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# Soldiers run Marathon of Hope in Kandahar

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / Lance Cpl. Duncan Forbes of York, England, takes part in the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, yesterday. ;  
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There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field yesterday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox, who attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox Run," said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton.

"It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98-per-cent mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about, explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The Terry Fox run is one of the most popular events at the base.

"I've done this overseas," said BJ La Porte, a former soldier now working as a civilian at Kandahar Air Field. "This is not weird for me. Most of my Terry Fox runs have been done overseas. This is very Canadian."

A line of tiny Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.

Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

"Of course not. You can't win your own competitions can you?" he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was.

"This is my third run," he said. "I did a couple in Damascus. This is the harder one. The other ones were much cooler."

It was the poster that convinced Lance Cpl. Duncan Moore, of York, England to join the run. But even he found the heat and dust a challenge.

"I was a bit knackered on the back stretch," he admitted as he wiped away the sweat.

For O'Hara, his ongoing battle against the deadly disease will continue for the rest of his life as he remains part of a clinical trial. He wishes things had ended differently for Fox, who died in 1981.

He said he wished Fox could have been in Kandahar to see the fruits of his labour.

"I think he would be quite impressed with what he's got started here. It's gone on for 27 years and it's amazing."

# Polls can be invaluable for politicians deciding on key issues

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If you would permit a small heresy today, I would like to say a good word about pollsters.

As a breed, pollsters have a thick hide. They need it. They, and the media organizations that publish or broadcast their findings, are blamed for many of the ills of today's democracy — from turning elections into horse races, to feeding voter cynicism to causing woeful turnouts on election day (an appalling 52.6 per cent in the Oct. 10 Ontario election, as no fewer than 4 million eligible Ontarians chose to stay home). Why should we bother to cast ballots, voters may ask, when pollsters have already decided who is going to win, and by how much?

Some savants maintain that polling distorts elections by creating a bandwagon effect — everyone rushes to the side that the pollsters have decided will win. Other savants, however, claim there is an underdog effect — in which voters, out of compassion, guilt or sense of fair play, go with a party or candidate that is doomed to defeat.

Among the various allegations, the one that I would give the most credence to is the suppression of voter turnout. The proliferation of polls and declining participation rates do seem to go hand in hand. The incentive to vote diminishes as the outcome appears more and more inevitable.

Television only makes matters worse when it behaves as it did on Ontario election night. As the polls closed at 9 p.m. — and before a single ballot had been counted — Global TV declared the re-election of the Liberals. The network made its call on the basis of a poll conducted among voters after they had cast their ballots. CTV followed 15 minutes later, using polls and a few fragmentary results. CBC had least had a modest selection of partial results when it made its decision 20 minutes after CTV.

Although the behaviour of the networks did not alter the outcome on Oct. 10, I worry about the effect on the next election, the one after that, and so on. Voters, I think, become discouraged when they are told that an election is all over before their votes have been counted, and that discouragement deepens when the same thing happens, election after election.

However, there are occasions when pollsters, and media organizations, perform a valuable public service. One of those occasions was the publication last week of a survey by Toronto-based Environics Research Group of the attitudes of the people of Afghanistan toward the presence of Canadian and other foreign troops in their country. Do they welcome or resent our soldiers? Do they support our efforts in Afghanistan? Are we doing any good? Do they see hope for the future?



We know that the Canadian public is divided on Afghanistan; recent polls show slightly more Canadians are opposed to our continuing commitment there than support it. But to turn the coin over, how do the Afghans feel about us?

It is not easy to survey public opinion in a fearful, war-torn country like Afghanistan. Polling by phone is impossible. Interviews have to be conducted in respondents' homes with women interviewers questioning women and men interviewing men.

Environics lined up three major media cosponsors — the Globe and Mail, Montreal's La Presse and the CBC — to make sure the findings would be widely and authoritatively disseminated. Interviews were conducted in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan with extra interviews in Kabul, the capital, and Kandahar, where the Canadian mission is based.

The findings are too numerous to detail here. Generally speaking, Afghans don't view their country as an Iraq-style quagmire.

They feel it is moving in the right direction, that women are better off than they were under the Taliban. They are positive about the government of President Hamid Karzai. They think the foreign presence is a good thing and that foreign troops are doing a good job fighting the Taliban. Six out of 10 residents of Kandahar give the Canadian military a positive rating, compared to one in five who are negative.

A poll is just a snapshot of a moment in time, but information like this is invaluable to the federal government as it decides whether to ask Parliament to extend the Canadian commitment beyond February 2009. It is useful to the opposition parties as they calculate how hard to push the government. And it is reassuring to Canadians to know that the sacrifices of our military men and women are valued by the people they are risking their lives to help.

Cambridge resident Geoffrey Stevens, an author and former Ottawa columnist and managing editor of the Globe and Mail, teaches political science at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Guelph. He welcomes comments at [geoffstevens@sympatico.ca](mailto:geoffstevens@sympatico.ca)

# Terry Fox Run held in Kandahar; Soldiers from NATO countries join cancer fundraising event

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# Soldiers see need for longer Afghan mission; Troops agree Canada needed in war-torn country past 2009, but unsure what mission should be

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

Soldiers see need for longer Afghan mission; Troops agree Canada needed in war-torn country past 2009,

He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago.

But it is not enough.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil– Military Co–operation Team.

His CIMIC team in Panjwahi meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen.

The four members, along with their force–protection team, stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

February 2009? "It's impossible," says Cote.

But there's not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," says Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan. Public opinion about the mission is divided.

Parliament is divided.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government wants Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

The throne speech tied the eventual exit to the training of Afghan national security forces, including the army and police.

Harper has appointed a five–person panel to examine options for the future of the mission, including continued Canadian training of the Afghan army and police, leaving the volatile southern province of Kandahar for a quieter sector or withdrawing altogether.

# Group seeks to save reservists' jobs while they're overseas; Municipalities body also wants more Ottawa funds for infrastructure

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The Cities Association of New Brunswick wrapped up its annual general meeting in Moncton Saturday by passing two resolutions, one aimed at securing more federal funding for crumbling municipal infrastructures and the other at protecting the job security of military reservists.

Both resolutions were introduced by Bathurst delegates. Graham Wiseman called for the province's Employment Standards Act to be amended to protect reservists, something Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia have already done.

"One individual in New Brunswick had to quit his job to serve in Afghanistan, " he said. "There are possibly others in the same situation and we don't know about it," Wiseman added, speculating that many employees would be reluctant to complain in such situations.

On the topic of the federal government announcing in August that its surplus was double what had been forecast, "Whereas municipalities across Canada are in an infrastructure crisis," Bathurst delegate Frank Quigg called on, "the prime minister to allocate a portion of the surplus to municipal infrastructure."

Delegates also heard from the newly appointed commissioner for local government. Only in his third week on the job, Jean-Guy Finn said he wouldn't be able to venture what recommendations he might make at the end of his one year study into governance issues.

"I'm very much in the listening and reading mode right now," Finn said. He admitted he was at first skeptical about the need for another study on local governance, there having been no less than 20 done on various aspects since 1970. He said however his work will play a role in updating the province's 40- year-old laws on governance and municipalities.

# Vampire flick tops box office; '30 Days of Night' earns \$16 million in opening weekend

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The horror tale "30 Days of Night" had three days of box-office bite.

The Sony fright flick, with Josh Hartnett leading Alaskans against ravenous vampires that turn up for the prolonged winter darkness, debuted as the weekend's No. 1 movie with \$16 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Audiences continued to choose merriment over misery as the latest crop of sober Academy Awards hopefuls, among them Ben Affleck's "Gone Baby Gone," Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal's "Rendition" and Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro's "Things We Lost in the Fire," debuted with so-so to dismal numbers.

Whether it's the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, deadly news out of Pakistan and Myanmar or Friday's stock market tumble, moviegoers seem disinterested in more bad news at theatres with films about child-kidnapping, torture, widowhood and heroin addiction.

"Fall is the season of the serious movie, and it seems like audiences in a way are resisting the serious movie right now," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "Audiences are finding their horror or their intensity in real life, and they're not looking for it in the movies."

Other escapist fare joined "30 Days of Night" at the top of the box-office chart. "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?," the Lionsgate release that was the previous weekend's No. 1 flick, slipped to second place with \$12.1 million, raising its total to \$38.9 million.

Disney's family comedy "The Game Plan" held up well at No. 3 with \$8.1 million, lifting its four-week total to \$69.2 million.

Affleck made his directing debut with Miramax's "Gone Baby Gone," which debuted at No. 5 with \$6 million. The critically acclaimed movie stars the filmmaker's brother, Casey Affleck, as a private detective trying to solve a young girl's abduction.

Coming in on par with "Gone Baby Gone" was Fox Atomic's "The Comebacks," a lowbrow spoof of sports movies that opened at No. 6 with \$5.85 million.

New Line's "Rendition," starring Witherspoon and Gyllenhaal in the story of an Egyptian-born man detained and tortured under suspicion of terrorism, premiered at No. 9 with \$4.2 million.

The DreamWorks-Paramount release "Things We Lost in the Fire," with Berry as a widow who takes in her husband's drug-addicted best friend (Del Toro), opened far outside the top-10 with \$1.6 million.

Further proof that movie fans want fun over adversity: a 3-D version of Disney's Halloween perennial "Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas" was No. 8 with \$5.1 million and had a better rate of return per-theatre than any of the new wide releases.

Playing in 564 cinemas, "Nightmare Before Christmas" averaged \$9,122, compared to \$5,604 in 2,855 locations for "30 Days of Night;" \$3,503 in 1,713 sites for "Gone Baby Gone;" \$1,856 in 2,250 theatres for "Rendition" and \$1,405 in 1,142 cinemas for "Things We Lost in the Fire."

"There's just so much serious fare. We have overloaded the marketplace with this highbrow, serious product," said Chris Aronson, senior vice-president of distribution for 20th Century Fox.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "30 Days of Night," \$16 million.
2. "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?," \$12.1 million.
3. "The Game Plan," \$8.1 million.
4. "Michael Clayton," \$7.1 million.
5. "Gone Baby Gone," \$6 million.
6. "The Comebacks," \$5.85 million.
7. "We Own the Night," \$5.5 million.
8. "Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas," \$5.1 million.
9. "Rendition," \$4.2 million.
10. "The Heartbreak Kid," \$3.9 million.



# Opinion divided over Afghanistan's ability to progress without international help

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**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 340

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009. What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," said the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he said.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he said.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

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His CIMIC team in Panjwaii meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen.

The four members, along with their force–protection team, stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

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But there's not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," said Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan.

Public opinion about the mission is divided. Parliament is also divided about when Canada should leave.

# Cities association passes resolution to protect reservists' job security

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220030  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** News;News  
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**BYLINE:** BRENT MAZEROLLE Canadaeast News Service  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 228

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The Cities Association of New Brunswick wrapped up its annual general meeting in Moncton on Saturday by passing two resolutions, one aimed at securing more federal funding for crumbling municipal infrastructure and the other at protecting the job security of military reservists.

Both resolutions were introduced by Bathurst delegates.

Graham Wiseman called for the province's Employment Standards Act to be amended to protect reservists, something Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia have already done.

"One individual in New Brunswick had to quit his job to serve in Afghanistan, " he said. "There are possibly others in the same situation and we don't know about it," Wiseman added, speculating that many employees would be reluctant to complain in such situations.

Delegates also heard from the newly appointed commissioner for local government.

Jean-Guy Finn said he wouldn't be able to guess what recommendations he might make at the end of his one-year study into governance issues.

"I'm very much in the listening and reading mode right now," Finn said.

He admitted he was skeptical at first about the need for another study on local governance, with 20 studies done on various aspects since 1970.

He said his work will play a role in updating the province's 40-year-old laws on governance and municipalities.

However, Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside said the province must follow through with action once Finn's study on local governance is done.

"We just hope that after going through this exercise with consultation and dialogue, there will be political will to implement some of the recommendations that the report will be bringing forward," Woodside said Sunday.

"Everybody at these meetings agreed something must be done."

With files from The Daily Gleaner reporter Shawn Berry.

# Fox run held despite heat, dust and danger

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**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**BYLINE:** BILL GRAVELAND The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
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There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field on Sunday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox.

He attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route, which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox run, " said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton.

"It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he said.

"When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98-per-cent mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The Terry Fox run is one of the most popular events at the base.

"I've done this overseas," said BJ La Porte, a former soldier now working as a civilian at Kandahar Air Field. "This is not weird for me. Most of my Terry Fox runs have been done overseas. This is very Canadian."

A line of tiny Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.

Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

"Of course not. You can't win your own competitions can you?" he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was.

"This is my third run," he said. "I did a couple in Damascus. This is the harder one. The other ones were much cooler."

It was the poster that convinced Lance Cpl. Duncan Moore, of York, England to join the run. But even he found the heat and dust a challenge.

"I was a bit knackered on the backstretch," he admitted as he wiped away the sweat.

For O'Hara, his ongoing battle against the deadly disease will continue for the rest of his life as he remains part of a clinical trial. He wishes things had ended differently for Fox, who died in 1981.

He said he wished Fox could have been in Kandahar to see the fruits of his labour.

"I think he would be quite impressed with what he's got started here. It's gone on for 27 years and it's amazing."

# Even distance can't stop Terry Fox run; Canadians take part in cancer fundraiser at Kandahar Air Field

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B5

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland

**PHOTO:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**ILLUSTRATION:** Lance Cpl. Duncan Forbes of York, England takes part in the Terry Fox Run yesterday at Kandahar Air Field. About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined Canadians in the run.

**WORD COUNT:** 518

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There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

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# Mission divides soldiers; Canadian troops agree Afghanistan needs them past '09, debate what they can do

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**WORD COUNT:** 668

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PARLIAMENT IS POISED FOR A GREAT deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

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His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

It's hard to see the progress, he says. He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago.

But it is not enough.

It will take generations for things to change here, he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

I love it, says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil-Military Co-operation Team.

Mission divides soldiers; Canadian troops agree Afghanistan needs them past '09, debate what they can do



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"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," says Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan. Public opinion about the mission is divided. Parliament is divided.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government wants Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan until at least 2011. The throne speech tied the eventual exit to the training of Afghan national security forces, including the army and police.

"This will not be completed by February 2009, but our government believes this objective should be achievable by 2011," said the speech.

Harper has appointed a five-person panel to examine options for the future of the mission, including continued Canadian training of the Afghan army and police, leaving the volatile southern province of Kandahar for a quieter sector or withdrawing altogether.

The Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois have called for an end to the combat mission when the current mandate ends in February 2009. The NDP wants an immediate pullout of combat troops.

Teams of Canadian military police and infantry recently began a mentoring program for Afghan National Police. They have a massive task ahead of them in bringing the notoriously ill-trained and corrupt police force up to an acceptable standard.

Canadian soldiers joined the five-year-old mentoring program for the Afghan army about a year ago.

Despite many difficulties and setbacks, there is a great deal of determination among those who have taken on these tasks: They are not ready yet but they will be.

"We haven't had time to do what we wanted to do. It would be better to continue," says a young soldier the main base at Kandahar Airfield.

Without hesitation he says he would come back for another tour – and he is not alone.

Many say that this combat role on the front line in Afghanistan is the life they chose when they joined the Forces.

"This is what we trained for," says one soldier who will serve his entire six-month tour at one of the rough forward operating bases scattered throughout the dangerous Zhari and Panjwaii districts of Kandahar.

"This is the real thing."

Mission divides soldiers; Canadian troops agree Afghanistan needs them past '09, debate what they can do

A U.S. marine making a pit stop at a Canadian base brings a totally different perspective.

"The problem with the Canadians is that they always have to be worried about what people think at home," he says. "When the Canadians are attacked they worry about civilian casualties. When we're attacked, we hunt them down and kill them."

# How do you keep a Buffalo flying?; Air force needs old Brazilian planes to maintain search and rescue fleet

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

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster

**PHOTO:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**ILLUSTRATION:** A Buffalo Search and Rescue aircraft makes an emergency landing at the Kamloops, B.C. airport in July 2000. In order to keep its 40–year–old Buffalos in the air, air force planners hope they can get their hands on Brazil's retiring fleet.

**WORD COUNT:** 378

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IN ORDER TO KEEP ITS 40–YEAR–OLD Buffalo search and rescue planes in the air, Canadian air force planners are crossing their fingers that they can get their hands on Brazil's fleet of CC–115s, which may soon be retired.

The air force intends to keep its six twin–engine Buffalos, relatively slow planes that operate primarily on the West Coast, flying until 2015.

But an internal Defence Department analysis warns that extending the life of the already antiquated aircraft will be precarious because of dwindling spare parts.

One alternative would be to investigate the potential retirement of the Brazilian Buffalo fleet, said an undated options analysis obtained by the federal New Democrats under access to information laws.

This could be a potential source of spares for some critically needed components. This option would need to be exercised in a relatively short time period in order to prevent equipment from being sold in bulk to other operators. Brazil and Canada are the only two countries left in the world that fly that particular variant of the CC–115. The most critical shortage of spares involves the engines, but the analysis warns that many of the suppliers simply don't make parts for the vintage aircraft any longer.

Defence Department officials responsible for material were not available to say whether they have actually pursued the Brazilian option for spare parts.

The former Liberal government set aside \$3 billion in 2004 to replace the country's fixed–wing search planes, including the Buffalo and the air force's older model C–130 Hercules.

But the project has languished in the Defence Department and has been knocked down the priority list by other big ticket purchases, including heavylift C–17s and CH–47 Chinook battlefield helicopters needed to support the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

Since it remains unclear when the Buffalos, purchased in 1967, will be replaced, the air force is moving ahead with a life extension program, a spokesman said last week.

How do you keep a Buffalo flying?; Air force needs old Brazilian planes to maintain search and rescue fleet

New Democrat defence critic Dawn Black said the air force has been put in a ridiculous position of praying that another country retires its planes in order to keep its fleet serviceable.

It's time we got new search and rescue aircraft; it's past time, Black said in an interview. We've talked about it and talked about it. The Liberals talked about it. The Conservatives have talked about, but no one has done anything about it.

# Welcome to Stephane Dion's version of political hell

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**COLUMN:** Federal politics

**BYLINE:** michael den tandt

**WORD COUNT:** 958

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Stephane Dion, welcome to Hell. You will be a resident of Hell for several months, perhaps six. During that time Prime Minister Stephen Harper will take you apart in little pieces, like a mean boy pulling the wings off a fly. When it's over there will be an election, which you will lose.

Far from appreciating your effort and sacrifice, the Liberal Party will drag you kicking and screaming into a scrubby field. There it will dispatch you cleanly and quickly – with Michael Ignatieff standing by, murmuring messages of encouragement and condolence. Ignatieff will take your job. You will retire to the south of France, where you will sit in a patch of sunlight, a blanket over your knees, dreaming of what might have been.

Farfetched? Not so much.

In the aftermath of the Liberal leader's decision to prop up the Harper government for another few months, there's been much talk in party circles of how very clever it all was. "He is a very capable individual, who manoeuvred through deep waters," was how Huron–Bruce Liberal MP Paul Steckle phrased it.

To hear them talk, it's almost as though Harper fell into Dion's trap. On one side, we have the wicked Stephen Harper, scheming to engineer an election that "Canadians don't want." On the other, we have a newly savvy Stephane Dion, who has a few tricks up his sleeve, thank you very much. It's as though the Liberals are saying: see, we can be sneaky and opportunistic too, just like Harper. What's so special about him?

Only in dreamland can anyone suggest this episode connotes anything but desperation on Dion's part. According to multiple reports from within the Liberal Party, he wanted to go to the polls. How could he not? In recent weeks, he'd laid down a string of unshakable conditions for keeping this government alive. The most important of these was a hard date of February 2009 for an end to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan. Harper stared at that line, eyeballed Dion, eyeballed the line, then hopped right across it with a big smirk on his face.

Dion's first instinct was to fight. But he couldn't. His caucus wouldn't let him. They know that if they go to the voters this fall, many of them will lose their \$178,000–a–year–plus jobs. In Quebec, the Liberals are imploding. In Ontario, where you'd think Dion would have had a little more currency because of his national unity credentials, he's gained none. Out West he had none to begin with.

Here's the poison: the decision to pan the throne speech virtually in its entirety, then concoct a grab–bag of exquisitely nuanced excuses for passing it, feeds directly into Dion's greatest political liability – the perception that he's weak.

In Quebec, some voters dislike him because of a perception that he is arrogant, aloof and out of touch with ordinary folk. He speaks like a Frenchman – a testament to his French mother. But that doesn't play well in the Saguenay. Other Quebecers tar him, unfairly, as a traitor, because of his authorship of the Clarity Act. Still

others continue to mistrust the Liberals because of the sponsorship scandal.

In Ontario, Dion began with a reputation as a smart, honest and hardworking minister. Despite his gawkiness and heavily accented English, he was known as a man of conviction. Journalists who remembered his fight with Quebec separatists in the 1990s referred to him as having a "spine of steel."

Then came the Harper strategy, taken directly from the Brian Mulroney playbook, of seeking a majority through Quebec. First Harper learned to speak French better than any other recent prime minister, including the francophone Jean Chretien. Then he declared Quebec a "nation." Then he struck a backroom alliance with Mario Dumont's soft-nationalist, centre-right Action Democratique. Taken together, it worked.

This put the Liberals in severe need of a wedge issue for Quebec. They seized on the most obvious one, the Afghan mission. Polls showed Quebecers overwhelmingly opposed the deployment. Overnight the Liberals, who conceived and launched the mission, transformed themselves into its harshest critics. Trouble is, that hasn't worked. Liberal fortunes in Quebec have only worsened. Has anyone in the Liberal brain trust considered that some Quebecers' interest in and support for the mission may actually increase because the Quebec-based Vandoos are over there now?

Meantime, the various Liberal flip-flops on Afghanistan have sewn confusion in Ontario and in the West. Dion says one thing, Foreign Affairs critic Bob Rae says another, Defence critic Denis Coderre says something else. Do they want our troops to stay and finish what they began or do they want to pull them out? Nobody knows. In Dion's speech to Parliament Wednesday, he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable." Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Does this mean you support it again?

Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes. In each case, Harper will press legislation inimical to Liberal principles and dare Dion to call him out. With each new concession, Harper will look stronger and Dion weaker. If Dion pulls the trigger, he loses. If he waits, he loses. In effect, Stephen Harper has just manoeuvred himself into a majority in all but name.

That makes Dion many things. Unlucky? Doomed? You be the judge. Savvy, in my view, doesn't make the list.

– Michael Den Tandt is editor of the Sun Times in Owen Sound and a national affairs columnist for Osprey Media. Contact [mdentandt @thesuntimes.ca](mailto:mdentandt@thesuntimes.ca).

# CANADA IN BRIEF

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Chronicle–Herald  
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**SECTION:** Canada  
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OTTAWA (CP) – The minority Conservative government is facing the second of three major tests for its fall legislative agenda today, but there's little prospect of anything but clear sailing for the Tory ship of state.

The House of Commons will vote by the end of the day on a Liberal amendment to the government's throne speech – an amendment carefully crafted with an eye to ensuring Grit Leader Stephane Dion won't have to hit the election trail just yet.

The Liberal–sponsored motion blames Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tories for failing to live up to emission–reduction standards set out in the Kyoto accord.

But it also pats the previous Liberal regime on the back, suggesting the Grits were on track to meet the Kyoto targets. That's an opinion not shared by the other opposition parties, the NDP and Bloc Quebecois.

There are also differences in the opposition ranks on another major point in the Liberal amendment – the future of the Canadian troop commitment in Afghanistan.

The Liberals want the government to notify NATO that Canada will end its full–fledged combat role in February 2009, but that leaves the door open for some kind of continued aid–and–development role for the military after that. Once again, it's a proposition the Bloc and New Democrats will be hard put to swallow.

The expected result is that the Liberals will likely be alone when they stand to support their amendment, ensuring the Harper government will survive – just as it did last week when the Bloc presented a sub–amendment that was worded in a way nobody else could support.

WASHINGTON (CP) – Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he will meet with major Canadian retailers this week and argue that their prices should reflect the strengthening Canadian dollar.

Flaherty told CTV's Question Period on Sunday that the purchasing power of the loonie, which has eclipsed the U.S. dollar in value, should be reflected at checkout counters in Canada.

Many Canadians have complained they are being ripped off because goods they buy here cost much less in the U.S.

Some economic analysts have estimated Canadians may be paying in excess of 20 per cent more for many products than Americans, even though the dollar closed above US\$1.03 on Friday.

Flaherty will meet with the Retail Council of Canada and representatives from individual retailers including Wal–Mart Canada, Hudson's Bay Co., Toys R' Us, Staples Inc. and Forzani Group Ltd. in Ottawa on Tuesday.

SURREY, B.C. (CP) – The homicide squad investigating a multiple murder in the top floor of a Surrey apartment building is being very cautious about the information it releases.

The team of more than two dozen officers has been combing over the apartment since Friday looking for clues in what RCMP Cpl. Dale Carr said was a very difficult murder scene.

"A regular, single homicide scene takes many, many hours to go through as a crime scene examination. You just multiply that by six and it's taking a great deal of time to get a lot of our questions answered."

Carr said after two days of investigating the discovery of the bodies of six men they're finally getting a sense of the identity of the victims.

"We're currently working towards notifying next of kin and confirming, making it 100 per cent that people we suspect are in there are indeed those people."

A number of people have called police wondering if it's their relative inside the 15th-floor apartment.

Carr would not say if the men died in a murder-suicide, or if the killings were gang related.



# Credit-takers mute when it comes to Afghanistan

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Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** Scott Taylor  
**WORD COUNT:** 756

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THERE IS an old adage that while victory has a thousand fathers, defeat is just a lonely bastard.

Judging by the sudden rush of political leaders denying responsibility in committing Canadian troops to a combat role in Kandahar, it would seem that our Afghanistan mission is destined to be a contestant on Who's Your Daddy?

Two recently published books claim to shed light on the decision-making process that led to our commitment in southern Afghanistan, yet each points the finger of blame in a different direction.

In *The Unexpected War*, authors Eugene Lang and Janice Gross Stein would have readers believe that the increased military role undertaken by Canada in Kandahar was Gen. Rick Hillier's baby. To be fair, when the word first came out that Eugene Lang was working on an "insider" book detailing Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, the political knives were immediately drawn in Ottawa. Having been the key adviser to defence ministers John McCallum and Bill Graham, Lang clearly had a rare insight into the political dynamics that dragged Canada into an "unexpected war" in Afghanistan. However, because of his actual advisory role in drafting the preparatory blueprint – right down to the controversial agreement on the handling of detainees – political hacks predicted Lang's book would be a partisan whitewash.

Those prognostications have proved to be correct, as Lang has indeed produced the Liberal party's revisionist version of events. Missing from the equation is any of the well-documented mishaps and mistakes the former government made. For example, the multitude of screw-ups and eventual firing of Art Eggleton warrants a mere paragraph in the telling, and John McCallum's public drunkenness scandal does not see the light of day. According to Lang, Canada's commitment to a military mission in Afghanistan was Gen. Rick Hillier's personal project that was the right thing for the Liberals to agree to at the time. However, once the Harper government was elected and extended the mission to 2009, it became the Conservatives' mistake.

Former prime minister Jean Chretien, on the other hand, names a different scapegoat in his just-released memoirs, *My Years as Prime Minister*. According to Chretien, it was his nemesis and fellow Liberal and prime minister Paul Martin who fathered the faltering Kandahar mission. "When my successor took too long to make up his mind about whether Canada should extend our term with the International Security Assistance Force, our soldiers were moved out of Kabul and sent south again to battle the Taliban in the killing fields around Kandahar," claims Chretien.

Glossed over in Chretien's account is the fact that our initial battle group was committed to Kandahar under his direction as part of the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom. Despite months of advance notice, our troops deployed wearing dark green uniforms to a desert climate, were transported into theatre aboard American aircraft and were ferried about the battlefield courtesy of U.S. choppers. The years of Liberal government neglect of our military resulted in this embarrassing state of affairs, but it was during Chretien's so-called safe deployment in Kabul that the rust-out of our army's equipment proved fatal. Our troops suffered three fatalities while patrolling in unarmoured, obsolete Iltis jeeps, and the backlash sent defence procurement

bureaucrats scurrying to purchase a fleet of new armoured Mercedes G–wagons.

A new report about the future of the Afghan mission is likely to create yet another wave of revisionist denials. According to a briefing paper released by the London–based Chatham House, differing national interests among the NATO members has created "a state of slow deterioration." Predicting that the Afghan authorities will not be able to assume core security functions by 2010, this respected think–tank recommends additional international troops to maintain security in the interim.

Even more depressing were news reports that the Canadian Defence Department has suspended a training program to teach Afghan army officers how to speak English. Apparently a number of those Afghan candidates who were brought to Canada for language classes simply disappeared and later applied for refugee status to remain in the country.

When even the best and the brightest of the Afghan officer corps grab at the opportunity to abandon their own troubled homeland, is it any wonder our politicians are doing likewise?()

## 20 Taliban, one civilian killed in battle

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A4  
**WORD COUNT:** 296

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – Taliban militants used Afghan civilians as human shields during a battle with U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan that left 20 Taliban and one civilian dead and 11 civilians wounded, officials said Sunday.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said the joint Afghan–NATO operation was launched in the Korengal Valley in Kunar province, next to the border with Pakistan, with artillery fire and air strikes. Twenty "enemy" fighters had been killed in battles Saturday, the ministry said.

Kunar Gov. Didar Shalizai said one civilian had also been killed, while Maj. Charles Anthony, spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said 11 civilians had been wounded. Three were transported to the U.S. base at Bagram for medical care, he said.

"After talking with elders in the area it does seem the Taliban are using civilians as human shields or firing on ISAF forces from positions with civilians in the area," Anthony said.

NATO has frequently accused Taliban fighters of using Afghan civilians as human shields, particularly in the country's south, but Shalizai called the co-opting of civilians a "new tactic" in Kunar. He said the Kunar people had "requested" that the operation be carried out after militants repeatedly fired rockets toward U.S. bases, some of which went astray and hit civilian homes.

The fighting in the east comes on the heels of battles in the south that saw about 50 militants killed in two days of fighting this week near Musa Qala, a Taliban-controlled town in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan's poppy-growing belt.

This year has been the most violent since the U.S.–led coalition ousted the Taliban from power in 2001. More than 5,200 people have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and western officials.

# Canadian soldiers on the Fox run

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A4

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland

**ILLUSTRATION:** Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, a cancer survivor, cooldowns Sunday after taking part in the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field. (BILL GRAVELAND / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 524

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field on Sunday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox, who attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox run," said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton. "It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98-per-cent mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The Terry Fox run is one of the most popular events at the base.

"I've done this overseas," said BJ La Porte, a former soldier now working as a civilian at Kandahar Air Field. "This is not weird for me. Most of my Terry Fox runs have been done overseas. This is very Canadian."

A line of tiny Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.

Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

"Of course not. You can't win your own competitions, can you?" he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was.

"This is my third run," he said. "I did a couple in Damascus. This is the harder one. The other ones were much cooler."

It was the poster that convinced Lance Cpl. Duncan Moore, of York, England, to join the run. But even he found the heat and dust a challenge.

"I was a bit knackered on the backstretch," he admitted as he wiped away the sweat.

For O'Hara, his ongoing battle against the deadly disease will continue for the rest of his life as he remains part of a clinical trial. He wishes things had ended differently for Fox, who died in 1981.

He said he wished Fox could have been in Kandahar to see the fruits of his labour.

"I think he would be quite impressed with what he's got started here. It's gone on for 27 years and it's amazing."

'It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero.'

# Afghanistan will need help beyond 2009, soldiers say; But some say they don't want to do another tour there

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Dene Moore  
**WORD COUNT:** 384

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago.

But it is not enough.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil–Military Co–operation Team.

His CIMIC team in Panjwahi meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen.

The four members, along with their force–protection team, stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

February 2009? "It's impossible," says Cote.

But there's not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," says Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan. Public opinion about the mission is divided. Parliament is divided.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government wants Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan until at least 2011. The throne speech tied the eventual exit to the training of Afghan national security forces, including the army and police.

'It will take generations for things to change here.'

# Canadian air force hopes to be spared; Military need retired Brazilian Buffalo fleet to keep ours flying

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A3

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster

**ILLUSTRATION:** A Buffalo search and rescue aircraft from 442 Squadron in Comox, B.C., makes an emergency landing at the Kamloops, B.C., airport in July 2000. In order to keep its 40-year-old Buffalo search and rescue planes in the air, Canadian air force planners are crossing their fingers that they can get their hands on Brazil's fleet of CC-115s, which may soon be retired. (JASON PAYNE / CP); A Buffalo search and rescue aircraft from 442 Squadron in Comox, B.C., makes an emergency landing at the Kamloops, B.C., airport in July 2000. In order to keep its 40-year-old Buffalo search and rescue planes in the air, Canadian air force planners are crossing their fingers that they can get their hands on Brazil's fleet of CC-115s, which may soon be retired. (JASON PAYNE / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 373

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OTTAWA – In order to keep its 40-year-old Buffalo search and rescue planes in the air, Canadian air force planners are crossing their fingers that they can get their hands on Brazil's fleet of CC-115s, which may soon be retired.

The air force intends to keep its six twin-engine Buffalos, relatively slow planes that operate primarily on the West Coast, flying until 2015.

But an internal Defence Department analysis warns that extending the life of the already antiquated aircraft will be "precarious" because of dwindling spare parts.

One alternative would be to "investigate the potential retirement of the Brazilian Buffalo fleet," said an undated options analysis obtained by the federal New Democrats under access to information laws.

"This could be a potential source of spares for some critically needed components. This option would need to be exercised in a relatively short time period in order to prevent equipment from being sold in bulk to other operators."

Brazil and Canada are the only two countries left in the world that fly that particular variant of the CC-115. The most critical shortage of spares involves the engines, but the analysis warns that many of the suppliers simply don't make parts for the vintage aircraft any longer.

Defence Department officials responsible for material were not available to say whether they have actually pursued the Brazilian option for spare parts.

The former Liberal government set aside \$3 billion in 2004 to replace the country's fixed-wing search planes, including the Buffalo and the air force's older model C-130 Hercules.

But the project has languished in the Defence Department and has been knocked down the priority list by other big ticket purchases, including heavy-lift C-17s and CH-47 Chinook battlefield helicopters needed to

Canadian air force hopes to be spared; Military need retired Brazilian Buffalo fleet to keep ours flying 35



support the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

Since it remains unclear when the Buffalos, purchased in 1967, will be replaced, the air force is moving ahead with a life extension program, a spokesman said last week.

"The overall intention is to keep this plane flying until 2015; it's an important capability," said Lt. Paul Finnemore.

Extending the life of the aircraft would cost as much as \$75 million, with most of the work focused on replacing the engines, strengthening the airframes and replacing the landing gear, said the analysis that was ordered in early 2007.

New Democrat defence critic Dawn Black said the air force has been put in a ridiculous position of praying that another country retires its planes in order to keep its fleet serviceable.

# Canadian soldiers take part in Terry Fox Run

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** B8

**COLUMN:** Around the globe

**SOURCE:** The Associated Press

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 139

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# Dion dodge hardly an inspirational one

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**SECTION:** Opinion

**PAGE:** A7

**COLUMN:** National Affairs

**BYLINE:** James Travers

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 553

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Clever as ever, the prime minister is rephrasing the big political question: Once about Stephen Harper and trust, it's now about Stéphane Dion and competence.

A beleaguered Liberal leader only made it easier to answer last Thursday by choosing temporary self-preservation instead of a risky election fought on principles. His tortured reluctance to topple the Conservative minority over a throne speech crafted to offend his sensibilities buys time. But it does little to inspire confidence in Dion's fitness to lead or repair the fissures in a party that once prided itself on being the Western world's most successful.

Much as he did in bungling Quebec byelections, Dion allowed Liberals to be boxed-in by the throne speech. As the prime minister made clear Thursday, Conservatives will spend the coming weeks nailing down the lid, beginning with a confidence vote on omnibus crime legislation.

Liberals helped make their current mess possible. In overlooking more accomplished candidates in choosing a leader with suspect strategic skills and weak caucus support, convention delegates set in motion the events now unfolding here.

All of this makes capital theatre even if elsewhere the brinksmanship is watched, if at all, with disbelief. But what's largely missed in witnessing Harper play politics so adroitly – doubters need only consider the artful pre-throne speech orchestration of an unusual press conference, an equalization deal with Nova Scotia and the appointment of John Manley's Afghanistan panel – is how much this prime minister is changing the Canadian brand.

In 4,000 words and 40 minutes Tuesday night, Harper described a country many of its citizens would struggle to recognize. That Canada breaks its international treaty commitment to fight climate change, fuels unfounded fears to advance a law-and-order agenda and effectively commits to extending a polarizing Afghanistan mission months before Parliament will consider the options.

Subtler if equally worthy of citizen attention is what the prime minister has in mind for the federation. With a policy mix reflecting his concerns for provincial rights and market efficiency Harper is simultaneously proposing to loosen and tighten central control.

Generally appealing to Conservatives and an affront to Liberals, Harper's recreation of Canada more in the image of its North American neighbour than its traditional European soulmates demands thoughtful deconstruction. Normally that work would fall to the Official Opposition on Parliament Hill or in an election. But these times are far from normal.

A suspect leader and a party so unprepared for a campaign that it genuflects to calculated humiliations is poorly positioned to expose the fault lines in government policies or proselytize alternatives. Dion's escape,

one he tested last week, is to first bring the question back to Harper's designs on Canada, then offer the country a choice.

That won't be easy. His vision isn't clear, Liberals are infected with the opposition dissention virus and are now the common target for their collective rivals. Rarely does it get worse in the blood sport played here with such relish.

Conservatives are vulnerable on the environment, Afghanistan and for an authoritarian core character that unsettles voters whenever it surfaces. But those are mere asterisks as long as the country is questioning about the Liberal leader, not the Conservative prime minister.

James Travers is a national affairs columnist. Copyright 2007 Torstar Syndication Services.

# Soldiers agree Canada needed past 2009

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**SECTION:** World news  
**PAGE:** A9  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Dene Moore  
**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, a cancer survivor, coolsdown Sunday after taking part in the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run. – Photo by The Associated Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 369

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# Forces fight dwindling ranks

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220036  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B6  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 877

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Still, Leslie, who was deputy commander in 2003 of the then much smaller International Security and Assistance Force Afghanistan, wanted "our young men and women to stay." One way to try to ensure that "people do not have to go back overseas for two or three years. They need time to rest, re-cock, bond with their families and pass on back home to the next generation what they have learned here."

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments. Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006 including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group.

Another 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan some time in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Many of them guard the main base or take on dangerous convoy escort duties. Commanders were also counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers that the Harper government has promised over the next few years to enlarge the army.

The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, although this was known to destroy cohesion and undermine battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doo battle group in Kandahar. "For us, 90 per cent of our composition was fairly easy to put together but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

Some units have had to be cobbled together with soldiers, airmen and sailors drawn from all over Canada. For a time an infantry company from Quebec protected a Provincial Reconstruction Team mainly from Ontario and troopers from the Quebec-based 12th Armoured Regiment were assigned to guide and guard logistical convoys that supplied a battle group built around troops from Manitoba and Alberta.

Among the most acute shortages are engineers, military policemen and medical staff such as doctors and pharmacists. One of the workarounds has been to attach civilian doctors from Canada for short stints with the military hospital here. Another has been to try get soldiers who have recently quit to re-enlist although until now "their numbers had been relatively modest," Leslie said.

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat. However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13 per cent of the current Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, which Ottawa and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand that was expected in the near future.

However, Leslie said this numbers crunch was not as severe as it appeared because new mentors were going to be found in the infantry-based battle groups after they switched from fighting the Taliban.

"As we transition from clearing to holding we need more experienced soldiers, but we have been picking up more leaders, more sergeants, more master corporals," who have learned on the battlefield, he said.



# Defence spending highest in decades

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220035  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: CanWest News Service / Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, Commander of the Canadian army, speaks to media at the main Canadian base at Kandahar Airfield at the end of a four-day trip to Afghanistan. ;  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 673

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OTTAWA — Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3-per-cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952-53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military.

Dollar for dollar, Canada now outspends its NATO partners, Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Norway and Denmark among others. Canada's spending is so substantial that it outspends the lowest 12 NATO members combined, according to the study.

Bill Robinson, the report's co-author, said he was surprised the level of military spending has now passed the Cold War peak. "It doesn't accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that we're not spending all that much on the military," he said.

According to the report, by the end of this fiscal year in March 2008, Canada will have spent \$7.2 billion on the full cost of military missions related to Afghanistan. That figure, which tracks spending from 2001, includes salaries, equipment depreciation, attrition and other costs. If those numbers are removed, the cost of

the Afghan mission to March 2008 is \$3.3 billion.

But Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

Robinson estimates that for every soldier involved in the mission there are at least another two in Canada working to support the operation in some way. "There are lot of people working full time on the Afghanistan mission, whether they are planners or trainers or (repair) technicians, and those people aren't counted" in government cost figures, he said.

The report was written by Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an Ottawa-based think tank which has been critical of the government's approach to Afghanistan and defence.

Defence department supporters say that more money needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage and deal in the future with other failed states similar to Afghanistan. Military officers are currently pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025. The Senate committee on national security and defence has called for an increase between \$25 billion and \$35 billion by 2012.

The report points out that the defence lobby has been highly effective in convincing the government to boost military spending. With the increases planned by the government over the next two years, military spending will be 37-per-cent higher than it was shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, the report adds.

"Despite Canada's top-10 ranking in NATO, and outspending the average of non-U.S. members by more than a third, the popular perception persists that Canada is a low military spender," the study notes. "This is largely the result of media reports that cite statistics provided by proponents of increases in military spending."

Those proponents measure the strength of military spending as a percentage of a country's gross domestic product or GDP. Based on that guide, Canada is ranked around 20th in NATO, just below Germany.

# Chinese-born grad student receives PhD

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220007  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Province  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Joshua Sawka, The Leader-Post / Olympic goldmedal speedskater Catriona Le May Doan of Saskatoon received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the University of Regina's Convocation ceremony at the Conexus Arts Centre on Saturday. ;  
**BYLINE:** Jana G. Pruden  
**SOURCE:** The Leader-Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 437

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Yongping Li knows the secret to scholarly success.

"I just work hard, I do my research, and I write my journal papers," she says. "And I study."

Her efforts are clearly paying off.

On Saturday afternoon, Li received one of the University of Regina's most prestigious awards for advanced graduates: The 2007 President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award.

The Chinese-born University of Regina student received her PhD in Environmental Systems Engineering in the spring, and has been recognized for her research into water and waste water treatment systems, as well as her prolific publishing in journals and participation in research projects.

Several minutes before Saturday's convocation ceremony was set to begin, a shy and nervous Li said she was honoured to receive the illustrious award, and appreciative of her supervisor and the university community.

"I want to become maybe a professor and continue my research," she said, when asked about her future plans. "I think this research is very important."

Li was one of a total of 549 graduates who received degrees, diplomas and certificates at the university's annual fall convocation. Friends and relatives filled the Conexus Arts Centre for the event, and professors, dignitaries and graduates packed the stage.

Among those smiling broadly at the front of the stage was two-time Olympic gold medal speedskater Catriona Le May Doan, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university.

In her convocation address, the Saskatoon-born athlete said she regarded the new graduates with both awe and envy, because they are accomplishing a dream she herself has not: To graduate with a university degree.

But while Doan said she hopes to one day pursue her academic goals, she shared some of her own knowledge with those in attendance — including the importance of perseverance.

Outside of what she has learned from her own accomplishments, however, Doan said she has found enlightenment in experiences like being a mother, seeing women who are battling breast cancer, working with

AIDS orphans in Tanzania and visiting with soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Our learning never stops, it endures a lifetime and beyond ..." she said. "You have the foundation ... I encourage you to move forward and be enlightened."

The ceremony included the installation of Dr. William F. Ready as chancellor of the university. Ready, a retired lawyer and accomplished member of the community, will be the school's seventh chancellor.

In his comments closing the convocation, Ready advised the graduates to be open to new possibilities, and make the most of all opportunities that come their way.

"Few of us have lives that follow a predetermined path ... life is filled with possibilities," he said. "As you leave this place today with your degree or diploma in hand, remember to be aware of the opportunities that exist for you; be open to the potential for further learning, creative expression, career advancement and adventure they may provide. Be willing to take advantage of them."

# Kurdish ambush of Turkish soldiers adds pressure to enter Iraq; U.S. urges Turkey not to mount military action

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220016

**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Sezayi Erken, Afp, Getty Images / A woman has tears in her eyes during a demonstration march in Istanbul on Sunday to protest the killing of Turkish soldiers in southeastern Turkey. ;

**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN RELATIONS; WAR; ETHNIC GROUPS

**DATELINE:** TUNCELI, Turkey

**BYLINE:** Ferit Demir

**SOURCE:** Reuters with files from Bloomberg News

**WORD COUNT:** 468

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TUNCELI, Turkey – Kurd rebels killed at least 13 Turkish soldiers and wounded 11 others Sunday in an ambush in Turkey's mountains near the Iraqi border, security sources said, increasing pressure on the Turkish government to send troops into Iraq.

They were the first Turkish casualties since parliament authorized troops Wednesday to conduct cross-border incursions into northern Iraq to hunt down rebels who use the region as a base.

Fighting continued in Hakkari province in the mountainous border area, with troops backed by Cobra helicopters, the security sources said.

In Arbil, Iraq, a Kurd military official said the Turkish military fired artillery shells into 11 areas along the border Sunday but there were no casualties.

Turkey has deployed as many as 100,000 troops along the border to stop rebels of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) crossing from Iraqi bases to stage attacks inside Turkey.

The United States, Turkey's NATO ally, and the Baghdad government have urged Ankara to refrain from military action, fearing this could destabilize the most peaceful part of Iraq and possibly the wider region.

But Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government is under pressure from public opinion and the powerful military to take action against the PKK following a series of deadly attacks on Turkish security forces. More than 30 Turkish troops and security personnel have been killed in rebel attacks in the past month.

## U.S. DOWNPLAYS TURKISH RETALIATION

Turkey's military probably won't attack Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq in the immediate future, U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said, after meeting his Turkish counterpart.

"I didn't have the impression that anything is imminent," Gates told reporters in Kyiv on Sunday. Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul "seems to be implying reluctance on their part to act unilaterally," he added.

The U.S. says a cross-border raid against members of the PKK may destabilize the region and wants Turkey to show restraint. Prime Minister

Erdogan says Iraq and the U.S. have failed to control about 3,500 rebels in northern Iraq and last week obtained permission from parliament to send troops into the oil-rich Kurdish region.

Turkey's tough stance has helped propel global oil prices to historic highs over the past week.

The pro-Kurdish Firat news agency quoted one of Turkey's most wanted rebel commanders Friday as saying the PKK could target oil pipelines if Turkish forces attack them in Iraq. The pipelines carry Iraqi and Caspian crude cross eastern Turkey.

Parliament's authorization is valid for one year. Erdogan has previously signalled military operations are not imminent and western diplomats in Ankara say Turkey is not keen to send troops

into Iraq because of the security and economic risks.

Erdogan has said Baghdad must close down the PKK camps in northern Iraq and hand over rebel leaders.

The crisis has exposed serious strains in relations between Washington and Ankara. The United States relies on Turkey for the bulk of its logistical support for its forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ankara blames the PKK for the deaths of more than 30,000 people since the group launched its armed campaign for an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey in 1984. The U.S. and European Union class the PKK as a terrorist organization.

# Military doing battle with hot job market; Losing 800 more soldiers a year than in 2003 puts pressure on Afghan mission

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220009

**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Montreal Gazette, Canwest News Service, File /Recruits in full combat gear work their way through an obstacle course at the Canadian Forces Leadership Recruit School in Farnham, Que. Good civilian job prospects are making it harder for the military to find and keep soldiers. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 837

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan.

"But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the military every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been leaving every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers have been leaving because the economy at home is booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry

regiments.

Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006, including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group. Another 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan, the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Commanders are also counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers the Harper government has promised over the next few years to enlarge the army.

The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, although this is known to destroy cohesion and undermine battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doo battle group in Kandahar.

"For us, 90 per cent of our composition was fairly easy to put together, but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

Some units have had to be cobbled together with soldiers, air crew and sailors drawn from all over Canada. For a time, an infantry company from Quebec protected a Provincial Reconstruction Team mainly from Ontario, and troopers from the Quebec-based 12th Armoured Regiment were assigned to guide and guard logistical convoys that supplied troops from Manitoba and Alberta.

Among the most acute shortages are engineers, military police officers and medical staff such as doctors and pharmacists. One of the workarounds has been to attach civilian doctors from Canada for short stints with the military hospital here. Another has been to try to get soldiers who have recently quit to re-enlist.

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists, who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat.

However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13 per cent of the current Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, a task Ottawa and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand expected in the near future.

But Leslie said the crunch may not be as severe as feared, because new mentors will be found in infantry-based battle groups after they switch from fighting the Taliban.

"As we transition from clearing to holding, we need more experienced soldiers, but we have been picking up more leaders, more sergeants, more master corporals" who have learned on the battlefield, he said.

"What we have now is young combat vets. It will not take them as long to be promoted because they will be ready. They already know how to interact with CIDA, to organize a shura (meeting of Afghan elders) and to assist the auxiliary police, who are something like a local militia."

Gauthier, the battle group commander, said fighters and mentors would come from the same pool of soldiers.

Military doing battle with hot job market; Losing 800 more soldiers a year than in 2003 puts pressure on Afghani



"What we have to do is evolve our structure to deal with the current situation with the Afghan security forces. There are not enough of them. Once there are enough, we can quickly reduce the size of the battle group and switch our combat troops to mentoring Afghan army and police."

# Defence spending surpasses Cold War; Public perception that we don't spend much on military is flawed, report says

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**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**KEYWORDS:** ARMED FORCES; DEFENCE; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 661

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OTTAWA – Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War, with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, a new study concludes.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth-highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," the report said.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military.

Dollar for dollar, Canada now outspends its NATO partners, Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Norway and Denmark, among others. Canada's spending is so substantial that it outspends the lowest 12 NATO members combined, according to the study.

Bill Robinson, the report's co-author, said he was surprised the level of military spending has now passed the Cold War peak.

"It doesn't accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that we're not spending all that much on the military," he said.

According to the report, by the end of this fiscal year in March 2008, Canada will have spent \$7.2 billion on the full cost of military missions related to Afghanistan. That figure, which tracks spending from 2001, includes salaries, equipment depreciation, attrition and other costs. If those numbers are removed, the cost of the Afghan mission to March 2008 is \$3.3 billion.

But Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

Robinson estimates that for every soldier involved in the mission, there are at least another two in Canada working to support the operation in some way.

"There are lot of people working full-time on the Afghanistan mission, whether they are planners or trainers or (repair) technicians, and those people aren't counted" in government cost figures, he said.

The report was written by Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an Ottawa-based think-tank which has been critical of the government's approach to Afghanistan and defence.

Defence department supporters say more money needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage and deal in the future with other failed states similar to Afghanistan.  
Military officers

are currently pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025. The Senate committee on

national security and defence has called for an increase of between \$25 billion and \$35 billion by 2012.

The report points out that the defence lobby has been highly effective in convincing the government to boost military spending. With the increases planned by the government over the next two years, military spending will be 37 per cent higher than it was shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, the report adds.

"Despite Canada's top-10 ranking in NATO, and outspending the average of non-U.S. members by more than a third, the popular perception persists that Canada is a low military spender," the study notes. "This is largely the result of media reports that cite statistics provided by proponents of increases in military spending."

Those proponents measure the strength of military spending as a percentage of a country's gross domestic product or GDP. Based on that guide, Canada is ranked around 20th in NATO, just below Germany.

But Robinson argues the GDP rating is a poor measure of defence spending. He pointed out that by using that measure, Turkey is ranked near the top as one of NATO's top spenders.

# 5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220093  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B16

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Two found guilty in murder of businessman; Colour Photo: Clement Lanthier ; Colour Photo: Kurdish rebels ambush Turkish troops ; Colour Photo: Jaroslaw Kaczynski ; Colour Photo: Michel Gangne, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images / Picture of the Day: This picture taken Sunday in Marseille, southern France, shows one out of three Pouce (thumb) by French sculptor Cesar. Another one of the three, belonging to a private collector, was sold at \$1,745 million US, the highest price paid for Cesar's work, during an auction Saturday. The third Pouce is owned by the city of Seoul. ; Colour Photo: Charis Lynn Williams ; Colour Photo: Kimi Raikkonen ; Colour Photo: Don't supersize me ; Graphic: (See hard copy for graphic). ; Photo: (See hard copy for description). ; Colour Photo: Florida divers take Halloween to new level ;

**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** Compiled by Meg de Jong  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 991

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## Top Stories

### Two Found Guilty in Murder of Businessman

It took nearly 48 hours of deliberations over five days, but a jury of eight women and four men Sunday unanimously convicted both Robert Elliot Deer and Mohamed Ali Karim of first-degree murder for fatally shooting the 49-year-old president of Morbank Financial, Jack Beauchamp, just outside his 12th-floor office.

Page A1

### \$1.50 a Litre Gas May Not Be Far Off

Albertans could be paying as much as \$1.50 a litre at gas pumps within six months, local analysts say, as the price of crude oil hovers around the record-breaking \$90 US a barrel mark and threatens to jump higher.

Page A1

### Mind Over Matter Doesn't Conquer Cancer: Study

In one of the strongest studies to challenge the notion the mind can heal the body, researchers have found a positive, emotional outlook doesn't make people with cancer live longer.

Page A1

News Sections -- A and B

City & Region

Convicted Girl Tries for Time in Psychiatric Care

Canada's youngest convicted multiple killer, who turned 14 Sunday, is facing a judge today to learn if she is eligible for a unique \$100,000-a-year rehabilitation sentence that would split her time between jail and a psychiatric hospital.

Page B1

Grand Plans for Calgary Zoo

Polar bears are still coming and beluga whales haven't been ruled out for the future at the Calgary Zoo by its new president, Clement Lanthier, who officially takes over today.

Page B1

Canada

Defence Spending Matches Cold War Peak

Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

Page A4

World

Kurdish Rebels Ambush Turkish Troops

In a brazen escalation of hostilities near Iraq's northern border, Kurdish rebels ambushed a Turkish army patrol Sunday, killing at least 12 soldiers and raising the spectre of a major cross-border retaliation by Turkey.

Page A5

Poles Oust Kaczynski

One of Europe's most controversial rulers was booted from power Sunday as Poles, at home and abroad, turned out in record numbers to defeat Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski's Law and Justice Party.

Page A6

China's Top Leaders Clear Way for Successors

China's vice-president and two other aging Communist Party leaders stepped aside Sunday, clearing the way for younger potential successors to President Hu Jintao to grab for a spot on a supreme nine-seat decision-making body.

## Traffic

- Right lane closed, speed restricted to 50 km/h: On westbound Crowchild Trail, west of Crowfoot Rise N.W. until Oct. 28.
- Right lane closure, speed restrictions: On northbound 14th Street at Berkley Gate N.W. until Oct. 28.
- Road closure: On 42nd Street between Bow Trail and Windermere Road S.W. until Oct. 31.
- Left lane closed: On 14th Street, north of 33rd Avenue S.W. starting 9 a.m. today, until Oct. 31.
- Single lane traffic and speed restrictions: On the 85th Street Bridge over the Bow River until Nov. 15.

## Commuter Weather

6 A.M. Off to Work: Variably cloudy.

Temperature: 5 C

12 Noon Lunch: Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. Winds increasing to westerly 40km/h.

Temperature: 14 C

5 P.M. Heading Home: Variably cloudy.

Temperature: 16 C

Overnight: Variably cloudy. Low: 9 C

Tuesday: Sunny. High: 20 C Low: 3 C

Sunday: High: 10.4 C Low: -6.6 C

## Online Extras

News: Dodge says market forces preferable to regulation.

News: Coroner's inquest on young foster girl begins.

Sports: Pierce ready to take over if Jackson can't lead Leos.

Sports: Sad sack Tabbies bring back bad memories for Rider fans.

## Quote of the Day

"I am not Gandhi or Angelina Jolie, but I made some progress."

Author A.J. Jacobs, on his latest endeavour to follow the Bible's precepts and teachings literally for a year. See story, Page D1.

### Electricity Demands Confront Industry

Alberta Energy Minister Mel Knight will kick things off as electricity industry leaders gather in Calgary today for an annual electricity conference. The electricity industry has never faced greater challenges, with rising costs compounded by mounting environmental issues and reliability strained by mushrooming demand.

Page B8

### Holistic Centre Rubs Calgarians the Right Way

Charis Lynn Williams, owner of Prema Sai Wholistic Living centre, decided the city needed a "lighthouse," or a "hub, that is addressing holism or is addressing body, mind and spirit." The decision to open such a business proved to be an astute one. "It's totally taken on a life of its own," she says of the centre's success.

Page B8

### Editorial — A12

#### Return of Benazir Bhutto No Guarantee of Harmony

Despite Bhutto's claims to be the future restorer of Pakistani democracy, her party has been negotiating with Pakistan's widely disliked military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf. Some sort of ugly compromise may be in the works.

Page A12

### Letter of the Day

Many times . . . I have been scared by the traffic jams and the overly frustrated, stressed-out drivers. I think we all need to think about the way we conduct ourselves on the road, and how it could affect others.

Heather Oliver, Page A13

### Sports — C1

#### Raikkonen Declared Formula One Champ

Kimi Raikkonen, Ferrari's 28-year-old Finnish "Iceman," was twice before a runner-up in the Formula One world championship with his former team McLaren, before finally reaping the rewards on Sunday with victory in the Brazilian season-ender to become F1 champion.

Page C6

#### Roughriders Roll Over Toothless Tiger-Cats

The red-hot Saskatchewan Roughriders steamrolled the woeful Hamilton Tiger-Cats 38-11 on Sunday at Mosaic Stadium.

Page C10

Real Life — B6

### Don't Supersize Me

Oversized food portions and super-sizing have become the norm. At many fast-food and family-style restaurants, a portion equals two to eight standard-size servings. Portion control is an important part of your weight-loss program, and experts recommend maintaining a daily food log and menu plan.

Page B6

### No Excuse for Bad Driving

"Way, way, way too many people are not paying attention to speed limits," says Const. Mike O'Connor of the Calgary Police Service's Traffic Education Unit, adding that local police handed out 4,200 tickets in playground and school zones during a two-week period last month.

Page B7

### Sudoku

#### World's Hottest Puzzle Craze

#### How to Play:

Complete this grid by placing the digits 1 to 9 exactly once, and only once, in each horizontal row and in each column. Also, each digit should only appear once in every 3x3 shaded or white mini-grid in the puzzle. Sudoku appears on the 5 Minute Herald page Monday to Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday puzzle pages.

Entertainment — D1

### Author Follows Bible, Literally, for a Year

A.J. Jacobs, 39, an agnostic, put himself into "the mind-set and sandals" of his forefathers, for a year-long endeavour to follow the Bible's more than 600 precepts and teachings, recording his efforts in *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* (Simon & Schuster, \$25).

Page D1

#### Tonight's TV Picks:

– Dancing With the Stars: 9 p.m. on CTV (Ch. 3).

### It's An Odd World

#### Florida Divers Take Halloween to New Level

Divers took part in an underwater pumpkin carving contest off Key Largo in the Florida Keys this weekend. The contest, staged by the Amoray Dive Resort, judges divers on their artistic originality, as well as the degree of difficulty to carve the entry in the subsea environment.



# Forces struggle to keep troops for duty; Booming economy to blame: official

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220019  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Gen. Andrew Leslie;  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan.

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said. Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments.

# Military spending passes Cold War levels; Afghan mission has cost Canada \$7.2B: report

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220018  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / A report released today by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives claims Canada's military spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War. The figures include soldiers' salaries, equipment, attrition and other costs. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ARMED FORCES; FOREIGN AID; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 546

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Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War, with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military.

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But Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

Robinson estimates that for every soldier involved in the mission there are at least another two in Canada working to support the operation in some way. "There are lot of people working full time on the Afghanistan mission, whether they are planners or trainers or (repair) technicians, and those people aren't counted" in government cost figures, he said.

The report was written by Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an Ottawa-based think-tank which has been critical of the government's approach to defence.

Defence Department supporters say that more money needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage. Military officers are pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025.

The report points out that the defence lobby has been highly effective in convincing the government to boost military spending. With the increases planned by the government over the next two years, military spending will be 37 per cent higher than it was shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, the report adds.

# Battle in eastern Afghanistan kills 20 Taliban, wounds 11 civilians

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 285

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KABUL, Afghanistan \_ Taliban militants used Afghan civilians as human shields during a battle with U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan that left 20 Taliban and one civilian dead and 11 civilians wounded, officials said Sunday.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said the joint Afghan–NATO operation was launched in the Korengal Valley in Kunar province, next to the border with Pakistan, with artillery fire and air strikes. Twenty “enemy” fighters had been killed in battles Saturday, the ministry said.

Kunar Gov. Didar Shalizai said one civilian had also been killed, while Maj. Charles Anthony, spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said 11 civilians had been wounded. Three were transported to the U.S. base at Bagram for medical care, he said.

“After talking with elders in the area it does seem the Taliban are using civilians as human shields or firing on ISAF forces from positions with civilians in the area,” Anthony said.

NATO has frequently accused Taliban fighters of using Afghan civilians as human shields, particularly in the country's south, but Shalizai called the co-opting of civilians a “new tactic” in Kunar.

He said the Kunar people had “requested” that the operation be carried out after militants repeatedly fired rockets toward U.S. bases, some of which went astray and hit civilian homes.

The fighting in the east comes on the heels of battles in the south that saw about 50 militants killed in two days of fighting this week near Musa Qala, a Taliban–controlled town in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan's poppy–growing belt.

This year has been the most violent since the U.S.–led coalition ousted the Taliban from power in 2001. More than 5,200 people have died in insurgency–related violence this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and western officials.

# Vampire flick '30 Days of Night' sinks teeth into box office with \$16 million

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT FILM MEDIA BUSINESS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 703

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LOS ANGELES \_ The horror tale "30 Days of Night" had three days of box-office bite.

The Sony fright flick, with Josh Hartnett leading Alaskans against ravenous vampires that turn up for the prolonged winter darkness, debuted as the weekend's No. 1 movie with \$16 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Audiences continued to choose merriment over misery as the latest crop of sober Academy Awards hopefuls, among them Ben Affleck's "Gone Baby Gone," Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal's "Rendition" and Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro's "Things We Lost in the Fire," debuted with so-so to dismal numbers.

Whether it's the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, deadly news out of Pakistan and Myanmar or Friday's stock market tumble, moviegoers seem disinterested in more bad news at theatres with films about child-kidnapping, torture, widowhood and heroin addiction.

"Fall is the season of the serious movie, and it seems like audiences in a way are resisting the serious movie right now," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "Audiences are finding their horror or their intensity in real life, and they're not looking for it in the movies."

Other escapist fare joined "30 Days of Night" at the top of the box-office chart. "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?", the Lionsgate release that was the previous weekend's No. 1 flick, slipped to second place with \$12.1 million, raising its total to \$38.9 million.

Disney's family comedy "The Game Plan" held up well at No. 3 with \$8.1 million, lifting its four-week total to \$69.2 million.

Affleck made his directing debut with Miramax's "Gone Baby Gone," which debuted at No. 5 with \$6 million. The critically acclaimed movie stars the filmmaker's brother, Casey Affleck, as a private detective trying to solve a young girl's abduction.

Coming in on par with "Gone Baby Gone" was Fox Atomic's "The Comebacks," a lowbrow spoof of sports movies that opened at No. 6 with \$5.85 million.

New Line's "Rendition," starring Witherspoon and Gyllenhaal in the story of an Egyptian-born man detained and tortured under suspicion of terrorism, premiered at No. 9 with \$4.2 million.

The DreamWorks-Paramount release "Things We Lost in the Fire," with Berry as a widow who takes in her husband's drug-addicted best friend (Del Toro), opened far outside the top-10 with \$1.6 million.

Further proof that movie fans want fun over adversity: a 3-D version of Disney's Halloween perennial "Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas" was No. 8 with \$5.1 million and had a better rate of return per-theatre than any of the new wide releases.

Playing in 564 cinemas, "Nightmare Before Christmas" averaged \$9,122, compared to \$5,604 in 2,855 locations for "30 Days of Night," \$3,503 in 1,713 sites for "Gone Baby Gone," \$1,856 in 2,250 theatres for "Rendition" and \$1,405 in 1,142 cinemas for "Things We Lost in the Fire."

"There's just so much serious fare. We have overloaded the marketplace with this highbrow, serious product," said Chris Aronson, senior vice-president of distribution for 20th Century Fox. "The audience is saying, 'Give me something to have some fun with.'"

While fun movies ruled, the overall box office skidded for the fifth-straight weekend. The top-12 movies took in \$79.7 million, down 10 per cent from the same weekend last year.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "30 Days of Night," \$16 million.
2. "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?", \$12.1 million.
3. "The Game Plan," \$8.1 million.
4. "Michael Clayton," \$7.1 million.
5. "Gone Baby Gone," \$6 million.
6. "The Comebacks," \$5.85 million.
7. "We Own the Night," \$5.5 million.
8. "Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas," \$5.1 million.
9. "Rendition," \$4.2 million.
10. "The Heartbreak Kid," \$3.9 million.

On the Net:

<http://www.mediabynumbers.com>

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# The Canadian Press World News Budget – Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 384

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Here are the budgeted stories as of 23:30 ET. The editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this Central Asian country there is not much doubt over one key question. Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009. 900 words. By Dene Moore. BC-Afghan-Cda-2011. Moved.

See also:

\_ BC-Afghan-Violence. Moved.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it. About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field on Sunday. 650 words. By Bill Graveland. See CP Photo. BC-Afghan-Cda-Terry-Fox. Moved.

SIRNAK, Turkey \_ Turkey shelled Kurdish fighters along its border with Iraq on Sunday in retaliation for an ambush that killed 12 of its soldiers. Iraq's president, a Kurd, ordered the rebels to lay down their weapons or leave in the face of growing Turkish threats to cross the border and root out the guerrillas. 1,120 words. By Volkan Sarisakal. See Photos. BC-Turkey-Kurds, 4th Writethru. Moved.

See also:

\_ BC-Iraq, 1st Writethru. Moved.

WARSAW, Poland \_ A pro-business opposition party that wants Poland's troops out of Iraq ousted Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski's government in parliamentary elections Sunday, as Poles opted for leadership offering a more cooperative approach to the European Union. 800 words. By David McHugh. See Photos. Poland-Election, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

KARACHI, Pakistan \_ Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, in her first appearance since escaping a suicide assassination attempt that killed 136 people, warned Sunday that Taliban and al-Qaida militants have gained ground in Pakistan. But she said the bombing could unite her and others opposed to extremism, including Gen. Pervez Musharraf. 950 words. By Matthew Pennington. See Photos. BC-Pakistan-Bhutto, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

# Canadian soldiers take part in Terry Fox run at Kandahar Airfield

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE EDUCATION HEALTH INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SPORTS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 532

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field on Sunday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox, who attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox run," said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton. "It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98-per-cent mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The Terry Fox run is one of the most popular events at the base.

"I've done this overseas," said BJ La Porte, a former soldier now working as a civilian at Kandahar Air Field. "This is not weird for me. Most of my Terry Fox runs have been done overseas. This is very Canadian."

A line of tiny Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.



Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

“Of course not. You can't win your own competitions can you?” he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was.

“This is my third run,” he said. “I did a couple in Damascus. This is the harder one. The other ones were much cooler.”

It was the poster that convinced Lance Cpl. Duncan Moore, of York, England to join the run. But even he found the heat and dust a challenge.

“I was a bit knackered on the backstretch,” he admitted as he wiped away the sweat.

For O'Hara, his ongoing battle against the deadly disease will continue for the rest of his life as he remains part of a clinical trial. He wishes things had ended differently for Fox, who died in 1981.

He said he wished Fox could have been in Kandahar to see the fruits of his labour.

“I think he would be quite impressed with what he's got started here. It's gone on for 27 years and it's amazing.”

# Tories likely to pass second throne speech test, as Liberals shy away from election

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 371

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OTTAWA \_ The minority Conservative government is facing the second of three major tests for its fall legislative agenda Monday, but there's little prospect of anything but clear sailing for the Tory ship of state.

The House of Commons will vote by the end of the day on a Liberal amendment to the government's throne speech \_ an amendment carefully crafted with an eye to ensuring that Grit Leader Stephane Dion won't have to hit the election trail just yet.

The Liberal-sponsored motion blames Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tories for failing to live up to emission-reduction standards set out in the Kyoto accord.

But it also pats the previous Liberal regime on the back, suggesting the Grits were on track to meet the Kyoto targets. That's an opinion not shared by the other opposition parties, the NDP and Bloc Quebecois.

There are also differences in the opposition ranks on another major point in the Liberal amendment \_ the future of the Canadian troop commitment in Afghanistan.

The Liberals want the government to notify NATO that Canada will end its full-fledged combat role in February 2009, but that leaves the door open for some kind of continued aid-and-development role for the military after that. Once again, it's a proposition the Bloc and New Democrats will be hard put to swallow.

The expected result is that the Liberals will likely be alone when they stand to support their amendment, ensuring the Harper government will survive \_ just as it did last week when the Bloc presented a sub-amendment that was worded in way nobody else could support.

The third and final vote, on the overall throne speech, is scheduled for this Wednesday. The Grits are planning to abstain then, once again allowing Harper's forces to prevail.

The elaborate strategy on the part of the official Opposition is the product of hard political reality.

The Liberals lost three September byelections in Quebec ridings, plunging party stalwarts in the province into despair and raising questions about both Dion's leadership and the state of the party organization.

Although sources say the Liberal leader initially toyed with the idea of rolling the dice anyway and going for a fall general election, he was talked out of it by colleagues. Most Liberals now hope that by letting Harper continue to govern into next year, they can buy time to rebuild.

# Soldiers agree Afghanistan needs Canada past 2009, debate what mission can do

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 654

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago.

But it is not enough.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

“I love it,” says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil–Military Co–operation Team.

His CIMIC team in Panjwahi meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen.

The four members, along with their force–protection team, stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

February 2009? “It’s impossible,” says Cote.

But there’s not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

“We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they’re here with us,” says Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan. Public opinion about the mission is divided. Parliament is divided.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s government wants Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan until at least 2011. The throne speech tied the eventual exit to the training of Afghan national security forces, including the army and police.

“This will not be completed by February 2009, but our government believes this objective should be achievable by 2011,” said the speech.

Harper has appointed a five–person panel to examine options for the future of the mission, including continued Canadian training of the Afghan army and police, leaving the volatile southern province of Kandahar for a quieter sector or withdrawing altogether.

The Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois have called for an end to the combat mission when the current mandate ends in February 2009. The NDP wants an immediate pullout of combat troops.

Teams of Canadian military police and infantry recently began a mentoring program for Afghan National Police. They have a massive task ahead of them in bringing the notoriously ill–trained and corrupt police force up to an acceptable standard.

Canadian soldiers joined the five–year–old mentoring program for the Afghan army about a year ago.

Despite many difficulties and setbacks, there is a great deal of determination among those who have taken on these tasks: They are not ready yet but they will be.

“We haven’t had time to do what we wanted to do. It would be better to continue,” says a young soldier the main base at Kandahar Airfield.

Without hesitation he says he would come back for another tour \_ and he is not alone.

Many say that this combat role on the front line in Afghanistan is the life they chose when they joined the Forces.

“This is what we trained for,” says one soldier who will serve his entire six–month tour at one of the rough

forward operating bases scattered throughout the dangerous Zhari and Panjwai districts of Kandahar.

“This is the real thing.”

A U.S. marine making a pit stop at a Canadian base brings a totally different perspective.

“The problem with the Canadians is that they always have to be worried about what people think at home,” he says.

“When the Canadians are attacked they worry about civilian casualties. When we're attacked, we hunt them down and kill them.”

# Afghan–Cda–Terry–Fox

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE EDUCATION HEALTH INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SPORTS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 135

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Heavy military vehicles churned up choking clouds of dust as participants ran along the 11-kilometre route.

It included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

The run is something extremely personal for Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara.

The 52-year-old Edmonton native was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer.

He says it's cancer research, which the Terry Fox Run helps fund, that's responsible for him being alive today.

He wishes things had ended differently for Fox, who died in 1981, and says it would have been nice for Fox to have been in Kandahar today to see the fruits of his labour.

British soldiers, by the way, finished one-two-three.

(The Canadian Press)

RxH

# Britain–Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 75

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LONDON — Afghan President Hamid Karzai is en route to London for a four–day official visit to Britain.

Karzai's office says he will meet Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles, and hold talks with Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The talks will focus on bilateral relations, regional issues, security and Britain's role in rebuilding Afghanistan and training its army.

Karzai is also due to address students and academics at the Oxford Union debating society.

Britain's Foreign Office confirmed the visit, which officially begins tomorrow.

Britain has 77–hundred troops in Afghanistan as part of a NATO force.

(The Associated Press)

RMo

# Afghan–Violence

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**DATE:** 2007.10.21

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 74

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Officials say at least 20 Taliban have been killed in a gunbattle in eastern Afghanistan.

They say Taliban militants used Afghan civilians as human shields during the battle with U–S forces.

At least one civilian is dead, another 11 civilians wounded.

Afghanistan's defence ministry says the joint Afghan–NATO operation began Friday in an area in Kunar province which is next to the border with Pakistan.

A NATO spokesman says after talking with elders in the area, it appears the Taliban are using civilians as human shields.

(The Associated Press)

RMo



# Troop counts 'tight' but enough; As retirement figures spike, burden falls on reservists; medical staff, engineers in short supply

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220013

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service /Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, head of Canada's army, said in interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan that despite higher retirement figures, there will be enough troops to serve until the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 874

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped to 12 per cent from eight per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments. Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006 including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group. Another

4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or are expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan, the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Many of them guard the main base or take on dangerous convoy escort duties. Commanders were also counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers that the Harper government has promised over the next few years to enlarge the army.

The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, although this was known to destroy cohesion and undermine battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doo battle group in Kandahar. "For us, 90 per cent of our composition was fairly easy to put together but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

Among the most acute shortages are engineers, military police officers and medical staff such as doctors and pharmacists. One of the workarounds has been to attach civilian doctors from Canada for short stints with the military hospital here. Another has been to try get soldiers who have recently quit to re-enlist, although until now "their numbers had been relatively modest," Leslie said.

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat. However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13 per cent of the current Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, which Ottawa and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand that was expected in the near future.

Leslie said, however, this numbers crunch was not as severe as it appeared because new mentors were going to be found in the infantry-based battle groups after they switched from fighting the Taliban.

"As we transition from clearing to holding we need more experienced soldiers, but we have been picking up more leaders, more sergeants, more master corporals," who have learned on the battlefield, he said.

Meantime, a new study concludes that Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

Troop counts 'tight' but enough; As retirement figures spike, burden falls on reservists; medical staff, engine

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220010

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final Cc

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service / Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, head of Canada's army, said in interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan that despite higher retirement figures, there will be enough troops to serve until the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009. ;

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**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

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Troop counts 'tight' but enough; As retirement figures spike, burden falls on reservists; medical staff, engineers

# A lacklustre alternative

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220077

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Ont

**SECTION:** Letter

**PAGE:** AA07

**ILLUSTRATION:** FRED CHARTRAND The Canadian Press Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, in the House of Commons last week, wants his MPs to abstain rather than vote against the throne speech this week. ;

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 538

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An alternative plan for Canada

Oct. 20

Has anyone else noticed that your newspaper has gone into overdrive in printing a promotional piece for the federal Liberals? Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was afforded a handsome space to communicate his version of a throne speech.

I am left wondering when you will give that kind of coverage to an opposition party with principles. Let's not forget that the New Democratic Party under Jack Layton received 2.6 million votes in the last election. And unlike the Liberals, who will not vote against the government's throne speech and radical right-wing agenda, Layton and the NDP have rejected it as the backwards rubbish that it is.

The Conservatives are sailing swiftly in the wrong direction. The Liberals have done nothing but fan their sails. The NDP is working its hardest to get our country back on course toward international peace, saving our planet and closing the prosperity gap for the benefit of everyday people.

Now that would be an alternative throne speech worth printing.

Richard Telfer, Toronto

Stephane Dion's version of the throne speech is an excellent example of why the Liberals languish in opposition. It is full of platitudes and short on solutions.

Dion wants to improve the economy, invest in research and development, and support art and culture, but he doesn't say how. He wants to cut taxes that will make a difference in the lives of Canadians, but he doesn't identify the taxes. He still insists on making Canada greener, but he doesn't say how he can achieve this in the face of a growing population and economy.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has identified areas that he believes are of concern and that can be realistically dealt with. Plus, he has indicated the kind of legislation he intends to introduce to address those concerns. Voters can deal with that. They can decide yes or no, and vote accordingly. The Liberals, however, still have no legislative agenda.

William Hopkins, Granton, Ont.

Ever since his selection as leader of the federal Liberal party and his subsequent speeches, I have never felt so connected to a Canadian politician – besides Pierre Trudeau. Stephane Dion's throne speech further strengthened my connection to his values. I saw in his speech a vision of a prosperous Canada that includes all Canadians, regardless of their background. He sees a Canada that will enable its citizens to participate equally in its richness and vibrancy.

Donovan Manhue, Toronto

You'd think the Toronto Star is trying to will the Liberals back in power with its glowing portrait of Stephane Dion and his "throne speech." This is a guy who is so weakened and bloodied by internal party strife that his party is giving Prime Minister Stephen Harper a free pass. So much for principles. Then, he pens a pretend throne speech, hoping that voters have forgotten the party's dismal record on climate change, poverty and Afghanistan.

Mark Fischer, Toronto

Shame on your newspaper for giving Liberal Leader Stephane Dion the space to propose his own throne speech when he didn't have the principles or the guts to stand against Prime Minister Stephen Harper's.

Why not ask NDP Leader Jack Layton what he would do? It seems to me his ideas carry a lot more validity, seeing as he's the only federal leader providing any real opposition to Harper's agenda.

Marit Stiles, Toronto

# Canada on a slippery slope

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Spare us scaremongering, please

Column, Oct. 19

Thank you, Carol Goar, for eloquently pointing out that there are two ways to fight crime and violence. Whether it's in Toronto or Afghanistan, you can either throw bullets and boots at the problem or you undercut it by reaching out to those who are most likely to offend – the poor, the uneducated and the disenfranchised.

My family moved here because we felt Canada was a country that took care of its own, and for the most part that's proven to be true.

But as the George Bush administration's strategies have been embraced by Stephen Harper, we've seen the foundation of Canada's social policies undermined. The unchecked explosion of homeless, the slow but steady push toward privatization of everything from health care to highways, the manipulation of the media to serve a political agenda, the push for military growth and engagement, and now, like Bush, Harper's stoking fear, "getting tough on crime" and ultimately driving a wedge between Canadians to extend and entrench his term of power.

I can tell you from experience that tax cuts, prisons and foreign wars are no substitute for vibrant cities, quality education and citizens who believe that their country is there for them.

David Kemker, Janetville, Ont.

# For soldiers, Terry Fox Run is a dusty taste of home

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**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A04  
**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland  
**SOURCE:** THE CANADIAN PRESS  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 294

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There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field yesterday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox, who attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox Run, " said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, (in photo at right) who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton. "It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98 per cent mortality rate and I was in the 2 per cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox Run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

A line of Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.

Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

"Of course not. You can't win your own competitions, can you?" he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was.



"This is my third run," he said. "I did a couple in Damascus. This is the harder one. The other ones were much cooler."

# Our coalition of the unwilling; Sharing load tough when 'every country wants to feel its troops are doing a noble thing'

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**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
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**BYLINE:** Olivia Ward  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
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Canadians may think of our soldiers in Afghanistan as lone rangers, galloping over the Himalayan hills to single-handedly hold off bomb-wielding renegades.

But Canada provides about 2,500 of 41,000 troops from 37 nations in the International Security Assistance Force – a NATO-based coalition struggling for stability in an increasingly unstable landscape.

The bad news is that it's mostly a coalition of the unwilling. Countries have drawn a line in the sand, but keep to the safe side of the sandbags.

Those on the front lines of combat, like Canada, the United States, Britain and the Netherlands, call in vain for reinforcements. Those in the rear may boost their numbers, but only in areas where it's less likely their troops will be killed.

The disconnect worries not only Canadians, but military strategists who say that if Afghanistan is to avoid sliding back to failed statehood, all of its supporters must be marching to the same tune.

"What has to be done is a rethinking of national caveats, and getting more troops in who can actually do something," says Sibylle Scheipers, director of studies at the Changing Character of War program at the University of Oxford.

But, she warns, "bumping up troop levels won't work by itself. A coherent strategy is what's needed, and so far that is lacking."

Countries from Albania to Ukraine are contributing to the peace effort in Afghanistan, some to please more powerful allies, others to fulfill an obligation to NATO or to detour the killing fields of Iraq.

But their troops come with strings attached – enough to keep them tethered to low-risk posts.

"We would like to see no restrictions on what troops can do," says James Appathurai, a spokesperson at NATO's Brussels headquarters. "But there are some factors that make that difficult."

NATO doesn't publicize its contributors' rules of engagement, but some of the known prohibitions are hard to surmount. One country, for example, hasn't trained or equipped its soldiers to fight in snow. Another has transport aircraft unable to fly safely at night.

Technical restrictions account for a small percentage of contributors' caveats. Most are concerned with the political risk of sending troops on combat, rather than "peacekeeping," missions.

Politicians also worry about overstretching forces and upgrading rundown equipment. And threats and kidnappings by the Taliban and Al Qaeda have raised fears that contributing countries will be targeted.

However, Appathurai points out, countries such as France and Germany, with a majority of troops posted in safer areas, do send some special forces to fight in dangerous parts of the country.

In the volatile south, Canadian and American forces are joined by Dutch, Danish, Australian, Romanian and Estonian troops. Poland has upped its numbers of soldiers fighting with the British in perilous eastern Afghanistan.

But going toe to toe with the Taliban isn't the only important contribution, Appathurai points out.

"It's true that the west and north of Afghanistan are much more stable than the east and the south, where the Canadians are," he points out. "But the Taliban is being squeezed like toothpaste in a tube in those areas. You can't just leave the north and west, or they will fall."

Recently violence has spread to the north, threatening stability there too. "The Taliban is trying to move to an area where they don't get so much grief," says Appathurai. "It's a major motivation for them. And there is also a link between the Taliban and narcotics. They are increasingly like the (Colombian drug-running guerrillas) FARC. They are criminals who move to accommodate economic factors."

That could make it difficult for politicians in troop-contributing countries to maintain their forces even in the less turbulent regions.

Tuning in to national debates makes it clear how thorny an issue Afghanistan has become.

"Every country wants to feel its troops are doing a noble thing," says Scheipers, co-author of the paper *Coalition Warfare in Afghanistan: Burden-sharing or Disunity?* "In Germany, there's a very strong anti-militarist public, so all the operations are sold as peacekeeping. The debate is heading in the direction that every shot fired is making things worse for Afghans."

At the other end of the spectrum, most U.S. politicians see Afghanistan as crucial to the war on terror, and back America's front-line role. Britain, which has seen fierce debates over its Iraq mission, has few questions about Afghanistan.

Australia's main political parties are also solidly behind that nation's Afghan combat mission. In the middle is Poland, with the opposition recently breaking from a previous accord, and opposing an increase in combat forces.

France's Nicolas Sarkozy agreed to boost troop levels to Afghanistan. But after Taliban militants kidnapped five aid workers and demanded the French withdraw, he has leaned toward a training program for Afghan soldiers who will eventually take over security.

Turkey has little domestic opposition to its role in administration and reconstruction, including training the Afghan army. But in Japan, which has a pacifist constitution, even a supporting role – allowing its ships to

Our coalition of the unwilling; Sharing load tough when 'every country wants to feel its troops are doing a no

refuel coalition jets and naval vessels for operations in Afghanistan – helped to bring down former prime minister Shinzo Abe, when his bid to extend the mission failed.

"There are two contradictory tendencies," said Janice Stein, co-author with Eugene Lang of *The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar*. "On one hand are the countries like Canada, in the south. Then there are others who still talk about Afghanistan as primarily a stabilization mission, and don't even use the word 'insurgency.'"

That goes to the heart of the Afghan mission's problems, says Timo Noetzel, a visiting fellow at the London-based think-tank Chatham House, and co-author with Scheipers of the paper on burden sharing.

"Basically, NATO has never before tackled counter-insurgency. It's not a popular concept. Counter-insurgency operations are not lost on the field – they're lost at home, in domestic politics."

But unless the Cold War military organization's members get together on a new strategy, he warns, they risk losing Afghanistan six years after the ouster of the Taliban.

At best, he says, the international forces in Afghanistan have had limited success in pushing back the resurgent Taliban and Al Qaeda. Without a "coherent strategy" that combines counter-insurgency, counterterrorism and stability and reconstruction operations, the fragile state could still fail.

But from balancing mission risks to setting standards for the treatment of detainees, the NATO countries have squabbled and split. The unity of the alliance that faced off with the Soviet Union in the 20th century has shattered on the 21st century's jagged Afghan terrain.

"Commanders on the ground will tell you they expect NATO to make decisions that will change the course of the operation," says Noetzel. "That includes manpower, equipment, balance of risk and an overall strategy. The longer the situation drags on, the more it's slowly deteriorating."

One way of getting around some countries' reluctance to deploy to danger zones would be to make radical changes in the financing of the Afghan mission, Noetzel says.

"If you want to escape from the trap of no one wanting to provide expensive equipment, members could pay into a common budget to finance the supply."

It could start with helicopters, he adds: Without them, countries like Canada have had to move troops along routes where they are exposed to attack.

On Wednesday, NATO's defence ministers, including Peter MacKay, will meet in Noordwijk, in the Netherlands, to thrash out some of the issues that are undermining the Afghan mission, and the confidence that Afghanistan's people have in the international forces.

But, says Scheipers, Afghanistan is the most serious test of NATO's resolve since the Cold War. And how it rises to the test will affect the future of the country and the volatile region.

"So far there has been a deadlock on the most important discussions," she says. "It's important to rebuild consensus now, starting with the European countries. In Afghanistan, NATO is fighting a new kind of war. But its mindset is still in the last one."

# Canadian Forces battle dwindling ranks

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**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 318

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year has jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said.

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said.

More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each, based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments.

Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006, including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group.

Another 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists.

# Terry Fox run lifts spirits, raises funds in Kandahar

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**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
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**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 310

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Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

Extremely personal

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox run," said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton. "It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research, that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98% mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10%."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The run is one of the most popular events at the base. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Dion discovers hell Outmanoeuvred by friends and foes, he's in a famously hot spot

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**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
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**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 495

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Stephane Dion, welcome to hell. You will be a resident of hell for several months, perhaps six.

During that time Prime Minister Stephen Harper will take you apart in little pieces, like a mean boy pulling the wings off a fly.

When it's over there will be an election, which you will lose.

Far from appreciating your effort and sacrifice, the Liberal Party will drag you kicking and screaming into a scrubby field.

There it will dispatch you cleanly and quickly — with Michael Ignatieff standing by, murmuring messages of encouragement and condolence.

Ignatieff will take your job. You will retire to a modest pension in the south of France, where you will sit in a patch of sunlight, a blanket over your knees, dreaming of what might have been.

Farfetched? Not so much.

In the aftermath of the Liberal leader's decision to prop up the Harper government for another few months, there's been much talk in party circles of how very clever it all was. "He is a very capable individual, who manoeuvred through deep waters," was how Huron–Bruce Liberal MP Paul Steckle phrased it.

To hear them talk, it's almost as though Harper fell into Dion's trap.

According to multiple reports from within the Liberal Party, he wanted to go to the polls.

How could he not? In recent weeks he'd laid down a string of unshakable conditions for keeping this government alive. The most important of these was a hard date of February, 2009, for an end to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan. Harper stared at that line, eyeballed Dion, eyeballed the line, then hopped right across it with a big smirk on his face.

First instinct

Dion's first instinct was to fight. But he couldn't. His caucus wouldn't let him. They know that if they go to the voters this fall, many of them will lose their \$178,000-a-year jobs. In Quebec the Liberals are imploding.

In Ontario, where you'd think Dion would have had a little more currency because of his national unity credentials, he's gained none. Out West he had none to begin with.

Here's the poison: The decision to pan the throne speech virtually in its entirety, then concoct a grabbag of exquisitely nuanced excuses for passing it, feeds directly into Dion's greatest political liability — a perception of weakness.

In chess they call this a fork. Move one way, you lose your rook. Move the other way, you lose your queen. Either way you lose. Dion is well and truly forked.

In Quebec, some voters dislike him because of a perception that he is arrogant, aloof and out of touch with ordinary folk. He speaks like a Frenchman — a testament to his French mother. But that doesn't play well in the Saguenay.

Other Quebecers tar him, unfairly, as a traitor, because of his authorship of the Clarity Act.

Still others continue to mistrust the Liberals because of the sponsorship scandal.

In Ontario Dion began with a reputation as a smart, honest and hardworking minister. Despite his gawkiness and heavily accented English, he was known as a man of conviction. Journalists who remembered his fight with Quebec separatists in the 1990s referred to him as having a "spine of steel."

The various Liberal flip-flops on Afghanistan have sewn confusion in Ontario and the West.

Dion says one thing, foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says another, defence critic Denis Coderre says something else.

New twist

In Dion's speech to Parliament on Wednesday he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable."

Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes.

If Dion pulls the trigger, he loses. If he waits, he loses. In effect Stephen Harper has just manoeuvred himself into a majority in all but name.

That makes Dion many things. Unlucky? Doomed? You be the judge. Savvy doesn't make the list.



# Dion discovers hell Outmanoeuvred by friends and foes, he's in a famously hot spot

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**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 495

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# Soldiers refused to fight Canadian military has cut loose several conscientious objectors to mission in Afghanistan

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**SECTION:** News  
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**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU  
**COLUMN:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 344

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The Canadian military has released several soldiers after they claimed conscientious objection to serving in war-torn Afghanistan, according to internal records from the national defence department.

Documents obtained by Sun Media through Access to Information cite a handful of cases where regular or reserve members were ordered or voluntarily released from the Canadian Forces for refusing deployment.

"In the proud 120-year history of her expeditionary service, Canada has never had the luxury to afford her regular soldiers the option to pick and choose their missions," notes one report recommending a soldier's release.

"Duty, the first Canadian military value, has always been sacrosanct. No trade or service in the Canadian Forces can afford to take on a soldier less than 100% committed to duty; both the duty to the organization and the duty to those they serve beside."

## EXPELLED

In one case, a reservist was expelled "as soon as administratively possible" after refusing to deploy. The member had already received training to serve in theatre and imposed an "unnecessary burden" on the Forces, according to the heavily censored documents.

Other regular members were let go for breach of what is called the "universality of service" principle.

Naval Cadet Michael McWhinnie, spokesman for the chief of military personnel, said defence policy on voluntary release based on conscientious objection applies only to those who oppose war and armed conflict in general — not those who oppose a particular mission, such as the one in Afghanistan.

Because service is voluntary, the policy applies only in rare cases where a member has an "epiphany" about war or bearing arms; conscientious objection to a specific mission or national policy would not meet voluntary release criteria.

## A DISTINCTION

Soldiers refused to fight Canadian military has cut loose several conscientious objectors to mission in Afghanistan

"You could say I love the military, I want to stay in, I'm just not going to Afghanistan, and the chain of command would probably look at you and say we don't want you in the military because you aren't capable of following lawful command," McWhinnie said. "That's our distinction in black and white: If it's a lawful command, you're obliged to follow it."

The military considers a number of factors in determining suitability to deploy, but policy ultimately requires that every member "must be prepared to perform any lawful duty to defend Canada."

KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Canadian combatants divided Some would re-enlist, others not

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**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**WORD COUNT:** 239

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in coming months over Canada's role in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission was extended.

In the recent throne speech, the Conservative government said Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces said he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says. He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from three years ago. But it is not enough. It will take generations for things to change here."

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil-Military Co-operation Team.

February 2009? "It's impossible," says Cote. But there's not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Wild Art

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220624

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**EDITION:** Final

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**PAGE:** 8

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters HOME, SWEET HOME 11,000 KM AWAY A Canadian soldier at the Mas'um Ghar base in Kandahar province stands beside a sign that's sure to remind Canucks in Afghanistan of home. With an average daytime high of 27C forecast for this week, snow is definitely out of the question.

**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# Dion discovers hell Outmanoeuvred by friends and foes, he's in a famously hot spot

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220050  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
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**PAGE:** 15  
**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 495

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Stephane Dion, welcome to hell. You will be a resident of hell for several months, perhaps six.

During that time Prime Minister Stephen Harper will take you apart in little pieces, like a mean boy pulling the wings off a fly.

When it's over there will be an election, which you will lose.

Far from appreciating your effort and sacrifice, the Liberal Party will drag you kicking and screaming into a scrubby field.

There it will dispatch you cleanly and quickly — with Michael Ignatieff standing by, murmuring messages of encouragement and condolence.

Ignatieff will take your job. You will retire to a modest pension in the south of France, where you will sit in a patch of sunlight, a blanket over your knees, dreaming of what might have been.

Farfetched? Not so much.

In the aftermath of the Liberal leader's decision to prop up the Harper government for another few months, there's been much talk in party circles of how very clever it all was. "He is a very capable individual, who manoeuvred through deep waters," was how Huron–Bruce Liberal MP Paul Steckle phrased it.

To hear them talk, it's almost as though Harper fell into Dion's trap.

According to multiple reports from within the Liberal Party, he wanted to go to the polls.

How could he not? In recent weeks he'd laid down a string of unshakable conditions for keeping this government alive. The most important of these was a hard date of February, 2009, for an end to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan. Harper stared at that line, eyeballed Dion, eyeballed the line, then hopped right across it with a big smirk on his face.

First instinct

Dion's first instinct was to fight. But he couldn't. His caucus wouldn't let him. They know that if they go to the voters this fall, many of them will lose their \$178,000-a-year jobs. In Quebec the Liberals are imploding.



In Ontario, where you'd think Dion would have had a little more currency because of his national unity credentials, he's gained none. Out West he had none to begin with.

Here's the poison: The decision to pan the throne speech virtually in its entirety, then concoct a grabbag of exquisitely nuanced excuses for passing it, feeds directly into Dion's greatest political liability — a perception of weakness.

In chess they call this a fork. Move one way, you lose your rook. Move the other way, you lose your queen. Either way you lose. Dion is well and truly forked.

In Quebec, some voters dislike him because of a perception that he is arrogant, aloof and out of touch with ordinary folk. He speaks like a Frenchman — a testament to his French mother. But that doesn't play well in the Saguenay.

Other Quebecers tar him, unfairly, as a traitor, because of his authorship of the Clarity Act.

Still others continue to mistrust the Liberals because of the sponsorship scandal.

In Ontario Dion began with a reputation as a smart, honest and hardworking minister. Despite his gawkiness and heavily accented English, he was known as a man of conviction. Journalists who remembered his fight with Quebec separatists in the 1990s referred to him as having a "spine of steel."

The various Liberal flip-flops on Afghanistan have sewn confusion in Ontario and the West.

Dion says one thing, foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says another, defence critic Denis Coderre says something else.

New twist

In Dion's speech to Parliament on Wednesday he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable."

Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes.

If Dion pulls the trigger, he loses. If he waits, he loses. In effect Stephen Harper has just manoeuvred himself into a majority in all but name.

That makes Dion many things. Unlucky? Doomed? You be the judge. Savvy doesn't make the list.

# Letters to the Editor Column

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220047  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**COLUMN:** Letters to the Editor  
**WORD COUNT:** 619

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One of the comments made by a letter writer about emergency room wait times, "Nobody will go to emergency unless they positively have to, as the wait is generally six to 10 hours," just illustrates one of the huge problems of packed emergency wards.

Nobody should be there unless they positively have to. Sore tummies, kids with sniffles and people feeling achy or sick, account for far too many people there. That's what doctors offices and walk-in clinics are for. I believe at least half the people there are wasting time and resources for minor ailments in the first place.

Blame that large group of people who use emergency wards as their personal physician for a healthy chunk of the waiting times, not just a lack of resources.

Jeff Gagnon

(Right you are)

Finally, something exciting is about to happen in this city. You see, football is making a serious comeback in Ottawa. And what is more important is the mayor is finally showing some motivation. Let's hope this motivation is carried over in council so we can move forward on other matters.

But we should not use Lansdowne Park as the home of the football team. The park is of limited accessibility. Bank St. cannot handle a high rate of traffic to make a major sports franchise viable. One of the main reasons the football team was folded a few times was because of the difficulty of navigating to and from the park. The days of good walk up crowds like those in the past will never be revived. This, combined with parking difficulties, was a big contributing factor to the viability of the CFL in Ottawa.

The group trying to bring football back includes Roger Greenberg, John Ruddy and William Shenkman. All of these men are bright entrepreneurs who know how to develop property. But why not redevelop Lynx stadium to accommodate a new CFL team? The No. 1 marketing strategy when conducting business is location. The second strategy is accessibility to your product. The Lynx stadium site proposal provides you with both.

Imagine further if the city could perhaps route the future LRT to the stadium site. Ask yourself why places like Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver have such successful sport franchises. All of these cities use LRT as the main carrier to and from their sports buildings. Moving the fans to and from is key to the long-term viability of any franchise.

Redevelop Lansdowne Park all you want, but if you consider putting football back on Bank St. it will be doomed for failure. No matter how deep the pockets of these investors, eventually the money, and interest, will run out.

Perry Marleau

(Keep those Lansdowne ideas coming)

The reason we extended the Afghanistan mission to 2009 is that it was supposed to have been for the training of the Afghan army and we were assured this was a suitable time frame. Fast forward a few years to 2007. We Canadians are hearing the same story again. Then fast forward to 2009 and we will be wanting to extend it once again. I say no more extensions.

Bring our boys home and let one of the other 192 countries take a turn. We have done more than our fair share of time there. If we haven't been able to train an army in seven years we will never be able to train them.

Claude Sauve

Chateauguay, QC

(It's not as easy as just saying "bring them home")

Let me see if I have this right: A Liberal MP wants this country to celebrate the birthday of the worst Canadian ever? This is a priority when national security and getting tough on crime is not?

For all your hot air and blather you are still incapable of fathoming what is truly important to this country, like good morals and proper governance. This only goes to underline why so many people will vote Conservative, and why the Liberals deserve to be in political limbo forever.

Karen Smith

Newmarket

("Worst Canadian ever" is a pretty subjective term)

# Taliban using civilians

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 3  
**BYLINE:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 202

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Taliban militants used civilians as human shields during a battle with U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan that left 20 Taliban and one civilian dead and 11 civilians wounded, officials said yesterday.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said the joint Afghan–NATO operation was launched in the Korengal Valley in Kunar province, next to the border with Pakistan, with artillery fire and air strikes. Twenty "enemy" fighters had been killed in battles Saturday, the ministry said.

Kunar Gov. Didar Shalizai said one civilian had also been killed, while Maj. Charles Anthony, spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said 11 civilians had been wounded. Three were transported to the U.S. base at Bagram for medical care, he said.

## 'NEW TACTIC'

"After talking with elders in the area it does seem the Taliban are using civilians as human shields or firing on ISAF forces from positions with civilians in the area," Anthony said.

NATO has frequently accused the Taliban of using Afghan civilians as human shields, particularly in the country's south, but Shalizai called the co-opting of civilians a "new tactic" in Kunar.

He said the Kunar people had "requested" that the operation be carried out after militants repeatedly fired rockets toward U.S. bases, some of which went astray and hit civilian homes.

This year has been the most violent since the U.S.–led coalition ousted the Taliban from power in 2001.  
**KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Troops split on staying Soldiers feel needed for now

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220024

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters Afghan children walk alongside a Canadian soldier from the NATO-led coalition patrolling in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan. Canadian troops patrolled on Saturday a farming village from where Taliban insurgents launched recent rocket attacks on their camp.

**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, THE CANADIAN PRESS

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**WORD COUNT:** 287

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, time away from his family back home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

## CIVIL WAR

Citing corruption in the government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says. "It will take generations for things to change here."

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil–Military Co–operation Team.

His CIMIC team in Panjwahi meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen.

The four members, along with their force–protection team, stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

February 2009? "It's impossible," says Cote.

But there's not even a hint of doubt from him that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," says Cote, a reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Objectors ejected Handful of soldiers expelled from military for opposing afghan service

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710220023  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 2  
**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU  
**WORD COUNT:** 459

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The Canadian military has released several soldiers after they claimed conscientious objection to serving in war-torn Afghanistan, according to internal records from the National Defence department.

Documents obtained by Sun Media through Access to Information cite a handful of cases where regular or reserve members were ordered or voluntarily released from the Canadian Forces for refusing deployment.

"In the proud 120-year history of her expeditionary service, Canada has never had the luxury to afford her regular soldiers the option to pick and choose their missions," notes one report recommending a soldier's release. "Duty, the first Canadian military value, has always been sacrosanct. No trade or service in the Canadian Forces can afford to take on a soldier less than 100% committed to duty; both the duty to the organization and the duty to those they serve beside."

## RESERVIST EXPELLED

In one case, a reservist was expelled "as soon as administratively possible" after refusing to deploy. The member had already received training to serve in theatre and imposed an "unnecessary burden" on the Forces, according to the heavily censored documents.

Other regular members were let go for breach of what is called the "universality of service" principle.

Naval Cadet Michael McWhinnie, spokesman for the chief of military personnel, said National Defence policy on voluntary release based on conscientious objection applies only to those who oppose war and armed conflict in general — not those who oppose a particular mission, such as the one in Afghanistan.

"You could say I love the military, I want to stay in, I'm just not going to Afghanistan, and the chain of command would probably look at you and say we don't want you in the military because you aren't capable of following lawful command," McWhinnie said. "That's our distinction in black and white: If it's a lawful command, you're obliged to follow it."

The military considers a number of factors in determining suitability to deploy, but policy ultimately requires that every member "must be prepared to perform any lawful duty to defend Canada, its interests and its values, while contributing to international peace and security."

Steve Staples, director of the Rideau Institute, said some are enticed by flashy ads, the prospect of steady employment or the chance to help out fellow Canadians in emergencies. He believes the Canadian Forces should find other roles for those who don't want to fight in Afghanistan.

"They thought they were signing up to help Canada, not fight someone else's war in the Middle East," he said.

Scott Taylor, a former soldier who now publishes Esprit de Corps magazine, said some resist deployment because they aren't psychologically or physically ready for combat or because they get cold feet.

"There was a long time when unless you were in the infantry, you wouldn't be doing any front-line stuff where there might be some danger," he said. "So it was a kind of like a lifetime of training for a war you never thought was going to happen." KEYWORDS=CANADA



# Peacekeepers saluted on UN Day

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220022

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 2

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo by Tony Caldwell Lt.-Gen. W.J. Natynczyk inspects the front ranks of the veteran and Canadian Forces contingents at the National Peacekeeping Monument on Sussex Dr. yesterday during a United Nations Day ceremony which paid tribute to Canada's contribution to peacekeeping. 2. photo of CYNTHIA HESS-VON KRUEDENER

**BYLINE:** JON WILLING, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 177

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A Canadian peacekeeper who died in a bomb attack last year in Lebanon would want to know why war broke out there in the first place, his widow said yesterday after accepting the Memorial Cross at a ceremony in Ottawa.

Cynthia Hess-von Kruedener said it's something that her husband, Maj. Paeta Hess-von Kruedener, discussed in his e-mail correspondence as he served with the UN Truce Supervision Organization during the conflict in Lebanon and northern Israel in the summer 2006.

"I don't think it's been resolved as to what happened during that war," Cynthia told the Sun. "I know he'd want something to happen regarding that."

Controversy surrounded the blast at a UN observer post on July 25, 2006, when an Israeli aerial bomb struck the base. Hess-von Kruedener, who was from Kingston, and three other unarmed UN peacekeepers died in the explosion.

Serve for peace

On United Nations Day yesterday, military gathered at the National Peacekeeping monument on Sussex Dr. to salute Canadians who served around the globe in the name of peace.

Two new plaques were added to the monument marking peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The sun is shining on Canadian peacekeepers today," said Lt.-Gen. Walter Natynczyk, vice-chief of defence staff, said under a clear blue sky.ia.ca

# Frontpage BATTLE FATIGUE Troops overseas divided on future of Afghan mission

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220021

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 1

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters A Canadian soldier patrols in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, yesterday. 2. photo of MIKE WEIR WEIR BACK 1st Win in 3 Years

**WORD COUNT:** 0

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**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 494

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Farfetched? Not so much.

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To hear them talk, it's almost as though Harper fell into Dion's trap.

According to multiple reports from within the Liberal party, he wanted to go to the polls.

How could he not? In recent weeks he'd laid down a string of unshakable conditions for keeping this government alive. The most important of these was a hard date of February, 2009, for an end to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan. Harper stared at that line, eyeballed Dion, eyeballed the line, then hopped right across it with a big smirk on his face.

Dion's first instinct was to fight. But he couldn't. His caucus wouldn't let him. They know that if they go to the voters this fall, many of them will lose their \$178,000-a-year jobs.

In Quebec the Liberals are imploding. In Ontario, where you'd think Dion would have had a little more currency because of his national unity credentials, he's gained none. Out West he had none to begin with.

Here's the poison: The decision to pan the throne speech virtually in its entirety, then concoct a grabbag of exquisitely nuanced excuses for passing it, feeds directly into Dion's greatest political liability — a perception of weakness.

In chess they call this a fork. Move one way, you lose your rook.

Move the other way, you lose your queen. Either way you lose. Dion is well and truly forked.

In Quebec, some voters dislike him because of a perception that he is arrogant, aloof and out of touch with ordinary folk. He speaks like a Frenchman — a testament to his French mother. But that doesn't play well in the Saguenay.

Other Quebecers tar him, unfairly, as a traitor because of his authorship of the Clarity Act.

Still others continue to mistrust the Liberals because of the sponsorship scandal.

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The various Liberal flip-flops on Afghanistan have sewn confusion in Ontario and the West.

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In Dion's speech to Parliament on Wednesday he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable."

Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes. If Dion pulls the trigger, he loses. If he waits, he loses. In effect Stephen Harper has just manoeuvred himself into a majority in all but name.

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# Soldiers agree they're needed by Afghans Most also say military will be required in the country past 2009.

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220395  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 321

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Harper government said Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

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It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghan-istan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canadians leave in 18 months, four years or a decade from now. "I won't come back here."

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago. But it is not enough.

Soldiers agree they're needed by Afghans Most also say military will be required in the country past 2009.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil–Military Co–operation Team.

His CIMIC team in Panjwahi meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed troops.

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But there's not even a hint of doubt from Cote that Afghans will one day stand on their own.

"We were in Croatia in 1991 and now they're here with us," says the reservist who served in Bosnia in 1999 in the regular Forces.

Canada has lost 71 soldiers and one diplomat in Afghanistan. Public opinion about the mission is divided. Parliament is divided. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Fox holes to Fox run Away from home, soldiers in Afghanistan still participate in the annual Terry Fox run under the desert sun.

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<b>SOURCETAG</b>	0710220379
<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	The London Free Press
<b>DATE:</b>	2007.10.22
<b>EDITION:</b>	Final
<b>SECTION:</b>	News
<b>PAGE:</b>	A2
<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	photo by Bill Graveland, CP ON THE RUN: Lance Cpl. Duncan Forbes of York, England, takes part in the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, yesterday .
<b>BYLINE:</b>	CP
<b>DATELINE:</b>	KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	393

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There are some things that are just so Canadian that even a hot desert sun and being 11,000 kilometres away from home can't diminish it.

About 70 soldiers from a variety of NATO countries serving in Afghanistan joined the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field yesterday, raising money for cancer research and to honour the memory of Fox, who attempted to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope in 1979 after losing most of his right leg to cancer two years earlier.

Heavy military vehicles rumbled down gravel roads, churning up choking clouds of dust, as the participants ran along the 11-kilometre route which included a lap around the airfield's landing strip as helicopters hovered overhead and military jets took off and landed with deafening roars.

"It takes you back to being in Canada again because it is the Terry Fox run," said Master Petty Officer Matt O'Hara, 52, who has been in the service for 30 years and is originally from Edmonton. "It's something truly Canadian. Terry Fox was a Canadian hero."

The run is something extremely personal for O'Hara.

"I was diagnosed two years ago with pancreatic cancer and due to cancer research that's why I'm alive today," he revealed. "When I first saw the numbers, it was a 98-per-cent mortality rate and I was in the two-per-cent cure rate. Today, due to research, the cure rate is about 10 per cent."

The Terry Fox run is now held in 60 countries and it's the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research.

Posters of Fox from his Marathon of Hope were placed strategically around the base. That makes it easy for even those who haven't heard of him to figure out what it is about, explained Shelly Moore, one of the organizers.

"There's a lot of explanation involved, as well as to who Terry Fox is, but the image says a lot. The picture of Terry running down the road is really the quintessential Canadian picture," said Moore, a fitness, sport and

Fox holes to Fox run Away from home, soldiers in Afghanistan still participate in the annual Terry114x run un

recreational co-ordinator. "That picture is worth a thousand words."

The Terry Fox Run is one of the most popular base events.

"I've done this overseas," said B.J. La Porte, a former soldier now working as a civilian at Kandahar Air Field. "This is not weird for me. Most of my Terry Fox runs have been done overseas. This is very Canadian."

A line of tiny Canadian flags marked both the beginning and end of the run, but it wasn't a Canadian runner who crossed the line first, second or even third. That honour went to a trio of British soldiers.

Warrant Officer Tarquin Kitchen crossed the line in second place and wasn't surprised his Canadian cousins were lagging far behind.

"Of course not. You can't win your own competitions can you?" he said with a laugh.

But at least Kitchen was aware of who Terry Fox was. KEYWORDS=WORLD



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**SOURCETAG** 0710220553  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
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**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 497

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## FIRST INSTINCT

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#### NEW TWIST

In Dion's speech to Parliament on Wednesday he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable."

Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes.

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That makes Dion many things. Unlucky? Doomed? You be the judge. Savvy doesn't make the list.

# Soldiers kicked out of military Several refused to do a tour of service in wartorn Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710220544

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters A canadian soldier from the nato-led coalition stands near a sign that says "No snowmobiling" at mas'um ghar base in kandahar province in southern afghanistan yesterday. Not everyone has a sense of humour when it comes to serving in the wartorn country.

**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 480

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The Canadian military has released several soldiers after they claimed conscientious objection to serving in wartorn Afghanistan, according to internal records from the National Defence department.

Documents obtained by Sun Media through Access to Information cite a handful of cases where regular or reserve members were ordered or voluntarily released from the Canadian Forces for refusing deployment.

"In the proud 120-year history of her expeditionary service, Canada has never had the luxury to afford her regular soldiers the option to pick and choose their missions," notes one report recommending a soldier's release.

"Duty, the first Canadian military value, has always been sacrosanct. No trade or service in the Canadian Forces can afford to take on a soldier less than 100% committed to duty; both the duty to the organization and the duty to those they serve beside."

In one case, a reservist was expelled "as soon as administratively possible" after refusing to deploy. The member had already received training to serve in theatre and imposed an "unnecessary burden" on the Forces, according to the heavily censored documents.

Other regular members were let go for breach of what is called the "universality of service" principle.

Naval Cadet Michael McWhinnie, spokesman for the chief of military personnel, said National Defence policy on voluntary release based on conscientious objection applies only to those who oppose war and armed conflict in general — not those who oppose a particular mission, such as the one in Afghanistan.

Because service is voluntary, the policy applies only in rare cases where a member has an "epiphany" about war or bearing arms. Conscientious objection to a specific mission or national policy would not meet voluntary release criteria.

"You could say I love the military, I want to stay in, I'm just not going to Afghanistan, and the chain of command would probably look at you and say we don't want you in the military because you aren't capable of following lawful command," McWhinnie said.

"That's our distinction in black and white: If it's a lawful command, you're obliged to follow it."

The military considers a number of factors in determining suitability to deploy, but policy ultimately requires that every member "must be prepared to perform any lawful duty to defend Canada, its interests and its values, while contributing to international peace and security."

Steve Staples, director of the Rideau Institute, said some are enticed by flashy ads, the prospect of steady employment or the chance to help out fellow Canadians in emergencies. He believes the Canadian Forces should find other roles for those who don't want to fight in Afghanistan.

"They thought they were signing up to help Canada, not fight someone else's war in the Middle East," he said.

Scott Taylor, a former soldier who now publishes *Esprit de Corps* magazine, said some resist deployment because they aren't psychologically or physically ready for combat or because they get cold feet.

Many signed up to learn a trade or because they thought it would be an adventurous career path — not to fight a war.

"There was a long time when unless you were in the infantry, you wouldn't be doing any front-line stuff where there might be some danger," he said. "So it was kind of like a lifetime of training for a war you never thought was going to happen." KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Clear sailing likely for Tory agenda

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220748  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 23  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 179

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The minority Conservative government is facing the second of three major tests for its fall legislative agenda today, but there's little prospect of anything but clear sailing for the Tory ship of state.

The House of Commons will vote by the end of the day on a Liberal amendment to the government's throne speech — an amendment carefully crafted with an eye to ensuring that Grit Leader Stephane Dion won't have to hit the election trail just yet.

The Liberal-sponsored motion blames Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tories for failing to live up to emission-reduction standards set out in the Kyoto accord.

There are also differences in the opposition ranks on another major point in the Liberal amendment — the future of the Canadian troop commitment in Afghanistan. The expected result is that the Liberals will likely be alone when they stand to support their amendment, ensuring the Harper government will survive — just as it did last week when the Bloc presented a sub-amendment that was worded in way nobody else could support.

The third and final vote, on the overall throne speech, is scheduled for this Wednesday.  
**KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

# Mission deadline called unrealistic Some Canadian troops see no end for Afghan war

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220739

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 18

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Sameer Najafizada, AP An Afghan farmer sits at the bottom of the horse cart, as he guides the horse in Shakhe Moghlan village of Dawlat Abad district in Balkh Province, north of Kabul yesterday.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 221

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Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers, who regularly travel the mined roads of Taliban country and sleep with flak vests ready in case a mortar shell whistles in, seem to overwhelmingly believe that Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011. Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

"I won't come back here," he says.

His words are echoed at another base on another day by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004.

With 14 years in the Forces, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

But it is not enough.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Civilians used as human shields

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**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 18  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 145

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Taliban militants used Afghan civilians as human shields during a battle with U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan that left 20 Taliban and one civilian dead and 11 civilians wounded, officials said yesterday.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said the joint Afghan–NATO operation was launched in the Korengal Valley in Kunar province, next to the border with Pakistan, with artillery fire and air strikes.

Twenty enemy fighters had been killed in battles Saturday, the ministry said.

Kunar Gov. Didar Shalizai said one civilian had also been killed, while Maj. Charles Anthony, spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said 11 civilians had been wounded.

"After talking with elders in the area it does seem the Taliban are using civilians as human shields or firing on ISAF forces from positions with civilians in the area," Anthony said.

NATO has frequently accused Taliban fighters of using Afghan civilians as human shields, particularly in the country's south, but Shalizai called the co-opting of civilians a "new tactic" in Kunar.

KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Dion discovers hell Outmanoeuvred by friends and foes, he's in a famously hot spot

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**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 15  
**BYLINE:** MICHAEL DEN TANDT  
**WORD COUNT:** 495

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Stephane Dion, welcome to hell. You will be a resident of hell for several months, perhaps six.

During that time Prime Minister Stephen Harper will take you apart in little pieces, like a mean boy pulling the wings off a fly.

When it's over there will be an election, which you will lose.

Far from appreciating your effort and sacrifice, the Liberal Party will drag you kicking and screaming into a scrubby field.

There it will dispatch you cleanly and quickly — with Michael Ignatieff standing by, murmuring messages of encouragement and condolence.

Ignatieff will take your job. You will retire to a modest pension in the south of France, where you will sit in a patch of sunlight, a blanket over your knees, dreaming of what might have been.

Farfetched? Not so much.

In the aftermath of the Liberal leader's decision to prop up the Harper government for another few months, there's been much talk in party circles of how very clever it all was. "He is a very capable individual, who manoeuvred through deep waters," was how Huron–Bruce Liberal MP Paul Steckle phrased it.

To hear them talk, it's almost as though Harper fell into Dion's trap.

According to multiple reports from within the Liberal Party, he wanted to go to the polls.

How could he not? In recent weeks he'd laid down a string of unshakable conditions for keeping this government alive. The most important of these was a hard date of February, 2009, for an end to Canada's military mission in Afghanistan. Harper stared at that line, eyeballed Dion, eyeballed the line, then hopped right across it with a big smirk on his face.

First instinct

Dion's first instinct was to fight. But he couldn't. His caucus wouldn't let him. They know that if they go to the voters this fall, many of them will lose their \$178,000-a-year jobs. In Quebec the Liberals are imploding.

In Ontario, where you'd think Dion would have had a little more currency because of his national unity credentials, he's gained none. Out West he had none to begin with.

Here's the poison: The decision to pan the throne speech virtually in its entirety, then concoct a grabbag of exquisitely nuanced excuses for passing it, feeds directly into Dion's greatest political liability — a perception of weakness.

In chess they call this a fork. Move one way, you lose your rook. Move the other way, you lose your queen. Either way you lose. Dion is well and truly forked.

In Quebec, some voters dislike him because of a perception that he is arrogant, aloof and out of touch with ordinary folk. He speaks like a Frenchman — a testament to his French mother. But that doesn't play well in the Saguenay.

Other Quebecers tar him, unfairly, as a traitor, because of his authorship of the Clarity Act.

Still others continue to mistrust the Liberals because of the sponsorship scandal.

In Ontario Dion began with a reputation as a smart, honest and hardworking minister. Despite his gawkiness and heavily accented English, he was known as a man of conviction. Journalists who remembered his fight with Quebec separatists in the 1990s referred to him as having a "spine of steel."

The various Liberal flip-flops on Afghanistan have sewn confusion in Ontario and the West.

Dion says one thing, foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says another, defence critic Denis Coderre says something else.

New twist

In Dion's speech to Parliament on Wednesday he came up with yet another nuance: An extended mission focused on training Afghan security forces would be "acceptable."

Um, Stephane, that's what the mission is focused on now. Dion has made his choice. He now faces an endless succession of confidence votes.

If Dion pulls the trigger, he loses. If he waits, he loses. In effect Stephen Harper has just manoeuvred himself into a majority in all but name.

That makes Dion many things. Unlucky? Doomed? You be the judge. Savvy doesn't make the list.

# Troops refusing war duty Several released from military

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**SOURCETAG** 0710220720

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 7

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Bill Graveland, CP Lance Cpl. Duncan Forbes of York, England, joins soldiers from a variety of NATO countries participating in the Terry Fox Run at Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 142

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The Canadian military has released several soldiers after they claimed conscientious objection to serving in war-torn Afghanistan, according to internal records from the National Defence department.

Documents obtained by Sun Media through Access to Information cite a handful of cases where regular or reserve members were ordered or voluntarily released from the Canadian Forces for refusing deployment.

"In the proud 120-year history of her expeditionary service, Canada has never had the luxury to afford her regular soldiers the option to pick and choose their missions," notes one report recommending a soldier's release.

"Duty, the first Canadian military value, has always been sacrosanct.

"No trade or service in the Canadian Forces can afford to take on a soldier less than 100% committed to duty."

Naval Cadet Michael McWhinnie, spokesman for the chief of military personnel, said National Defence policy on voluntary release based on conscientious objection applies only to those who oppose war and armed conflict in general.

It does not cover those who oppose a particular mission, such as the one in Afghanistan.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# THE AFGHAN MISSION Hired gunmen protect VIPs

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072950168

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** PAUL KORING

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 1330

**WORD COUNT:** 1311

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PAUL KORING Canada's diplomats in Kabul and visiting high-value targets like Prime Minister Stephen Harper are protected by a group of heavily armed gunmen hired by Saladin Security, a British firm with a long history of secretive and clandestine operations.

Department of Foreign Affairs officials in Ottawa are tight-lipped about the deal struck with Saladin, whose gun-toting employees provide perimeter security, operate checkpoints, serve as bodyguards and form a heavily armed rapid-reaction force designed to move quickly to thwart an attempted kidnapping and rescue survivors of suicide attacks or car-bombings in Kabul.

The department won't even confirm that Saladin's most recent contract – which ended in June of 2007 – has been renewed, but observers of the Canadian embassy in Kabul say Saladin employees remain on guard. Some Saladin guards, in baseball caps and paramilitary uniforms, openly patrol the road outside the Canadian diplomatic compound in Kabul.

But details of the extent of Canada's reliance on a private firm for diplomatic protection are even more scant than the now-controversial U.S. deal with Blackwater Security, the American firm whose hired gunmen killed 17 Iraqi civilians last month while protecting a diplomatic convoy.

In Kabul, as in Baghdad, senior government officials have voiced outrage over the cavalier, trigger-happy swagger of some outside security firms.

Iraq's government wants Blackwater kicked out of the country.

In Kabul, the government of Prime Minister Hamid Karzai has accused gunmen hired by several private security firms of robbery and murder.

Two firms – Watan and Caps – were shut down after raids by Kabul police uncovered illegal weapons. Some Western firms are apparently on a list of 10 other security companies that may be closed or forced to cease operations in Afghanistan. Saladin, which operates worldwide, has not been publicly implicated in any of the alleged excesses or crimes attributed to private security firms in Afghanistan.

The company declined to respond to a request for details of its activities on behalf of the Canadian government. But it apparently provides armour-plated black vans and SUVs, as well as some drivers and bodyguards.

"Saladin Afghanistan was fully registered with the Afghan Government in 2002 and has been open and transparent with the Afghan Ministries and MOI [Ministry of the Interior] at all times; we run our Afghan operations in a professional discreet manner," said Paul Brooks, in an e-mailed reply to The Globe and Mail.

"Unfortunately, with success comes jealousy and resentment from outside and in; having no skeletons in the cupboard we are in a very comfortable position," he said.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs officials took more than a week to respond and after repeatedly asking for more time to prepare answers to written questions about the matter, eventually replied to the Globe with a terse: "Matters relating to the operational security of the embassy are not public." So it remains unclear whether Saladin guards are, for instance, subject to Canadian or Afghan law or – in the event of a shooting – could be spirited out of the country, as occurred when a Blackwater operative killed one of the Iraqi Prime Minister's personal bodyguards at a New Year's Eve party.

A private security guard working for another firm in Kabul left the country after shooting his translator.

"They operate in a grey area and that's part of the problem," said Stuart Hendin, an expert in the law of war at the University of Ottawa. He suggested that the Harper government may have opted to hire private security because the Canadian military is stretched too thin to deploy soldiers to protect the embassy and its diplomats.

But by contracting out, the government might still be held liable, Prof. Hendin said. If one of the guards were to injure or kill someone, they might be considered agents of the state – in this case, Canada.

Also unexplained is why, in Kabul, despite the presence of thousands of NATO troops, Canada has opted to contract Saladin to provide the rapid-reaction force to deal with any attacks on diplomatic compounds or convoys. Similarly, the rules of engagement governing Canada's hired security forces are unknown. Some private firms, such as Blackwater, contracted by the U.S. State Department, have told Congress that they can and do shoot first if they believe they face imminent attack.

Canada contracted Saladin's Afghanistan subsidiary for the standby services of its rapid-reaction force in Kabul for the year ending June, 2007. But it is not clear whether there were other contracts for the armed Saladin guards outside the embassy or the buildings housing Canadian military and diplomatic personnel in the Afghan capital. Canada has more than a dozen senior military officers, known as the Strategic Advisory Team, who provide advice to Afghan ministers. The SAT team is also apparently protected by Saladin guards.

Saladin has a huge, armed presence in Afghanistan, employing more than 2,000 guards. That makes its private army larger than all but a handful of NATO contingents. Canada has about 2,500 soldiers in Afghanistan.

Keenie Meenie reconstituted Saladin, the secretive security agency hired by the Canadian government in Kabul, has a long and sometimes murky lineage dating back decades and including black and covert operations for the CIA and others in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Saladin is the successor to KMS, which in turn was originally known as Keenie Meenie Services. It proudly boasts that "Saladin with its predecessor KMS Ltd., has provided security services since 1975. It was the original company to offer specialist security services in difficult and high risk areas of the world." But Saladin's capsule history on its website doesn't include any mention of providing mercenaries or working with Oliver North, the U.S. operative who ran the illegal Iran-Contra operations during the administration of former U.S. president Ronald Reagan. Col.

North admitted that KMS was hired to send mercenaries into Nicaragua.

Numerous published reports place Saladin and its predecessor firms at the heart of clandestine operations run

by both the U.S. and British governments.

"It was indeed KMS . . . to which the main British role in training holy warrior cadre for the Afghan jihad seems to have fallen. KMS has a subsidiary called Saladin Security," runs one typical passage in *Unholy Wars*, John Cooley's 2002 book that traces the co-operation between U.S. administrations and radical Islamic groups.

The Center for Public Integrity, a non-profit journalism website, says "KMS's Iran-Contra sabotage operations were only a small part of its business. In the same years as fighting in Nicaragua, KMS teams were operating side by side with the official SAS in providing bodyguards for British embassies and Saudi princes – and . . . being paid by the CIA and [the British] SIS to train Afghan mujahedeen and other fundamentalist Islamic guerrillas." Keenie Meenie and its successors, founded by former British special operations officer Major David Walker in the 1970s, seems to have engaged in everything from routine security for oil companies to running Oman's air force and providing operatives to blow up government aircraft in Nicaragua.

It was also hired to train and, according to some accounts, equip Islamic insurgents battling Russian forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Some of those jihadists now have near-legendary status among the Taliban insurgents seeking to oust Canadian and other "infidel" troops.

The company has mostly kept a low profile. The name, Keenie Meenie, is reportedly derived from the Swahili phrase for a snake slithering through the grass.

In the past 10 years, KMS has largely been supplanted by Saladin, at least for the group's publicly acknowledged operations.

"Towards the end of the 1980s the company reorganized, developed and extended its range of conventional security services and started working consistently with commercial companies," says Saladin's website.

But the company also provides security, personal protections, kidnap, extortion and crisis negotiation services for both governments and commercial companies. Paul Koring

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; diplomatic service; politicians; visits; private security contractors; political

ORGANIZATION NAME: Saladin Security

# U.S. SECURITY: ALLEGATIONS FROM A CONVICTED FRAUDSTER Arar fallout shows anti-terror laws unjust, activists say

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072950164

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A4 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** JESSICA LEEDER

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 575

**WORD COUNT:** 557

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JESSICA LEEDER Unproven allegations stemming from FBI interviews with a former Afghan training camp instructor and convicted fraudster – contained in secret American files – that are preventing Maher Arar from being removed from the U.S. no-fly list highlight the unfairness of anti-terror laws in that country, human-rights activists say.

The comments came after The Globe and Mail revealed for the first time Saturday a key element of the American government's shadowy case for continuing to list Mr. Arar, who was cleared of wrongdoing and awarded a \$10-million compensation package by the Canadian government earlier this year, as an alleged security threat and barring him from entering the U.S.

That is an allegation that Mr. Arar, who has repeatedly denied that he ever attended an Afghan training camp or even travelled to the country, was seen in Afghanistan in the mid-1990's by Mohamed Kamal Elzahabi, a man who led training in a terrorist training camp at the time.

The allegations were contained in intelligence documents seen by The Globe and Mail related to Mr. Elzahabi, a U.S. resident who has questionable credibility. He said he fought as a sniper in Chechnya and Afghanistan, and has been jailed in Minnesota for three years for an immigration fraud conviction. He is also facing outstanding charges of lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Still, U.S. sources told The Globe the documents are key to understanding why Mr. Arar – a telecommunications engineer who was transported on a CIA rendition flight to Syria in 2002, where he was held, tortured and interrogated about alleged links to al-Qaeda – has been unable to clear his name in America.

That fact has infuriated people close to Mr. Arar, who told Congress last week he had been given "no explanation whatsoever" as to why he remains a security threat.

"That underscores how arbitrary and unfair and unjust many aspects of U.S. counterterrorism law and practice are, and, in Mr. Arar's current instance, how unfair and unjust the administration of no-fly lists are," said Alex Neve, the secretary-general for Amnesty International Canada who has for years been intimately involved in Mr. Arar's case.

Mr. Neve said it is "ridiculous" that there is any doubt whatsoever among U.S. officials about Mr. Arar.

U.S. SECURITY: ALLEGATIONS FROM A CONVICTED FRAUDSTER Arar fallout shows anti-terror laws unjust, activists say

"There is no Canadian whose case has been subject to more minute consideration and exhaustive review that I can think of. There is no reason to consider Mr. Arar as a danger. There has been a 2 1/2-year public inquiry, an exhaustive, comprehensive process in Canada.

. . . We had strong assurances at the end of that process that .

. . there is nothing against Mr. Arar," he said.

"Still, we have an intransigent U.S. government that refuses to budge. And still he finds himself having to sort of fight against shadows and innuendo, and not being given any opportunity to do so in some sort of fair and just manner." Mr. Arar, who denied a request for an interview yesterday, has not seen the documents containing Mr. Elzahabi's allegations, said Richard Swain, a spokesman. He went on to say that until documents are produced that can be properly defended, Mr. Arar should not have to continue denying links to Afghanistan.

"For that to be printed . . . serves nothing but to cast doubt on Maher when, quite frankly, as a country, we have been through a very, very thorough procedure," he said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; human rights; justice

PERSONAL NAME: Maher Arar; Mohamed Kamal Elzahabi



# Sun Tzu throws support to Dion

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072950144

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** DIRK BRINKMAN

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Vancouver BC

**WORDS:** 160

**WORD COUNT:** 168

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Dirk Brinkman Vancouver Anyone versed in The Art of War , Sun Tzu's ancient Chinese teaching about matters of state, will recognize the astuteness of Stephane Dion's recent strategic response (Celebrating No Election And A Just-In-Time Arrival – Oct. 20) to the Throne Speech.

Two thousand, three hundred years ago, Sun Tzu said, "There are roads one does not follow. There are armies one does not strike.

There are cities one does not attack. There are grounds one does not contest. There are commands of the sovereign one does not accept." Mr. Dion did not accept our arrogant prime minister's command: Bring down Parliament over the Throne Speech, or else accept the Conservative legislative package as written. Nor should he have.

Matters of state such as climate change, Afghanistan, the economy and the challenges of poverty are, as Sun Tzu says, matters of life and death. Canadians are looking for a wise leader who takes matters of state seriously.

**ADDED SEARCH TERMS:**

**GEOGRAPHIC NAME:** Canada

**SUBJECT TERM:**government; political; throne speech

**PERSONAL NAME:** Sun Tzu; Stephane Dion

# Polling presupposes liberty

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072950136  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**PAGE:** A14  
**BYLINE:** STEPHEN CUDMORE  
**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Vancouver BC  
**WORDS:** 220  
**WORD COUNT:** 207

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Stephen Cudmore Vancouver Re No Simple Phone Surveys In War-Torn Afghanistan (Oct. 19): Imagine you're an Afghan. You've spent your whole life living under totalitarian regimes: the Taliban, the mujahedeen warlords they grew out of, and the Soviet-backed government before that. None have hesitated to use secret police or violence to deal with dissenters. Perhaps you know someone who spoke out and was arrested or disappeared.

Let's say you are one of those who views the Western presence in Afghanistan with skepticism. Perhaps you sympathize with the Taliban.

More likely, you simply see foreign soldiers in your country as an army of occupation. You've heard all this talk about bringing freedom to your people before.

Someone knocks at your door. He's an Afghan like you, but he says he works for a Canadian company. He wants to ask you a few questions about how you feel about the presence of foreign troops in the country.

He tells you he doesn't represent any military, government or insurgent group, so there's no need to feel intimidated.

Do you take his word for it? Or will you tell him what you think he wants to hear, just to be safe? Afghans cannot be accurately polled for their opinions in the midst of a civil war.

**ADDED SEARCH TERMS:**

**GEOGRAPHIC NAME:** Afghanistan

**SUBJECT TERM:** strife; public opinion polls; civil rights; human rights

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Taliban

# A Prime Minister at the top of his imperious game

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072950129

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A15

**BYLINE:** LAWRENCE MARTIN

**SECTION:** Comment Column

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 723

**WORD COUNT:** 654

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LAWRENCE MARTIN Under the strong arm of Jean Chretien, things could get pretty rough around Ottawa. Like the time when, sporting his Terminator shades, he put the Shawinigan chokehold on a protester in Hull.

The Chretien stewardship, initially tame, eventually became heavy-handed.

Peace, order and good government.

In terms of amassing power and asserting it, however, Mr. Chretien is no match for Stephen Harper. In just 20 months, he has become master of everything he's touched. To search the annals for another Canadian PM who accumulated so much cold-blooded authority in such a short time is to come up empty.

Mr. Harper is said to borrow heavily from the style of Australian Prime Minister John Howard. But is the Aussie the real role model, or is it the Russian guy who's brilliantly subdued one and all and whose popularity ratings are through the roof? One of the first moves Mr. Harper made was to eliminate the position of deputy prime minister. From that point, the storyline has been one of imperious control.

Last week was full of fine examples. After rolling out an impressive Throne Speech, the PM allowed only two cabinet ministers, Jim Prentice and Lawrence Cannon, to talk about it. The others weren't to be trusted.

In the same week came the news that his government had put in place a plan – apparently now discarded – for "robust physical and information security measures": a government-controlled \$2-million media briefing centre.

In the same week came the news of his broad and smart scheme for targeting ethnic voters and the news that MP Bill Casey, who ran afoul of him over the offshore revenues dispute, will remain afoul – even though the dispute has been settled. He crossed his boss; that's it.

In the same week was Mr. Harper's deft display in toying with the Liberals, having them on bended knees trying to avoid an election – this over a Throne Speech that usually never triggers elections.

Imperious control? Earlier this year, columnist Don Martin discovered the existence of a 200-page Harper committee-control manual. The secret document instructed the PM's committee chairs on how to select party-friendly witnesses, how to set in motion debate-obstructing tactics and, if necessary, storm out of meetings to shut down the proceedings. Tory whip Jay Hill was quoted as admonishing committee chairmen "who prefer to lead through consensus." While caucus chairs had the aid of a handbook, the Harper government went a step further for the whole caucus: It called in the cops.

At the annual caucus meeting in August, the Harperites had the Mounties remove journalists from the Charlottetown hotel lobby so they couldn't ask nettlesome questions.

The cabinet has to be minutely monitored as well. To wit, Mr.

Harper dispensed with the traditional practice of revealing dates of cabinet meetings. In this way, ministers don't have to face the press afterward. As it stands, they are allowed less public comment than probably any cabinet in history. Our diplomats are in the same boat. The extent of their gagging is also said to be unprecedented.

Most everyone in the government is supposed to be subjected to the access-to-information law. Evidence suggests the Prime Minister's Office has muscled in on the process – Afghanistan being one example – so as to make sure material that might embarrass it is blacked out.

If the news media, which appear to be increasingly cowed by Mr.

Harper, want to ask the PM questions, they must get on a preapproved list. Journalists got an early sense of what was coming when Mr.

Harper tried to ban them from covering ceremonies for soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Many government MPs are afraid to be seen with reporters lest they face reprisals.

The march of democracy in this country is intriguing. Mr. Chretien took a protester by the throat. This PM, who came out of the populist Reform Party movement, has practically the entire government by the throat.

It is fascinating, if not chilling to see his shrewd acts unfold.

There are many who think his strategy, a sort of reverse glasnost, is succeeding. There are others who think that building his version of the Kremlin in Ottawa is not what the people had in mind.

lmartin@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: government; political; throne speech; media; freedom of the press

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Conservative Party of Canada

# **PUBLIC SAFETY: JOINT CUSTODY Just say no to the stoner in the cubicle next door A warning to B.C. Ferries to stop pot smoking among crew members has lit up the issue of who's getting high in the workplace**

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072950096

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** L3 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** PATRICK WHITE

**SECTION:** Globe Life

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 685

**WORD COUNT:** 620

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PATRICK WHITE While the revelation that B.C. Ferries employees were getting high on the high seas has undoubtedly worried coastal B.C. travellers, ferry crews are hardly the sole dope-smoking workers in the country.

"It's definitely more prevalent in the workplace than most people realize," said Nicholas Barry, a drug and alcohol counsellor in Saint John who works with companies to root out addicted employees.

"I see it all the time." The Transportation Safety Board discovered the pot problem while it was investigating last year's sinking of the B.C. Ferries ship Queen of the North. While the board didn't find a direct link between marijuana use and the nautical disaster, which killed two passengers, it did advise the ferry corporation last week to butt out the problem.

In a survey on drug use in Canada conducted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 14 per cent of adults in the country identified themselves as marijuana users, and around one per cent reported smoking up while on the job.

But those numbers increase significantly among workers in forestry, mining, and construction industries, according to a 2002 survey conducted by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

In Alberta's oil patch, where safety depends on alert rig workers, drug testing is more common than it is in most other workplaces.

Mobile drug-testing units are dispatched to rigs involved in accidents.

Many drilling companies insist on urine tests from new recruits before they are hired.

Some rig workers think that a little leniency should be shown toward the potheads among them.

"There are some guys I wouldn't even let near the rig if they haven't had their morning joint," said a crew chief for Nabors Drilling who didn't want his name published. "They are the type of person who just can't function without it." Blue-collar workers are not alone in the marijuana fog.

"There are a lot of lawyers and doctors out there who like a joint once in a while," Mr. Barry said. "Some may be able to handle it fine, others have addictions." Actors, musicians and other performers prone to stage fright are known to blaze bud before a gig.

"You'd see a lot more dope-smoking at a bar gig than you would at a classical recital," said Peter Jones, a sound technician and musician in Montreal, "but that's just a generalization. I know an amazing classical piano player who smokes a ton of dope right before he goes on stage." According to recent news reports, the Canadian military has kept hundreds of Afghanistan-bound soldiers home in the past year after their drug tests turned up positive, mostly for cannabis.

Drug abuse researchers say no amount of marijuana use is safe in occupations where public safety is at risk. Even a small amount of pot will impair motor skills and brain function, said Robert Coombs, head of consulting firm Health Promotion Research.

"It would be fair to say that ubiquitous cannabis use will lead to an increase of accidents and other dangerous problems wherever you work." That includes office work. The average cubicle dweller's job might not be a matter of life and death, but they'll be more prone to screwing up even minor tasks with cannabis in their systems.

"If you're stoned, your output will drop and the quality of your work will drop," said Dr. Coombs, who believes marijuana use is just as common among office workers as industrial workers.

Canada's human-rights legislation bars companies from instituting drug tests unless public safety is at risk.

Even when drug tests are conducted, their accuracy often comes into question. Traces of cannabis will show up in urine weeks after a test subject smokes up.

"You might have a situation where somebody smokes a joint at a party weeks ago and they still test positive," Mr. Barry said.

"That's a situation where an employer probably doesn't have to worry. Cannabis has been demonized, but there are much more serious drugs out there to worry about."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: public health; illegal drugs; marijuana; employees; work; safety

PERSONAL NAME: Robert Coombs

ORGANIZATION NAME: B.C. Ferries; Health Promotion Research

# Canadian military fights dwindling numbers; More soldiers leaving every year

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**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CanWest News Photo / Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie;  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 690

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began, and with critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before the Canadian government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments. Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006 including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group. Another 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Many of them guard the main base or take on dangerous convoy escort duties. Commanders are also counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers that the Harper government has promised over the next few years to

enlarge the army.

The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, although this was known to destroy cohesion and undermine battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doo battle group in Kandahar. "For us, 90 per cent of our composition was fairly easy to put together but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

Among the most acute shortages are engineers, military police and medical staff such as doctors and pharmacists. One of the workarounds has been to attach civilian doctors from Canada for short stints with the military hospital here. Another has been to try to get soldiers who have recently quit to re-enlist although until now "their numbers had been relatively modest," Leslie said.

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat. However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13 per cent of the current Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, which Ottawa and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand that is expected in the near future.



# Defence spending hits Cold War levels: study

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**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 379

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OTTAWA — Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War, with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military. Canada's spending is so substantial that it outspends the lowest 12 NATO members combined, according to the study.

Bill Robinson, the report's co-author, said he was surprised the level of military spending has now passed the Cold War peak. "It doesn't accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that we're not spending all that much on the military," he said.

According to the report, by the end of this fiscal year in March 2008, Canada will have spent \$7.2 billion on the full cost of military missions related to Afghanistan. That figure, which tracks spending from 2001, includes salaries, equipment depreciation, attrition and other costs. If those numbers are removed, the cost of the Afghan mission to March 2008 is \$3.3 billion.

But Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

The report was written by Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, a think-tank critical of the government's approach to Afghanistan.

# Country won't make it: troops Progress will take years, they say

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A11

**SECTION:** World Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 302

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CP Wire Dene Moore KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Parliament is poised for a great deal of debate in the coming months over Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, but on the dusty battlefields of this central Asian country there is not much doubt over one central question.

Canadian soldiers seem to overwhelmingly believe Afghanistan will not be ready for them to leave in February 2009.

What is less clear is how many of them would be willing to come back if the mission is extended.

In its recent throne speech, the Conservative government says Canada should stay involved in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

Ankle-deep in the dust of one of Canada's forward operating bases in Kandahar province, a 17-year veteran of the Canadian Forces says he'll leave the army first.

It's not the insufferable heat, the time away from his family back at home or even the danger that has convinced him.

"Things won't change," says the soldier who has served previously in Bosnia and Haiti. He does not want to be identified.

Citing the corruption in government and the Afghan national police, and the fierce tribal rivalries that divide the country, he believes Afghanistan will fall back into chaos and civil war whether Canada leaves in 18 months, four years or a decade from now.

His thoughts are echoed at another base by another soldier.

This soldier is on his second tour in Afghanistan, having served in Kabul in 2004. With 14 years in the army, he, too, served in Bosnia and Haiti.

"It's hard to see the progress," he says.

He's pleased to hear that fewer women wear the burka in Kabul these days, a marked change from his time there three years ago.

But it is not enough.

"It will take generations for things to change here," he says.

But there is no consensus on Afghanistan even among soldiers.

"I love it," says Warrant Officer Nicolas Cote of his work with the Civil–Military Co–operation Team.

His team in Panjwaili meets once a week with district leaders under the watchful eyes of up to 20 armed infantrymen. The four members stay outside the secure perimeter of the nearby forward operating base at a house rented from locals in the village of Bazaar–E.

February 2009? "It's impossible," says Cote.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government wants Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan until at least 2011.

-- The Canadian Press

# Defence spending hits high

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**PAGE:** A11

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

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CNS OTTAWA — Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report, produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised to continue spending to build up the military.

— CanWest News Service {Ottawa ONT}

# World Report

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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
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**COLUMN:** World Report  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Donald Tusk;  
**SOURCE:** Compiled from Star News Services  
**WORD COUNT:** 1178

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## NORTH AMERICA

### MEXICO'S 'POET CANNIBAL' LINKED TO 2004 MURDER

MEXICO CITY – Police arrested a man who may have introduced the "poet cannibal" captured last week in Mexico City to his first female victim back in 2004, according to media reports Sunday.

Carlos Monroy, arrested in central Mexico state, worked in the same pharmacy as Veronica Casarrubia at the time he introduced her to Jose Luis Calva, with whom she struck up a relationship, prosecutors told reporters.

Their relationship may have ended in tragedy, since Casarrubia's mutilated body was found in Mexico state in 2004. Her mother confirmed that her 31-year-old daughter had dated Calva for two months, prosecutors said.

Calva, 40, made world headlines Friday, when prosecutors announced his arrest as a suspect in the murders of Casarrubia; of a prostitute whose dismembered body was found in 2007, and his latest fiancée Alejandra Galeana.

Body parts of Galeana were found in a fridge and in a trash can in Calva's apartment, when the self-professed writer, poet and playwright was arrested. They also found a pot of meat boiling on the stove and meat remains on a plate in the dining table.

The gruesome findings included an unfinished book titled Cannibal Instincts and a photograph of British-born actor Anthony Hopkins, who played the cannibal Hannibal Lecter in the film The Silence of the Lambs, hanging on the dining room wall.

Police are not saying if Calva Zepeda was indeed practicing cannibalism.

## RUSSIA

### UKRAINE OPTS OUT OF AFGHANISTAN MISSION

KiEV – Ukraine will not send a peacekeeping force to Afghanistan, the defence minister said Sunday after a meeting with his U.S. counterpart Robert Gates.

"I wish to underline that we will not send a Ukrainian military unit to Afghanistan. The Americans have not made such a request," Anatoly Gritsenko said.

He added that two army doctors and an officer from the general staff would soon be leaving for Afghanistan, and a doctor currently stationed there would return home.

In December 2005, Ukraine withdrew its contingent from Iraq after more than two years in the country.

## AFRICA

### SUDANESE LEADERS URGE REBELS TO REJOIN CABINET

KHARTOUM – The Sudanese government called Sunday on southern ex–rebels to rejoin the unity cabinet they quit 10 days ago or risk sinking a 2005 peace deal that ended Africa's longest running civil war.

But the Sudan People's Liberation Movement refused to lift its boycott until all its demands are met by Khartoum.

Vice–President Ali Osman Taha's appeal to the SPLM came as north–south relations plunged into their worst crisis since a Comprehensive Peace Accord was signed in 2005.

## EUROPE

### FAR–RIGHT PEOPLE'S PARTY SET TO WIN SWISS ELECTION

GENEVA – The far right Swiss People's Party (SVP) was on course for a clear lead in Switzerland's general election on Sunday while the Socialists suffered a major setback, according to a state television estimate.

The second nationwide estimate based on exit polls and partial counts also showed a major surge in support for the Green movement in the lower house, just behind centre right parties.

The SVP, already the country's largest party, was set to win 62 seats in the National Council, gaining seven after it stirred controversy with an aggressive campaign targeting immigration and foreign criminals.

The Socialists, the second largest force in the country, were set to lose nine seats, leaving them with 43, while the the business–friendly Radical Party was also set for sharp losses, shedding five seats to 31.

### POLES TURN TO TUSK IN BID TO FURTHER EU RELATIONS

WARSAW – Poland's conservative Kaczynski twins lost a parliamentary election Sunday to a centre–right opposition party ready to speed economic reforms and mend relations with EU allies, exit polls showed.

The Civic Platform's victory over the ruling Law and Justice party appeared to be a rejection of two years of turbulent rule by the nationalist twins in the European Union's biggest former communist country.

Exit polls showed the Civic Platform won around 44 per cent of the vote. Law and Justice had just over 30 per cent.

Turnout, at more than 55 per cent, was the highest since Poles voted to end communism in 1989.

"For many weeks we have been convincing Poles that life in Poland can be better, that Poles deserve a better government," Civic Platform leader Donald Tusk said after the exit polls.

## ASIA

## COMMUNIST PARTY'S NEW LEADERS TO BE UNVEILED

BEIJING – China's ruling Communist Party today unveils a new leadership lineup to steer the world's fourth-biggest economy for the next five years, with President Hu Jintao likely to promote younger potential successors.

The new membership of the Politburo Standing Committee — the innermost ring of power in China's authoritarian government — will emerge after a closely controlled vote by the party's 204-member Central Committee, installed at the end of its five-yearly Congress on Sunday.

It is already known that three members of the outgoing Standing Committee will step down. Among them are Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, a powerful figure installed by Hu's predecessor Jiang Zemin.

Their departure indicates that Hu, who doubles as party and military chief, will be able to promote potential successors into the leadership core. Hu will retain his seat in the Standing Committee along with Premier Wen Jiabao and parliament chief Wu Bangguo.

There's a fourth vacancy after the death of vice-premier Huang Ju in June.

But intense secrecy has surrounded who and how many officials will be recruited into the politburo — an elite council of 20-odd members — and the all-powerful Standing Committee.

## TURKISH LEADERS PROMISE ACTION AFTER KURDS KILL 17

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey – Turkey vowed strong action Sunday against Kurdish separatists after 17 of its soldiers and 32 rebels were killed in clashes sparked by an ambush near the tense border with Iraq.

Turkey's President Abdullah Gul convened a high-level meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan, the army brass and several cabinet ministers to discuss Ankara's response to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) blamed for the attack, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul said a cross-border incursion to attack PKK bases in northern Iraq was on the table, but ruled out an imminent move.

"There are plans to cross border" but "not urgently", he told reporters in Kiev after talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

The United States, which opposes any Turkish unilateral military action, strongly condemned the latest violence in Turkey's southeast, and pledged co-operation with Ankara against PKK rebels.

## MIDEAST

### CHEMICAL ALI'S EXECUTION ON HOLD OVER LEGAL GLITCH

BAGHDAD – The planned execution for genocide of Saddam's Hussein's notorious hatchet man "Chemical Ali" has run into a legal hitch, two weeks after the passing of a deadline for his hanging.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki last month delayed the hanging of Ali Hassan al-Majid until after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr which ended last Monday, well beyond the Oct. 4 legal deadline for his execution.

The prime minister has now set up a committee to look into the legal status of proceedings given the delay over the execution of Majid, who is currently in U.S. custody.



Majid's death sentence was upheld by the supreme court on September 4 for presiding over the mass killings of Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s and he should have been executed within 30 days of that ruling.

"Our understanding is that there is still discussion within the government of Iraq about how to proceed with this case and we are awaiting further clarification from Iraqi authorities," U.S. embassy spokeswoman Mirembé Nantongo told AFP.

## CARIBBEAN

### MORE THAN 8.3 MILLION VOTE IN CUBAN BALLOTING

HAVANA – Cubans voted Sunday in the first round of balloting that ultimately could indicate whether Fidel Castro will formally remain communist Cuba's leader, or perhaps opt for a permanent power handover.

More than 8.3 million eligible voters were expected at about 38,000 voting precincts. Those over the age of 16 are eligible to vote for some 15,000 council seats in the Americas' only one-party communist state.

The election process is to culminate by early 2008 with a new national assembly and selection of 31 members of Cuba's Council of State. The council has been led by Fidel Castro since the 1960s.

But Castro, 81, continues to be sidelined from power since he underwent gastrointestinal surgery in July 2006.

Raul Castro, 76, is serving as interim president of Cuba, while his elder brother recovers, and still formally leads the Council of State.

# Summit urges 'UN of religions'; World's faith leaders gather in Naples to discuss global problems

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**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** B2

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Getty Images photo / INSTRUMENT OF PEACE: Pope Benedict XVI delivers his address at a religious meeting with leading Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Anglican, Orthodox and other Christian representatives Sunday in Naples, southern Italy. The pontiff told rabbis, ayatollahs, priests and patriarchs from around the world that religion can never be used to justify violence, issuing an appeal for faith to be an instrument of peace. ;

**DATELINE:** NAPLES, Italy

**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse

**WORD COUNT:** 457

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NAPLES, Italy – Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox and other Christian leaders kicked off an annual interfaith peace summit Sunday with calls for a formal structure linking world religions.

The pope did not formally attend the summit, organized by the Sant'Egidio community, but met and lunched with the delegates as part of a pastoral visit to this impoverished southern Italian city.

"With respect for the differences between the various religions, we are all called to work for peace and ... reconciliation among peoples," he said.

Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Israel's chief rabbi Yona Metzger and the imam of the United Arab Emirates, Ibrahim Ezzeddin, were among those attending the summit.

"Civilizations don't dialogue directly, but through those who carry their traditions and cultural values. So we should not speak of a dialogue of civilizations, but a culture of dialogue," Bartholomew told the opening.

In a similar vein, Metzger proposed a "United Nations of Religions" that would "embrace the heads of religious communities that have a profound influence on their congregations."

"If we sit down together around one table ... surely we could arrive at effective solutions," he said.

Ezzedin, too, advocated a formal structure linking world religions, saying: "This important grouping of God-fearing people cannot and should not limit itself to processions, conferences and seminars.

"We need to form a permanent and authorized executive machinery for ... executing any decisions we may make," he added.

The Muslim leader however spoke harshly of "unjustified provocations in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan and ... unfair dealings in Palestine" that have prompted "some Muslim individuals and groups (to go) astray

and wrong themselves by violent actions."

He added: "We are dismayed by the behaviour of some great powers who continue to act aggressively against other countries, by means of military occupation under fabricated pretexts ... forced regime changes and blunt interference in other countries' affairs."

The Sant'Egidio summits are meant to carry on the "spirit of Assisi" and were launched 21 years ago by John Paul II in the birthplace of Saint Francis.

The first summit, dubbed a World Day of Prayer for Peace, was attended by the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa and other religious leaders.

The pope, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, stayed away, reportedly out of concern that it put all religions on an equal footing.

Thus the timing of his pastoral visit to Naples has been billed as a "happy coincidence" by Sant'Egidio, a lay Catholic organization that has mediated in several world conflicts.

The theme of this year's peace summit is "A World Without Violence: Faiths and Cultures in Dialogue," with topics to include AIDS, immigration, the plight of Africa and the quest for peace in the Middle East.

Earlier Sunday, Benedict celebrated an open-air mass as rain fell on pilgrims huddled under umbrellas in Naples' main square.

Lamenting "the sad phenomenon of violence" in the impoverished city, the pontiff said: "It's not only a matter of the deplorable number of crimes of the Camorra (mafia), but also the fact that violence tends unfortunately to become a widespread mentality, insinuating itself into the fabric of society."

# Defence spending on rise, study shows

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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B1 / FRONT  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 288

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OTTAWA – Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War with the country earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, concludes a new study.

The study points out that based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is currently the sixth highest military spender in the alliance.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952–53, according to the report to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military.

Dollar for dollar, Canada now outspends its NATO partners, Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Norway and Denmark among others. Canada's spending is so substantial that it outspends the lowest 12 NATO members combined, according to the study.

Defence department supporters say that more money needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage and deal in the future with other failed states similar to Afghanistan. Military officers are currently pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025.

# When Dion speaks, eyes roll

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**COLUMN:** Susan Riley  
**BYLINE:** Susan Riley  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 789

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Stephane Dion seems smart, honest, intellectually supple and attractively optimistic by nature — and, arguably, more in tune with majority Canadian values than is his chief rival.

But he is a painfully inept, sometimes incomprehensible, orator. He is even worse at reading speeches than Jean Chretien was. That bad.

Moments after the opposition leader rose last week to deliver his much-anticipated response to the Conservative throne speech — the eyes of the media and political Ottawa, if not the nation, trained on him — the drama started to drain from the room.

It wasn't what Dion was saying, so much, as his laborious delivery. He could make the Sermon on the Mount sound like an actuarial report. His speeches read much better than they sound, but this is not good news in retail politics.

Ten minutes into his address, BlackBerrys were humming in the overhanging press gallery as reporters, with our notoriously short attention spans, turned to more urgent matters. Opposition MPs were rolling their eyes as Dion soldiered on, some even laughing mockingly, while a small, inscrutable smile flickered across Prime Minister Stephen Harper's face.

Perhaps Harper was imagining the campaign to come: his crisp, simplistic messages and straightforward style ("we'll punish the drug dealers and help the victims"), versus the often esoteric, jargon-ridden pronouncements of his Liberal foe. It doesn't matter if Dion has a more subtle reading of the issues, from crime to climate change, or that his policies are, in some cases, more honest and workable. If he can't explain himself in compelling language he needs to find another line of work.

This is not news, but it should be a major concern for Liberals. Dion is not getting noticeably better and the problem is more profound than his strong French accent. It may be all those years behind a university podium, lecturing — not persuading, or amusing, or inspiring. But you would think the author of the Clarity Act would at least be clear. Instead, Dion often encumbers what should be simple messages with ancient history and unneeded detail — although, to be fair, it is hard to make poetry of any sentence that contains the words "federal spending power."

In any event, he will have time to try. For all the brinkmanship of recent days, it seems clear we are in for a prolonged period of relative peace. All parties, not just the Liberals, have danced carefully over the tripwires littering the political landscape. It appears, for example, that Harper's proposal to limit federal spending power, a long-standing demand of Quebec's, doesn't go as far as concessions already granted by Dion and

Chretien. So much for painting the Liberal leader as an enemy of the Quebec nation.

As Dion declared: "No federal politicians placed greater limits on federal spending power than I did" — a deft political sally and a refrain gleefully pounced upon by the Bloc Quebecois.

You see, Gilles Duceppe is telling Quebecers, Harper is not only a fraud — he is worse than Dion.

There are glimmerings of a compromise on Afghanistan, too. If Harper wants to leave troops in Kandahar until 2011, not to engage in direct combat, but to train Afghan forces, that might be "acceptable," said Dion. Expect squabbling over what constitutes a "combat role," and stout resistance from the anti-war New Democrats, but Harper has clearly tempered his initial, bellicose rhetoric in a bid to win majority support for continuing the war.

As for the Conservatives' omnibus crime bill, introduced Thursday, it will likely pass easily — not only because of the Liberals' weakened state, but because Harper is honouring opposition amendments from the last Parliament

If Harper is showing surprising flexibility behind the scenes, Dion, too, may have adroitly manoeuvred his party out of a dangerous cul-de-sac — even with some élan. His delivery may have been tortured, but he did not look humiliated, or even embarrassed, as he announced that Liberals will abstain from voting down the government — no matter how wrong-headed its policies. In fact, he looked pleased with himself, while, behind him, many of his MPs studied their hands.

It must be said that what Dion lacks in glibness, he makes up for in vigour. He led a spirited charge against Conservative corruption — or, at least, troubling charges of electoral shenanigans. It is the curse of any opposition leader to sound chronically dyspeptic, another danger for Dion.

His mentor, Chretien, wasn't any better leading the opposition in question period than he was delivering speeches. On the other hand, it hardly blighted the little guy's career prospects.

At this difficult juncture, Dion may find some comfort there — but he also needs to realize he will never become prime minister speaking to empty halls.

Susan Riley is an Ottawa Citizen columnist. E-mail: [sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com).

# Politicians should be able to travel as they wish

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** Jenna Jenks  
**SOURCE:** Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 95

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Letter writer Larry Washburn says that Liberal MP Denis Coderre had no right to go to Afghanistan. I am curious if he understands the meaning of democracy.

Our politicians, whether are Conservative, Liberal, NDP or Green, represent all Canadians.

The last time I checked, the Conservatives were still a minority government. All the members of the parties that represent majority of us have every right to visit Afghanistan when they want .I don't have any problem with any Liberal, whether its Mr. Coderre or anyone else, who wants to visits Afghanistan.

Jenna Jenks

Tecumseh

# Bin Laden a multi-level threat to U.S.

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220027  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A6  
**COLUMN:** Guest Column  
**BYLINE:** Tim Roemer  
**SOURCE:** Baltimore Sun  
**WORD COUNT:** 826

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As the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 passed, the release of three tapes featuring Osama bin Laden reminded Americans of al-Qaida's savagery and persistence. Some might take comfort that al-Qaida has been unable to repeat such destruction. But they shouldn't get too comfortable. Al-Qaida poses a multifaceted threat to the United States that stands to undermine more than just the physical security of Americans on their own soil.

Bin Laden's messages before and after Sept. 11 illustrate a calculated strategy within a total war doctrine: a military dimension aimed at killing Americans around the world, a financial dimension designed to bleed the U.S. and a political dimension designed to diminish U.S. reputation and support. By provoking the U.S. into costly wars of attrition and by separating it from its allies, al-Qaida can damage America without a single terrorist setting foot in this country.

Even if he fails to attack the U.S., bin Laden thinks he still can defeat the U.S. A winning strategy must include a political solution in Iraq and a comprehensive energy policy that cuts our dependence on foreign oil.

As a prominent businessman in Sudan and Saudi Arabia, bin Laden has a keen sense of the role economics plays in the strength of nations. In a videotaped appearance in October 2004, he emphasized the successful "scissor" strategy of asymmetric war and costly Soviet expenditures in Afghanistan that "bled Russia for 10 years until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat."

The United States is spending about \$12 billion each month in Iraq. Total spending on the war over the past few years is about half a trillion dollars. Then there are the direct economic costs of the Sept. 11 attacks. Bin Laden meticulously enumerated these costs in a message delivered in December 2001.

He measured the job losses, the effect on the federal budget deficit and the devastation to the stock market.

Inducing America toward self-inflicted budget deficits isn't bin Laden's only economic attack. He also aims to strike at another weak point: U.S. dependence on foreign oil. In 2006, the Department of Energy had to extend to 2030 -- a postponement of 20 years -- the projection for America to reduce its dependence on foreign oil by just 30 percent.

And as bin Laden is well aware, much of the foreign oil we rely on can be found in countries where his message finds an eager audience.

Bin Laden has seized on this vulnerability and aimed his message directly at our addiction.



He implores his comrades to "attack reinforcement lines and oil pipelines" and to "be active and prevent them from reaching the oil, and mount your operations accordingly, particularly in Iraq and the Gulf, for that will be the death of them."

His followers have responded directly to such calls, attacking Saudi oil fields and promising further damage to energy infrastructure.

Politically, bin Laden seeks to accomplish what any savvy general would do: inspire and unify his base and divide and confuse his enemy. Recent comments by U.S. homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend that bin Laden is "virtually impotent" and simply spewing "propaganda" are wrong on both counts. We learned the hard way on Sept. 11 that jihadists can execute devastating plans from a cave.

Bin Laden uses the Iraq war, Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib to unite the Islamic and non-Islamic world against us.

In a recent video, bin Laden awkwardly attempts to turn Americans against each other, emphasizing domestic themes of corporate corruption and subprime mortgage problems. He also has been highly successful in recruiting and radicalizing small portions of the alienated population in Great Britain and, more recently, in Denmark and Germany.

In another of bin Laden's videos, he directly challenges Pakistanis to rise up and rebel against President Pervez Musharraf.

While his second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, claims that the United States is losing in Iraq and Afghanistan, bin Laden sees a new window of opportunity opening in Pakistan. A poll of Pakistanis released by Terror Free Tomorrow in early September found that bin Laden had a 46 percent approval rating, while Musharraf's stood at 38 percent. A destabilized Pakistan is yet another al-Qaida threat to world security. And like the battles in Iraq and Afghanistan, this one has profound military, economic and political consequences for the United States.

Six years ago, the U.S. launched the war in Afghanistan in response to al-Qaida's attack on 9-11. Regardless of when we see bin Laden again, it is essential for policymakers to effectively respond to his strategy in the world. The first crucial (and long overdue) step is understanding our enemy's complex plan.

The Bush administration dismisses the messenger and generally elects to fight al-Qaida only on the military level. Presidential candidates have an obligation to articulate a balanced foreign policy and an opportunity to defeat bin Laden on the economic and political levels as well.

Former Rep. Tim Roemer, an Indiana Democrat, served on the 9-11 commission and is president of the Center for National Policy. This column was written for the Baltimore Sun.

# How to help Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 565

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Having Canadian troops stay in Afghanistan until 2011 in a non-combat role is a good balance between protecting our forces and protecting the Afghans we signed up to help in 2001.

It's also the general proposal made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in this week's throne speech, subject to the recommendation of the panel he asked to look into the question, which is headed by the Liberal hawk John Manley. It might be difficult for the opposition to swallow, but it's the right thing.

We've committed to keep troops in the Kandahar war zone until 2009, and must live up to that promise. But by 2009, it will likely be time for Canadians to rotate out of the Kandahar hotspots. Canada's military is recovering from over a decade of neglect in the 1990s, and we might not be capable of sustaining 2,500 fighting men and women on the ground much longer.

Our troops are among those from 36 countries on the ground in Afghanistan, though, including from our allies in NATO, whose responsibility Afghanistan officially is. Canada should have a chance to rebuild and consolidate, both in Afghanistan and within the Canadian Forces' ranks.

For some, including the NDP and many Liberals, that won't be good enough — they want Canadians out of Afghanistan right away, though it's difficult to fathom why. Yes, the mission is dangerous. That's why Canadians are there. Under the Taliban, whom we're fighting, a small number of boys went to religious schools; now, millions of boys and girls are being educated. When they go home, they can fly the kites the Taliban banned, read the books the Taliban forbade. Women are working again, free to leave their homes. The economy is growing in double digits, even with the flourishing poppy trade discounted. Yes, there are places where things are still bad and whole towns the Taliban still control, but they're the exception rather than the rule.

Leaving Afghanistan is only the right thing to do if the Canadian presence is making things worse, not better, and there's no indication that's true. The Environics poll released last week, commissioned by Canadian media outlets, found Afghans largely support the Canadian presence, appreciate our troops' work and sacrifices, and want us to stay. They overwhelmingly support President Hamid Karzai, at whose invitation international forces are in the country.

Progress is very, very slow, but Afghanistan is not Iraq. Most of Afghanistan is relatively peaceful, and even if Mr. Karzai's central government in Kabul is ineffectual, sometimes corrupt and occasionally brutal, it's not controlled by one faction in a centuries-old civil war within Islam, as the government in Baghdad is.

By 2009, Mr. Karzai will be up for re-election, if he chooses to run. Afghanistan's Supreme Court, just lately appointed by Mr. Karzai, will have had a chance to establish itself, and its lower house of Parliament will be nearing the end of its first term. We will know whether the country's fledgling institutions have found purchase. Also, by then the United States will have a new president guiding its foreign affairs, perhaps one

whose approach Canadians will find easier to trust. To decide now that we should pull out then, regardless of what's going on, would be reckless.

# Power of consistent rhetoric

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**BYLINE:** LeAnne Parrish  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 253

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Re: Nuclear Iran could start 'World War III,' Bush says, Oct. 18.

Consistency in politicians is a good thing, especially when it also includes progression.

George W. Bush, for example, told the public that the invasion of Afghanistan was the only way to find the "evil terrorists" responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks. Then he flattered the country with his "axis of evil" rhetoric and noted how Iraq was not only supporting those "evil terrorist" cells, but also preparing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in preparation for nuclear war.

Now Bush calls for the international community to prevent Iran from developing WMD because he has pinpointed Iran as the Third World War instigator. It appears Bush now realizes the power of consistent rhetoric. What worked on the American people must also work on the international community, and his overwhelming success in Afghanistan and Iraq serves to strengthen his argument.

Bush has made a slow progression from his desire to find those in Afghanistan responsible for the attacks to obliterating those providing resources to the attackers from Iraq and now onto Iran, which is capable of world, not only U.S., annihilation. The international community must follow Bush's leading example and eradicate anyone capable of killing innocent people, producing WMD or pursuing a nuclear program.

Based on Bush's rhetoric, it makes perfect sense that the country geographically separating the terrorists from their resource providers will have the weaponry needed to mount the largest attack imaginable. After all, "Iran" is only one letter away from "Iraq."

LeAnne Parrish,

Ottawa

# Maybe higher

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220033  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**BYLINE:** David Eaton  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 284

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Re: Insulting ritual, Oct. 12.

Most of the letters the Citizen has published about the Ontario election, not to mention your columnists' views, seem to contain complaints about our electoral system, and politicians. What a spoiled bunch we are.

Is it really "degrading" that voters were asked to identify themselves? The letter writers should perhaps visit Darfur or Afghanistan for a few days to find out what degradation is really like.

On the other hand, why does everyone complain about low voter turnout? Has no one considered that people who do not vote might simply be happy with any of the likely winners in their riding? After all, by world standards, the policies of our major parties are virtually indistinguishable.

Instead of claiming that those who don't vote don't care, why not assume they avidly support the candidates who they thought likely to win in their riding? The majority of ridings have predictable outcomes, don't they? As far as we know not 22 per cent but 69 per cent of eligible voters may have supported the Liberals. Perhaps Ontario simply feels pretty happy with the status quo. You know, it's not so bad here.

While I'm on that subject, why are we so derisory about the efforts of the very few people, politicians, who really do get active and sacrifice huge amounts of time and money just to endeavour to serve an ungrateful public? Don't forget that of all the people who work hard and spend money at election time, only a tiny percentage actually win an election.

I wonder that they even want to win given the insults they will endure from arm-chair experts for four years. Let's stop acting like brats and show a little respect for politicians.

David Eaton,

Ottawa

# Security forces kill 30 rebels; bomb hits music shop

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 223

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KABUL – Afghan security forces said yesterday they killed about 30 rebels in new operations, while two civilians died in separate incidents in an insurgency that is now heading for its seventh year.

A bomb, meanwhile, exploded in a music shop in a small eastern town and hurt the shopkeeper, an official said, adding the attack may have been carried out by Taliban extremists who say secular music is un-Islamic and corrupting.

The Afghan defence ministry said 20 "enemies of the people" were killed in an overnight operation by Afghan and U.S.-led coalition forces in Kunar province on the eastern border with Pakistan.

Fighters allied to the Taliban movement that was in government between 1996 and 2001 are active in the east, but so are militants with other radical factions.

The coalition said separately it killed two militants in the province yesterday. Kunar governor Shalazai Diddar said a woman was also killed and three children hurt in the same incident.

About eight more rebel fighters were killed in days of operations that wrapped up Saturday in Taliban strongholds in the central province of Ghazni, deputy provincial police Mohammad Zaman told AFP.

Also in Ghazni, the Taliban killed a tribal elder they accused of supporting government forces, he said.

Meanwhile, following a meeting in Kiev with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, Ukraine's defence minister made it clear his country would not be sending a peacekeeping force to Afghanistan.

"I wish to underline that we will not send a Ukrainian military unit to Afghanistan," Anatoly Gritsenko told Interfax.

# Generals visit old 'heartland' of Taliban; 'Three months ago, that would have been fatal'

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / Canadian troops from the NATO-led coalition are reflected in a soldier's sunglasses at Sperwan Ghar camp in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 319

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – In a show of confidence in Afghanistan's much-maligned national police force, two senior Canadian generals bunked with 15 Afghan police officers and their Canadian mentors this weekend in a small substation in an area where support for the Taliban may be stronger than anywhere else in the country.

"We were way, way out there ... in the heartland of Mullah Omar's birthplace," said Canada's top army commander, Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, after returning with Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche, the Canadian battle group commander, from a three-day tour of the war's often invisible front lines in the Zhari and Panjwahi districts. "Three months ago, that would have been fatal. By that I mean that the odds of dying would have been very high."

But a lot of progress had been made recently, Lt.-Gen. Leslie said of the Afghan police, who were often accused by Afghans of being corrupt and poorly trained and who were now being mentored by scores of Canadian troops.

"Our hands were essentially in the hands of 15 police auxiliaries recruited locally ... but we don't take stupid risks. This was a measure of how confident we are."

Except for a rooster who began crowing at three in the morning, "the night passed off without a hitch," he said.

Lt.-Gen. Leslie, who was second-in-command with the International Security Assistance Force when it had a much smaller presence in Afghanistan in 2003, had an eventful sojourn in the Afghan countryside. When he was visiting soldiers from the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment, the Taliban launched rocket-propelled grenades at their positions.

The visit was part of "an endless series of snapshots" Lt.-Gen. Leslie said he gets by visiting his troops every three or four months.

While Afghanistan was still "a dangerous place," from his position as a guard on the back of a LAV-III on patrol, Lt.-Gen. Leslie said he had noticed "definite signs of progress. There are more people to be seen

outside in Panjwail."



# Forces fight dwindling numbers as troops quit; Ranks take a beating as 12% of soldiers leave every year, up from 8%

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 686

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said in an interview at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, he said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003.

As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Lt.-Gen. Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Lt.-Gen. Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments. Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006, including 2,300 troops there now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment battle group. Another 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troop levels in Afghanistan, the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Many of them guard the main base or take on dangerous convoy-escort duties. Commanders were also counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers that the Harper government has promised over the next few years to enlarge the army.

The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, although this was known to destroy cohesion and undermine battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Col. Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doo battle group in Kandahar. "For us, 90 per cent of our composition was fairly easy to put together, but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

Among the most acute shortages are engineers, military police officers and medical staff such as doctors and pharmacists. One of the workarounds has been to attach civilian doctors from Canada for short stints with the military hospital. Another has been to try get soldiers who have recently quit to re-enlist, although until now "their numbers had been relatively modest," Lt.-Gen. Leslie said.

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists, who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat. However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13 per cent of the Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, which the federal government and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand that was expected in the near future.

# Canada 6th in military spending; NATO numbers show only time we've spent more is during Second World War: study

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.10.22

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / Canadian soldiers are shown last week patrolling a route frequently mined by the Taliban in Kandahar province. Despite a soaring budget, the military has had trouble retaining soldiers since the Afghan mission began. Rather than blame combat duty, commanders say the strong Canadian economy has lured soldiers to take better jobs at home. ;

**BYLINE:** David Pugliese

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 726

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Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War.

Based on NATO's figures, Canada, with its defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is the sixth highest military spender in the alliance, concludes a new study.

Canada is earmarking as much money during the Afghanistan conflict and the war on terrorism as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union, according to the report, to be released today.

After adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3-per-cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952-53, according to the report, to be released today.

It was produced for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," added the report.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to continue spending to further build up the military.

Dollar for dollar, Canada now outspends NATO partners Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Norway and Denmark, among others. Canada's spending is so substantial that it outspends the lowest 12 NATO members combined, according to the study.

Bill Robinson, the report's co-author, said he was surprised the level of military spending has now passed the Cold War peak. "It doesn't accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that

we're not spending all that much on the military," he said.

According to the report, by the end of this fiscal year, in March 2008, Canada will have spent \$7.2 billion on the full cost of military missions related to Afghanistan. That figure, which tracks spending from 2001, includes salaries, equipment depreciation, attrition and other costs. If those numbers are removed then the cost of the Afghan mission to March 2008 is \$3.3 billion.

But Mr. Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

Mr. Robinson estimates that for every soldier involved in the mission there are at least another two in Canada working to support the operation in some way. "There are lot of people working full time on the Afghanistan mission, whether they are planners or trainers or (repair) technicians, and those people aren't counted" in government cost figures, he said.

The report was written by Mr. Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an Ottawa-based think-tank that has been critical of the government's approach to Afghanistan and defence.

Defence Department supporters say that more money needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage and deal in the future with other failed states similar to Afghanistan. Military officers are pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025. The Senate committee on national security and defence has called for an increase between \$25 billion and \$35 billion by 2012.

The report points out that the defence lobby has been highly effective in convincing the government to boost military spending. With the increases planned by the government over the next two years, military spending will be 37 per cent higher than it was shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, the report adds.

"Despite Canada's Top-10 ranking in NATO, and outspending the average of non-U.S. members by more than a third, the popular perception persists that Canada is a low military spender," the study says. "This is largely the result of media reports that cite statistics provided by proponents of increases in military spending."

Those proponents measure the strength of military spending as a percentage of a country's gross domestic product. Based on that guide, Canada is ranked around 20th in NATO, just below Germany.

But Mr. Robinson says that the GDP rating is a poor measure of defence spending. He pointed out with that measure, Turkey is ranked near the top as one of NATO's top spenders.

"No one really thinks that Turkey is making one of the greatest contributions to NATO," Mr. Robinson said. "What really counts in defence spending is the amount of dollars actually being spent and in that area, Canada is up there."

# Forces scramble to fill ranks; But Afghan mission not at risk: general

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**IDNUMBER** 200710220080  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.10.22  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / Canadiansoldiers experienced enough to mentor the Afghan army and police are currently in short supply. ;  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 652

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KANDAHAR – With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists that there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

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"But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

"Attrition is an issue," Lieut.-Gen. Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year has jumped from 8% to 12% since 2003.

As Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, that means about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

It's not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Lieut.-Gen. Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

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group.

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The demand for troops had been so high for so long in Iraq and Afghanistan that U.S. army and marine commanders have been obliged to break up many units by attaching them to other units, hurting battle effectiveness.

"We are trying to avoid what the U.S. has ended up with," said Colonel Alain Gauthier, commander of the Van Doos battle group in Kandahar.

"For us, 90% of our composition was fairly easy to put together but it was really complicated in trade specialties with critical shortages. For example, in tanks we are short of drivers, gunners and crew commanders."

The greatest burden has fallen on reservists who now do such dangerous duties as escorting convoys in order to free up more regular forces troops for combat.

However, most of these "weekend warriors," who make up about 13% of the current Canadian force, do not have the experience to mentor the Afghan army and police, which Ottawa and NATO have identified as central to their plan of turning over security responsibilities to Afghans.

Some of the 240 senior Canadian corporals and sergeants now doing that job have expressed grave doubts about whether the current number of mentors can be sustained, let alone meet the much greater demand that was expected in the near future.

However, Lieut.-Gen. Leslie said this numbers crunch was not as severe as it appeared because new mentors were going to be found in the infantry-based battle groups after they switched from fighting the Taliban.

"As we transition from clearing to holding we need more experienced soldiers, but we have been picking up more leaders, more sergeants, more master corporals," who have learned on the battlefield, he said.

"What we have now is young combat vets. It will not take them as long to be promoted because they will be ready.

"They already know how to interact with CIDA, to organize a shura (meeting of Afghan elders) and to assist the auxiliary police, who are something like a local militia."

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

# Armies bring building boom; Investment suggests troops here for long haul

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**KANDAHAR** –It is not exactly Dubai, Moscow or Shanghai, but there is an eye–popping building frenzy at this airfield, which is home to 13,000 NATO troops and civilian workers.

This surge suggests that whatever Parliament decides about Canada's future involvement here, many of its closest allies intend to be in southern Afghanistan for a very long time. In fact, so much new construction has been taking place that it has engendered speculation that the U.S. may use Kandahar as one of its launch points if it decides to go to war against Iran.

The airstrip and the international community that has sprung up around it here has been a work in progress since the first Canadian battle group spent half a year here in 2002. This was an austere place back then. Troops were billeted in open canvas tents. The food was mostly rations, latrines were de rigueur and showers were communal affairs, 100 troops at a time and for only a few seconds each.

The only company for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry battle group in those spartan early days was a brigade of U.S. paratroopers. As for recreation, there wasn't any.

The transformation of Kandahar Airfield began about the time the Martin government decided that Canada should become the lead NATO nation here during the fall of 2005. The changes to this dusty plain about 30 kilometres from Kandahar City since then have been staggering.

Troops and an army of camp followers attracted to this bonanza from countries such as Macedonia, India, Nepal and the Philippines (because many western armies now outsource the feeding and cleaning and repairing of their forces to Third World workers) are now housed in tidy rows of trailers and sealed semi–permanent tents that have central heating and air conditioning.

There are hundreds of flush toilets and showers and three spanking new chow halls serving half a dozen or more entrees as many as four times a day.

As well as Tim Hortons, there are half a dozen other kinds of fast food, two coffee bars, a Dutch restaurant, a British cafe, a massage parlour with a bevy of Russian–speaking masseuses (whose treatments have been the cause of much animated speculation), an Afghan bank ATM that only dispenses U.S. greenbacks, five stores, a privately run WiFi Internet service and half a dozen halls where troops can watch Canadian, British, Dutch

and American sports live around the clock.

There is also a Canadian-led world-class hospital, what may be the only chapel in southern Afghanistan, four Western radio stations, half a dozen fitness centres, several basketball courts and a road hockey rink as fine as any in the Great White North.

The military side of this Western boom town in one of the poorest corners of one of the most impoverished countries on Earth is still being transformed, too. When the first 1,000 Canadians arrived in Kandahar five years ago, only a limited number of aircraft dared to navigate the pocked Soviet-era runway.

That was just as well, because there was so few parking places that only a few aircraft could be handled at a time.

The airport buzzes every day now with hundreds of movements departing and arriving from a runway that has been resurfaced and extended to 10,500 feet, the global commercial standard. Acres of space have been paved to park a dramatically expanding fleet of attack aircraft and military transports, as well as a constant stream of Soviet-era transports and Afghan commercial flights.

The thirst for more land has not abated. Large swathes of nearby desert are being churned up. The newest addition to the airfield has been a vast expanse of asphalt and concrete that is the new home of a group of French Mirage 2000 fighter jets. Curiously, there is an empty space near the runway that could be used by Canadian fighters or by surveillance aircraft, if Ottawa ever chooses to let them join the parade.

There has been no sign of that yet, but with only 17 months left in its current mandate, Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan still has the confidence and funding to erect sturdy new offices.

**KEYWORDS: WAR**



# Canadian forces fight dwindling ranks; Afghan Mission. To maintain levels, reservists tapped

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**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
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With soldiers quitting the army in greater numbers since the Afghan combat mission began and critical shortages in some military trades, it has been a struggle for Canadian commanders to keep generating the forces required for the war against the Taliban.

But the head of Canada's army insists there will be enough of the right mix of troops through the end of the current combat mandate in early 2009 and that sufficient forces will be available beyond then to handle whatever new mission Parliament chooses.

"It's really tight, by golly," Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie said at the end of a four-day visit with his troops in southern Afghanistan. "But I think that we can keep these numbers going for the foreseeable future."

Of particular concern, the general said, was that the number of soldiers leaving the army every year had jumped from eight per cent to 12 per cent since 2003. Canada has a standing army of about 20,000 men and women, meaning about 800 more soldiers have been getting out every year than before Paul Martin's Liberal government signed Canada up for combat in the province of Kandahar.

"Attrition is an issue," Leslie said. "I'm watching it like a hawk, but I am not going to fire a flare and say it is a crisis."

It was not combat duty in Afghanistan that caused the surge in retirements, Leslie said. More soldiers were leaving because the economy at home had been booming and "in terms of money, being a soldier is not your optimal career choice," he said.

Canada has committed to rotating 11,500 combat and support troops through Afghanistan. They have been organized in six tours of six months each based on battle groups built around the country's three infantry regiments. Nearly 7,000 Canadian troops have served in the province of Kandahar since February 2006 including 2,300 troops here now as part of the Quebec-based Royal 22e Régiment battle group. About 4,600 soldiers have been given orders to deploy to Afghanistan sometime in 2008 or were expected to be given such orders soon.

To maintain current troops levels in Afghanistan the army has tapped an increasing number of reservists. Many of them guard the main base or take on dangerous convoy escort duties. Commanders also were counting on relief from the 3,060 new soldiers the Harper government has promised over the next few years to enlarge the army.

# Defence spending at postwar peak; Canada is 6th among nato nations Military's goal is to double budget by 2025

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Canada's defence spending has hit its highest level since the Second World War, a new study concludes.

Based on NATO's own figures, Canada, with a defence budget now slightly more than \$18 billion a year, is the sixth-highest military spender in the alliance.

Adjusting for inflation, Canada's defence spending today is 2.3 per cent more than during its Cold War peak in 1952-53, according to a report to be released today by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Remarkably, the last time Canada spent more money on the military was when Canadians were fighting the Nazis," the report added.

"In 1952, Canada was at war in Korea and the first hydrogen bombs were being tested, supercharging the arms race. The irony is today, Canada is spending as much money fighting in Afghanistan and contributing to the 'war on terrorism' as it did at the height of the nuclear arms race against the Soviet Union."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has promised to further build up the military.

Dollar for dollar, Canada now outspends NATO partners Spain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Norway and Denmark, among others. In fact, Canada outspends the 12 lowest NATO members combined, according to the study.

Bill Robinson, the report's co-author, said he was surprised the level of military spending has now passed the country's Cold War peak. "It doesn't accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that we're not spending all that much on the military."

According to the report, by the end of this fiscal year in March 2008, Canada will have spent a total of \$7.2 billion on military missions related to Afghanistan.

That figure, which tracks spending from 2001, includes salaries, equipment depreciation, attrition and other costs. If those numbers are removed, the cost of the Afghan mission up to March 2008 is \$3.3 billion.

Defence spending at postwar peak; Canada is 6th among nato nations Military's goal is to double budget by 2025

But Robinson said both those cost figures for the Afghanistan war, provided by the government, are actually lower than what is really being spent. He noted they do not include the cost of those back in Canada supporting the mission.

He estimates that, for every soldier involved in the mission, there are at least two in Canada working to support the operation in some way.

The report was written by Robinson and Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an Ottawa-based think tank that has been critical of the government's approach to Afghanistan and defence.

Defence Department supporters have argued more needs to be spent on the military if Canada is going to play a significant role on the world stage.

Top officers are pushing for an increase in the annual defence budget to \$36 billion by 2025. The Senate committee on national security and defence has called for an increase of between \$25 billion and \$35 billion by 2012.

With increases already planned over the next two years, military spending will be 37 per cent higher than it was shortly before Sept. 11, 2001, the report added.

Backers of increased military spending usually measure it as a percentage of a country's gross domestic product. By that standard, Canada ranks around 20th in NATO, just below Germany.

But Robinson argued the GDP rating is a poor measure of defence spending. In those terms, he pointed out, Turkey ranks as one of NATO's top spenders.

"No one really thinks that Turkey is making one of the greatest contributions to NATO. What really counts in defence spending is the amount of dollars actually being spent and, in that area, Canada is up there."