845

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MONTEBELLO, Que. – U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan yesterday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Mr. Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Mr. Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Mr. Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Mr. Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals and thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Mr. Harper noted the death of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who on Sunday became the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Mr. Harper said.

Mr. Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush praises Canada's 'brilliant' Afghan war effort; American president gives thanks for sacrifice at close of

Mr. Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by the federal government's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We believe it's an international passage," said Mr. Bush. "Having said that, the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands.

"We'll manage the differences, because there are differences on the Northwest Passage."

Mr. Bush and Mr. Calderon arrived at the resort on Monday to join Mr. Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving after an emergency.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by Hurricane Dean. A reception for Mr. Calderon, scheduled for last night with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, was also cancelled.

Before Mr. Calderon left for home, he joined Mr. Bush and Mr. Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the U.S., and the target of anti-free trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

Mr. Harper said it's important for the three leaders to meet and discuss their huge trading relationship and to work out problems in pragmatic ways.

An assessment of the SPP was presented to the three leaders yesterday by a group of corporate executives who sit on the North American Competitiveness Council, a business advisory group appointed by the three governments.

Mr. Harper said one of those executives even raised the issue of regulations governing jellybeans.

"He said, 'You know, the rules for jellybean contents are different in Canada and the United States. They have to maintain two separate inventories.'

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jellybean? I don't think so. Maybe Mr. Dion thinks so. But I don't think so."

At a news conference in Ottawa, three New Democrat MPs said Mr. Harper owes the public "an apology" on grounds he had insulted Canadians by dismissing protesters, belittling their opinions and trivializing their concerns.

NDP trade critic Peter Julian said if the SPP agenda is as open and benign as Mr. Harper claims, the government would freely release the reports of 19 working groups.

Instead, the NDP had to apply for the reports under the access-to-information law and was provided partially blacked-out documents that, among other things, described the partnership agenda as "wide-ranging and overly dense."

"It's about a whole lot more than jellybeans," Mr. Julian said, citing energy integration and food pesticide standards as two of the many issues the NDP says should be opened to more public and parliamentary

Bush praises Canada's 'brilliant' Afghan war effort; American president gives thanks for sacrifice and loss of

scrutiny.

### Mayor Meets 'Remarkable Man'

Mayor Larry O'Brien said yesterday meeting U.S. President George W. Bush was "the highlight of nine short months of being mayor."

He described Mr. Bush as "a remarkable man," with whom he felt a deep connection because of their common faith-based and family values. "I (said) God bless you and all your actions, because I knew he was a man of faith as I am."

Asked what impressed him most about their exchange, Mr. O'Brien said it was "that despite all of the weight of the decisions he makes, he still feels he lives a joyous life."

"Despite the pressures and the magnitude of the impact of the decisions, he counts on the prayers of the people of the United States to keep him at peace."

"He said welcome to the world of public service. He had a few jokes about public service, potholes and things like that."



# BUSH PRAISES MISSION; 'Fabulous Job' By Canadians In Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220158

**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / U.S. President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon wrapped up their summit yesterday. ;

**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, QUE.

**BYLINE:** Richard Foot And Norma Greenaway

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**NOTE:** Corcoran, FP17

**WORD COUNT:** 755

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MONTEBELLO, QUE. – U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan yesterday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Mr. Bush sidestepped the issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009, saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Mr. Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Mr. Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada. The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Mr. Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals ... the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

"The question we're all confronted with in comfortable societies is, is it worth it for our own security to help others realize freedom? I think it's the calling of the 21st century. It's the calling of history, and I appreciate the strong commitment that the Canadian people have made."

He thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Mr. Harper noted the death on Sunday of Private Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Mr. Harper said.

Mr. Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Mr. Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We believe it's an international passage," Mr. Bush said. "Having said that, the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands.

"We'll manage the differences, because there are differences on the Northwest Passage."

Mr. Harper, who recently returned from a tour of the North, said: "Canada's position is that we intend to strengthen our sovereignty in the Arctic area."

Mr. Bush and Mr. Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Mr. Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by Hurricane Dean. A state dinner for Mr. Calderon, scheduled for last night with Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, was also cancelled.

Before Mr. Calderon left for home, he joined Mr. Bush and Mr. Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the United States, and the target of anti-free trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

Mr. Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal leader Stéphane Dion for his criticisms of the SPP.

"I guess I've read some things from my opposition in Canada," Mr. Harper said. "A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and super highways to the continent, maybe interplanetary —I'm not sure."

An assessment of the SPP was presented to the three leaders yesterday by a group of corporate executives who sit on the North American Competitiveness Council, a business advisory group appointed by the three governments.

Mr. Harper said one of those executives even raised the issue of regulations governing jelly beans.

"He said you know, the rules for jelly bean contents are different in Canada and the United States. They have to maintain two separate inventories.

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jelly bean? I don't think so. Maybe Mr. Dion thinks so. But I don't think so."

Mr. Calderon said he was amused by the "myths" around the meeting, but said they should not be allowed to overshadow the importance of talks aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the North American region against newly emerging trading blocs.

**KEYWORDS:** 0

# MPs back Oct. 16; Harper will delay recall of Parliament until after the Ontario election

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220069  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
**PAGE:** A21  
**COLUMN:** L. Ian MacDonald  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: GEOFF ROBINS, REUTERS / The speaker's chair in the House of Commons will remain vacant for another couple of months. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
**BYLINE:** L. IAN MACDONALD  
**SOURCE:** Freelance  
**WORD COUNT:** 785

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Any day now, the Harper government will announce a new session of Parliament, beginning with a Throne Speech on Oct. 16.

This is no October surprise, and the date is no coincidence. Not only does it fall after Thanksgiving on Oct 8, but after the Ontario election on Oct. 10. The Conservatives in Ottawa want to stay off television and out of the news to give John Tory and the Ontario Progressive Conservatives a clear shot at defeating Dalton McGuinty's Liberals at Queen's Park.

McGuinty will be running against Mike Harris, who isn't on the ballot. McGuinty also will be running against Ottawa, demanding a fair share for Ontario. But Ottawa will not be running against him, and Stephen Harper will not oblige by providing a convenient target through question period minefields planted by the Liberals and NDP, with a view to tilting the provincial campaign.

McGuinty will just have to stand and win the election on his own, and that isn't as obvious as it might seem for a first-term premier sitting on a strong economy. Ontario's manufacturing heartland has lost 60,000 jobs in the last year alone, and the province's unemployment rate is actually half a point above the national average. And John Tory also is a much less polarizing and much more progressive opponent than the political ghost of Mike Harris. The Ontario campaign looks to be an extremely competitive one, and if Tory loses it won't be because Harper was getting in the way.

The late recall of the House, which had been scheduled to resume on Sept. 17, also gives the government a month of breathing room out of the circus atmosphere of question period. And it gives the ministers involved in last week's cabinet shuffle another month to brief up on their new responsibilities, without being on the daily firing line.

This applies particularly to Maxime Bernier at Foreign Affairs and Peter MacKay at Defence, as well as Josée Verner at Heritage. Bernier, with no background in foreign policy, has an entire world to learn about in a portfolio that is unforgiving of ministerial gaffes. Bernier has only to ask his predecessor, MacKay, about the steepness of the learning curve.

"It's like cramming for finals every night," MacKay told a friend when he was only a few months on the job, and still learning his way around after a very shaky start.

So while September would normally be back-to-school month in Ottawa, the calendar will be reset for mid-October.

With the cabinet shuffle receding from view, the Throne Speech will be the next big talking point.

What will be in it? And will the government survive a vote on it?

The content of the speech might well determine the outcome of the vote on it.

Harper was elected on five priorities and his first Throne Speech dealt with that in very focused transactional terms. His second Throne Speech presents him with an opportunity for a broader vision of government at a time when he has run out of message.

Over the next several weeks until Thanksgiving, the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council will be inundated with suggestions for the speech.

Those ideas can be roughly sorted into four policy boxes: the economy and taxes, the Canadian federation, Canada and the world, the environment and climate change.

There's almost certain to be an emphasis on a productivity agenda, even though it's hard to soundbite and even harder to sell. But try this: Canadians aren't rich enough. Americans produce and, thus, earn nearly \$10,000 more per capita than we do. Part of the reason is that we're overtaxed. And after program spending grew by eight per cent in the last budget, three times as fast as the economy, it's time for the Conservatives to deliver on tax cuts. With these surpluses, there has never been a better time.

On the federation, Harper will propose legislative, but not constitutional, limits to the federal spending power. As a classical division-of-powers federalist he will be very comfortable with this. The Liberals and the NDP will oppose this, and Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Québécois will have another decision to make. They couldn't oppose fiscal-imbalance money for Quebec and the provinces in the last budget, and they would be hard pressed to explain opposing something all Quebec governments have been seeking for decades.

As for Canada's role in the world, the Throne Speech might be the place for Harper to announce, absent a parliamentary consensus, Canada will fulfill its obligations in Kandahar to February 2009, but afterward rotate out to another part Afghanistan and allow another NATO power to take up that heavy burden in the south. Harper, apparently, informed George W. Bush as much at Montebello this week. The Throne Speech would be an appropriate setting to share such a decision with the country.

[www.lianmacdonald.ca](http://www.lianmacdonald.ca)

# Bush hails afghan effort; Thanks Canadians. Leaders mock critics before parting

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220004  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: WAYNE CUDDINGTON, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE /STEERING CLEAR U.S. President George W. Bush, above with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role in Afghanistan should extend past 2009. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; CANDIDATES; OPPOSITION; POLITICAL PARTIES; POLITICS; FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO  
**BYLINE:** RICHARD FOOT and NORMA GREENAWAY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 631

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President George W. Bush yesterday hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 – saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched into a passionate defence of the Afghan war, speaking from a podium beside Harper. "I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada."

"The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive," Bush said.

He described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals ... the question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?"

Harper noted the death of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22e Régiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk to themselves," Harper said.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic. He said the United States accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the Northwest Passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval

this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush–appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

Bush and Calderon arrived at Montebello on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders to discuss, among other issues, the Security and Prosperity Partnership – a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co–operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross–border traffic moving after an emergency or crisis.

The summit was shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by Hurricane Dean.

Before Calderon left for home, he joined Bush and Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative – a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the United States, and the target of widespread anti–free trade and environmental protests.

Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal leader Stéphane Dion. "I guess I've read some things from my opposition in Canada," Harper said. "A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and super highways to the continent, maybe interplanetary – I'm not sure."

In an interview later yesterday, Dion dismissed the main agreement from the summit.

"If the prime minister needs an international summit to conclude he needs to ban dangerous products coming into Canada, well Canadians expect more from him."

Dion accused Harper of missing an opportunity to address important issues and provide assurances that bulk water will not be exported, that pesticide standards will not be lowered and cross–border traffic delays be eliminated.

He warned that Harper implied Canada's combat mission would be extended beyond February 2009 if he secures a majority government. Dion had urged Harper to tell Bush the mission would not be extended.

At a news conference in Ottawa, three NDP MPs said Harper owes the public "an apology" on grounds he had insulted Canadians by dismissing protesters, belittling their opinions and trivializing their concerns.

They said 99 per cent of the protesters who came to the gates of Montebello this week were peaceful, and that the heavy police security was provocative.

NDP trade critic Peter Julian said if the SPP agenda is as open and benign as Harper claims, the government would freely release the reports of 19 working groups.

"It's about a whole lot more than jelly beans," Julian said.

# City plans sticker sale to support the troops

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220070  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Region  
**PAGE:** B3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Dave Bronconnier;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; VETERANS; COMMEMORATIONS; CANADA  
**BYLINE:** Kim Guttormson  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 420

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The city will declare September "yellow ribbon month" and officially launch its sale of support-the-troops decals at a Sept. 5 ceremony, said Mayor Dave Bronconnier.

Proceeds from the sale of the vehicle magnets, which are already available at city facilities and online, go to the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre where the launch will be held.

And while other cities put the decals on city vehicles, Calgary's approach is more concrete, the mayor argues.

"We absolutely support our troops, but we're going to do things that are more than just symbolism," he said. "Practical and tangible and meaningful."

City council will also vote this fall on proposed changes for employees who serve as reservists that would give them paid leaves and top up their salaries during military deployments.

In July, in a unanimous vote, city council decided to sell support-the-troops decals at city facilities — leisure centres, Calgary Transit customer service counters and through bylaw and animal services.

At the same meeting, council rejected a move to put the yellow ribbon magnets on all its city vehicles.

Reaction to that decision has been mixed, with some arguing the city did the right thing and others criticizing the move as an insult to the soldiers.

One Royal Canadian Legion member has suggested banning council members from legion facilities and Remembrance Day services, but the legion's command secretary for Alberta immediately ruled that out.

"That is not how we go about dealing with our governments," Tammy Wheeler said, adding it's "not for us to decide" whether council should put decals on city vehicles.

"To characterize this, as some have, as somehow city council is not supportive of the troops because we're not putting decals on dump trucks is misleading," Bronconnier said.

"It's unfortunate the discussion has deteriorated. It's beyond misleading to characterize support for our troops can only be demonstrated in one way," he said.



Four other Alberta cities have voted to put the decals on their fleets including Airdrie which passed the motion in a unanimous vote Monday.

"It was simply a no brainer," Mayor Linda Bruce said.

The province has also OK'd decals on its vehicles but will allow employees to decide whether to put them on.

Jim Lightbody, a professor of city politics at the University of Alberta, said the recent move by municipalities toward the decals makes sense, given it's an election year.

"In the good old days, all they did was pave roads," Lightbody said. "This involves much less money. It's easy to support putting a decal on."

He called the decals symbolic and said Calgary's move to raise money for the military families and improve its position on how reservist employees are treated is more substantial.

"That makes more sense," he said.

But Mount Royal College political scientist Keith Brownsey said that when talking about politics, people tend to get worked up about symbols.

"What does it take to let a city worker stick one on a city vehicle?"

While the intention of the decals is to show support for the troops, Lightbody argued they are still accompanied by an impression of supporting the war in Afghanistan.

"Where are the troops?" he said. "We did not see this initiative during peacekeeping activities."

kguttormson@theherald.canwest.com

# Tears for Kidnapped Koreans

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**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald

**DATE:** 2007.08.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A12

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Jo Yong-hak, Reuters / A relative of one of the South Koreans kidnapped by the Taliban in Afghanistan cries during his visit to the Afghan Embassy in Seoul on Tuesday. Family members are pleading for the safe return of the captives. ;

**KEYWORDS:** 0

**SOURCE:** Reuters

**WORD COUNT:** 4

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NO TEXT

# High-tech simulator gives soldiers taste of roadside bombs

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220028  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 176

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Afghan Mission – A combat simulator is giving Canadian soldiers a feel for the chaos of war before they head to Afghanistan -- including the ever-present threat of the roadside bombs that have repeatedly claimed Canadian lives.

The Weapon Effects Simulation system -- a high-tech version of Laser Tag -- is "definitely" saving Canadian lives, says Maj. Richard Smuck, the Forces' head of land requirements.

About 1,000 reservists from central Ontario were the latest to go through a training session with the system at the sprawling 600-square-kilometre training area at CFB Wainwright in Alberta this month.

"It creates a realism in training now that Canada's never had before," Smuck said Tuesday.

The system is the final combat training soldiers are being given before they're deployed to Afghanistan.

Soldiers use their real gear, weapons and vehicles during the simulations -- without the bullets.

Firearms are equipped with laser projectors, and soldiers have sensors attached to their vests that tell them when they've been hit by a simulated bullet or explosion. When a soldier is hit, he knows it instantly -- by the feminine computer voice chiming, "Kill. Small arms fire."

Meanwhile, at a command centre, massive amounts of data are analyzed.

# Bush lauds Afghan mission

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**IDNUMBER** 200708220003  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.08.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Larry Downing, Reuters / From left, U.S. President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon mocked critics Tuesday in Montebello, Que. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** MONTEBELLO, Que.  
**BYLINE:** Richard Foot and Norma Greenaway  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 811

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U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Canada's military sacrifice in Afghanistan on Tuesday, saying the country and its soldiers had "performed brilliantly" in "writing the first chapter of laying the foundation of peace in the 21st century."

Speaking at the close of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Bush sidestepped the thorny issue of whether Canada's combat role should be extended in 2009 — saying that was a matter for the Canadian Parliament.

But in response to a reporter's question about the future of the mission in Kandahar, Bush launched a passionate defence of the Afghan war, his voice rising as he spoke from a podium beside Harper.

"I believe Canada's done a fabulous job in Afghanistan and I'd like to thank the people of Canada," Bush said.

"The Canadian people have sent some of your finest into harm's way to enable a young democracy to be able to survive and thrive."

Bush described the mission as part of his vision of a global struggle against "extremists and radicals"

"The question is, will free nations enable young democracies to survive this threat?" he said.

Bush thanked the Canadian "mothers and fathers of young soldiers" who have died in Afghanistan.

Harper noted the death on Sunday of Pte. Simon Longtin of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, who is the 68th Canadian fatality in the conflict.

"We are very fortunate to have men and women who put on the uniform, willing to defend our values and improve the lives of their fellow human beings and do so at tremendous personal risk," Harper said.

Bush also praised Canada's recent commitment to boost its military presence in the Arctic, and said the U.S. accepts Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic islands, but he restated U.S. claims — contrary to Canada's view — that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway.

Bush made it clear he was not persuaded by Ottawa's claim of sovereignty over the passage, despite that declaration getting a nod of approval earlier this week from Paul Cellucci, a former Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"We believe it's an international passage," said Bush. "Having said that, the United States does not question Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic islands. We'll manage the differences, because there are differences on the Northwest Passage."

Bush and Calderon arrived at this historic resort on Monday to join Harper for the third annual meeting of North American leaders, to discuss among other issues the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a trilateral effort aimed at renewing continental free trade and strengthening security co-operation.

The leaders announced no breakthroughs on smoothing the flow of goods or people across their border. They did, however, promise to try to block imports of unsafe food and products, especially those designed for children, and to find ways to keep cross-border traffic moving following an emergency or crisis.

The summit was ultimately shortened by the emergency in Mexico created by hurricane Dean. A state dinner for Calderon, scheduled for Tuesday with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, was also cancelled.

Before Calderon left for home, he joined Bush and Harper in mocking critics of the SPP initiative — a source of suspicion among conservative nationalists in the U.S., and the target of anti-free-trade and environmental protests in all three countries.

Harper went out of his way to poke fun at Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion for his criticisms of the SPP.

"A couple of my opposition leaders have speculated on massive water diversions, and superhighways to the continent, maybe interplanetary — I'm not sure."

Harper said it's important for the three leaders to meet and discuss their huge trading relationship and to work out problems in pragmatic ways.

An assessment of the SPP was presented to the three leaders Tuesday by a group of corporate executives who sit on the North American Competitiveness Council, a business advisory group appointed by the three governments.

Harper said one executive even raised the issue of regulations governing jellybeans.

"He said, you know, the rules for jellybean contents are different in Canada and the United States. They have to maintain two separate inventories.

"Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jellybean? I don't think so. Maybe Mr. Dion thinks so. But I don't think so."

In an interview later Tuesday, Dion mocked Harper in return, saying, "I hope he did not take as much time to speak about jellybeans with the presidents as he did at the press conference."

He also dismissed the main agreement from the summit. "If the prime minister needs an international summit to conclude that he needs to ban dangerous products coming into Canada, well Canadians expect more from him."

Dion accused Harper of missing an opportunity to address important issues and provide assurances bulk water will not be exported, pesticide standards will not be lowered, and cross-border traffic delays be eliminated.

He warned that Harper implied Canada's combat mission would be extended beyond February 2009 if he secures a majority government. Dion had urged Harper to tell Bush the mission would not be extended.

At a news conference in Ottawa, three New Democratic Party MPs said Harper owes the public "an apology" because he had insulted Canadians by dismissing protesters, belittling their opinions and trivializing their concerns.

NDP trade critic Peter Julian said if the SPP agenda is as open as Harper claims, the government would freely release the reports of 19 working groups.

Instead, the NDP had to request them under access to information and was provided partially blacked-out documents which, among other things, described the partnership agenda as "wide-ranging and overly dense."