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# Black recruits drop sharply since Iraq, Afghan wars

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The number of blacks joining the U.S. military has plunged by more than a third since the Afghanistan and Iraq wars began.

According to Pentagon data obtained by the Associated Press, there were nearly 51,500 new black recruits for active duty and reserves in 2001. That number fell to less than 32,000 in 2006, a 38 per cent decline.

The findings reflect the growing unpopularity of the wars.

# Explosion kills British soldier

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An explosion in southern Afghanistan yesterday killed a British soldier and injured four others, Britain's Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier from the Worcester and Sherwood Forrester Regiment died after the Snatch Land Rover he was travelling in was caught in the explosion near Lashkar Gah, in the volatile Helmand province, the ministry said.

The vehicle had been escorting a military team to survey a site for a new road project linking several villages in the Babaji area.

All five soldiers caught in the blast were airlifted to hospital, where one was pronounced dead. He was not identified by name.

A total of 61 British military personnel have died while serving in Afghanistan since the start of the U.S.-led operations in November 2001.

# Afghan life not 'cheap,' allies told

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Taliban fighters attack American or NATO forces in populated areas, then retreat to civilian homes. Western forces respond with massive firepower or an air strike.

That increasingly common pattern of clashes has led to a climbing number of civilian deaths and rising anger among Afghan officials and ordinary people. While militants killed 178 civilians in attacks through the weekend, western forces killed 203, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and international officials.

Exact counts are nearly impossible in the chaos of war. Separate figures from the United Nations and an umbrella organization of Afghan and international aid groups show that, through May 31, the number of civilians killed by international forces was roughly equal to those killed by insurgents.

What is clear is the political fallout: President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly pleaded with foreign troops to exercise caution and work more closely with Afghan forces, who might be able to minimize civilian casualties because of their knowledge of the terrain. On Saturday, he denounced the Taliban for killing civilians but directed most of his anger at foreign forces for being careless and viewing Afghan lives as "cheap."

"Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be treated as such," Karzai said.

NATO defends its right to fire on anyone who fires at its troops first, noting that it is not intentionally targeting civilians, as the Taliban sometimes does. The U.S.-led coalition suggested that many civilians reportedly killed by international troops may in fact have been killed by insurgents.

But such arguments fail to address the growing Afghan anger, said Michael Shaikh, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Afghanistan.

"When you're on the ground and your child has been killed by a 2,000-pound bomb, you don't care if the attack was legal or illegal in the laws of war. You care if your son or daughter was killed," Shaikh said.

"That's what NATO is not getting. They need to be doing it cleaner and doing it better. Every death has a profound effect on the Afghan population," he said.

A remote-controlled bomb hit a convoy of British troops yesterday, killing one soldier and prompting them to open fire in a civilian area in Helmand's main city of Lashkar Gah, killing one man, said police chief Mohammad Hussain.



Like that clash, much of Afghanistan's violence takes place in remote areas that are too far or dangerous for independent observers to reach, and it is not uncommon for figures cited by international forces, the UN or Afghan officials to vary widely.

In addition, militants often wear civilian dress and seek shelter in innocent villagers' homes, making it hard to differentiate between fighters and civilians in the aftermath of battles.

Further complicating death toll counts, Afghans tend to bury their dead soon after they are killed — following the rules of Islam — and those deaths are hard to verify or not included in casualty tolls.

The Associated Press count of civilian casualties runs from Jan. 1 to June 23 and is based on reports from witnesses and U.S., UN, NATO and Afghan officials. Of the 399 civilian deaths in the tally, 18 were reportedly from crossfire between Taliban and foreign forces.

Karzai said Saturday that in the past 10 days more than 90 civilians have died in U.S. or NATO operations.

# Canadian soldiers repatriated; Moving ceremony, crying relatives welcome home bodies of three soldiers

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / A relative of Cpl. Stephen Bouzane holds a photo at the rear of a hearse carrying his remains during a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton yesterday for Bouzane, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Pte. Joel Wiebe, killed by a roadside bomb. ;

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON  
**SOURCE:** Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of the three latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan were returned to Canadian soil at a ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario late yesterday.

A bagpiper played a separate tribute to each of the soldiers as each casket was removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Caskets carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were welcomed by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

Clarkson attended in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three soldiers served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed the throng of flag-waving supporters who were waiting outside the gates surrounding the tarmac.

The visibly emotional families of each soldier were present at the ceremony and physically supported each other as their loved ones made a final return.

Earlier this week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described him as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had lifelong aspirations for a military career.

This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said.

"He was very proud to be a part of this."

The men were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

Canadian soldiers repatriated; Moving ceremony, crying relatives welcome home bodies of three soldiers

Roadside bombs are responsible for more than one-third of the 60 deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan since 2002.

Canadian soldiers repatriated; Moving ceremony, crying relatives welcome home bodies of three soldiers

# Official offers Afghan update; 'You can't have the success they have had without the military security'

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**DATELINE:** CAMBRIDGE  
**BYLINE:** NICOLE O'REILLY  
**SOURCE:** RECORD STAFF  
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Helena Guergis wants to remind Canadians that Afghanistan is not Iraq.

This was her message to the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce at the Galt Country Club last week. Guergis, the Secretary of State for foreign affairs and international trade's visited Afghanistan in April.

Her objective -- as prescribed by the prime minister -- was to learn about the mission and communicate its progress to Canadians.

"I want to remind everybody that we are in Afghanistan, invited by the government of Afghanistan," she said. "You'll hear that some people want to compare it to Iraq. It is not the same thing, any size, shape or form."

This is poignantly clear, Guergis said, when she spoke with women and children in Afghanistan.

The first woman Guergis met with on her trip was Rona Mansur, a women's rights parliamentary advocate, whose predecessor was assassinated.

"An incredibly brave woman," Guergis said. "She came to talk to me about what it was like under the Taliban before."

Mansur described a life unimaginable to most Canadians.

"She told me that a little girl couldn't go to school, she told me that women couldn't own businesses . . . she couldn't go outside . . . women's bones would break giving birth because of lack of vitamin D from sunlight . . . if a man had a debt he would give his daughter as payment for that debt," she said, the list going on and on.

Mansur told Guergis that although some of these things still occur, the lives of women and children are improving daily.

"Her little girl, with tears in her eyes, went for the first time to school at the age of 13," Guergis said.

Part of Canada's presence in Afghanistan is the establishment of a microfinance program in Kabul.

They are providing out \$100 Canadian loans, 90 per cent of them going to women.

Official offers Afghan update; 'You can't have the success they have had without the military security'

Guergis said the overwhelming message from the women receiving the loans was clear.

"Do not leave, because if you do, all will be lost."

This message, Guergis said was echoed by the soldiers she met. She asked soldiers about Canadians who say they support the troops, but not the mission.

"The common reaction from them is that they are part of the mission and when you say that you don't support the mission, you are saying that you really don't support them," Guergis said.

"You can't have the success they have had without the military security."

no'reilly@therecord.com

# Report urged Snowbirds' replacement in 2003; Defence Dept. urged to replace planes 'immediately'

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The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s-vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if absolutely necessary.

"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003.

"These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT-114s with British-built CT-155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed: "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium-lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is currently conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis is also looks at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory — or by something entirely new, said a military official.

"The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," said Capt. Jim Hutcheson.

"We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft."

The modifications, according to the 2003 study, would cost about \$32 million.

Report urged Snowbirds' replacement in 2003; Defence Dept. urged to replace planes 'immediately'

From the 1960s through to the 1990s, the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft. The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, said Hutcheson.

# Afghanistan's civilian deaths on the rise; More civilians killed by U.S., NATO forces than by Taliban insurgents

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Taliban fighters attack American or NATO forces in populated areas, then retreat to civilian homes. Western forces respond with massive firepower or an air strike.

That increasingly common pattern of clashes has led to a climbing number of civilian deaths and rising anger among Afghan officials and ordinary people. While militants killed 178 civilians in attacks through June 23, western forces killed 203, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and international officials.

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# World conflicts boon for N.S. base

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Canada's increased involvement in world conflicts has been a boost to an army training camp, says the facility's commanding officer.

Military training is now taking place year-round at Camp Aldershot, located in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, and the camp will continue to grow, said Maj. Jamie Hunter.

"There are some exciting things taking place," said Hunter. "Aldershot is now back on the map for training, and those programs will have longevity."

Camp Aldershot opened in 1904, making it the oldest in the country. It operated as a training base during both world wars and in Korea.

It currently has soldiers from the West Nova Scotia Regiment, which is housed there, serving with the 2,500 Canadians in Afghanistan as part of NATO's international stabilization force.

But the base went through some lean times and almost closed in the 1970s. It has since undergone a major renewal of buildings and training programs.

While it used to train only in the summer, the camp now offers year-round courses like the military training assistance program, which brings foreign officers there from around the world, from countries like Bosnia, Africa, Chile and Uruguay.

The Canadian navy operates an explosives ordnance course at the camp. Units from nearby 14 Wing Greenwood, along with the RCMP, use the weapons ranges for training.

The camp is now offering two officer candidate courses, which Hunter said hasn't happened in 20 years.

Throughout the year, the base houses as many as 300 people, but that number balloons to about 1,000 in the summer.

# Soldiers' remains return home; Dignitaries attend Trenton ceremony

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**PAGE:** B1

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**BYLINE:** Melissa Juergensen

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON

**WORD COUNT:** 219

---

A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of the three latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan were returned to Canadian soil at a ceremony at this eastern Ontario military base yesterday.

A bagpiper played a separate tribute to each of the soldiers as each casket was removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Caskets carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were welcomed by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

Clarkson attended in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three soldiers served.

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The men were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

Roadside bombs are responsible for more than a third of the 60 deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Keep politics out of trenches

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Taking a nation into armed conflict is difficult. Doing so when the threat to one's own country does not seem imminent is more difficult. Still harder is acting when public opinion appears to be shifting away from the conflict. And then there is deciding what to do when you're running a minority government.

These issues plague Prime Minister Stephen Harper as he contemplates the future of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. With more than 60 Canadians dead in violence in that country, he has now suggested that Canada's role will change after it meets its current commitment to fight until February 2009 in Kandahar province. To stay involved in a military capacity beyond then, Harper says, would require "some degree of consensus" in Parliament.

Unfortunately, Harper's chief concern doesn't seem to be whether or not the mission is accomplishing good things. Instead, he is looking at Quebec, where support for the Afghan mission is lower than in the rest of Canada and where he needs to shore up support if he is ever to achieve a majority government. The pending deployment of 2,000 soldiers from the Quebec–based Royal 22nd Regiment, the Van Doos, has put the spotlight squarely on the lack of support for this war among francophones.

Just how sensitive the issue has become for the prime minister is evident in renewed speculation that he is poised to fire his defence minister for failing to properly articulate why Canada is in Afghanistan. The military file has become so politically sensitive for Harper – among both hawks and doves – that it has even overshadowed that other vital issue that dogged him earlier this year: climate change.

At times of public confusion, it's best to be honest and open. The last federal approval of the mission was rushed through with only a façade of debate. What if, this time, legislators shed their ideological cloaks and their poll–counting calculations and examined in a transparent way what Canada is accomplishing in central Asia and what the price of that accomplishment is? There is time between now and February 2009 to do this, in such a way that Canadians could make their preferences known in an informed matter.

Of course, this would not let the prime minister off the hook: he would still have to make the best decision he could for the country. It is his role to lead, particularly on matters as important as national security, if he feels his course is right. What was dismaying this past week was not that he might be opening his mind to other options, but that he appeared to be doing so only because of the deployment of troops from Quebec, his electoral Achilles heel. Another prime minister in another war, William Lyon Mackenzie King, eventually backed conscription even though it was hugely unpopular in Quebec. Then, as now, the threat was not imminently upon Canadian shores. Mackenzie King, proceeding deftly from the start, acted on what he thought was necessary, even though it was political gunpowder to some. These are tough calls, but leaders make them.

So let's hold a rational, open, parliamentary examination of the options beyond early 2009. Then let the prime minister make the best decision he can based on calm reflection. Our soldiers, and the Afghan people, deserve this. Let the political bombshells then fall where they may.

Letters? Send them to [whiged@thewhig.com](mailto:whiged@thewhig.com)

# Father feels son's pain; Soldier leans on dad for moral support

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** Front

**PAGE:** 1

**SOURCE:** Whig–Standard Staff Writer

**BYLINE:** Brock Harrison

**WORD COUNT:** 411

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Peter Dawe is technically no longer a soldier, but he knows what his son is going through.

Dawe, a retired Kingston lieutenant–colonel, is the proud father of Matthew Dawe, 27, the commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, C company.

The junior Dawe, midway through a tour of Afghanistan, was in charge of Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane when their unarmoured Gator vehicle was blasted by a roadside bomb last Wednesday. All three were killed.

The attack was unexpected. Afghanistan's Panjwai Valley, where Canadian troops had allegedly established sustained peace with locals, was considered a safe place. The bomb struck the all–terrain vehicle while it was travelling between checkpoints.

"You question your competence. You question your procedures. You look sideways. You wonder if perhaps you've been too trustful of the villagers," said Dawe in an interview with the Whig.

Two of Dawe's other sons, Peter S. Dawe and J. Philip Dawe, have also served with the 3rd battalion PPCLI, based in Edmonton. They were in Kandahar on April 17, 2002, when a friendly fire incident killed four A Company PPCLI soldiers.

The Dawes have become a well–known military family in Kingston and Peter Dawe wants to let all who've inquired about Matthew in the wake of the fatalities that he is OK.

"So many people have asked," Dawe said. "Ever since the friendly fire, people ask about them all the time."

Father and son have spent more time on the phone than usual since the bombing. Deployed troops are allowed one phone call home on a satellite phone after fatal incidents to let family know they're all right, but Matthew Dawe has been leaning on his dad for support in recent days.

Above relief and sadness, Dawe says his son is feeling anger more than anything else. The place where he lost three men was a place where many thought a victory had taken place, where the lives of locals had taken a significant turn for the best.

But more than losing men, the troops have lost some hope, Dawe claims.

"We're supposed to be helping, but I don't know how you can do that when they're sneaking in at night and planting bombs," he said. "They're in around us. It doesn't take many traitors' eyes to figure it out. If that's paranoia, so be it."

Matt Dawe, who graduated as the top cadet from his RMC class of 2004, had just returned to Afghanistan from a three-week vacation in Portugal with his wife, Tara, and young son Lucas. His tour will finish mid-August.

Even though Dawe is a seasoned soldier, he says his son is doing things his generation never did.

"You'd take your son's place if you could, but it's a different army for me," he said. "

We're all trained to do what they're doing, but they're actually doing it."

bharrison@thewhig.com

# War good for business at Camp Aldershot

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** NovaScotia

**PAGE:** B7

**BYLINE:** Gordon Delaney Valley Bureau

**ILLUSTRATION:** Reservists train in an indoor setting at Camp Aldershot near Kentville. (Peter Parsons / Staff)

**WORD COUNT:** 241

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ALDERSHOT – Canada's increased commitment to world conflicts has been a boost to the army training camp here.

Military training is now taking place year–round at Camp Aldershot, and the camp will continue to grow, says the commanding officer.

"There are some exciting things taking place," Maj. Jamie Hunter said in a recent interview. "Aldershot is now back on the map for training, and those programs will have longevity."

Camp Aldershot opened in 1904, making it the oldest in the country. It operated as a training base during both world wars and in Korea. It currently has soldiers from the West Nova Scotia Regiment, which is housed here, serving with the 2,500 Canadians in Afghanistan as part of NATO's international stabilization force.

But the base went through some lean times and almost closed in the 1970s. It has since undergone a major renewal of buildings and training programs.

While it used to train only in the summer, the camp now offers year–round courses like the military training assistance program, which brings foreign officers here from around the world, from countries like Bosnia, Africa, Chile and Uruguay.

The Canadian navy operates an explosives ordnance course here. Units from 14 Wing Greenwood, along with the RCMP, use the weapons ranges for training.

The camp is now offering two officer candidate courses.

"We haven't done that in 20 years," Maj. Hunter told Kings County councillors at a recent meeting. And it's offering leadership courses for non–commissioned soldiers.

Throughout the year, the base has as many as 300 people here, but that number balloons to about 1,000 in the summer.

The camp, also home to the famous Black Watch regiment, spends about \$2 million in wages and buys \$1.2 million in local food. ( )



# [ALDERSHOT– Canada's increased commitment to world conflicts has been a boost to the army training camp here. Military training is now taking place year–round...]

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** NovaScotia

**PAGE:** B3

**BYLINE:** Gordon Delaney Valley Bureau

**ILLUSTRATION:** Reservists train in an indoor setting at Camp Aldershot near Kentville. (Peter Parsons / Staff)

**WORD COUNT:** 339

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[ALDERSHOT– Canada's increased commitment to world conflicts has been a boost to the army training ca

The army has plans to build a new 150-bed barrack block at the camp. The major said it is the army's top infrastructure priority.

He said there will continue to be growth here. "I don't think the camp is ever going to go back to being busy during the summer and quiet the rest of the year."

Coun. Wayne Atwater wants the camp buying more of its food from local farmers to support the county's buy-local efforts.

"I'm certainly going to be looking forward to how the local farmers can get in the gate," he said.

Maj. Hunter promised to look into it.

"I think if there is a possibility that we can do more to buy local, I'd be happy to do that, but I'm sure that there are guidelines that we have to follow."

He said Aldershot will soon be creating a training camp that will replicate the main Canadian base in Afghanistan.

# Taliban slowly adopting modern technology

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** Scott Taylor

**WORD COUNT:** 673

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LAST TUESDAY, the Taliban made public a videotape of what was reportedly a graduation ceremony for a new class of suicide bombers. The footage showed a couple of dozen masked "graduates" wearing black turbans and waving little white flags.

Addressing the graduating class of '07 was Mansoor Dadullah, the brother of recently slain Taliban military commander Mullah Dadullah. Brandishing a Kalashnikov assault rifle, Principal Mansoor urged the would-be suicide bombers to spread terror outside of Afghanistan and to target western countries, including Canada.

It was last year at about this same time that the Taliban issued a similar statement claiming they had trained some 300 suicide bombers who were prepared to wreak havoc on the foreign coalition troops occupying Afghanistan. What made this year's annual graduation ceremony more newsworthy was that the Taliban seemed to have discovered the magical magnetic power of video to the western media. Not to be confused with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, the Taliban is a religious movement that preaches an extreme version of Islam. Until now, the senior Taliban mullahs have shunned modern inventions and technology, believing such progress to be inspired by evil. According to Kathy Gannon, the author of the bestseller *I is for Islam*, at the time of the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan in 2001, the Taliban possessed only one computer in Kandahar. Apparently it sat unopened in its packaging in the office of Taliban founder Mullah Omar because he was afraid to open it. In another anecdote related by a diplomat who met with Taliban officials in Kabul, the mullahs were afraid to sit down to dinner. They thought that the tables and chairs were western-inspired comforts and therefore to be avoided.

It seems that someone in the Taliban organization, perhaps with the assistance of their worldlier al-Qaida allies, has twigged to the importance of television images in spreading fear via the western media. It doesn't have to be a logical threat; it just has to look menacing, and mentioning countries by name as specific targets guarantees coverage. I mean, let's get real for a minute – a graduation ceremony from suicide bomber school? What sort of courses do they teach and to whom do they submit their diplomas? Do they start off using small amounts of explosives and just blow off a limb or write a detailed thesis on the merits of electric detonators versus toggle igniters?

Another message conveyed by Principal Mansoor in his graduation address was that some of these "pupils" were in fact foreign students who had come from western countries (like Canada) to take this training in Afghanistan. If this statement is true, then we can all breathe a sigh of relief knowing the Taliban is attracting morons into their ranks. If indeed an Islamic extremist was residing in a western country plotting mischief, travelling to the Kandahar region would certainly red-flag them to every intelligence agency involved in the war against terrorism.

What made the copycat homegrown terror attacks in London and Madrid successful was that the perpetrators were already in location. It was Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day who quickly pointed out the obvious fact that the graduates of the Kandahar suicide bomber school would still have to negotiate the elaborate security measures already in place before they could ever carry out an attack on Canadian soil.

Such international travel requires visas and passports and the battery of X-ray machines and security checks at a multitude of airports before they could ever get to Canada.

However, if Canadians were left with the impression that dozens of masked suicide bombers are heading our way in droves, they can be forgiven. That was the Taliban's intention, and our media obligingly helped them achieve their goal.

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## 2003 report urged military to replace Snowbird jets

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A4

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster

**ILLUSTRATION:** A 2003 report urged that the Snowbird's aging Tutor jets, seen here performing during the Nova Scotia International Air Show last year, should be replaced beginning next year.  
(Ingrid Bulmer / Staff)

**WORD COUNT:** 467

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OTTAWA – The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s–vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if absolutely necessary.

"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003.

"These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT–114s with British–built CT–155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed: "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600–million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium–lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is currently conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis is also looks at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory – or by something entirely new, said a military official.

"The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," said Capt. Jim Hutcheson.

"We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft."

The modifications, according to the 2003 study, would cost about \$32 million.

From the 1960s through to the 1990s the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft. The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, said Hutcheson.

Last fall, the air force received an unsolicited proposal from Venga Aerospace Systems offering to provide the Snowbirds with 18 Hawks in a lease arrangement. Hutcheson acknowledged the proposal, but said over the years a number of bidders have thrown a variety of ideas at the Defence Department.

Investigators are looking at three possibilities in the crash that killed McCaughey: equipment failure, pilot error, or a bird strike. The accident happened during a rehearsal before the team's first airshow of the season.

McCaughey is the third Snowbird pilot to die since 1998 and the sixth in the squadron's 35-year history.

# Bodies of 3 slain soldiers returned home

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**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A4

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Melissa Juergensen

**WORD COUNT:** 215

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CFB TRENTON, Ont. – A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of the three latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan were returned to Canadian soil at a ceremony at this eastern Ontario military base Sunday.

A bagpiper played a separate tribute to each of the soldiers as each casket was removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Caskets carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were welcomed by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

Clarkson attended in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three soldiers served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed the throng of flag-waving supporters who were waiting outside the gates surrounding the tarmac.

The visibly-emotional families of each soldier were present at the ceremony and physically supported each other as their loved ones made a final return.

Earlier this week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described him as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had lifelong aspirations for a military career.

This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said.

"He was very proud to be a part of this."

The men were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

Roadside bombs are responsible for more than one-third of the 60 deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Afghan civilians deaths climbing; More locals killed by U.S., NATO forces than by Taliban insurgents

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** International

**PAGE:** D2

**SOURCE:** The Associated Press

**BYLINE:** Alisa Tang

**DATELINE:** Kabul

**ILLUSTRATION:** Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks a news conference at the presidential palace in Kabul Saturday. He accused NATO and U.S.-led forces of mounting "careless operations" that killed more than 90 civilians in the last 10 days. – Photo by The Associated Press

**WORD COUNT:** 469

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Taliban fighters attack American or NATO forces in populated areas, then retreat to civilian homes. Western forces respond with massive firepower or an air strike.

That increasingly common pattern of clashes has led to a climbing number of civilian deaths and rising anger among Afghan officials and ordinary people. While militants killed 178 civilians in attacks through June 23, western forces killed 203, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and international officials.

Exact counts are nearly impossible in the chaos of war. Separate figures from the United Nations and an umbrella organization of Afghan and international aid groups show that, through May 31, the number of civilians killed by international forces was roughly equal to those killed by insurgents.

What is clear is the political fallout: President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly pleaded with foreign troops to exercise caution and work more closely with Afghan forces, who might be able to minimize civilian casualties because of their knowledge of the terrain. On Saturday, he denounced the Taliban for killing civilians, but directed most of his anger at foreign forces for being careless and viewing Afghan lives as "cheap."

"Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be treated as such," Karzai said.

NATO defends its right to fire on anyone who fires at its troops first, noting that it is not intentionally targeting civilians, as the Taliban sometimes does. The U.S.-led coalition suggested that many civilians reportedly killed by international troops may, in fact, have been killed by insurgents.

But such arguments fail to address the growing Afghan anger, said Michael Shaikh, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Afghanistan. "When you're on the ground and your child has been killed by a 2,000-pound bomb, you don't care if the attack was legal or illegal in the laws of war. You care if your son or daughter was killed," Shaikh said.

"That's what NATO is not getting. They need to be doing it cleaner and doing it better. Every death has a profound effect on the Afghan population," he said.

A remote-controlled bomb hit a convoy of British troops on Sunday, killing one soldier and prompting them to open fire in a civilian area in Helmand's main city of Lashkar Gah, killing one man, said police chief

Afghan civilians deaths climbing; More locals killed by U.S., NATO forces than by Taliban insurgents 23



Mohammad Hussain.

Like that clash, much of Afghanistan's violence takes place in remote areas too far or dangerous for independent observers to reach, and it is not uncommon for figures cited by international forces, the UN or Afghan officials to vary widely.

In addition, militants often wear civilian dress and seek shelter in innocent villagers' homes, making it hard to differentiate between fighters and civilians in the aftermath of battles.

Further complicating death toll counts, Afghans tend to bury their dead soon after they are killed – following the rules of Islam – and those deaths are hard to verify or not included in casualty tolls.

# Soldiers' remains repatriated

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

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** A4

A family member of Cpl. Stephen Bouzane places a rose in the back of a hearse carrying his remains during a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton, Ont., Sunday for Bouzane, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Pte. Joel Wiebe. A plane bearing the caskets of the soldiers

**ILLUSTRATION:** arrived in Trenton Sunday. Gov.–Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of Defence staff, were present at the ceremony. The three soldiers were killed Wednesday in Afghanistan when the vehicle they were travelling in struck an explosive device.— Photo by The Canadian Press

# Sombre ceremony honours soldiers killed in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250082  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A2

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / A guard of honour carries the casket of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis to a waiting hearse at CFB Trenton yesterday. Karigiannis, a member of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was one of three soldiers killed Wednesday in Afghanistan when a roadside bomb detonated underneath the vehicle in which they were travelling. ;

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 334

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CFB TRENTON, Ont. — The bodies of three more Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan were repatriated late yesterday afternoon in another sombre ceremony played out on the grey tarmac of CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their flag-draped coffins were unloaded one-by-one from an Canadian Forces long-range transport plane and borne by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Teary-eyed relatives, military brass and ordinary soldiers watched the bodies pass. Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were also there.

As is customary at such ceremonies, there were no speeches.

The three soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device that was detonated Wednesday as they passed by in an unarmoured vehicle in the Panjwahi valley, an hour's drive southwest of Kandahar. Their deaths bring the Canadian military's toll in Afghanistan to 60 since 2002. A diplomat was also killed by insurgents.

The Canadian Forces has now suspended use of the light vehicle, called a Gator, to all but secured areas.

Bouzane, who was born in Little Bay, N.L., also lived in Scarborough, Ont. Karigiannis was a native of Montreal.

Wiebe, who was on his first tour of Afghanistan, became engaged shortly before his deployment. He and Anna Thede had set a date for February.

"Joel was a giving person who was always ready with a smile and a joke to cheer his friends," said Thede recently. "His buddies often called him 'the happiest man in NATO.' He was very loving and was very loved."

The three Canadian soldiers were ferrying supplies in the Gator between two checkpoints about a kilometre apart along a narrow, winding track.

The deadly blast was a rare victory for the insurgents.

The Panjwahi valley is considered a Canadian military success story, reclaimed by villagers whose lives are gradually returning to something resembling normal.

The blast also occurred between two military checkpoints barely a kilometre apart, so the booby trap was probably set within night-vision-goggle range of the outposts.

In a statement last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called the losses a terrible tragedy.

"Our thoughts and prayers and our condolences and heartfelt sympathies go out to their families, friends and colleagues."

All three were due to be rotated out of Afghanistan in August.

# Taliban, drug cartels partners: RCMP

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**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3

Photo: (PAUL) RICHARDS: "They work very, very closely together" ; Photo: Paula Bronstein, Getty Images / INTERNATIONAL HEROIN TRADE'S UNHOLY ALLIANCE: Ten-year-old Samar stands in a large poppy field in Afghanistan's Chimtala area, where she was working in 2005 for \$4 a day. Taliban fighters receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers, and for generally creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the heroin business, according to an RCMP officer who has been monitoring the ties between Islamists and narcotics cartels. ;

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 587

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The increasingly bloody terror attacks plaguing Afghanistan are largely a product of the Taliban's "symbiotic" relationship with narcotics cartels, says an RCMP officer who has been quietly tracking those ties.

Breaking the highly profitable alliance between the fundamentalist Muslims and the world's most prolific heroin traffickers is key to defeating the insurgency, said Insp. Paul Richards.

Having just wrapped up a year in Kandahar as a counter-narcotics adviser to the Canadian Forces, the veteran intelligence officer was offering a rare public glimpse of his findings.

The Taliban is not, as some western officials maintain, a narco-terrorist group directly involved in producing heroin itself, Richards said. It does, however, receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers and for generally creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the business, he told CanWest News Service.

"They work very, very closely together and that's how the Taliban funds what they're doing ... whether it's paying a suicide bomber's family, whether it's buying bullets, whether it's buying food," said the officer.

"The Taliban have become very reliant on the narco-economy. They are completely dependent on it."

In turn, the instability sown by the insurgent attacks — many of which have killed Canadian troops — aids the drug lords by making it easier for them to carry out their illicit activities, he noted.

The trade is contributing to problems closer to home, too. The "vast majority" of heroin on Canadian streets likely originated here, Richards said.

Still, he is hopeful change will come, noting that former heroin hotbeds such as Burma, Vietnam and Laos have cut back their poppy production significantly, though "it takes a long time."

A purported spokesman for the Taliban denied the militants are working hand-in-hand with the smugglers.

The insurgents are paid alms by poppy farmers, but also by producers of wheat, corn and other crops, said Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

"Neither are we against the smugglers nor are we in favour of them," said Qari, arguing the Islamists are backed by the whole Muslim world. When the Taliban take power again, they will consider the traffickers' activities, he said.

There is little doubt that Islam frowns heavily on heroin use or dealing. The Taliban also receive support from other sources, allegedly including the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence service.

Local observers, however, agreed the Afghan Islamists are hooked on narcotics money.

"When you talk about poppies, security automatically goes with it," says Ayub Rafiqi, head of Landowners of Kandahar (LOOK), an NGO representing large landlords in the province.

"This is a vicious circle: the Taliban, the government, poppy cultivation, drug lords, warlords."

The government is involved because much of the poppy crop is grown on state-owned land, with officials charging rent to poppy farmers, he said.

Heroin traffickers, especially those belonging to the Baluch tribe along the Iran-Afghanistan border, are also playing a major role in smuggling weapons from Iran in to the insurgents, said a farmer in neighbouring Helmand province with ties to the drug barons.

"The Taliban movement relies on the smugglers' help, and the smugglers rely on the Taliban," said the farmer, who asked not to be named. "These two parties are essential to each other."

Due in part to that co-operation, Afghanistan accounts for 95 per cent of the world's poppy production.

The poppies are processed into heroin at labs in Afghanistan and in border regions of neighbouring countries, then shipped out through Iran, Pakistan the central Asian republics to the north or even China, with much of it ending up in Europe and North America.

It is believed the Taliban receive about \$2 million a year in a sort of levy they charge on the poppy harvest, and another \$8 million for providing security to labs and smuggling runs, said Richards. Sometimes, the payment comes in the form of opium, he added.

The money is then distributed by the Taliban's senior commanders, financing weapons, operations and the fighters' salaries.

Some of the intelligence collected over the last year has resulted in raids by Afghanistan's Counter Narcotics Police on labs and other heroin targets, Richards said.

# NATO admits more civilian deaths

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**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**COLUMN:** World Briefing  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 89

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KABUL — The NATO–led force in Afghanistan admitted yesterday to killing more civilians, this time in Pakistan, a day after harsh criticism from President Hamid Karzai about military operations.

A weapon fired by the International Security Assistance Force hit a building in Pakistan as warplanes were chasing down insurgents preparing to attack a base across the Afghan border Saturday, a spokesman said.

A Pakistan military spokesman yesterday put the toll at 10 dead and 14 wounded, seven of them seriously. Residents said the dead included a child, a woman and seven men.

# Robotic vehicles would save lives

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250052  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A11  
**BYLINE:** John Ayer  
**SOURCE:** Times Colonist  
**WORD COUNT:** 43

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One of the simplest ways to save lives in Afghanistan would be to use a radio-controlled robotic vehicle as a scout ahead of the Canadian armoured troop vehicle.

Any Canadian life thus saved is worth much more than any robot costs.

John Ayer,

Victoria.



# 'Refusal to give in' drew Winterbottom to Heart; Director completes his trilogy of post-9/11 movies with a look at conflicts surrounding a wife's search for missing journalist

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250080  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Arts & Life  
**PAGE:** C5  
**BYLINE:** Jay Stone  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 377

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Michael Winterbottom is a film director who talks like his movies look: raw, fast, close to the ground. He races along so quickly that his interviews sound like documentaries.

A *Mighty Heart*, starring Angelina Jolie, is Winterbottom's latest project. It's the story of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was kidnapped and beheaded by Islamic militants in 2002. Jolie plays Mariane Pearl, Daniel's pregnant wife, who searched for her husband in a confused and contradictory Pakistan that seems like the ideal setting for a Winterbottom film.

"Mariane—as-a-character—herself—her—refusal—to—give—in—to—the—kidnappers—her—refusal—to—act—the—part—that—she—felt—she—was—being—asked—to—act—was—very—strong," Winterbottom said, approximately, in explaining what drew him to *A Mighty Heart*, which opened in theatres over the weekend. (What also brought him was Brad Pitt, Jolie's significant other and the producer of the film, who hand-picked Winterbottom to direct it.)

Winterbottom said he read Mariane's memoir and was impressed by how well she told the story: "I felt her portrayal of Pakistan was very accurate."

He would know. *A Mighty Heart* is the third in what could be considered a trilogy of post-9/11 movies from the 46-year-old director that also includes *In This World*, which tells of the journey of two Afghan refugees from Pakistan to Britain, and *Road to Guantanamo*, a docudrama about the Tipton Three, a trio of British Muslims who were captured by American forces in Afghanistan and held prisoner for two years in Guantanamo Bay. The director read *A Mighty Heart* while he was filming *In This World* in Pakistan.

All three movies tell stories of radical politics on one side or the other of the war on terror and its associated conflicts: "increasingly hostile reactions on both sides," as Winterbottom put it in a telephone interview. "Guantanamo is an expression of one side's determination to avenge 9/11 and obviously the kidnappings are in some senses a kind of response to that."

In the case of *A Mighty Heart*, Winterbottom says the film's frantic pace matches the story: Mariane Pearl and her supporters were constantly working to try to save Daniel. "It was a very restless time, they had nervous energy, and I didn't want to film to be very static and slow."

# Heroin trade vital for Taliban: RCMP officer; Drug money pays for insurgents' bullets

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250019

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell, Canwest News Service / Insp. Paul Richards has been a criminal intelligence advisor to the Canadian Forces in Kandahar for the last year. ;

**KEYWORDS:** DRUGS; FARMERS & FARMING; WAR; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; IRAN

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 562

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The increasingly bloody terror attacks plaguing Afghanistan are largely a product of the Taliban's "symbiotic" relationship with narcotics cartels, says an RCMP officer who has been quietly tracking those ties.

Breaking the highly profitable alliance between the fundamentalist Muslims and the world's most prolific heroin traffickers is key to defeating the insurgency, said Insp. Paul Richards, who has just wrapped up a year in Kandahar as a counter-narcotics adviser to the Canadian Forces.

The Taliban is not, as some western officials maintain, a narco-terrorist group directly involved in producing heroin itself, Richards said. It does, however, receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers and for creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the business, he told CanWest News Service.

"They work very, very closely together and that's how the Taliban funds what they're doing ... whether it's paying a suicide bomber's family, whether it's buying bullets, whether it's buying food," Richards said.

"The Taliban have become very reliant on the narco-economy. They are completely dependent on it."

In turn, the instability sown by the insurgent attacks — many of which have killed Canadian troops — aids the drug lords by making it easier for them to carry out their illicit activities, he noted. The trade is contributing to problems closer to home, too. The "vast majority" of heroin on Canadian streets likely originated here, said Richards.

A purported spokesman for the Taliban denied the militants are working hand-in-hand with the smugglers. The insurgents are paid alms by poppy farmers, but also by producers of wheat, corn and other crops, said Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

"Neither are we against the smugglers, nor are we in favour of them," Qari said. When the Taliban take power again, they will consider the traffickers' activities, he added.

There is little doubt that Islam frowns heavily on heroin use or dealing. The Taliban also do receive support from other sources, allegedly including Pakistan's intelligence service. Local observers, however, agreed the Afghan Islamists are hooked on narcotics money.

"When you talk about poppies, security automatically goes with it," said Ayub Rafiqi, head of Landowners of Kandahar (LOOK), an NGO representing large landlords in the province.

"This is a vicious circle: the Taliban, the government, poppy cultivation, drug lords, warlords."

The government is involved because much of the poppy crop is grown on state-owned land, where officials charge rent to poppy farmers, he said.

Heroin traffickers, especially those belonging to the Baluch tribe along the Iran-Afghanistan border, are also playing a major role in smuggling weapons from Iran in to the insurgents, said a farmer in neighbouring Helmand province with ties to the drug barons.

"The Taliban movement relies on the smugglers' help, and the smugglers rely on the Taliban," said the farmer, who asked not to be named. "These two parties are essential to each other."

Due in part to that co-operation, Afghanistan now accounts for 95 per cent of the world's poppy production.

The poppies are processed into heroin at labs in Afghanistan and in border regions of neighbouring countries, then shipped out through Iran, Pakistan the central Asian republics to the north or even China, with much of it ending up in Europe and North America.

It is believed the Taliban receive about \$2 million a year in a sort of levy they charge on the poppy harvest, and another \$8 million for providing security to labs and smuggling runs Richards said. Sometimes, the payment comes in the form of opium, he added. The money is then distributed by the Taliban's senior commanders, financing weapons, operations and the fighters' salaries.

# Heroin trade vital for Taliban: RCMP officer; Drug money pays for insurgents' bullets

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250015

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final C

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell, Canwest News Service / Insp. Paul Richards has been a criminal intelligence advisor to the Canadian Forces in Kandahar for the last year. ;

**KEYWORDS:** DRUGS; FARMERS & FARMING; WAR; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; IRAN

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 562

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# Soldiers' bodies back in Canada; Arrival in city expected mid-week

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250117  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Journal Stock / Pte. Joel Wiebe; Colour Photo: Journal Stock / Sgt. Christos Karigiannis ; Colour Photo: Journal Stock / Cpl. Stephen Bouzane ;  
**KEYWORDS:** COURT MARTIAL; WAR  
**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 279

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CFB TRENTON, Ont. — The bodies of three Edmonton-based soldiers killed in Afghanistan last week arrived late Sunday afternoon to a sombre ceremony on the grey tarmac of this eastern Ontario military base.

Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their flag-draped coffins were unloaded from a Canadian Forces long-range transport and borne by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Autopsies will be performed on the three bodies in Toronto before they are returned home, Edmonton Garrison spokesman Capt. Mark Peebles said. The body of Edmonton native Joel Wiebe is expected to arrive in the city mid-week, Peebles said.

Teary relatives, military brass and ordinary soldiers watched the bodies pass. Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier were also there.

As is customary, there were no speeches.

The three soldiers were killed by a bomb that went off Wednesday as they passed by in an unarmoured vehicle in the Panjwahi valley, an hour's drive southwest of Kandahar. All three had been due to leave Afghanistan in August.

Their deaths bring the Canadian toll in Afghanistan to 60 soldiers and one diplomat since 2002.

The military has now suspended use of the light vehicle, called an M-Gator, in all but secured areas.

Bouzane, who was born in Little Bay, N.L., also lived in Scarborough, Ont. Karigiannis was a native of Montreal.

Wiebe, who was on his first tour of Afghanistan, got engaged shortly before his deployment. He and Anna Thede had set a date for February.

"Joel was a giving person who was always ready with a smile and a joke to cheer his friends," Thede said recently. "His buddies often called him 'the happiest man in NATO.' "

Despite the latest deaths, the Panjwahi valley has been considered a Canadian military success story and has been reclaimed by local villagers.

# Volunteer group ensures fallen soldiers remembered; Memorial cairn honouring Edwin Zeer completes Lac La Biche effort to recognize servicemen

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250113

**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A2

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Supplied / Alberta soldier Edwin Zeer, was killed in the final days of the Second World War... ; Photo: Supplied / ...his gravesite in Holland... ; Photo: Supplied / ...Zeer on horseback in 1940. ;

**DATELINE:** EDMONTON

**BYLINE:** Jeff Holubitsky

**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal

**WORD COUNT:** 643

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EDMONTON — Lance Bombardier Edwin Zeer had several reasons to be happy on April 20, 1945. It was a fine, spring day in Germany. The war in Europe was in its closing days and it was his 25th birthday.

It was also the day the Alberta farm boy died.

"When Eddie was a boy he always said he wanted to see the world," his younger brother, Ike Zeer, says from the same plot of land where the two worked and played together so long ago. "And he made a pretty good stab at it; he was overseas for five years."

On Wednesday, a gathering of his family members and military representatives will travel across muskeg to an obscure pond in the middle of a remote grazing lease northeast of Edmonton to dedicate a cairn to Zeer. The federal government named the lake in his honour in 1951, as it did for hundreds of fallen military personnel across Canada.

Though not associated with the war in the air, he is the last of 15 servicemen to be so honoured by the Lac La Biche Airmen's Memorial Cairn Committee, a group of Lakeland volunteers who felt more needed to be done to remember the casualties of the Second World War.

Edwin Zeer was born on the family's successful sheep and cattle ranch near the tiny community of Wardlow near Brooks.

"He was five years older than I was, but we were very close," Ike says. "We used to ski and ride and we worked together quite a bit."

Their father, Mohammed Zeer, had immigrated to Canada from the United States in the early years of the century. Though he was a devoted Muslim, originally from an area that is now Syria, his wife was an Anglican and the children were raised in her church.

Mohammed was killed in 1935 in an accident, leaving Edwin as the oldest male to operate the ranch with his mother. "He was a joker and a fun-loving person," remembers his younger sister, Lila Pierson. "We got along

Volunteer group ensures fallen soldiers remembered; Memorial cairn honouring Edwin Zeer completes Lac La Biche effort to recognize servicemen



good."

In the days before conscription, he wasn't required to go to war. He wanted to.

He enlisted in the 6th Field Regiment, Second Infantry Division, in the fall of 1939 and within a year was stationed in England, never to see Canada or his girlfriend again.

"He was engaged to a very nice girl when he left," says Pierson. "She died just a few months ago."

Pierson thinks of her older brother often.

"I just heard on the radio another Canadian was killed in Afghanistan," she says. "These fellas that are being killed, 19, 20 years old, it is just a shame they have had no life at all. My goodness, they are so young."

Marc George, director of the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum in Shilo, Man., says that by the time Zeer landed in France in July 1944, a month after D-Day, he had transferred to the 5th Field Regiment. He was a lance bombardier, a rank similar to corporal and commonly called a lance jack.

Fighting with 25 pounder guns, he was part of the battle that secured an airfield near Caen in Normandy. Zeer then would have taken part in the liberation of both France and the Netherlands.

On the morning he turned 25, he was taking part in the push to take Bremen in Germany. He was assigned to drive a jeep on a reconnaissance mission with another young Canadian, Lieut. Keith Mountford.

According to official reports, the jeep hit a landmine near Hellbusch and both men were killed. They were buried nearby by 6:30 p.m., but their bodies were later moved to the Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holland. Mountford, 23, left a wife and baby in Montreal.

"The war was over within a matter of days," George says.

Edwin's mother travelled to Holland in 1948, where she visited her son's grave. As with so many others, Zeer never had a funeral.

"They were all willing to shoulder this potential sacrifice that was needed of them," George says. "With every soldier that dies, it is a tragedy."

[jholubitsky@thejournal.canwest.com](mailto:jholubitsky@thejournal.canwest.com)

## REMEMBERED

The Lac La Biche Airmen's Memorial Cairn Committee list of honour. A lake has been named for each following the Second World War.

- Flight Lieut. H. Birkland, executed on Hitler's orders for his part in the Great Escape
- Flight Lieut. W.W.L. Brown
- Pilot Officer H.E. Dabbs
- Lance Sgt. H.A. Honey
- Warrant Officer A.M. Horne

Volunteer group ensures fallen soldiers remembered; Memorial cairn honouring Edwin Zeer completed

- Flight Sgt. Erlyn Kirby
- Squadron Leader W.C. McGuffin
- Flying Officer L.W. Matthews
- Flight Lieut. M.L. Mellstrom
- Lieut. C.S. Munro
- Flight Lieut. W.S. Pullar
- Flight Lieut. A.W. Roseland
- Flight Lieut. E. Spankie
- Pilot Officer Gordon Scheltens
- Lance Bombardier Edwin Zeer

# NATO admits more deaths

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**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** ORGANIZATIONS; DEFENCE; WAR; FOREIGN RELATIONS;  
PAKISTAN;AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 113

---

KABUL — The NATO–led force in Afghanistan admitted Sunday to killing more civilians, this time in Pakistan, a day after harsh criticism from President Hamid Karzai about military operations.

A weapon fired by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) hit a building in Pakistan as warplanes were chasing down insurgents preparing to attack a base across the Afghan border Saturday, a spokesman said.

Pakistan military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad Sunday put the toll at 10 dead and 14 wounded, seven of them seriously. Residents said the dead included a child, a woman and seven men.

The Pakistani spokesman said his government had protested and demanded an explanation. He said a rocket had struck the building.

# Force not the answer

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250067  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** Syed A. Rahman  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 100

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I read with sadness and dismay the tragedy of three Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, victims of a terrible blast.

So far, the war has claimed the lives of 60 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat.

It is an endeavour which is sometimes termed by our politicians a fight against terrorism and at other times an effort to bring peace and stability to the region so we can live in peace here.

It's a noble thought, but its pursuit can and should be done differently.

Force is not going to compel the local populace to change their ways. In the ongoing battle, it is not only our troops and the insurgents who are dying, but also civilians in huge numbers.

Why give them reasons to hate us? The modus operandi has to change.

Syed A. Rahman,

Edmonton

# War is unwinnable

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250066  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** John Mak  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 68

---

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is wrong.

The war in Afghanistan cannot be won; it is old-fashioned guerrilla warfare given the euphemistic name "insurgency" to pacify us.

We have forgotten the principle of guerrilla warfare: they can wait a thousand years. Can we?

They will pick our young men and women off one by one. Afghanistan is not Germany or Japan. We can pitch an army against army, but an army of guerrillas is invisible.

It is time to petition the politicians to save our young men and women from this unwinnable war.

John Mak,

Edmonton

# Is it time to bring troops home?

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250065  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / The caskets of fallen Canadian soldiers are loaded on a plane during a ramp ceremony at the Kandahar Air Field June 21. Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane, and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, all members of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from CFB Edmonton were killed June 20 when a roadside bomb blew up beside their small unarmoured vehicle. ;

**BYLINE:** Darryl Havrelock  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 87

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Re: "City man among fallen: Roadside blast kills newly engaged Pte. Joel Wiebe and 2 Edmonton-based comrades," The Journal, June 21.

To see three more of our soldiers die in Afghanistan saddens me even more deeply.

While many of us take life for granted, these young men and women make the ultimate sacrifice to defend our way of life.

Are these tragedies necessary? Some politicians seem to think so. If there was a choice, could we not utilize these men and women at home, helping to curb the violence we see every day in North America?

Darryl Havrelock,

Edmonton

# Yellow-ribbon controversy should not have happened

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250060  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** Alger J.C. Libby  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 482

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Re: "'Support our Troops' decals create controversy in Toronto," The Journal, June 20.

Every Canadian should be terrified that a person like David Miller, mayor of Toronto, could climb that high on the political ladder. Miller says some Torontonians were concerned that the "Support Our Troops" decals on civic vehicles might mean that the city is expressing an opinion on the war, and so he was prepared to have them removed. He reversed his decision Wednesday after hearing that three more Canadian soldiers had been killed and Toronto city council voted to allow the decals to remain.

How on Earth could any rational person doubt the West's objectives in the Middle East? Are we so pampered by our freedoms and luxuries that we are blinded to the blatant evil that is rampant on other parts of the globe? Have we no responsibility to our fellow humans who suffer under some of the most oppressive regimes and dictators?

Remember some of the atrocities that were going on in both Afghanistan and Iraq before the West's intervention:

- Saddam Hussein paid \$25,000 to the family of each Palestinian suicide bomber who successfully detonated himself on Jewish soil.
- He also had mass graves dug, into which he dumped the corpses of thousands and thousands of Kurdish people whom he had executed. Women and children were not exempt from his "cleansing" campaign.
- Both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued regular reports of chemical weapons use, mass murder, and torture by the former dictator's government.
- The Taliban regime in Afghanistan imposed an intolerable brand of Islamist extremism, virtually removing women from visible society and severely punishing all leisure activities. Acceptable modes of punishment included public stonings, hangings, floggings, and amputations. The Taliban also turned Afghanistan into a safe haven for terrorists such as Osama bin Laden, and refused to extradite him to face his crimes in the United States.

Are we becoming desensitized to such depravity?

Two other articles the June 20 edition of The Journal confirm the breadth of evil inherent in these societies. In one part of Baghdad last week, U.S. troops discovered starving orphans chained to their cribs ("U.S. troops rescue starving Iraqi orphans tied to cribs"), while in another part of town a Sunni Islamist suicide bomber

used a truck full of explosives to kill 78 Shiites gathered for prayer in a mosque ("Truck bomb kills 78 in Baghdad mosque"). And these things are happening every day over there!

I hope the majority of Canadians aren't as naive as Miller initially was. Throughout our entire 140-year history, our troops have fought bravely against the evil that so easily springs up, and they continue to do so today.

I am now on the hunt for my own yellow "Support Our Troops" magnetic decal, and I encourage every self-respecting Canadian to do the same. Let's acknowledge and honour our troops for the price they pay to ensure that we continue to live in the world's greatest democracy.

God bless our troops!

Alger J.C. Libby,

Sherwood Park



# Afghans want our help

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250058  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** Holly Dziepak  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 151

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I support whatever decisions the Canadian Armed Forces makes with regard to whether we should be involved in this wartorn country.

I am 45 years old and a legal assistant. My father was in the Air Force in Europe in the '60s and '70s. I was married to an Air Force air traffic controller before we divorced. I spent the first 30 years of my life with Canadian Armed Forces personnel.

Our soldiers who go overseas are a committed group. They certainly aren't there for monetary reasons or glory.

So we as a nation need to ask ourselves, why have our leaders placed our peace-keepers there?

The Afghan people want us there. The world wants us there. And I am sure that if we left, the Afghans would miss us and many of them would die.

Afghanistan is a country in distress. But from what I can see and hear, our troops in Afghanistan are doing an outstanding job in a challenging place. We are part of a global effort to get rid of the "bad guys."

Holly Dziepak,

Edmonton

# Unwelcome invaders

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250056  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** William Dascavich  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 162

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It is time that Canadians supported our troops by lobbying the federal government to pull them out of Afghanistan.

The war there is unwinnable.

Despite the rosy pictures and statements of our "successes" there by government and military officials, the Afghan people have never allowed foreigners to tell them what to do and how to do it.

They repelled invasions by the Persians, Alexander the Great, the Kushans, Hephthalites, Arabs, Turks, Mongols, British, and the Soviets. They have their own culture and it has withstood the test of centuries.

The excuse that the Canadian government "was invited" to send troops by the Afghan government rings hollow.

Malalai Joya, a former member of the Afghan parliament, has said the government is made up of former Taliban officials, warlords, drug lords and militia commanders. Installed with the blessing of the U.S. after its 2001 invasion, the government lacks legitimacy with the Afghan people.

Canada is becoming mired in a Vietnam-like situation in Afghanistan, and we should pull out before too many more lives are sacrificed.

William Dascavich,

Edmonton

# NATO strike kills civilians in Pakistan; Rocket hits building; 10 dead, 14 wounded

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250091  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 271

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KABUL – The NATO–led force in Afghanistan admitted yesterday to killing more civilians, this time in Pakistan, a day after harsh criticism from Afghan President Hamid Karzai about military operations.

A weapon fired by the International Security Assistance Force hit a building in Pakistan as warplanes were chasing down insurgents preparing to attack a base across the Afghan border Saturday, a spokesman said.

Pakistani military spokesman Maj.–Gen. Waheed Arshad yesterday put the toll at 10 dead and 14 wounded, seven of them seriously.

He said his government had protested and demanded an explanation. He said a rocket struck the building.

"We have reports that one of our weapons hit a building which may have had a number of civilians in it and that building may have been a home or way–station or some hotel facility," ISAF spokesman Maj. John Thomas told AFP.

"We regret the loss of innocent life," he said.

ISAF said earlier as many as 60 militants were killed in the operation, which spanned the border in Afghan–istan's southeastern Paktika province and Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area.

In Kabul on Saturday, Mr. Karzai accused ISAF and the separate U.S.–led coalition of causing civilian casualties in the battle against insurgents through "indiscriminate and unprecise" operations.

There was an "extreme use of force" and action was not being co–ordinated with Afghan forces despite repeated complaints over several years, the president said.

A NATO spokesman said the president's anger was understandable.

"But let's make clear that no ISAF soldier intends to kill civilians," Nicholas Lunt said in Kabul. "That's not the case with the Taliban. They deliberately kill civilians."

A district police chief told the media yesterday that Taliban insurgents had kidnapped his 18–year–old son and beheaded him.

Ghulam Wali, head of police in Helmand province's Sangin district, said he had pleaded in vain with the men to free his child, saying: "He's an innocent young boy and your enmity is with me, not to him."

# Soldiers killed in Afghanistan return home

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250090  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Kelly Bouzane prepares to place a flower in the hearse carrying her brother, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane, at CFB Trenton yesterday. Cpl. Bouzane and two other soldiers, Pte. Joel Wiebe and Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, died Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated under their unarmoured vehicle. ;  
**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 324

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CFB TRENTON – The bodies of three more Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan were repatriated late yesterday afternoon in another sombre ceremony played out on the grey tarmac of CFB Trenton.

Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the Edmonton–based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their flag–draped coffins were unloaded one–by–one from a Canadian Forces long–range transport and carried by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Teary–eyed relatives, military brass and soldiers watched the bodies pass. Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of defence staff, were also there.

Ms. Clarkson attended in her capacity as colonel–in–chief of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

As is customary at such ceremonies, there were no speeches.

The three soldiers died Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated as they passed by in an unarmoured vehicle in the Panjwaii valley, an hour's drive southwest of Kandahar. Their deaths bring the Canadian military's toll in Afghanistan to 60 since 2002. A diplomat has also been killed.

The Canadian Forces has now suspended use of the light vehicle, called a Gator, to all but secured areas.

Cpl. Bouzane, who was born in Little Bay, N.L., also lived in Scarborough, Ont. Sgt. Karigiannis was a native of Montreal.

Pte. Wiebe, who was on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan, became engaged shortly before his deployment. He and Anna Thede had set a date for February.

"Joel was a giving person who was always ready with a smile and a joke to cheer his friends," said Ms. Thede recently. "His buddies often called him 'the happiest man in NATO.' He was very loving and was very loved."

The three Canadian soldiers were ferrying supplies in the Gator between two checkpoints about a kilometre apart along a narrow, windy track.

The deadly blast was a rare victory for the insurgents. The Panjwahi valley is considered a Canadian military success story, reclaimed by villagers whose lives are gradually returning to something resembling normal.

In a statement last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called the losses a terrible tragedy.

"Our thoughts and prayers and our condolences and heartfelt sympathies go out to their families, friends and colleagues."

All three were due to be rotated out of Afghanistan in August.

# Cash crunch threatens defence strategy; Military's budget needs are beyond what government wants to spend: analyst

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250089  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 546

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The Conservative government's long-awaited defence strategy paper could be released as early as next month, but there are growing concerns among some analysts and those in the military that it will fall far short on the money needed to prepare the Canadian Forces for the future.

The government's Canada First Defence Strategy has long been completed, but hasn't been released publicly.

Defence Department sources say they believe there is a 50–50 chance the strategy will be released in July.

But others have suggested the release of the strategy could be further delayed if Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is shuffled out of the portfolio because of concerns in the government that he has fumbled the ball on a number of occasions, in particular on Afghanistan war issues.

One method the government might use would be to roll out parts of the strategy piecemeal, with separate announcements such as a decision to proceed on new Arctic patrol ships, they say.

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, chairman of the Senate's defence committee, says he is expecting the policy to be released over the next few weeks. "I've heard that it's going to be released in July, but it won't have any (financial) numbers associated with it," he said.

The release of the document, crafted by the military to meet the Conservatives' defence vision, is almost a year late. Officials with Mr. O'Connor's office said last year the strategy would be ready in the summer of 2006. They then changed that to the fall and then later said the strategy would come out by the end of 2006.

Military analyst Eric Lerhe said the issue is that the Canadian Forces' budget needs are beyond what any government wants to deal with. He believes the Conservatives are willing to continue boosting defence spending, now at around \$18 billion a year, to eventually around \$20 billion. But that is their limit, suggests Mr. Lerhe, a retired commodore and analyst with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute.

"The problem with a \$20-billion budget is that you have a military that needs \$30 billion a year to do their job," said Mr. Lerhe.

Earlier this year, the Citizen obtained a copy of the Canada First strategy paper and printed details of the document. Among those were plans to proceed with the purchase of a fleet of Arctic patrol ships, cancel a plan to buy a new wheeled armoured vehicle called the Mobile Gun System, proceed with plans to provide

Cash crunch threatens defence strategy; Military's budget needs are beyond what government wants to spend

new weapons for the Griffon helicopters, and create a maritime special operations unit.

At the time, Mr. O'Connor labelled such reports as "rumour" and speculation.

In the last several months, the army, however, has cancelled the Mobile Gun System program and air force commander Lt.-Gen. Steve Lucas has said he wants to outfit the Griffons with weapons systems. The navy and special operations command are in discussions on how to proceed with the new maritime commando unit, officers also confirm. A key cabinet committee has also approved the Arctic Patrol vessel program.

Defence Department officials declined to discuss the Arctic Patrol vessels Friday and referred calls to Mr. O'Connor's office.

An e-mail from Mr. O'Connor's office in response to questions about the vessels said that defending Arctic sovereignty is a part of the government's defence strategy paper. "We are working on both these issues and when we have something to announce, we will do so," the e-mail said.

# 'Support the troops' is not an innocuous slogan

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250058  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 205

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Re: Troop decals should stay,

June 22.

Your editorial puts forth a reasonable argument about whether or not these support-the-troops decals should stay in place on city vehicles. However, on your point that "most reasonable individuals" are able to separate support for the troops from their feelings or opinions about the war in Afghanistan, you do not even address the fact that the slogan "support our troops" has become a very political statement. It has become so by the toxic remarks that have been made by the prime minister.

Stephen Harper has, on several occasions, very clearly and very aggressively stated that if you do not support the war, you do not support the troops. He also spent most of the recent session in the House of Commons making cowardly implications that those who dare to question his government about this war have more sympathy for the Taliban than the Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.

Reasonable people can separate the two; it is a shame that the prime minister cannot or will not. His words and actions have poisoned what was a genuine chance for all Canadians, regardless of what they think about Afghanistan, to support the troops.

Stephen Neale, Ottawa



# Stay in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250052  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 325

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NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer wants Canada to commit to the mission to rebuild Afghanistan beyond 2009 and we should say yes -- as long as the Afghan people want us there.

At the moment, Canadian public opinion is divided. Opposition to the intervention in Afghanistan is most vocal in Quebec. Last weekend, before leaving for six months in Kandahar, 2,000 members of the famed Vandoos regiment marched down Quebec City's Grande Allee -- and met with jeers.

Even though the Afghanistan policy has been divisive, Canadian soldiers will likely need to remain in that country after 2009, in part because the Kabul government still won't be able unilaterally to fend off the Taliban and its al-Qaeda associates.

We have a selfish interest in this mission. Failed states -- especially failed Muslim states awash in arms -- jeopardize global security. And of course there is always the humanitarian imperative. Afghanistan under the Taliban was among the most oppressive and brutal countries in the world, and we can't allow the country to go back to that dark time.

After the end of the Soviet occupation, the West turned away, leaving a highly armed society that quickly erupted into a deadly civil war. Thousands of refugees were scattered across a volatile region. Women and children in particular suffered tremendously. Afghanistan must not be abandoned again.

Our agreement to stay does not necessarily mean that Canada must continue to be the sharp end of the spear. Our decision in 2009 will be shaped at least in part by an assessment of how our allies have contributed. Canada's military has carried a heavy load, and one hopes that at some point Canada's other areas of expertise -- reconstruction and development -- will be in equally high demand.

Exactly how we express our commitment to Afghanistan after 2009 needs to be debated, but the fact of our ongoing commitment is already a done deal.

Ottawa Citizen

# A Sister's Tears

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250115  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Kelly Bouzane prepares to place a flower in the hearse carrying her brother, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane, at CFB Trenton in Ontario on Sunday. Bouzane, who was attached to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was among three Edmonton-based soldiers killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on June 20. Their bodies were returned to Canada Sunday.  
;  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 4

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NO TEXT

# Defence strategy may see \$10-billion shortfall: analyst

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250114  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**KEYWORDS:** COURT MARTIAL  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 199

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The Conservative government's long-awaited defence strategy paper could be released as early as next month, but there are growing concerns among some analysts and those in the military that it will fall far short on the money needed to prepare the Canadian Forces for the future.

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But others have suggested the release of the strategy could be further delayed if Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is shuffled out of the portfolio because of concerns in the Conservative government he has fumbled the ball on a number of occasions, in particular with Afghanistan war issues.

The release of the document, crafted by the military to meet the Conservatives' defence vision, is almost a year late.

Military analyst Eric Lerhe said he believes the Conservatives are willing to continue boosting defence spending, now at around \$18 billion a year, to eventually around \$20 billion. But that is their limit, suggests Lerhe, a retired commodore and analyst with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute.

"The problem with a \$20 billion budget is that you have a military that needs \$30 billion a year to do their job," said Lerhe.

# Heroin trade fuels terror in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250111  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**KEYWORDS:** DRUGS; WAR  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 356

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The increasingly bloody terror attacks plaguing Afghanistan are largely a product of the Taliban's "symbiotic" relationship with narcotics cartels, says an RCMP officer who has been quietly tracking those ties.

Breaking the highly profitable alliance between the fundamentalist Muslims and the world's most prolific heroin traffickers is key to defeating the insurgency, said Insp. Paul Richards.

Having just wrapped up a year in Kandahar as a counter-narcotics adviser to the Canadian Forces, the veteran intelligence officer was offering a rare public glimpse of his findings.

The Taliban is not, as some western officials maintain, a narco-terrorist group directly involved in producing heroin itself, said Richards. It does, however, receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers and for generally creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the business, he told CanWest News Service.

"They work very, very closely together and that's how the Taliban funds what they're doing . . . whether it's paying a suicide bomber's family, whether it's buying bullets, whether it's buying food," said the officer.

"The Taliban have become very reliant on the narco-economy. They are completely dependent on it."

In turn, the instability sown by the insurgent attacks — many of which have killed Canadian troops — aids the drug lords by making it easier for them to carry out their illicit activities, he noted.

The trade is contributing to problems closer to home, too. The "vast majority" of heroin on Canadian streets likely originated here, said Richards.

Still, he is hopeful change will come, noting that former heroin hotbeds such as Burma, Vietnam and Laos have cut back their poppy production significantly, though "it takes a long time."

A purported spokesman for the Taliban, meanwhile, denied the militants are working hand-in-hand with the smugglers.

The insurgents are paid alms by poppy farmers, but also by producers of wheat, corn and other crops, said Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

"Neither are we against the smugglers, nor are we in favour of them", said Qari, arguing the Islamists are backed by the whole Muslim world. When the Taliban take power again, they will consider the traffickers' activities, he said.

There is little doubt that Islam frowns heavily on heroin use or dealing.

The Taliban also do receive support from other sources, allegedly including the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence service.

"The Taliban movement relies on the smugglers' help, and the smugglers rely on the Taliban," said a farmer in neighbouring Helmand province with ties to the drug barons.

# Report from 2003 urged air force to replace Snowbirds right away

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 531

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s-vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if absolutely necessary.

``With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003.

``These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT-114s with British-built CT-155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

``Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed: ``immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium-lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is currently conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis is also looks at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory \_ or by something entirely new, said a military official.

``The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," said Capt. Jim Hutcheson.

``We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft."

The modifications, according to the 2003 study, would cost about \$32 million.

From the 1960s through to the 1990s the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft. The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, said Hutcheson.

“They are a relatively inexpensive fleet to operate and maintain. It still remains economically and operationally viable to fly.”

Last fall, the air force received an unsolicited proposal from Venga Aerospace Systems (TSX:VAV) offering to provide the Snowbirds with 18 Hawks in a lease arrangement. Hutcheson acknowledged the proposal, but said over the years a number of bidders have thrown a variety of ideas at the Defence Department.

Investigators are looking at three possibilities in the crash that killed McCaughey: equipment failure, pilot error, or a bird strike. The accident happened during a rehearsal before the team's first airshow of the season.

McCaughey is the third Snowbird pilot to die since 1998 and the sixth in the squadron's 35-year history.

In 2005, a CT-114 suffered a catastrophic engine failure and crashed in Thunder Bay, Ont., but the pilot managed to eject and parachute to safety. In the past decade, the Snowbirds have lost six aircraft and had two others damaged in mid-air encounters.

# Number of blacks joining U–S military in dramatic decline, data shows

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE SOCIAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 244

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WASHINGTON (AP) \_ The number of blacks joining the U.S. military has plunged by more than one–third since the Afghanistan and Iraq wars began.

According to data obtained by The Associated Press, the decline covers all four military services for active duty recruits, and the drop is even more dramatic when National Guard and Reserve recruiting is included.

The findings reflect the growing unpopularity of the wars, particularly among family members and other adults who exert influence over high school and college students considering the military as a place to serve their country, further their education or build a career.

Walking past the Army recruiting station in downtown Washington, D.C., this past week, Sean Glover said he has done all he can to talk black relatives out of joining the military.

“I don't think it's a good time,” said Glover, 36. “I don't support the government's efforts here and abroad.”

The message comes as no surprise to the Pentagon, where efforts are under way to increase the size of the Army and Marine Corps.

Marine Commandant Gen. James T. Conway agreed that the bloodshed in Iraq \_ where more than 3,540 U.S. troops have died \_ is the biggest deterrent for prospective recruits.

According to Pentagon data, there were nearly 51,500 new black recruits for active duty and reserves in 2001. That number fell to less than 32,000 in 2006, a 38–per–cent decline.

When only active duty troops are counted, the number of black recruits went from more than 31,000 in 2002 to about 23,600 in 2006, almost one–quarter fewer. The decline is particularly stark for the Army.



# Bodies of three soldiers killed in Afghanistan arrive at CFB Trenton

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 98

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CFB TRENTON (CP) \_ The bodies of three soldiers killed in Afghanistan have returned home to Canada.

A plane bearing the caskets of Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane arrived at the Canadian Forces Base in Trenton, Ont., on Sunday.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier, Chief of Defence Staff, were present at the ceremony.

Before the plane landed, Hillier talked to the throng of supporters waiting outside the gates.

The three men were killed Wednesday by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar while riding in an unarmoured vehicle called a Gator, the use of which has since been suspended.

Sixty Canadian soldiers have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

# Afghan–Violence–Update (soldier dies)

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 97

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LONDON — Britain's defence ministry says an explosion in southern Afghanistan has killed a British soldier and injured four others.

The soldier died after the Land Rover he was travelling in was caught in the explosion in volatile Helmand province.

The vehicle had been escorting a military team to survey a site for a new road project linking several villages.

All five soldiers caught in the blast were airlifted to hospital, where one was pronounced dead.

Shortly afterward a man failed to stop at a security cordon around the scene and was shot and killed.

The British ministry says a second man was wounded.

Sixty-one British military personnel or defence staff have died while serving in Afghanistan since the start of the U–S–led operations in November 2001.

(AP)

bjk

# Afghan–Violence

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 102

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KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb hit a convoy of British troops in Afghanistan's insurgency–plagued Helmand province today, wounding one soldier.

Police say the soldiers reacted by opening fire in a civilian area, killing one man and wounding another.

Also in the south, militants executed the kidnapped son of a police officer, reneging on a deal to free him in exchange for the release of a Taliban commander.

Officials say after the insurgent was freed, they changed the terms of the deal, demanding that the district police chief — the father of the hostage — step down.

The Taliban killed the police chief's son last night and handed his body over this morning.

It's not clear how old the victim was.

(AP)

RMo

# Amber–Hope

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 122

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EDMONTON — Six Canadian army medics are bringing their hands–on experience in Afghanistan to a military training exercise on the edge of the Baltic Sea.

They're among 17–hundred NATO troops sharing their battlefield skills in Lithuania in a two–week training operation called Amber Hope.

It involves personnel from 10 NATO countries, including Canada, Germany, Poland, Finland and the U–S.

Major John Crook, Canada's senior representative at the exercise, says he and his five colleagues from 1 Field Ambulance at Edmonton Garrison, all served in Afghanistan recently.

He says that kind of experience brings real–life grit to training that just a few years ago was much more theoretical.

Crook says training has always been emphasized in the military, but it has taken on a more serious note since Canadian soldiers started dying in Afghanistan.

(BN)

PTH

# Afghan–Civilian–Deaths

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**DATE:** 2007.06.24

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 90

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KABUL — An Associated Press tally of civilian deaths in Afghanistan finds coalition and NATO forces have killed more civilians this year than militants have.

The A–P count says 203 Afghans have been killed by NATO and the coalition, while 178 have died in attacks by militants.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'–mihd KAHR'–zeye) says in the past week and a–half, more than 90 civilians have been killed by airstrikes and artillery fire intended for Taliban militants.

He's accused the alliance of regarding Afghan lives as ``cheap."

In response, NATO concedes that it has to ``do better."

The A–P count of civilian casualties is based on reports from Afghan and foreign officials and witnesses.

The U–S and NATO don't provide a breakdown of civilian losses.

(AP)

bp

# Is democracy worth the cost?

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250089  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** Letter  
**PAGE:** AA07  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 115

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'Afghan life is not cheap'

June 24

It hurts every time I read of Canadian soldiers who die in Afghanistan, just as Americans bleed when they hear of another soldier killed in Iraq. About 4, 000 Canadians and Americans have died in two unwinnable wars. What about the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans who have been killed? Do they not have families?

What would happen if we were invaded by a foreign country? We would fight to the end trying to save our country, like they are doing. The former Soviet Union tried to dominate Afghanistan without success. These wars are impossible to win.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is right: Too many civilians are being killed in the name of democracy.

Paul Sauve, Sudbury, Ont.

# Canada's presence justified

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250077  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** Letter  
**PAGE:** AA07  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 210

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Questioning why we are there

Letters, June 23

It is stated that the oppression of the Afghans is "none of our business." Apparently, oppressed people have in the past used "revolution to rid themselves of tyrants." I think the Rwandans and the Sudanese of Darfur would disagree.

Anyway, the United Nations–sanctioned, U.S.–led invasion of Afghanistan was accomplished with the majority of troops coming from our Afghan allies, known as the Northern Alliance. So, the change did not come from outside the country but from within. As for the Soviet invasion, Soviet troops were fighting against the Afghans to impose a foreign "godless" system on a Muslim population.

Canadian troops are fighting with the Afghans to rid their country of a foreign "Arab" presence represented by the Taliban and Al Qaeda. We are not trying to make the Afghans just "like us." But I do think stability, good government, education for all, electricity and clean water are universal values.

Finally, it is also stated that we should fear no invasion from Afghanistan, so fighting to secure that country makes no sense. Unfortunately, 9/11 showed there is much to fear from a failed state that harbours terrorists. An invasion can be accomplished with a box cutter and an airline ticket.

Brian Cybulski, Toronto

# Remains of 3 Canadian soldiers slain in Afghanistan return home yesterday

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250029

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Ont

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A16

**ILLUSTRATION:** JONATHAN HAYWARD cp A family member of Cpl. Stephen Bouzane places a rose in the back of a hearse carrying his remains during a ceremony at CFB Trenton yesterday for Bouzane, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Pte. Joel Wiebe. They died June 20. ;

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 50

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JONATHAN HAYWARD cp A family member of Cpl. Stephen Bouzane places a rose in the back of a hearse carrying his remains during a ceremony at CFB Trenton yesterday for Bouzane, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Pte. Joel Wiebe. They died June 20.



# Quebec company doing battle to build better body armour

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250012  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A01  
**ILLUSTRATION:** IAN BARRETT for the toronto star Stedfast Inc. CEO Rob Kellock holds blowtorch-tested U.S. Air Force pants lined with a white material — undamaged — made by his company. ;  
**BYLINE:** Rick Westhead  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 715

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For 77 years, workers at a red-brick factory here in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains have churned out tents, rubber life boats and shoes.

Some of the factory's 100 employees have a more captivating assignment these days: reinventing military body armour.

Little-known outside this pastoral Quebec city of 50,000, Stedfast Inc. is one of two companies that have been contracted by the Department of National Defence to find new ways to protect soldiers deployed to Afghanistan from crippling roadside bombs.

The importance of the project was underscored last week when three Canadians in an unarmoured vehicle were killed by a roadside bomb. Sixty Canadian soldiers have now been killed in Afghanistan, 17 by roadside bombs, since 2002.

While Stedfast has produced camouflage material for Canadian military uniforms and has also sold DND large solar blankets to help Leopard tank crews stay cool under the scorching desert sun, it has never dabbled in body armour.

"Large companies are happy with tweaking body armour and getting 10 per cent more performance, maybe reducing weight by 10 per cent," said Francois Simard, a 46-year-old chemical engineer who is leading the company's body armour research. "In big companies it can take 10 or 11 years for a new product to work its way through development and approval. We work quick and we're flexible because we're small. We're hoping for a more drastic change by bringing the eyes of someone who has not been moulded by the industry."

Modern body armour features two components – a Kevlar vest and boron carbide ceramic plates held in front and back pockets that are capable of stopping rounds from an AK-47 machine gun. But the space between the plates is vulnerable, prompting Stedfast to experiment with plates staggered on top of one another like a lobster tail, all the way around the body.

Stedfast is also experimenting with a lighter-weight alternative to the ceramic plates. Sitting in his Spartan office at the company's headquarters, Simard raps his knuckles on a piece of hard white material on his desk

the size of a floor tile. He won't say what it is, but the company will begin testing its effectiveness against bullets in a lab as soon as this summer.

"We are looking at doing something that will drastically improve performance, " Simard said of Stedfast, which has annual revenues of \$25 million and is privately owned.

Besides finding new ways to stop lethal shards of flying metal, Simard said Stedfast is also looking to blunt the concussion-causing force of roadside bombs. To do so, the company is looking at having layered body armour "collapse" as way of absorbing the force.

The company also plans to experiment with a special material developed by the British company d3o that is lightweight and malleable. Any blow instantly triggers the molecules in the material to strengthen, transforming it into a rigid protective barrier.

For soldiers, armour has always been a necessary evil, burdensome and hot. In the 17th century, some countries paid soldiers an extra penny per mile for marching in it.

Master Cpl. Rick Crawford has served three tours of duty in Afghanistan and says many Canadian ground troops feel sluggish when wearing and carrying their full complement of gear.

A Kevlar vest, which on its own can stop rounds from a 9-millimetre gun, and a pair of ceramic plates – five times stronger than steel with half the density of fibreglass – weigh a total of 7.3 kilograms. While the combination is both better and lighter than the 11-kilogram flak jackets employed during the Vietnam War, some soldiers still feel overloaded. "You feel like you're one of those guys on the side of a street wearing a sandwich board," says Crawford, 50.

In 1993, some of the 18 U.S. soldiers killed in an ambush in Mogadishu, Somalia, had stopped wearing body armour because it was cumbersome.

In Afghanistan's heat, soldiers also cart a fully loaded rucksack, a four-kilogram machine gun, extra ammunition and at least a litre of water.

"If it isn't 100 pounds, it sure feels like it. You sure don't feel very athletic or mobile."

Stedfast, which won an \$850,000 contract from Defence Research and Development Canada, a division of the Department of National Defence, isn't the only Canadian company working to improve the military's body armour. In Kelowna, B.C., Pacific Safety Products Inc. is testing whether layers of plastic embedded with fibres might be an alternative to Kevlar.

# Air force faced with replacing Tutor replacement

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250438  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 15  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 243

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The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s-vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if necessary.

"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003. "These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

## HAWK TRAINERS

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT-114s with British-built CT-155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed: "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With war in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium-lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, the Conservative government has been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is currently conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250433  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer needs to do more than beg Canada to keep its soldiers in Afghanistan beyond February 2009.

Scheffer, here last week trying to shore up support for NATO's ongoing military mission in Kandahar, must convince more members of the 26-nation alliance to start carrying their fair share of the load.

This means getting more NATO countries to agree to send their forces into the deadly Kandahar region in the south, equipped with rules of engagement to hunt down the Taliban.

At present, Canada's 2,500 soldiers and support troops in Kandahar, along with soldiers from only a handful of other NATO countries, are doing most of the fighting.

As a result, they are sustaining rising casualties, with 60 soldiers dead as of last week and many more wounded, especially since the Canadians moved from the relative safety of the capital city of Kabul to Kandahar, a decision of the previous Liberal government.

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If Harper were to hold that vote today, he would lose. All three opposition parties support ending the Kandahar mission by 2009 at the latest. NDP Leader Jack Layton wants our soldiers brought home now.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion has left open the possibility the Liberals might support troop deployments to Afghanistan beyond 2009, but only if they were for humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, not combat.

The reality Harper faces is that while Canadians are deeply divided on the Kandahar mission and most want us out of Afghanistan by 2009, military experts have repeatedly warned NATO's mission there will have to continue long after 2009 -- maybe for decades -- to be successful.

There is, understandably, no enthusiasm among Canadians for seeing increasing numbers of our soldiers coming home from Afghanistan in coffins indefinitely.

Nor should there be. If NATO wants Canada to recommit to the Afghanistan mission beyond 2009, it must first do so itself.

# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250513  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 22  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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# Cookstown mother Julie Brown answered the call to put herself in harm's way and serve her country, one coffee at a time.

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250491  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
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**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** 3 photos by Julie Brown and Joe Warmington, Sun Media 1. Cookstown's Julie Brown worked six months serving troops at the Kandahar Airfield Tim Hortons and developed a real admiration for the soldiers. 2. Brown and fellow employees had to don combat gear on their way to work, a far cry from life at the Newmarket location where Brown is assistant manager.

**BYLINE:** JOE WARMINGTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 401

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She has had the rare honour of serving her country at the same time as serving those who serve.

And Julie Brown, amongst many other brave civilians who have done a tour in Afghanistan, is a special kind of war veteran.

"It was life changing," said Brown, who has been back from Kandahar just one week after six months of working in the famous Tim Hortons franchise at the Kandahar Airfield. "I was so proud to be able to do my part to help these fine men and women who sacrifice so much."

The 34-year-old Cookstown mother of two sacrificed as well.

For six months she put herself in harm's way to take the job at the Tim's in a war zone.

"My kids wanted me to do it," she said. "And I really wanted to do my part."

"We are so proud of her," her boyfriend, Ed Knox, said. "We were fully behind her decision right from the beginning."

She had a call to service.

"But not everybody can join the military and be a soldier," Brown said. "This was what I could do."

She had worked as an assistant manager at a Tim Hortons in Newmarket for seven years and knew the ropes. But it did not prepare her for what would go on in Kandahar.

You don't have to wear combat gear on your way to work in Newmarket, and you never hear explosions and rocket launchers either.

"When I first got there I was thinking, 'What did I get myself into?' " she said.

Cookstown mother Julie Brown answered the call to put herself in harm's way and serve her country, one coffee at a time.

And then she met the soldiers.

"They are so brave," she said. "All of us were so impressed with them. I hope Canadians know how special they are."

The Tim Hortons there has all of the same trademarks and a lot of same products.

The difference?

The lineups are a little longer.

"People would line up for an hour for a coffee," she said. "If this was at home, people would complain for sure. But nobody ever complained there."

Even Gen. Rick Hillier, NHL stars like Tiger Williams and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have stood in that line — as well as troops from the United States and Great Britain, and even some Afghan locals became hooked on the Iced Cappuccinos.

She said there was just something about the coffee, bagel and doughnut that went over so well with the troops.

"I know whenever I was around the Kandahar Airfield I went there every day," said Master Clp. Jody Mitic, who is home after being injured in the line of duty. "It was a real morale booster for everyone."

Brown said you could see that on every soldier's face.

"I think it was a little piece of home and for five minutes you forgot about where you were."

But there would be constant reminders of exactly where you were.

"You'd see guys pull up in a tank or armoured vehicle, wearing full combat gear, get off and come over and order coffees, get back on the tank with them and go out on patrol," she said, shaking her head in amazement.

Sometimes some of those soldiers didn't come back.

"You'd know something was wrong because everything would be locked down," she said.

'KNEW EVERY FACE'

Then the harsh reality hits the base. In her time there, she felt the pain of more than 20 soldiers dying in action.

"I didn't know every name but I knew every face," she said. "The hardest thing over there was the ramp ceremonies to send them home."

While it was difficult, she needed to be there and understands why people here are drawn to the Hwy. 401 overpasses to salute the fallen soldiers as they're brought home.

As difficult as it is to deal with, she said, everybody would get back to work and soldier on.

And people like Julie Brown are proud to do that. KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Cookstown mother Julie Brown answered the call to put herself in harm's way and serve her country, one co

# Bodies of 3 soldiers return to Canadian soil

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250490

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Reuters Kelly Bouzane carries a picture of her brother Cpl. Stephen Bouzane.

**BYLINE:** MELISSA JUERGENSEN, CP

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON

**WORD COUNT:** 188

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A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of the three latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan returned them to Canadian soil at this eastern Ontario military base yesterday.

The emotional families of the soldiers physically supported each other as a bagpiper played a separate tribute to each soldier when the coffins were removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Coffins carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were met on the tarmac by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

Clarkson attended in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three soldiers served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed the throng of flag-waving supporters who were waiting outside the gates.

Earlier this week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described him as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had life-long aspirations for a military career.

"This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said. "He was very proud to be a part of this."

The men were killed last Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

KEYWORDS=CANADA



# The road to honour Hundreds line Hwy. 401 bridges to bid goodbye to fallen troopers

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250489

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo by Mark O'Neill, Sun Media The last of three hearses carrying the bodies of a trio of soldiers killed last week in Afghanistan travels under an overpass on Hwy. 401 at Whitby yesterday. 2. photo of CHRISTOS KARIGIANNIS Killed last week 3. photo of STEPHEN BOUZANE Scarborough native 4. photo of JOEL WIEBE Show of support

**BYLINE:** CHRIS DOUCETTE AND PETE FISHER, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 289

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In a brilliant and emotional show of support, a sea of red and white lined the overpasses east of the city last night in honour of the three soldiers to be killed in Afghanistan last week.

Hundreds of people stood on several overpasses from Northumberland County to Durham, most either wearing Canada's colours or waving a Canadian flag, as the convoy carrying the three fallen members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry made its way along Hwy. 401.

"I think it's wonderful," Linda Thomson, 50, said of the show of support for Canada's troops as honking horns from cars below her filled the evening air.

Linda and her husband were among one of the largest groups of supporters in Durham -- more than 100 -- standing on the Brock St. overpass in their hometown of Whitby.

"I don't support the war, I wish they would all come home," Linda added. "But we have to support our soldiers."

In Northumberland County, where people been showing their support from the overpasses since the first Canadian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan, 200 people lined one bridge in Port Hope.

It was the first time Denise Sheehan and her daughter Megan, 3, attended an unofficial ceremony in Port Hope.

"They took their time to go fight for us, so I think we should take our time to come show our respect for them," Sheehan said.

Every fire department in Northumberland County, as well as Northumberland County Paramedics and OPP, Cobourg and Port Hope Police, had bridges covered, saluting the procession as it went by.

Durham firefighters and paramedics also lined up with their vehicles.

The dead soldiers -- Cpl. Stephen Bouzane, 26, a Scarborough native, Pte. Joel Wiebe, 22, and Sgt. Christos Karigiannis -- arrived by plane at CFB Trenton, and after a ceremony at the base, the bodies were driven to the coroner's office in Toronto to be examined before being released to their families.

"We don't like war, nobody does. But they are over there to help not to hurt," said Hughy Robertshaw, 62, who drove to Whitby from his home in Milton to pay his respects. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
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**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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# Slain soldiers make final return home

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250236

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo by Jonathan Hayward, CP Pallbearers carry the casket of Pte. Joel Wiebe at CFB Trenton yesterday. 2. photo of JOEL WIEBE Devoted 3. photo of STEPHEN BOUZANE Riding in Gator 4. photo of CHRISTOS KARIGIANNIS Killed by IED

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON

**WORD COUNT:** 194

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A bagpiper played a separate tribute to each of the soldiers as each casket was removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Caskets carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were welcomed by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

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Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed the throng of flag-waving supporters who were waiting outside the gates surrounding the tarmac.

## EMOTIONAL FAMILIES

The emotional families of each soldier were present at the ceremony and physically supported each other as their loved ones made a final return.

Earlier this week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described him as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had life-long aspirations for a military career.

"This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said.

"He was very proud to be a part of this."

The men were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

Roadside bombs are responsible for more than one-third of the 60 deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan since 2002. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Vets await respect Korean War still forgotten by too many

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250234

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by A.D. Wilson Veterans of the Korean War march during the Korea Veterans Day memorial ceremony at the Cenotaph yesterday. Veterans are still waiting for their public due, said Fr. Paul Alain Monpas at the ceremony.

**BYLINE:** JON WILLING, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 289

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If there's a renewed appreciation for Canada's role in the Korean War, some veterans believe it has to do with the country's quest for stability in Afghanistan.

It would be a long time coming if, in 2007, Canada's Korean War veterans finally get their due respect in the public eye.

The war ended in July 1953.

"We tend to forget what our veterans have done for us," Fr. Paul Alain Monpas said yesterday after a ceremony at the National War Memorial remembering Canada's contribution in the Korean War.

"Our veterans are a national treasure that still needs to be discovered."

Monpas, who offers pastoral support to the Canadian Forces, said Canadians are "getting there" when it comes to celebrating their veterans.

Canadian soldiers fighting in Afghanistan have compelled people to learn more about historic battles like in Korea, Monpas said.

## CHOPPY WATERS

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950 when North Korea's military advanced into South Korea. What was predicted to be a short war lasted longer than many expected.

"I expected it to last about a year, but it lasted three," Lucien Theriault said.

Theriault, a 78-year-old Korean War vet from Saint-Michel, Que., was injured during the war travelling aboard a ship on the choppy waters. He said recognition of the Korean War seems to change from year to year, with more people becoming aware of the Canadian contribution.

The Korean War is often considered the forgotten war because it was sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam War.

There have been continuing efforts to keep the Korean War in Canadians' thoughts. Veteran Affairs Canada chose the Korean War to be the subject of Veterans Week in 2003.

Some veterans pointed out parallels between the Korean War and today's "war on terror" when it comes to Canada's military involvement.

Les Peate, 78, of Ottawa noted the United Nations asked Canada to help in Korea, much like NATO asked for Canada's assistance in Afghanistan.

'IT'S WAR'

In both cases, Canada was called on "to stand up to the bad guys," he said.

Peate scoffed at past ideas to call the battle in Korea a "conflict" rather than a war.

"When you're shooting at people and they're shooting at you, it's war," he said.

There were 516 Canadian soldiers killed during the Korean War, which is seen as the country's arrival to the global peacekeeping stage.

The Korean War, Peate said, sent a clear message to countries trying to steamroll over others: "We're not going to let you get away with this." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Snowbird jet red alert Defence Department study warned of 'significant' risks to pushing aircraft past 2010

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250231

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

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**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHAWN McCAUGHEY Killed in crash

**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP

**WORD COUNT:** 384

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The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

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"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003.

"These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT-114s with British-built CT-155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium-lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis is also looking at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory — or by something entirely new, said a military official.

"The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," said Capt. Jim Hutcheson.

"We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft."

#### SPARE PART SUPPLY

The modifications, according to the 2003 study, would cost about \$32 million.

From the 1960s through to the 1990s, the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft. The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, said Hutcheson.

"They are a relatively inexpensive fleet to operate and maintain. It still remains economically and operationally viable to fly."

Investigators are looking at three possibilities in the crash that killed McCaughey: Equipment failure, pilot error or a bird strike.

McCaughey is the third Snowbird pilot to die since 1998 and the sixth in the squadron's 35-year history.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL



# Fire trucks add yellow ribbons to show support for troops

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250395  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
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**SECTION:** City &Region  
**PAGE:** C1  
**BYLINE:** JANE SIMS, SUN MEDIA  
**WORD COUNT:** 324

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The police cars have them.

Now the fire trucks do, too.

And there are discussions about the protocol to attaching decals of yellow ribbons supporting Canada's troops on other London city vehicles.

But not so fast, says one city council member ready to question the quick approval of the decals on the city's fire trucks and warning there should be a more fulsome discussion about the issue.

"If people want to tie ribbons around trees, I see that as legitimate," said Ward 11 Coun. David Winner. "But if people want to display these things on public vehicles then, naturally, there's going to be some debate about that."

The decision, he said, "doesn't reflect the diversity of belief."

"You know, if people are pulling Christmas trees out of city hall lobbies or courthouses, why should ribbons be on public vehicles?" he said.

Winner suggested that the popular show of support for Canadian troops could be seen as an endorsement of the war in Afghanistan.

"It may fail to respect a genuine debate . . . as to whether Canada will no longer be seen in the future as a peacekeeper and simply an arm of NATO and, indirectly, the United States."

Winner noted the number of deaths — three more Canadians just last week bringing the death toll to 60 since 2002 — and no commitment to bringing the troops home.

Winner made his comments on the eve of city council's rubber-stamp of the fire truck decision.

Board of control already agreed to chief administrator Jeff Fielding's approval of the ribbons that are already attached to the fire trucks.

The decision came a month after London police chief Murray Faulkner stood by his decision in the face of some public criticism to have the ribbons on police vehicles.

Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco–Best said the firefighters' association went to fire Chief John Kobarda about the ribbons.

The request was brought to Fielding, who authorized the plan, then went to board of control for approval.

"We are fully behind it 100 per cent and just think it is a good thing," DeCicco–Best said.

"It's a way to show support for the people involved. It's not about taking any kind of political stand," she said.

The mayor said she supports the police and the firefighters and, if other emergency services wanted ribbons, she would support them, too.

The board asked administration to explore ways to show the troops support if other areas of city hall, such as the city works, asked for ribbons on their vehicles.

Winninger didn't back ribbons on police vehicles. He said he wants to talk to his council colleagues, but said public vehicles are paid for by taxpayers. "Not everyone probably wants to see them used for a particular ideological purpose." KEYWORDS=LOCAL

# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250359  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A8  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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# Report urged new jets in 2003 The aging Tutor jets are flown by the Snowbird squadron.

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250342  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 213

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Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT-114s with British-built CT-155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

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The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed: "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by CP and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009.

With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium-lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is currently conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Taliban tactics killing civilians

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250341  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** ALISA TANG, AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 310

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Taliban fighters attack American or NATO forces in populated areas, then retreat to civilian homes. Western forces respond with massive firepower or an air strike.

That increasingly common pattern of clashes has led to a climbing number of civilian deaths and rising anger among Afghan officials and ordinary people. While militants killed 178 civilians in attacks through June 23, western forces killed 203, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and international officials.

Exact counts are nearly impossible in the chaos of war. Separate figures from the United Nations and an umbrella organization of Afghan and international aid groups show that, through May 31, the number of civilians killed by international forces was roughly equal to those killed by insurgents.

What is clear is the political fallout: President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly pleaded with foreign troops to exercise caution and work more closely with Afghan forces, who might be able to minimize civilian casualties because of their knowledge of the terrain. On the weekend, he denounced the Taliban for killing civilians but directed most of his anger at foreign forces for being careless and viewing Afghan lives as "cheap."

NATO defends its right to fire on anyone who fires at its troops first, noting that it is not intentionally targeting civilians, as the Taliban sometimes does. The U.S.-led coalition suggested that many civilians reportedly killed by international troops may in fact have been killed by insurgents.

But such arguments fail to address the growing Afghan anger, said Michael Shaikh, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Afghanistan.

"When you're on the ground and your child has been killed by a 2,000-pound bomb, you don't care if the attack was legal or illegal in the laws of war. You care if your son or daughter was killed," Shaikh said.

"That's what NATO is not getting. They need to be doing it cleaner and doing it better. Every death has a profound effect on the Afghan population," he said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Bodies of soldiers returned A ceremony is held for the three latest casualties killed in Afghanistan.

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250340  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Reuters FLORAL TRIBUTE: Kelly Bouzane prepares to place a flower in the hearse carrying her brother, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. Cpl. Bouzane, who was attached to Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, was killed along with two others in Afghanistan Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated underneath the unarmoured vehicle they were in.

**BYLINE:** MELISSA JUERGENSEN, CP  
**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON  
**WORD COUNT:** 222

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A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of the three latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan were returned to Canadian soil at a ceremony at this eastern Ontario military base yesterday.

A bagpiper played a separate tribute to each of the soldiers as each casket was removed from the plane in descending order of rank.

Caskets carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe were welcomed by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson and Gen. Rick Hillier.

Clarkson attended in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three soldiers served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed the throng of flag-waving supporters who were waiting outside the gates surrounding the tarmac.

The visibly-emotional families of each soldier were present at the ceremony and physically supported each other as their loved ones made a final return.

Last week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described him as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had life-long aspirations for a military career.

"This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said. "He was very proud to be a part of this."

The men were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, hit a roadside bomb west of Kandahar. The deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds. Roadside bombs are responsible for more than a third of the 60 deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# NATO dogged by civilian deaths Plug here

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250590  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 25  
**BYLINE:** ALISA TANG, AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 683

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Taliban fighters attack NATO forces in populated areas, then retreat to civilian homes. Western forces respond with massive firepower or an air strike.

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Exact counts are nearly impossible in the chaos of war. Separate figures from the United Nations and an umbrella organization of Afghan and international aid groups show that, through May 31, the number of civilians killed by international forces was roughly equal to those killed by insurgents.

What is clear is the political fallout: President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly pleaded with foreign troops to exercise caution and work more closely with Afghan forces, who might be able to minimize civilian casualties. On Saturday, he directed his anger at foreign forces for being careless and viewing Afghan lives as cheap. "Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be treated as such," Karzai said.

NATO defends its right to fire on anyone who fires at its troops first, noting that it is not intentionally targeting civilians, as the Taliban sometimes does. The U.S.-led coalition suggested that many civilians reportedly killed by NATO troops may in fact have been killed by insurgents.

But such arguments fail to address the growing Afghan anger, said Michael Shaikh, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Afghanistan.

"When you're on the ground and your child has been killed by a 2,000-pound bomb, you don't care if the attack was legal or illegal in the laws of war. You care if your son or daughter was killed," Shaikh said.

"That's what NATO is not getting. They need to be doing it cleaner and doing it better. Every death has a profound effect on the Afghan population," he said.

A remote-controlled bomb hit a convoy of British troops on Sunday, killing one soldier and prompting them to open fire in a civilian area in Helmand's main city of Lashkar Gah, killing one man, said police chief Mohammad Hussain.

Like that clash, much of Afghanistan's violence takes place in remote areas too far or dangerous for independent observers to reach, and it is not uncommon for figures cited by international forces, the UN or Afghan officials to vary widely.

In addition, militants often wear civilian dress and seek shelter in innocent villagers' homes, making it hard to differentiate between fighters and civilians in the aftermath of battles.

Further complicating death toll counts, Afghans tend to bury their dead soon after they are killed — following the rules of Islam — and those deaths are hard to verify or not included in casualty tolls.

The AP count of civilian casualties runs from Jan. 1 through June 23 and is based on reports from witnesses and U.S., UN, NATO and Afghan officials. Of the 399 civilian deaths in the tally, 18 were reportedly from crossfire between Taliban militants and foreign forces.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has counted 213 civilians killed by insurgents through May and 207 killed by Afghan and international forces, based on reports from Afghan and international forces and verification by its own human rights officers.

ACBAR — the Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief — has counted 230 civilians killed in U.S. and NATO operations through May and roughly the same number killed by militants. The ACBAR tally is based on numbers from the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Afghan NGO Security Office and the UN.

The UN and ACBAR figures do not include June, which saw a huge spike in military operations and insurgency attacks. Karzai on Saturday said that in the past 10 days more than 90 civilians have been killed in U.S. or NATO operations. He did not say how many had been killed by the Taliban.

The U.S. and NATO said they did not have civilian casualty figures.

NATO says it tries to observe a target for as long as possible from both the ground and the air and only attacks it if there is no sign of civilians. NATO blames the insurgents for hiding among civilians, and insists that troops have the right to defend themselves.

"If someone's firing at me, he's a combatant," said Maj. John Thomas, a spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Maj. Chris Belcher, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, suggested that some civilians reportedly killed by foreign forces may in fact have been killed by insurgents.

"It's not always clear if a civilian casualty is caused by an extremist or coalition forces," Belcher said.

KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Snowbirds getting old

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250586  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 21  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**WORD COUNT:** 324

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The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s–vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if absolutely necessary.

"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August 2003.

"These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT–114s with British–built CT–155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," said the report.

The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600–million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009.

With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy and medium–lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis is also looking at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory – or by something entirely new, said a military official.

"The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," said Capt. Jim Hutcheson.

"We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft."

The modifications, according to the 2003 study, would cost about \$32 million.

From the 1960s through to the 1990s, the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft.

The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, said Hutcheson. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250577  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer needs to do more than beg Canada to keep its soldiers in Afghanistan beyond February 2009.

Scheffer, here last week trying to shore up support for NATO's ongoing military mission in Kandahar, must convince more members of the 26-nation alliance to start carrying their fair share of the load.

This means getting more NATO countries to agree to send their forces into the deadly Kandahar region in the south, equipped with rules of engagement to hunt down the Taliban.

At present, Canada's 2,500 soldiers and support troops in Kandahar, along with soldiers from only a handful of other NATO countries, are doing most of the fighting.

As a result, they are sustaining rising casualties, with 60 soldiers dead as of last week and many more wounded, especially since the Canadians moved from the relative safety of the capital city of Kabul to Kandahar, a decision of the previous Liberal government.

Since winning parliamentary approval, barely, to continue the mission until 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised to submit to the House of Commons any motion calling for a further extension of our soldiers' stay beyond that.

If Harper were to hold that vote today, he would lose. All three opposition parties support ending the Kandahar mission by 2009 at the latest. NDP Leader Jack Layton wants our soldiers brought home now.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion has left open the possibility the Liberals might support troop deployments to Afghanistan beyond 2009, but only if they were for humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, not combat.

The reality Harper faces is that while Canadians are deeply divided on the Kandahar mission and most want us out of Afghanistan by 2009, military experts have repeatedly warned NATO's mission there will have to continue long after 2009 -- maybe for decades -- to be successful.

There is, understandably, no enthusiasm among Canadians for seeing increasing numbers of our soldiers coming home from Afghanistan in coffins indefinitely.

Nor should there be. If NATO wants Canada to recommit to the Afghanistan mission beyond 2009, it must first do so itself.

# Call to service Dishing up Tim Hortons goodies in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250573

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 7

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo Courtesy Julie Brown Julie Brown mans the window of the Tim Hortons at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

**BYLINE:** JOE WARMINGTON, SUN MEDIA

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**WORD COUNT:** 361

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She has had the rare honour of serving her country at the same time as serving those who serve.

And Julie Brown, amongst many other brave civilians who have done a tour in Afghanistan, is a special kind of war veteran.

"It was life-changing," said Julie, who is back from Kandahar just one week after six months of working in the famous Tim Hortons franchise at the Kandahar Airfield.

"I was so proud to be able to do my part to help these fine men and women who sacrifice so much."

## MOTHER-OF-TWO

The 34-year-old Cookstown, Ont., mother-of-two sacrificed as well.

For six months she put herself in harm's way to take the job at the Tim's in a war zone.

"My kids wanted me to do it," she said. "And I really wanted to do my part."

"We are so proud of her," said her boyfriend, Ed Knox. "We were fully behind her decision right from the beginning."

She had a call to service.

"But not everybody can join the military and be a soldier," she said. "This was what I could do."

She had worked as an assistant manager at a Tim Hortons in Newmarket north of Toronto for seven years and knew the ropes. But it did not prepare her for what would go on at Kandahar.

You don't have to wear combat gear on your way to work in Newmarket and you never hear explosions and rocket launchers either.

"When I first got there I was thinking, 'What did I get myself into?' " she said.

And then she met the soldiers.

"They are so brave," she said. "All of us were so impressed with them. I hope Canadians know how special they are."

The Tim Hortons there has all of the same trademarks and a lot of the same products.

The difference?

The lineups are a little longer.

"People would line up for an hour for a coffee," she said. "If this was at home, people would complain for sure. But nobody ever complained there."

Even Gen. Rick Hillier, NHL stars like Tiger Williams and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have stood in that line – as well as troops from the United States, Great Britain and even some Afghan locals who became hooked on the ice cappuccinos.

She said there was just something about the coffee, bagels and doughnuts that went over so well with the troops.

"I know whenever I was around the Kandahar Airfield I went there every day," said Master Cpl. Jody Mitic. "It was a real morale-booster for everyone."

Julie said you could see that on every soldier's face.

"I think it was a little piece of home and for five minutes you forgot about where you were."

But there would be constant reminders of exactly where you were.

"You'd see guys pull up in a tank or armoured vehicle, wearing full combat gear, get off and come over and order coffees, get back on the tank with them and go out on patrol," she said shaking her head in amazement.

Sometimes some of those soldiers didn't come back.

"You'd know something was wrong because everything would be locked down," she said.

Then the harsh reality hits the base. In her time there, she felt the pain of more than 20 soldiers dying in action.

**KNEW EVERY FACE**

"I didn't know every name, but I knew every face," she said.

"The hardest thing over there was the ramp ceremonies to send them home."

While it was difficult, she needed to be there and understands why people here are drawn to highway overpasses to salute the fallen soldiers as they're brought home.

As difficult as it is to deal with, she said everybody would get back to work and soldier on.

And people like Julie Brown are proud to do that. **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

# Tearful homecoming Bodies of three soldiers flown from Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250569

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** 2 photos by CP 1. Anna Thede, fiancée of Pte. Joel Wiebe, makes her way to the back of a hearse carrying his remains during a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton, Ont., yesterday. 2. Wiebe's body is solemnly carried from a military aircraft.

**BYLINE:** MELISSA JUERGENSEN, CP

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.

**WORD COUNT:** 324

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A bagpiper played three separate tributes to the latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan as the bodies of three soldiers were returned to Canadian soil yesterday.

A grey military aircraft carrying the remains of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe flew into this eastern Ontario military base to be met by grieving family members.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and Gen. Rick Hillier were also present.

As a former governor general, Clarkson attended the ceremony in her military capacity as colonel-in-chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three men served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed a throng of supporters who lined the gates surrounding the tarmac, many waving Canadian flags.

Trenton resident Brenda Miller said she stands outside the gates of the tarmac during every repatriation ceremony.

"I wish they'd come home better," she said, waving a small flag inscribed with the names of all 60 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan.

"I'm just so upset I can't even talk tonight."

Once the doors of the military aircraft opened, the soldiers' caskets were carried from the aircraft in descending order of rank.

Visibly emotional family members of each soldier were physically supported by one another as their loved ones completed their final journey home.

Karigiannis's body was the first to be lifted from the aircraft and returned to his grieving family.

One relative wept and held her face in her hands as she welcomed him home.

As Karigiannis's body was loaded into a waiting hearse, Bouzane's family held onto one another as they prepared to receive him.

One family member held out a pink rose and kissed it as soldiers marched across the tarmac bearing Bouzane's casket. Another clutched a framed photograph of the 26-year-old.

The casket containing Wiebe's body was carried next from the aircraft.

Speaking last week, Wiebe's fiancée Anna Thede described Wiebe as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding that he had life-long aspirations for a military career.

"This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said. "He was very proud to be a part of this."

In a brilliant and emotional show of support, a sea of red and white lined highway overpasses east of Toronto last night as the convoy carrying the three fallen soldiers travelled towards the city from Trenton.

Hundreds of people stood on several overpasses above busy Highway 401, most either wearing Canada's colours or waving Canadian flags.

The three soldiers were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured utility vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds.

KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Air force urged to ground Tutor jets

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250670  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 19  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHAWN McCAUGHEY Killed in crash  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 191

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The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbirds demonstration squadron.

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"These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified."

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The 2003 analysis recommended National Defence proceed "immediately."

A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600-million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009.

With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL



# NATO must set example in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250663  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** LORRIE GOLDSTEIN  
**COLUMN:** Editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 299

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# Afghan blast kills Brit soldier

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250659

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 12

**BYLINE:** AP

**DATELINE:** LONDON

**WORD COUNT:** 80

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An explosion in southern Afghanistan yesterday killed a British soldier and injured four others, the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier from the Worcester and Sherwood Forrester Regiment died after the "Snatch" Land Rover he was travelling in was caught in the explosion near Lashkar Gah, in the volatile Helmand province, the ministry said.

The vehicle had been escorting a military team to survey a site for a new road project linking several villages in the Babaji area.

All five soldiers caught in the blast were airlifted to hospital, where one was pronounced dead.

He was not identified, pending notification of his next of kin. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Slain soldiers back in Canada Families receive bodies for three killed by bomb

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**SOURCETAG** 0706250648

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 7

**ILLUSTRATION:**

1. photo by Fred Thornhill, Reuters Kelly Bouzane prepares to place a flower in the hearse carrying her brother Cpl. Stephen Bouzane at CFB Trenton, Ont., yesterday. The bodies of Bouzane along with Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Pte. Joel Wiebe were returned to Canada. The three were killed in Afghanistan. 2. photo of CHRISTOS KARIGIANNIS Returned home 3. photo of STEPHEN BOUZANE Repatriated 4. photo of JOEL WIEBE Proud soldier

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.

**WORD COUNT:** 287

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A bagpiper played three separate tributes to the latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan as the bodies of three soldiers were returned to Canadian soil yesterday.

A grey military aircraft carrying the bodies of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe flew into this eastern Ontario military base to be greeted by grieving family members.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and Gen. Rick Hillier were also present.

As a former governor general, Clarkson attended the ceremony in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three men served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed a throng of supporters who lined the gates surrounding the tarmac, waving Canadian flags.

Trenton, Ont., resident Brenda Miller said she stands outside the gates of the tarmac during every repatriation ceremony.

"I wish they'd come home better," she said, waving a small flag inscribed with the names of all 60 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan.

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One relative wept and held her face in her hands as she welcomed him home.

As Karigiannis' body was loaded into a waiting hearse, Bouzane's family held onto one another as they prepared to receive him.

One family member held out a pink rose and kissed it as soldiers marched across the tarmac bearing Bouzane's casket.

Another clutched a framed photo of the 26-year-old.

After paying personal tributes to their fallen soldier, Bouzane's family stood aside as the casket containing Wiebe's body was carried from the aircraft.

Speaking last week, Wiebe's fiancée, Anna Thede, described Wiebe as a committed soldier who was devoted to family, adding he had life-long aspirations for a military career.

"This job is what Joel chose. This is the job that Joel wanted," she said.

"He was very proud to be a part of this."

The three soldiers were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was hit by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

The soldiers' deaths caused the Canadian military to suspend the use of the vehicles outside secure compounds.

Roadside bombs are responsible for more than one-third of the deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.  
KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Fallen soldiers returned home in sombre ceremony; Three men killed by roadside bomb blast in Afghanistan's Panjwaii valley last week

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250110

**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A10

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: FRED THORNHILL, REUTERS / Kelly Bouzane prepares to place a rose in the hearse carrying the remains of her brother, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane, at the Canadian Forces Base in Trenton, Ont., yesterday. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; CANADIANS

**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 260

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The bodies of three more Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan were repatriated yesterday afternoon in another sombre ceremony played out on the grey tarmac of CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Pte. Joel Wiebe and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their flag-draped coffins were unloaded one-by-one from a Canadian Forces long-range transport and borne by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Emotional relatives, military brass and soldiers attended the ceremony as did Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier.

The three soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device that was detonated Wednesday as they passed by in an unarmoured vehicle in the Panjwaii valley, an hour's drive southwest of Kandahar. Their deaths bring the Canadian military's toll in Afghanistan to 60 since 2002. A diplomat was also killed by insurgents.

The Canadian Forces has now suspended use of the light vehicle, called a Gator, to all but secured areas.

Karigiannis was from Montreal. Bouzane, who was born in Little Bay, N.L., also lived in Scarborough, Ont.

Wiebe, who was on his first tour of Afghanistan, became engaged shortly before his deployment. He and Anna Thede had set their wedding date for February.

"Joel was a giving person who was always ready with a smile and a joke to cheer his friends," Thede said recently. "His buddies often called him 'the happiest man in NATO.' He was very loving and was very loved."

In a statement last week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called the losses a terrible tragedy.

"Our thoughts and prayers and our condolences and heartfelt sympathies go out to their families, friends and colleagues."

Fallen soldiers returned home in sombre ceremony; Three men killed by roadside bomb blast in Afghanistan

All three were due to be rotated out of Afghanistan in August.

# Overdue army blueprint expected in July; Amount in budget is key concern. Analysts and military officials fear money will fall short of Canadian Forces' needs

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250107  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**KEYWORDS:** ARMED FORCES; DEFENCE  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** DAVID PUGLIESE  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 575

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The Conservative government's long-awaited defence strategy paper could be released as early as next month but there are growing concerns among some analysts and those in the military that it will fall far short on the money needed to prepare the Canadian Forces for the future.

The government's Canada First Defence Strategy has long been completed but hasn't been released publicly.

Defence department sources say they believe the strategy will be released in July.

But others have suggested the release of the strategy could be further delayed if Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is shuffled out of the portfolio because of concerns in the Conservative government he has fumbled the ball on a number of occasions, in particular with issues concerning the war in Afghanistan.

One method the government might use would be to roll out parts of the strategy piecemeal, with separate announcements such as a decision to proceed on new Arctic patrol ships, made over a period of time, they say.

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, chairperson of the senate's defence committee, says he is expecting the policy to be released in the next few weeks.

"I've heard that it's going to be released in July but it won't have any (financial) numbers associated with it," he said.

The release of the document, crafted by the military to meet the Conservative's defence vision, is almost a year late. Officials with O'Connor's office stated last year the strategy would be ready in the summer of 2006. They then changed that to the fall and then later said the strategy would come out by the end of 2006.

In an email sent Thursday, O'Connor's office stated: "When we are ready to announce more on this, we will do so."

That same mailed sentence is the standard communication line from O'Connor's office used to answer questions on a variety of issues, ranging from the defence strategy to when a compensation package might be ready for Canadian veterans exposed to nuclear fallout during the Cold War.

Overdue army blueprint expected in July; Amount in budget is key concern. Analysts and military officials fear

Lt.-Gen. Walter Natynczyk has been given the job of convincing key government bureaucrats, like Privy Council Clerk Kevin Lynch, to support the strategy. "If they haven't sold Kevin Lynch on this you really don't get to the prime minister," Kenny explained.

Military analyst Eric Lerhe said the issue is that the Canadian Forces' budget needs are beyond what any government wants to deal with. He believes the Conservatives are willing to continue boosting defence spending, now at around \$18 billion a year, to eventually around \$20 billion. But that is their limit, suggests Lerhe, a retired commodore and analyst with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute.

"The problem with a \$20-billion budget is that you have a military that needs \$30 billion a year to do their job," Lerhe said.

Earlier this year, the Ottawa Citizen obtained a copy of the Canada First strategy paper and printed details of the document. Among those were plans to proceed with the purchase of a fleet of Arctic patrol ships, cancel a plan to buy a new wheeled armoured vehicle called the Mobile Gun System, proceed with plans to provide new weapons for the Griffon helicopters, and create a maritime special operations unit.

At the time O'Connor labelled such reports as "rumour" and speculation.

In the last several months, the army, however, has cancelled the Mobile Gun System program and air force commander Lt.-Gen. Steve Lucas has stated he wants to outfit the Griffons with weapon systems. The navy and special operations command are currently in discussions on how to proceed with the new maritime commando unit, officers also confirm. A key cabinet committee has also approved the Arctic Patrol vessel program.



# Soldier killed in explosion

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250087  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A16  
**KEYWORDS:** EXPLOSIONS; GAS LEAKS  
**DATELINE:** LONDON  
**SOURCE:** AFP  
**WORD COUNT:** 86

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A British soldier was killed yesterday and four others injured in an explosion in Afghanistan's restive southern Helmand province, the British defence ministry said.

Their armoured Land Rover was escorting a team surveying the site for a new road project linking villages near Lashkar Gar, the provincial capital, when the explosion occurred.

Soon after the explosion, one man was shot and killed and another wounded after they ignored repeated calls to stop at a security cordon near the blast site.

The men were driving towards the cordon and ignored warnings from soldiers, including shouts, flares, and warning shots.

# Hand in hand: Taliban and drug lords; Mountie tracks links in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250086  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A16  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; DRUGS; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** TOM BLACKWELL  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 349

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The increasingly bloody terror attacks plaguing Afghanistan are largely a product of the Taliban's "symbiotic" relationship with narcotics cartels, says an RCMP officer who has been quietly tracking those ties.

Breaking the highly profitable alliance between the fundamentalist Muslims and the world's most prolific heroin traffickers is key to defeating the insurgency, said Insp. Paul Richards.

Having just wrapped up a year in Kandahar as a counter-narcotics adviser to the Canadian Forces, the veteran intelligence officer was offering a rare public glimpse of his findings.

The Taliban is not, as some western officials maintain, a narco-terrorist group directly involved in producing heroin itself, said Richards. It does, however, receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers and for generally creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the business, he said.

"They work very, very closely together and that's how the Taliban funds what they're doing ... whether it's paying a suicide bomber's family, whether it's buying bullets, whether it's buying food," said the officer.

"The Taliban have become very reliant on the narco-economy. They are completely dependent on it."

In turn, the instability sown by the insurgent attacks – many of which have killed Canadian troops – aids the drug lords by making it easier for them to carry out their illicit activities, he said.

The trade is contributing to problems closer to home, too. The "vast majority" of heroin on Canadian streets likely originated here, Richards said.

Still, he is hopeful change will come, noting that former heroin hotbeds such as Burma, Vietnam and Laos have cut back their poppy production significantly, though "it takes a long time."

A purported spokesperson for the Taliban denied the militants are working hand-in-hand with the smugglers.

The insurgents are paid alms by poppy farmers, but also by producers of wheat, corn and other crops, said Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

"Neither are we against the smugglers, nor are we in favour of them," said Qari, arguing the Islamists are

backed by the whole Muslim world. When the Taliban take power again, they will consider the traffickers' activities, he said.

There is little doubt that Islam frowns heavily on heroin use or dealing. The Taliban also receive support from other sources, allegedly including the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence service.

Local observers, however, agreed the Afghan Islamists are hooked on narcotics money.

Due in part to that co-operation, Afghanistan now accounts for 95 per cent of the world's poppy production.

National Post

# Policy aims 'beyond military solutions'

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250083  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A17  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: PHIL NOBLE, REUTERS / Gordon Brown is confirmed as Labour Party leader at leadership Conference in Manchester yesterday. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS; FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**DATELINE:** MANCHESTER, England  
**BYLINE:** KIM MURPHY  
**SOURCE:** Los Angeles Times  
**WORD COUNT:** 328

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British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday handed over leadership of the Labour Party to his finance minister, Gordon Brown, who pledged that Britain would "meet our international obligations" in Afghanistan and the Middle East but called for going beyond military solutions to combating terrorism.

"Our foreign policy in years ahead will reflect the truth that to isolate and defeat terrorist extremism now involves more than military force – it is also a struggle of ideas and ideals that in the coming years will be waged and won for hearts and minds here at home and round the world," Brown told cheering supporters at a party conference.

In recent weeks, Brown repeatedly indicated that he stands behind Blair's decision to support and help launch the invasion of Iraq in 2003 but has also said he believes that military and security efforts alone aren't enough to fight militants.

He told party activists that an "essential contribution" that "daily becomes more urgent" is the lasting settlement of the Arab–Israeli conflict, with the creation of a Palestinian state and security guarantees to Israel.

Brown also has talked of launching major economic development initiatives in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East to give the region's residents a personal stake in a peaceful future. He has not, however, publicly discussed speeding up the timetable for Britain's planned drawdown of troops in Iraq.

Blair will formally step down as prime minister on Wednesday, and Brown will hold the position at least until the next general election, which must be held by 2010. The transition came as Labor appeared to pull ahead of the Conservative Party in public confidence for the first time in eight months.

A poll for the Observer newspaper showed that 40 per cent of respondents believed that Brown would make the most capable prime minister, compared with 22 per cent for Conservative leader David Cameron. The party overall was three percentage points ahead of the Conservatives.

# Send politicians to the front lines

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250073  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
**PAGE:** A18  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 169

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It's about time that Prime Minister Stephen Harper realized that we are losing too many valuable lives in Afghanistan and Iraq. The mission is pointless.

What really galls me is when Harper, Tony Blair and George W. Bush commend the war dead for fighting for their country. They did not give their lives for their country; they gave their lives for ideals of egotistical leaders who claim they know what is right for those regions. In the Middle Ages, it was the king who led his warriors. At least two of Scotland's Stuart monarchs died in battle.

We forget about the families back home, especially the infant children who might never see their fathers. I had a brother I never saw. He was killed in action in 1944 in Italy when I was 3 years old. I also had a brother who returned, not to home but Ste. Anne's Hospital due to psychological damage created by the war.

Mr. Harper and Mr. Bush, when will we see you on the front lines?

Jim Shepherd

LaSalle

# Bodies of soldiers returned to Canada

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250061  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 215

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CFB TRENTON, Ont. — The bodies of three more Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan were repatriated late Sunday afternoon in a sombre ceremony played out on the grey tarmac of CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Their flag-draped coffins were unloaded one by one from an Canadian Forces long-range transport and borne by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Teary-eyed relatives, military brass and ordinary soldiers watched the bodies pass. Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were also there.

As is customary at such ceremonies, there were no speeches.

The three soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device that was detonated Wednesday as they passed by in an unarmoured vehicle in the Panjwahi valley, an hour's drive southwest of Kandahar.

Their deaths bring the Canadian military's toll in Afghanistan to 60 since 2002. A diplomat was also killed by insurgents.

The Canadian Forces has now suspended use of the light vehicle, called a Gator, to all but secured areas.

The three Canadian soldiers were ferrying supplies in the Gator between two check points about a kilometre apart along a narrow, windy track.

The deadly blast was a rare victory for the insurgents. The Panjwahi valley is considered a Canadian military success story, reclaimed by villagers whose lives are gradually returning to something resembling normal.

# Defence needs may be too rich for Tories' tastes

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250059  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.25  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** A8  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 574

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OTTAWA — The Conservative government's long-awaited defence strategy paper could be released as early as next month, but there are growing concerns among some analysts and those in the military that it will fall far short on the money needed to prepare the Canadian Forces for the future.

The government's Canada First Defence Strategy has long been completed but hasn't been released publicly.

Defence Department sources say they believe there is a 50–50 chance the strategy will be released in July.

But others have suggested the release of the strategy could be further delayed if Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is shuffled out of the portfolio because of concerns in the Conservative government he has fumbled the ball on a number of occasions, in particular with Afghanistan war issues.

One method the government might use would be to roll out parts of the strategy piecemeal, with separate announcements such as a decision to proceed on new Arctic patrol ships made over a period of time, they say.

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, chair of the senate's defence committee, says he is expecting the policy to be released over the next few weeks. "I've heard that it's going to be released in July but it won't have any (financial) numbers associated with it," he said.

The release of the document, crafted by the military to meet the Conservative's defence vision, is almost a year late. Officials with O'Connor's office stated last year the strategy would be ready in the summer of 2006. They then changed that to the fall and then later said the strategy would come out by the end of 2006.

In an e-mail sent Thursday, O'Connor's office stated: "When we are ready to announce more on this, we will do so."

That same mailed sentence is the standard communication line from O'Connor's office used to answer questions on a variety of issues, ranging from the defence strategy to when a compensation package might be ready for Canadian veterans exposed to nuclear fallout during the Cold War.

Lt.-Gen. Walter Natynczyk has been given the job to convince key government bureaucrats, such as Privy Council Clerk Kevin Lynch, to support the strategy.

Military analyst Eric Lerhe said the issue is that the Canadian Forces' budget needs are beyond what any government wants to deal with. He believes the Conservatives are willing to continue boosting defence spending, now at around \$18 billion a year, to eventually around \$20 billion. But that is their limit, suggests

Lerhe, a retired commodore and analyst with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute.

"The problem with a \$20-billion budget is that you have a military that needs \$30 billion a year to do their job," said Lerhe.

Earlier this year, the Ottawa Citizen obtained a copy of the Canada First strategy paper and printed details of the document. Among those were plans to proceed with the purchase of a fleet of Arctic patrol ships, cancel a plan to buy a new wheeled armoured vehicle called the Mobile Gun System, proceed with plans to provide new weapons for the Griffon helicopters and create a maritime special operations unit.

At the time O'Connor labelled such reports as rumour and speculation.

In the last several months, the army, however, has cancelled the Mobile Gun System program and air force commander Lt.-Gen. Steve Lucas has stated he wants to outfit the Griffons with weapon systems. The navy and special operations command are currently in discussions on how to proceed with the new maritime commando unit, officers also confirm. A key cabinet committee has also approved the Arctic Patrol vessel program.

(Ottawa Citizen)



# Heroin trade fuels Taliban; Links with traffickers funds Afghan insurgency, RCMP officer says

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**IDNUMBER** 200706250008

**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** D7

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Getty Images Photo / Afghan workers scrape opium sapout of poppy bulbs, it takes 10 kilograms of opium to make one kg of heroin ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 418

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The increasingly bloody terror attacks plaguing Afghanistan are largely a product of the Taliban's "symbiotic" relationship with narcotics cartels, says an RCMP officer who has been quietly tracking those ties.

Breaking the highly profitable alliance between the fundamentalist Muslims and the world's most prolific heroin traffickers is key to defeating the insurgency, said Insp. Paul Richards.

Having just wrapped up a year in Kandahar as a counter-narcotics adviser to the Canadian Forces, the veteran intelligence officer was offering a rare public glimpse of his findings.

The Taliban is not, as some western officials maintain, a narco-terrorist group directly involved in producing heroin itself, said Richards. It does, however, receive an estimated \$10 million a year for guarding drug labs and smugglers and for generally creating an atmosphere of permissiveness around the business, he told CanWest News Service.

"They work very, very closely together and that's how the Taliban funds what they're doing . . . whether it's paying a suicide bomber's family, whether it's buying bullets, whether it's buying food," said the officer. "The Taliban have become very reliant on the narco-economy. They are completely dependent on it."

In turn, the instability sown by the insurgent attacks — many of which have killed Canadian troops — aids the drug lords by making it easier for them to carry out their illicit activities, he noted.

The trade is contributing to problems closer to home, too. The "vast majority" of heroin on Canadian streets likely originated in Afghanistan, said Richards.

Still, he is hopeful change will come, noting that former heroin hotbeds such as Burma, Vietnam and Laos have cut back their poppy production significantly, though "it takes a long time."

A purported Taliban spokesperson, meanwhile, denied the militants are working hand-in-hand with the smugglers. The insurgents are paid alms by poppy farmers, but also by producers of wheat, corn and other crops, said Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

"Neither are we against the smugglers, nor are we in favour of them", said Qari, arguing the Islamists are backed by the whole Muslim world. When the Taliban take power again, they will consider the traffickers' activities, he said.

There is little doubt that Islam frowns heavily on heroin use or dealing. The Taliban also do receive support from other sources, allegedly including the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence service.

Local observers, however, agreed the Afghan Islamists are hooked on narcotics money.

"When you talk about poppies, security automatically goes with it," says Ayub Rafiqi, head of Landowners of Kandahar, an NGO representing large landlords in the province.

"This is a vicious circle: the Taliban, the government, poppy cultivation, drug lords, warlords."

The government is involved because much of the poppy crop is grown on state-owned land, with officials charging rent to poppy farmers, he said.

(National Post)

# OPPOSITION POLITICS New Afghan party full of strange bedfellows Former Communist interior minister joins forces with old enemies to fight Taliban

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760164

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A11 (MAP)

**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Kabul AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 797

**WORD COUNT:** 795

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GRAEME SMITH KABUL Said Mohammed Gulabzoy has been accused of war crimes for the horrors that his police inflicted on Afghan rebels in the 1980s, when he was interior minister.

Now, in one of the most unlikely political alliances to emerge in the new Afghanistan, Mr. Gulabzoy has joined forces with the former rebel commanders, saying his old enemies should be given support to fight the Taliban.

"Not every commander is a bad guy," Mr. Gulabzoy said. "If they were allowed to fight, maybe the Taliban wouldn't gain so much territory." The former Communist is just one of many strange bedfellows in Afghanistan's first true opposition party, the United National Front, which announced itself to a puzzled audience of journalists in March.

Commentators wondered aloud how such an eclectic group could become a coherent political voice. Most of the UNF leaders have confronted each other on the battlefield at some point during Afghanistan's three decades of war, as warlords, strongmen or mujahedeen – holy warriors.

Their ideological backgrounds range from Communist to firebrand Islamist.

One of the few things that the UNF's leadership shares, in fact, is a history of violence. Many of them have led armies of various stripes, and some are accused of atrocities. That's one of the reasons why some analysts dismiss the new front, saying its members have banded together only in hopes of escaping prosecution, as Afghan politicians debate whether to grant a sweeping amnesty for past war crimes.

Three months after its birth, however, diplomats say President Hamid Karzai is taking the front seriously. Its leaders represent some of the major armed factions that have supported his government, especially in the north, and losing their political backing places him in a difficult position as he fights a war against insurgents in the south.

"The Western view is, generally, these are a bunch of disgruntled old warhorses who want to get back in the game," a diplomat said.

"We don't see them doing much. But they've certainly frightened Karzai." Mr. Karzai was on a visit to a regional conference in India when the UNF announced its creation. The Afghan President reacted angrily to

the surprise, blaming outside influences for organizing the group.

"We have information that some foreign embassies have a hand in it," Mr. Karzai said at the time.

Pakistan would benefit from part of the front's policy platform, which calls for Afghanistan to accept the Durand Line as an international border. The line, drawn by British colonists more than a century ago, is widely recognized as the border between the two countries but remains a source of bitterness among Afghans, who claim vast swaths of Pakistan's border lands.

But the main beneficiaries of the UNF's proposals, observers say, would be the UNF leaders themselves. Many of them were regional warlords who toppled the Taliban in 2001 under the banner of the Northern Alliance, but in the following years they've watched their influence wane as successive government programs attempted to disarm the northern warlords and bring them into the political system.

The UNF platform seems aimed at reversing their decline, calling for a switch from a presidential to a parliamentary system; for elected mayors and provincial governors; and for a new voting system that would strengthen political parties.

All such changes would decentralize power, to the advantage of UNF members with regional bases of support: First Vice-President Ahmad Zia Masood in the Panjshir Valley; Energy and Water Minister Mohammad Ismail Khan in the western province of Herat; General Abdul Rashid Dostum in his northern enclave of ethnic Uzbeks; Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim in his ethnic Tajik territories; and former president Burhanuddin Rabbani in the northeastern province of Badakhshan.

The UNF also suggests giving back the weapons to their militias, saying only experienced fighters such as themselves are capable of tackling the southern insurgency.

"We have thousands of potential soldiers and police sitting jobless," Mr. Gulabzoy said in an interview at his well-appointed compound in Kabul. "The mujahedeen who opposed the Russians were very good with fighting and should be allowed to fight the Taliban." If the statement seems incongruous coming from a former Soviet client who speaks fluent Russian, it sounds more natural on the lips of Fazal Karim Aimaq, a UNF member of parliament closely aligned with Mr. Masood.

"Most of us are experienced warriors," he said after a recitation of his own battle glories. "The government now doesn't know how to fight any more." One of the looming battles for the UNF will be an internal struggle, however, as the party tries to choose a candidate for presidential elections scheduled for 2009. With many forceful personalities at the table, it's expected to be a fight.

gsmith@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; government; political

PERSONAL NAME: Hamid Karzai

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; United Nations

# The Afghan culture war

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760134

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** TONY EBERTS

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** New Westminster, B.C.

**WORDS:** 57

**WORD COUNT:** 73

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Tony Eberts New Westminster, B.C.

Margaret Wentz builds a case for Rory Stewart, who once walked across Afghanistan and who has harsh words for "well-meaning Westerners who imagine they can fashion Afghanistan into a kinder, more enlightened place." Then she blows him to bits with the words, "He favoured the invasion of Iraq." Let's hope he just keeps on walking.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: foreign policy; culture; social structure

PERSONAL NAME: Rory Stewart

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# The Afghan culture war

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760133

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** JANET KEEPING

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Calgary AB

**WORDS:** 93

**WORD COUNT:** 128

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Janet Keeping president, Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Calgary I applaud the endorsement of the idea that there is little hope of helping others build a better society until we know them well enough to craft truly appropriate programs. But it does not follow that people we do not yet fully understand do not want something better than what they have.

I have no doubt that Afghans would choose literacy over illiteracy, or that the women of Afghanistan would choose a life of dignity if this were possible. To deny this is to say Afghans are not entitled to basic human rights.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:foreign policy; culture; social structure

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

## 99 44/100 surety

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760131

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** JOHN DALY

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Burnaby, B.C.

**WORDS:** 17

**WORD COUNT:** 21

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John Daly Burnaby, B.C.

Here's my bumper sticker: I oppose the mission in Afghanistan and the soldiers implementing that mission.

# The Afghan culture war

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760117

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** ROBERT JOHANNSON

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Dauphin, Man.

**WORDS:** 60

**WORD COUNT:** 79

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Robert Johannson Dauphin, Man.

Re The Trouble With Nation–Building (June 23): The conventional wisdom on corporate culture is that you can change it, but it costs a fortune and it takes forever. To believe that you can move a few thousand troops and a few million dollars into Afghanistan and change the culture of a whole country is the ultimate in imperial arrogance.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: foreign policy; culture; social structure

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces



# It's about time Mr. Harper listened to the people

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071760116

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A15

**BYLINE:** LAWRENCE MARTIN

**SECTION:** Comment Column

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 722

**WORD COUNT:** 652

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LAWRENCE MARTIN It took a lot of time. It cost him a lot of needless grief. But at last, the Prime Minister is listening to the people.

At a press conference Friday, Stephen Harper declared he would seek an all-party consensus before extending the combat mission in Afghanistan. Make no mistake: These were code words for the end of our war mission. He was essentially saying that in a year and a half, other North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners can take their turn at the combat role. Canada will refocus on its humanitarian role.

It's one of the smarter things the Prime Minister has done in a while – and it will win him public favour. According to polls, two-thirds of Canadians want the combat role to end in February, 2009. But Mr. Harper and Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor had been stubbornly suggesting that the fighting could go on for years.

It made no sense. On some things, the Prime Minister can buck public opinion. On war, it's better not to try.

Only a month ago, Mr. Harper said during a visit to Afghanistan that Canada "can't set arbitrary deadlines and hope for the best.

. . . We can't just put down our weapons and hope for peace." With his new announcement, the Prime Minister is eating his words yet again. He will likely soon add to flip-flop mountain when he bends to critics and dumps the blunder-plagued Mr. O'Connor, after months of needlessly letting him dangle.

For someone with as much hubris in the tank as this Prime Minister, heeding the word of his critics (media included) is a most painstaking exercise. But bringing in a new war policy and a new war chief might just save his political hide.

There were more Canadian deaths in Afghanistan last week, and more reports of Western troops blowing up Afghan civilians, including children. The enemy, meanwhile, is showing few signs of wilting.

With the coming deployment of 2,500 soldiers from Quebec, where 70 per cent oppose the war, more tension is likely.

Mr. Harper looked at the chances of progress on the war front turning public opinion around and decided such chances were very slim indeed.

On the matter of war, the Canadian people have demonstrated good judgment. In signalling to Jean Chretien's

government that they did not wish to join the invasion of Iraq, they made the right call.

Mr. Harper and his Conservative flock were leaning the other way.

In Afghanistan, a similar scenario looked to be taking shape. The public, the Liberals and the other opposition parties wanted to adhere to the 2009 deadline. Not so the Harperites.

On Afghanistan, the issues have been thrashed out over a long period of time. It's not as if the public has had only one side of the story. It was even been subjected to war lectures from Don Cherry on Hockey Night in Canada .

Canadians aren't quitters. They don't want an immediate withdrawal.

But they feel that by 2009, they will have done their part. They are now realizing that this is one of those conflicts with no fixed limits – one where battles can be won, but not the war itself.

As far back as 1962, John F. Kennedy told journalist Ben Bradlee.

"We can prevent one nation's army from moving across the border of another nation. We are strong enough for that . . . But we can't prevent infiltration, assassination, sabotage, bribery, any of the weapons of guerrilla warfare." The guerrilla nature of the Taliban is the type he was talking about. They suffer setbacks, but they don't go away. The burden for fighting them should be shared – and no Canadians should have their loyalty to country put to question by diversionary debate over whether or not they support our troops. It's an insult to their intelligence, a fatuous way of suppressing dissent, one that blinded Americans and their news media, creating conditions for the Iraq debacle.

The issue is not whether our troops are good (they are) or whether we support them (I don't know anyone who doesn't). It's whether a majority of Canadians want them to be offered up in this war beyond the start of 2009.

They don't.

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ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: government; political; defence; policy; foreign policy

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; North Atlantic Treaty Organization

# PRISONERS IN AFGHANISTAN Detainees' claims won't be fully checked Official investigation of abuse can't look at what happened after prisoners were handed over to Afghan authorities, military says

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**IDN:** 071760114

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** PAUL KORING

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 609

**WORD COUNT:** 586

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PAUL KORING Canada's military probe into the handling of Afghan detainees won't concern itself with whether they are tortured or abused in prisons, a spokesman for the board of inquiry has confirmed.

"The board's mandate is to make findings and recommendations up to the point when our soldiers transfer detainees to Afghan authorities," Lieutenant-Commander Philip Anido, a spokesman for the board, said in a written response to questions from The Globe and Mail.

The decision not to probe widespread allegations of torture and abuse of detainees turned over to Afghan authorities or the effectiveness of the intrusive new monitoring arrangements, which send Canadian soldiers and diplomats into Afghan prisons, limits the inquiry.

Although the board was originally ordered by Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier more than four months ago in the wake of allegations that three detainees may have been abused by Canadian soldiers, the scope of allegations has grown significantly since then.

In May, the Harper government agreed to new arrangements with the Afghan government that included monitoring arrangements to ensure detainees weren't tortured after being handed over.

That came after Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor admitted he had misled Parliament for nearly a year by claiming that the International Committee of the Red Cross would report back to Canada if it found abuse in Afghan prisons.

It also followed revelations that the government's own human-rights report on Afghanistan, first suppressed and then heavily censored, concluded that abuse was rife.

And it came after more than two dozen detainees told The Globe and Mail they had been ill-treated and tortured.

The new agreement – actually a sweeping addition to the original transfer arrangement signed by Gen. Hillier in December, 2005 – came after the board of inquiry was created. But nothing seems to preclude the board from looking at the new arrangements, which are designed to meet Canada's constitutional and international

obligations to insure that prisoners are not transferred to those likely to torture or abuse them.

"The agreement that we entered into is actually one that is significantly enhanced from the flawed agreement that the Liberals entered into," Tory House Leader Peter Van Loan said.

Although the board of inquiry was charged with examining "all relevant orders and directives that govern the treatment and processing of detainees in Afghanistan while they are in Canadian Forces custody," the policy landscape has changed since it was created.

The board acknowledges as much. The original December, 2005, agreement and the follow-on monitoring arrangements set out in the May, 2007, supplement "are benchmark documents, which establish the procedures in the event of a transfer from the custody of the Canadian Forces to the custody of the Afghan authorities," it said in a written response.

The May agreement means that Canadian military personnel, like their Dutch and British counterparts, will be part of follow-on inspection teams checking detainees transferred to Afghan prisons.

It remains unclear why the board of inquiry examining the Canadian Forces policies and procedures regarding detainees hasn't expanded its scope to reflect the new monitoring.

Instead, it says it will "make findings and recommendations on orders, directives, procedures, and training" but only on those "in effect in April, 2006." That means the board will "make recommendations for changes and improvements" based on a detainee transfer and monitoring situation that has already been changed by the new May, 2007, arrangements.

The board is expected to report in the fall. A separate military police criminal probe into the allegations of abuse of detainees by Canadian soldiers is also under way, as is an outside investigation by the Military Police Complaints Commission.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; foreign policy; defence; prisoners; human rights

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# CAREER MOVES: OLDER ENLISTEES IN THE RANKS 40 and in fighting form Even as Canadian casualties mount in Afghanistan, mature adults are joining the army in greater numbers. Although most of them won't land on the front lines ,David Andreatta examines the reasons some seasoned professionals are ditching their day jobs and heading for basic training

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

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**DATE:** 2007.06.25

**PAGE:** L1 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** DAVID ANDREATTA

**SECTION:** Globe Life

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 1147

**WORD COUNT:** 1069

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David Andreatta When Sub-Lieutenant Alain Blondin joined the navy in 1982 and found he was the eldest of his platoon, he felt over the hill at the ripe old age of 21.

Two decades later in 2002, when he re-enlisted after 17 years as an industrial mechanic in the private sector, he was shipped off to basic training with a woman four years his senior.

"Twenty-five years ago, someone my age would have really been a fish out of water [in a platoon]," says SLt. Blondin, 46, who is stationed in Halifax. "Nowadays, it's normal – or at least it's accepted." Swept up by the promise of an exhilarating career, signing bonuses for their professional skills and a sense of patriotism, greater numbers of mature adults are joining the Canadian Forces, where the proportion of new full-time recruits over the age of 25 has quadrupled since 1982.

Of the 6,536 new full-time enlistees over the past year, 39 per cent were older than 25, compared with 10 per cent 25 years ago, the military says.

The increase comes at a time when casualties continue to mount among Canadians serving in Afghanistan, where four soldiers have been killed by roadside bombs in the past two weeks alone.

"My wife's been supportive, although of course she's not crazy about her husband going to a potentially dangerous part of the world," says Captain William Swales, 43, who enlisted last year despite having three young children and a fourth on the way.

Capt. Swales, a flight surgeon based in Trenton, Ont., and possibly bound for Afghanistan next year, said having his children understand that his skills could help limit the carnage overseas was a factor in his

decision.

"We would watch these repatriation ceremonies on television, and I would say, 'Would you want Dad to help them if he could?' " Capt.

Swales says. "I told them I'm not going to hurt anybody. They're pretty understanding about that." Convincing his colleagues at Peterborough Regional Health Centre was another matter, Capt. Swales recalls. Even with an advertised signing bonus of up to \$225,000 for physicians, he took a 25-per-cent pay cut to join the military. He plans to serve until retirement.

Recruiters attribute the rise in older recruits in part to the more specialized disciplines – such as lawyers, doctors and computer technicians – required by the Forces and whose training takes time.

Few of these older recruits will find themselves in combat units on the front line.

The increase is also likely a function of the greater number of Canadians deferring career plans to continue their education beyond high school.

SLt. Blondin felt compelled to re-enlist when he visited a recruiting centre in Ottawa with his then 17-year-old son and learned his prior service qualified him to earn close to \$40,000 a year as a naval officer. Five months later, he closed his industrial mechanics business and was in boot camp.

"When the lady started interviewing my son, I was standing over him looking at the pay scale and said, just as a joke, 'How much would you give me?' " recalls SLt. Blondin, who has a son in the army and another in the navy. "She took me quite seriously. I told her I was too old. She said, 'No, you're not.' " Another factor, observers say, was the extension of the compulsory retirement age in 2004 to 60 from 55.

The move had the ancillary effect of boosting the maximum age for new recruits across all occupations by five years, effectively permitting a 57-year-old who could pass the physical fitness requirement to enlist for a three-year engagement.

But the overwhelming majority of older enlistees, recruiters say, join because of dissatisfaction with their civilian jobs.

"There are a lot of people coming through our doors with high levels of education who find they've been missing something on the civilian side," says Sub-Lieutenant Steve Churm, a recruitment officer in Hamilton. "On the professional side, we're seeing a lot of people with law degrees." Where the average age of a new recruit hovered at about 21 prior to 1990, it has steadily crept upward. By 1995, it had risen to 22, topped 25 in 2000, and was a shade less than 28 in 2005, according to the Forces.

Perhaps not coincidentally, 2005 marked a turning point in the military as the proportion of new recruits older than 25 hit 60 per cent.

The Forces mandated that more than half of new recruits be placed in combat units, and launched its most aggressive recruiting campaign in recent memory, marked by slick television ads, a spectacle at the Canadian Football League's Grey Cup game and a revamped website that invites users to "Join Us" with the click of a mouse.

"In the last two years, our strategic intake plan has been heavily dominated by the combat arms," says Captain Holly-Ann Brown, a spokeswoman for Canadian Forces Recruiting. "Are there people over 25 applying for combat arms? Sure. But, typically, the person coming to the military looking for a career in combat tends to be out of high school." As a result, the average age fell to about 24 last year – still closer to 30 than the

minimum entry age of 17 for full-time service.

Older service men and women can be costly in terms of benefits, and there is also the dicey issue of whether they can hold their own with the young and spry. Yet military data indicate that nearly one-quarter of the 2,596 troops currently serving in Afghanistan are older than 40. More than a third are younger than 29.

Professor David Bercuson, a military historian at the University of Calgary and director of programs at the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, said the shift toward a more mature recruit is changing the dynamic within the military hierarchy.

Where rank, and rank alone, once dominated the command structure, Prof. Bercuson says, age and wisdom are now playing larger roles in the decision-making process.

"People want to know why they're being asked to do something, and officers have to realize that more and more they're dealing with mature, intelligent beings who, in some cases, have more experience and education than they do," Prof. Bercuson says.

"The day when you ordered people around because you were a certain class is gone in the Canadian military." SLt. Blondin agrees maturity carries weight in the military. That knowledge, he says, offers comfort considering he is being shipped to Afghanistan next year, and that his 21-year-old seaman son, Ryan, may be headed to the Persian Gulf.

"You can act as a voice of reason sometimes," SLt. Blondin says.

"A lot of these young officers are very gung-ho."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: careers; strife

PERSONAL NAME: William Swales

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

CAREER MOVES: OLDER ENLISTEES IN THE RANKS 40 and in fighting form Even as Canadian casualties

# AIR FORCE Replace Snowbird jets 'immediately,' DND told in 2003

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**IDN:** 071760014

**DATE:** 2007.06.25

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**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER

**SECTION:** National News

**SOURCE:** CP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 556

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MURRAY BREWSTER Canadian Press OTTAWA The air force was urged in no uncertain terms four years ago to quickly replace the aging Tutor jets belonging to the prized Snowbird demonstration squadron.

The study by the Defence Department's director of major service delivery procurement warned that the life expectancy of the 1960s–vintage aircraft was 2010, but could be pushed out for another decade if absolutely necessary.

"With each passing year, the technical, safety and financial risk associated with extending the Tutor into its fifth decade and beyond, will escalate," said the review, written in August, 2003. "These risks are significant, however they are not easily quantified." Ideally, the report said, the air force should replace the CT–114s with British–built CT–155 Hawk trainers beginning in 2008, but to meet that deadline, the procurement process should have started years ago.

"Replacing the Tutor is a question of when, not if," the report said.

The 2003 analysis recommended that the Defence Department proceed "immediately." A complete, uncensored version of the report was obtained by The Canadian Press and follows the death last month of Captain Shawn McCaughey, 31, in a crash in Montana. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

In 2002, the former Liberal government promised a \$600–million replacement project for the Snowbirds' aircraft, but the money was not scheduled to be spent until 2009. With the war raging in Afghanistan and billions about to be spent on urgent purchases, such as heavy– and medium–lift aircraft as well as battlefield helicopters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been silent about the future of the Tutors.

The air force is conducting a study that includes among its options a proposal to keep the old jets flying until 2020. The analysis also looks at whether the Tutors could be replaced with an aircraft in the air force's existing inventory – or by something entirely new, a military official said.

"The Tutor is still a safe and effective airplane to fly," Captain Jim Hutcheson said.

"We do acknowledge that to fly it into the future beyond its current life expectancy, which I believe is 2010, that we would have to do some minor modifications to the aircraft." The modifications, according to the 2003



study, would cost about \$32-million.

From the 1960s through to the 1990s, the CT-114 did yeoman's service as the military's principal jet training aircraft. The advantage of the Tutor is that the air force has a number of them in mothballs, affording an ample supply of spare parts and airframes, Capt. Hutcheson said.

"They are a relatively inexpensive fleet to operate and maintain.

It still remains economically and operationally viable to fly." Last fall, the air force received an unsolicited proposal from Venga Aerospace Systems offering to provide the Snowbirds with 18 Hawks in a lease arrangement. Capt. Hutcheson acknowledged the proposal, but said over the years a number of bidders have thrown a variety of ideas at the Defence Department.

Investigators are looking at three possibilities in the crash that killed Capt. McCaughey: equipment failure, pilot error, or a bird strike. The accident happened during a rehearsal before the team's first air show of the season.

Capt. McCaughey is the third Snowbird pilot to die since 1998 and the sixth in the squadron's 35-year history.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: aircraft; accidents; deaths

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Snowbirds

# Tears as the fallen come home

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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / Distraught family members;  
**DATELINE:** CFB TRENTON, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 217

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A bagpiper played three separate tributes to the latest Canadian casualties killed in Afghanistan as their bodies were returned home yesterday.

A military aircraft carrying the bodies of Sergeant Christos Karigiannis, Corporal Stephen Bouzane and Private Joel Wiebe flew into this Ontario base to be greeted by grieving relatives.

Distraught family members of each soldier were physically supported by one another as their loved ones completed their final journey home.

Governor General Michaille Jean, former governor general Adrienne Clarkson, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and General Rick Hillier were present.

As a former governor general, Clarkson attended the ceremony in her military capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the unit in which all three men served.

Before the plane landed, Hillier addressed a throng of supporters who lined the gates surrounding the tarmac while waving Canadian flags.

Trenton resident Brenda Miller said she stands outside the gates of the tarmac during every repatriation ceremony. "I wish they'd come home better," she said, waving a small flag inscribed with the names of all 60 Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan.

"I'm just so upset I can't even talk tonight."

The three soldiers were killed Wednesday when their unarmoured vehicle, known as a Gator, was struck by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

Their deaths prompted the Canadian military to suspend the use of Gators outside secure compounds. Roadside bombs are responsible for more than one-third of Canadian deaths.

# Angry Karzai rips coalition forces for civilian deaths

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**EDITION:** Final  
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**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / Afghan President Hamid Karzai;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** The Associated Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 212

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Afghan President Hamid Karzai has lashed out at the United States–led coalition and NATO forces for viewing Afghan lives as "cheap."

In a seething weekend speech, Karzai accused the foreign forces of carelessly killing scores of Afghan civilians and warned that the fight against resurgent Taliban militants could fail unless foreign forces show more restraint.

"Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be treated as such," Karzai said angrily.

The mounting toll is sapping the authority of the Western–backed Afghan president, who has pleaded repeatedly with U.S. and NATO commanders to consult Afghan authorities during operations and show more restraint.

Karzai also denounced the Taliban for killing civilians, but directed most of his anger at foreign forces.

In one of the recent incidents lamented by Karzai, police said NATO air strikes killed 25 civilians along with 20 militants who fired on alliance and Afghan troops from a walled compound in the southern province of Helmand.

NATO blames the insurgents for hiding among civilians, and insisted that troops had the right to defend themselves.

"We need to do better than we have been doing so far," said NATO spokesman Nicholas Lunt. "But unlike the Taliban, we do not set out to cause civilian casualties, and that is a critical difference."

NATO and U.S.–led forces fighting insurgents in Afghanistan have killed at least 203 civilians so far in 2007 — surpassing the 178 civilians killed in militant attacks, according to an Associated Press tally.

# Harper has a rough start to summer; Yet The Economist says Canadians are benefiting from a strong economy, record low unemployment

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**PAGE:** A15

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Tom Hanson, the Canadian Press / The prime minister looks from a Canadian observation post in Ma'Sum Ghar, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, in May. ;

**SOURCE:** The Economist magazine

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 843

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June has not been a good month for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

At the G8 summit in Germany, his record on foreign aid was singled out for special criticism by two Irish rock stars with planet-saving ambitions, Bono and Bob Geldof.

His return to Canada was blighted by the loss of a Conservative MP, bounced from the party's caucus for opposing the budget, and by a confrontation caught on camera with an 80-year-old widow, who accused him of lying about extending veterans's benefits.

The government's much-vaunted green plan was denounced as ineffectual by a prominent think tank usually sympathetic to the Conservative cause. And as Parliament limped toward its summer recess, two angry premiers descended on Ottawa to castigate the prime minister for supposedly breaking his word to them on financial transfers to their provinces.

It is a far cry from six months ago, when Harper was riding high in the polls and appeared poised to call an election that would turn his governing Conservative minority into a majority.

After one year in power, he had largely kept five narrow campaign promises and could convincingly argue the need for a new mandate.

But the chance disappeared as public support for the Conservatives, which peaked after the launch of a generous budget in March, quickly dropped back into minority territory, where it remains.

Such a litany of woes might be expected to worry a party that holds only 124 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons (there are 100 Liberals, 49 Bloc Quebecois, 29 New Democrats, four independents and two vacant seats). Yet Harper continues to exude confidence.

There are two main reasons for this. One is that although the wheels appear to be coming off the Tory motor, which was only ever designed for a short race, the opposition parties are having trouble even starting their engines.

The second is the insouciance of ordinary Canadians, who are benefiting from a strong economy and record low unemployment. There is really not a lot troubling the nation, says Darrell Bricker, a pollster; Canadians have never been more optimistic.

This is not what the Liberals want to hear. They continue to hammer the government for its handling of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, and its weak plan to clean up the environment. But they are hamstrung by their own record.

It was a Liberal government that first sent troops to Afghanistan in 2002. They were also responsible for a much-criticized deal in which prisoners captured by Canadian forces were handed over to Afghan troops and then allegedly tortured. Their position is equally weak on the environmental front. Having signed the Kyoto protocol, they did little to meet its stringent targets for emissions reductions.

Indeed, all three opposition leaders have problems. Stephane Dion, chosen by the Liberals last December, remains largely unknown outside his Quebec base. Gilles Duceppe of the Bloc Quebecois is suffering from a self-inflicted blow after announcing his departure for provincial politics this spring, only to change his mind within 24 hours.

And Jack Layton of the leftist New Democrats seems powerless to stop an erosion of party support in favour of the Greens, even though this is a fringe party that has yet to get a member of Parliament.

Although all this is grist for the political mill on Parliament Hill, it seems to leave the rest of Canada virtually untouched. Consumer spending remains strong, with house prices shattering all records in May. Unemployment at 6.1 per cent is at a 33-year low. Even the beleaguered manufacturing industry, battered by a high dollar and competition with China, has staged a rebound.

The economy is "worrisomely good," said Philip Cross, chief economic analyst at Statistics Canada, the national statistical agency.

Foreign investors appear to share that opinion and are snapping up Canadian companies in record numbers. This has prompted a debate about whether corporate Canada is being "hollowed out." Many wonder whether Canada's corporate bosses are sufficiently aggressive. But even this debate is taken as a sign of economic strength; only good times allow the luxury of navel-gazing.

With an early election in no one's interest, the government has no choice but to set a new course for the long haul. That involves making peace with the provinces and those segments of the business community who feel bruised by unexpected tax measures in the last budget. It also requires a new plan of action to replace the former five priorities.

Hugh Segal, the Conservative senator who helped co-ordinate the last election campaign, is skeptical about the need for grand visions.

What is required, he says, are policies to address the big challenges like immigration, trade, corporate tax and the environment.

Tax cuts in particular would reassure the government's core supporters, based mainly in the western provinces, that the administration they helped to elect still believes in smaller government and lower taxes.

Tory efforts to win votes in Quebec by lavishing money on the province and promoting green policies have led to disillusionment among some westerners, who have long felt estranged from the central government.

The Tories probably had these supporters in mind when they decided to sponsor a racing car on Canada's

Harper has a rough start to summer; Yet The Economist says Canadians are benefiting from a strong economy

NASCAR circuit this summer.

Although not environmentally friendly — the cars guzzle gasoline — the sport appeals to the ordinary working Canadians whose interests Harper frequently invokes.

Perhaps the prime minister will even attend.

Watching a finely tuned engine whiz around the track might inspire him to rev up his own sputtering government machine

# Will PM become a casualty of Afghanistan?

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**PAGE:** A15  
**COLUMN:** James Travers  
**DATELINE:** Ottawa  
**BYLINE:** James Travers  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
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How many is too many? How long is long enough?

Those troubling questions central to any Afghanistan exit are tumbling into the vacuum that politics abhors and politicians are leaving behind in their hungry rush to the barbecue circuit. On their own, or as part of a parliamentary consensus that Stephen Harper and Stephane Dion sparred over last week, they demand answers sooner rather than later.

With deaths rising to 60, the prime minister is now publicly recalibrating an unknown. Eventually casualty and war opposition trend lines will intersect where the mission becomes so politically costly that compromise becomes essential.

That point creeps closer as prospects of shaping Afghanistan into a model democracy hurtle toward the horizon. Even as NATO's secretary-general begged Ottawa to extend its military role beyond 2009, Britain's new ambassador to Kabul measured the rescue as a 30-year marathon.

That's problematic even for Brits accustomed empire's obligations. It certainly won't work here for a minority government trying to keep its majority dreams from turning to dust.

What makes the prime minister's foreign priority particularly slippery is the absence of domestic traction. His hollow 2007 achievement is a budget written for an election that never happened and now has three premiers screaming broken promise.

True, dyspeptic Liberals and the constant bridesmaid NDP aren't taking full advantage of Conservative drift. But Harper is on course for voter punishment, a route best changed by returning to a solid ground agenda and by making other parties — and more voters — fellow travellers on the road to Afghanistan.

The latter is most challenging. Conservatives who rode five easy campaign priorities close to the opinion poll summit continue to stumble over explanations for a difficult mission that wander from retribution for 9/11 to Samaritan reconstruction.

No matter how long it takes Afghanistan to run away from feudalism, Harper is in a sprint. With the deadline for any post-2009 combat extension approaching fast, there's no time to lose finding a winning position — or at least the election cover a consensus would provide.

Staying in harm's way with most NATO partners safely out of range is not politically acceptable. But retreating after such wrenching losses and with the job unfinished makes nonsense of Canada's commitment.

If the Taliban and its al-Qaeda parasites were North American security threats in 2001 then surely a stable Afghanistan is in Canada's 2007 interest. Self-evident as that seems, the equation is as suspect as the objective is elusive.

Foreign boots on Islamic soil is no terrorism panacea. Equally germane, history suggests long Afghanistan stays come to a sorry end.

Harper now has an opportunity to move beyond jingoism and come clean with Canadians about what can realistically be achieved. At additional cost in blood and money, Afghanistan might just be edged a little closer to modernity and a little farther away from extremism.

But Conservatives aren't fully comfortable with modest goals. And Harper has yet to say Canadians won't continue paying so much more than their allies.

Shifting those positions is difficult and requires a compelling new narrative. The alternative is worse.

A prime minister who made this war his own must cope with it or become one of its casualties.

Growing with every death and doubt, Afghanistan is expanding into the space that Harper must fill this fall with new priorities and renewed purpose.

Conservatives need that elbow room so desperately that their rivals will keep crowding them on Afghanistan.

jtravers@thespec.com



# Bodies of dead Canadian soldiers return home

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**PAGE:** B1 / FRONT  
**COLUMN:** National Briefs  
**DATELINE:** CFB Trenton, Ont.  
**SOURCE:** Star News Services  
**WORD COUNT:** 116

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CFB Trenton, Ont. – The bodies of three more Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan were repatriated late Sunday afternoon in another sombre ceremony played out on the grey tarmac of CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Pte. Joel Wiebe, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis and Cpl. Stephen Bouzane were all members of the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their flag-draped coffins were unloaded one-by-one from an Canadian Forces long-range transport and borne by guards of honour to waiting hearses.

Tearful-eyed relatives, military brass and ordinary soldiers watched the bodies pass. Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, her predecessor Adrienne Clarkson and Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier were also there.