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Our politicians are fiddling while the people get burned

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DATE: 2007.06.09

SECTION: Forum

PAGE: 9

WORD COUNT: 257

While Canadian politicians fiddle, their European counterparts are on target to meet the Kyoto commitments that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "new government" claims are impossible to achieve.

While Harper fiddles with his flak jacket in Afghanistan, he has effectively exempted Canada's oil patch (one of his major financial contributors) from any restrictions on emissions, thereby guaranteeing its dubious distinction as one of the biggest greenhouse gas producers on the planet.

While Environment Minister John Baird fiddles with statistics to justify his DNTN (do–next–to–nothing) position on global warming, Canadians are burning with anger because they know the many thousands of jobs that would be created if we met our Kyoto commitments would more than offset any job losses.

While Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty fiddles with statistics to claim that conservation and renewables are central to his energy strategy, Ontarians are burning mad over the prospect of the \$40–billion mortgage with which he will saddle their children and their grandchildren in order to pay for his new "nukes." A plan that calls for spending only one dollar in 20 on conservation and renewables can hardly be called "central" to an energy strategy.

And while McGuinty delays closing coal–fired power plants for one more summer, another 5,400 Ontarians will die from the air pollution they cause.

When politicians fiddle, people die.

And that is the "inconvenient truth" of ignorance: the apparent inability of our politicians to comprehend the gravity of one of the greatest challenges to the survival of the human species.

Yelda Miedema

Simcoe Island

Six torture claims surface; Four incidents involving Taliban have occurred since new prisoner deal

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.06.09

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A4

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

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OTTAWA – Canadian officials have heard a total of six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay conceded Friday.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse – involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities – had been reported.

MacKay corrected the record on Friday and a spokesman said that foreign affairs staff have been keeping track of reports only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

"The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay, a spokesman for MacKay.

Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul – the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar. The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

"All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said LeMay. "'These officials had clear and unrestricted access."

Where the alleged abuse took place is also unclear.

Canadians do not patrol the Afghan capital and all of their prisoners are taken in the southern provinces of Kandahar or Helmand. It is routine practice once Afghan authorities take custody of a prisoner for that individual to be transferred to Kabul for interrogation by intelligence officers.

The latest revelation could boost a legal challenge by Amnesty International and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which have applied to the Federal Court for an injunction to halt the transfers. They argue that Canada could find itself complicit in torture if it knowingly hands prisoners over to authorities who will abuse them.

In April, Day revealed that two Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from a pair of prisoners in the notorious jails of the Afghan intelligence service that they had been tortured. Those reports are still being investigated by Afghan authorities, but LeMay raised a question Friday as to whether

Canada had an interest in their cases beyond usual human rights concerns.

"It is not clear whether these particular detainees had been transferred by Canada or other NATO forces," he said.

Media reports have said as many as 33 prisoners captured by Canadians and handed over to the Afghans may have been beaten.

The allegation in late April set off bitter opposition attacks, which set the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper back on its heels.

Oromocto woman killed in P.E.I. crash; Driver, also from Oromocto, in critical condition in Moncton Hospital

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WORD COUNT: 97

A soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan was the driver of a car involved in a fatal two-vehicle collision in Prince Edward Island.

The collision Thursday night near Hunter River killed a 29-year-old woman from Oromocto.

The 28-year-old male driver, also from Oromocto, is in hospital in Moncton in critical condition. Their names have not been released, but the military has confirmed that the man was stationed at CFB Gagetown.

The car they were travelling in collided with an SUV at the intersection of Route 225 and Route 13.

The force of the impact ripped the car in two and the woman was thrown from the wreckage.

The 18-year-old female driver of the SUV and the two 16-year-old female passengers escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Prince Harry carded at Calgary nightclub; '2nd Lieut. Wales' uses army ID to get into country bar

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Prince Harry had 'em swooning when he and his mates — and their RCMP escorts — hit a wild west Calgary country bar Thursday.

The royal party-boy-turned-soldier arrived at Cowboys Niteclub about 12:30 a. m.

It was ladies' night, and according to at least one female staff member, he did not disappoint.

"He is the prince charming — he's very polite and nice," gushed Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, who said she recognized the third in line to the throne.

Cymbalistry asked if he was the prince, and he responded by showing his army ID. Then, before he left, he kissed her on the cheek.

"It was hot," she purred.

Prince Harry landed in Alberta last week for training at Canadian Forces Base Suffield, near Medicine Hat.

The 22-year-old wasn't immediately recognized by the club's doormen and was initially treated like a regular guest, said Scarlet Lee, sales and marketing manager for Penny Lane Entertainment.

"He was ID'd like anyone else who looks under a certain age," she said.

"He showed his British army identification, and obviously our doormen don't see that very often. It took a minute or two before they realized, 'Oh my God, this is Prince Harry.' "

His Royal Hotness was dressed in a white T-shirt, jeans and a Red Sox baseball cap, Lee said.

His entourage included three fellow British soldiers and two plainclothes RCMP officers.

"He actually flew under the radar pretty good," said Lee.

Unlike other celebrity patrons at Cowboys — such as actors Samuel L. Jackson, Josh Hartnett, Jamie Foxx and Don Johnson — the prince's posse declined a private area at the club, Lee said.

"They specifically said, 'No, we're dressed in plain clothes, we don't want to draw additional attention,'" she said.

Harry and his pals closed the bar down at 2 a.m., but the prince and a friend returned without RCMP protection to chat with bar staff as they finished up for the night, said Lee.

"He specifically mentioned ... "This is awesome ... I never really get to do this without cameras in my face," she said.

Harry, or 2nd Lieut. Wales as the British military refers to him, is being trained for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

Although he wanted to be sent to Iraq, the British military decided against that last month, citing specific threats to his life and risks to his fellow soldiers.

Afghan police, Taliban killed or wounded in incidents

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.06.09

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COLUMN: Around the world

SOURCE: AP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 113

Roadside bombs and battles with Taliban forces killed six police and left 13 Taliban fighters dead or wounded in separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, officials said Friday.

A roadside bomb exploded in Kandahar's Panjwai district on Friday, killing three police officers and wounding four in a police vehicle, said district police chief Bismullah Khan.

In the nearby Spin Boldak district, a roadside bomb killed two policemen and wounded three others in a border police vehicle, Gen. Raziq Khan said.

Khan said in nearby Arghistan district, a police operation against Taliban fighters on Thursday killed or wounded nine of the militants. He said Taliban fighters took their casualties away but that intelligence sources learned the casualty figures.

Canadians hear total of six claims of torture from Afghans: minister

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DATE: 2007.06.09

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SOURCE: CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

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Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul – the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar. The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

"All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said LeMay. "These officials had clear and unrestricted access."

Where the alleged abuse took place is also unclear.

Driver in fatal crash soldier from CFB Gagetown; The soldier at the wheel was transported to Moncton with serious head injuries;; his female passenger died at the scene

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SECTION: The Province

PAGE: A5

BYLINE: Katie Smith

ILLUSTRATION: This was what was left of a Chevy Cavalier from New Brunswick that was sheared in half by an SUV after the car failed to stop at a stop sign Thursday night in Hartsville.
Guardian photo by Mike Carson

WORD COUNT: 301

When Benny Grant arrived at the scene of a fatal car crash in Hartsville Thursday and saw half of a car on the road, he didn't know what to expect.

"It wasn't nice looking, that's for sure," Grant, a firefighter with the North River Fire Department, said Friday.

At around 8:20 p.m. on June 7, the Queens District RCMP, the North River Fire Department and Island EMS responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 225 and Route 13, also called the Dock Road.

Grant said a Chevy Cavalier was cutting across Route 13 when an SUV heading west towards Summerside smashed into it, ripping the car in half. The mangled remains of the car laid in two pieces, with parts of the car the road and parts of it in a field.

"The front of the car was still on the road and from the rear seats back, it was down in the field."

The 29-year-old female passenger of the Chevy was thrown from the vehicle and died on impact, he said.

The 28-year-old male driver was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown with serious head injuries, and then transported to the Moncton Hospital.

The RCMP said he's now in stable but critical condition.

Both the driver and passenger were from Oromocto, N.B.

Military officials have confirmed the 28-year-old driver was a soldier from CFB Gagetown.

He is believed to have been on leave from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Grant said it was clear the two people were wearing their seatbelts. "The man was still strapped in but the woman wasn't. The seatbelt was strapped, but the belt itself had pulled through the buckle."

The 18-year-old female driver of the SUV and the two 16-year-old female passengers escaped with minor cuts and bruises, but not after totaling the vehicle, Grant said, adding the girls were from up West.

Driver in fatal crash soldier from CFB Gagetown; The soldier at the wheel was transported to Moncton with s

"The SUV went into a ditch and rolled down into the field about 150 feet away," Grant said.

"They went a fair piece into the field, flipping and rolling. It's amazing they came out of it as well as they did."

Sgt. Dave Thibeau of the RCMP said the only reason the girls survived the accident was because they were wearing their seatbelts. "This was a very violent crash," he said.

Names and addresses of the victims are being withheld until the family is notified.

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Snubbed by military, Airbus appeals to MPs

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Giant European defence contractor Airbus Military did an end-run around the Defence and Public Works departments yesterday, taking its transport-plane sales pitch directly to Parliament.

Airbus submitted an unsolicited proposal to the House of Commons defence committee, suggesting the Conservative government abandon plans to buy 17 of Lockheed-Martin's C-130J tactical-lift transport planes in favour of eight of its A-400s.

Company vice-president Richard Thompson said the plan to acquire the C-130J, also known as the Hercules, is not final. And he said he felt obliged to present the alternative to MPs, who've been studying military procurement, given criticism the government has faced over a recent flurry of sole-sourced military contracts.

"There has been a lot of evidence submitted by a number of people regarding the . . . procurement process and whether its competition, not competition; whether its best value or not best value," Thompson said.

"We thought that so long as no contract has been agreed and signed with Lockheed-Martin that we still have an opportunity and indeed probably a duty to present as evidence to those hearings a potentially innovative solution."

For months, Airbus has complained that no one in the Conservative government or defence bureaucracy will listen to its bid, mostly because the A-400 is just coming into production. But Thompson said in the year since the transport planes were announced, his company has made significant strides and its first aircraft is about to roll off the assembly line.

Last fall, the Defence Department announced it intended to negotiate with U.S. giant Lockheed-Martin to purchase 16 C-130-J Hercules, the most up-to-date version of the veritable transport plane that was first introduced in the 1960s. The price tag of the aircraft and lifetime service support was expected to be \$4.9 billion.

In its submission to the defence committee, Airbus is proposing that Canada buy eight A-400 aircraft and refurbish eight of its existing C-130-H Hercules, the youngest of the air force's transport planes.

The proposal could save taxpayers \$2 billion over the current plan and allow the government the flexibility to purchase new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft, Thompson claims.

Although promised over two years ago, the plan to replace the country's mixed fleet of Buffalo and Hercules search planes has been stalled, mostly because the war in Afghanistan has been a big draw on the capital budget at National Defence.

Both the defence and public works department also got copies of the proposal yesterday, Thompson noted.

Lockheed–Martin dismissed the bid, suggesting the appeal was too late.

"The C–130J was selected by Canada after an exhaustive selection process," spokesperson Peter Simmons said in a statement. "The C–130J meets Canada's urgent need to replace its aging C–130 fleet."

His comments were echoed by a spokesperson for Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who noted three firms expressed interest selling tactical–lift aircraft to Canada and that matter was settled except for the formal contract signing.

"Industry was given a fair, open and transparent opportunity to demonstrate that they could meet the tactical airlift performance requirement last summer," said Isabelle Bouchard in an e–mail statement.

Skirmishes and roadside blasts kill six police officers

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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 77

Roadside bombs and battles with Taliban forces killed six police and left 13 Taliban fighters dead or wounded in separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday.

A roadside bomb exploded in Kandahar's Panjwaii district yesterday, killing three police officers and wounding four in a police vehicle, said district police chief Bismullah Khan.

In the nearby Spin Boldak district, a roadside bomb killed two police officers and wounded three others in a border police vehicle, Gen. Raziq Khan said.

Danger, fear – and incredible beauty; Graeme Smith

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COLUMN: PEOPLE
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: SUBMITTED PHOTO / Graeme Smith, a journalist and NewHamburg native patrols with U.S. troops in Afghanistan last month. ;
BYLINE: NANCY SILCOX
SOURCE: SPECIAL TO THE RECORD
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 882

Graeme Smith, the Globe and Mail's Afghanistan correspondent paints two pictures of his current home-away-from-home.

"Kandahar Air Field, where coalition troops are stationed, is an otherworldly moonscape — a burned-out, heat-baked, insect-plagued blight." But, says the New Hamburg native, Kandahar is only part of the total Afghan picture.

"From the air, you observe vast stretches of dun-coloured desert, broken up by the greenest green you'll ever see. They're river valleys snaking through the landscape. Then suddenly, you're over massive red mountains rising straight up from the earth. The view is totally breathtaking."

Smith, 28, home on a leave from his seventh seven-week stint in Kandahar, calls his first international posting to Afghanistan a "dream job." But he admits the dream has taken its toll, physically and mentally.

"The heat, especially at this time of year, is something we've never experienced in Canada. Temperatures rise to 55 degrees in the day, and the slightest movement breaks a sweat."

Natives and foreigners cover themselves from head to toe as protection from the sun — and insects. Smith relates that Kandahar was visited by a locust plague earlier this spring. Scorpions and large camel spiders vie for attention, too.

The living conditions for journalists in Kandahar, there to cover the war, take "roughing it in the bush" to a new level. Smith claims no permanent residence when he is in Afghanistan.

"I'm pretty much a nomad when I'm here," he said with a laugh.

He carries his worldly possessions in a backpack: a lightweight sleeping bag, foam mattress, small tape recorder and writing materials, as well as a few toiletries, a change of clothing and a paperback.

His bed for the night might be out in the open, under some bushes, in a ditch or in a farmer's cattle barn. Despite these rough-and-ready conditions, sleep usually comes easily under a cloudless and starry Afghan sky.

Mornings find our intrepid journalist up at dawn. After rolling up his bed, he does a morning "spot job" of personal hygiene, courtesy of hand sanitizer or baby wipes.

"There aren't any showers or toilets out in the desert," he noted.

After taking a bit of nutrition, Smith dons a flak jacket and helmet, and sets out for a day on the job.

As an "embedded journalist," tagging along with Canadian (or other multi-nationality) military personnel on various missions, Smith must sign a document agreeing to follow a certain code of conduct. But some days, he'll remain in Kandahar, tracking down stories and interviewing Afghans with a tale to tell (usually for a price). Then, an Afghan translator accompanies him. And while the settings for a story might differ, there is one common denominator: Danger always lurks.

"Over my seven visits to Kandahar, I've experienced so much," he said quietly. "I've been on a convoy that was targeted by a suicide bomber; been shot at; narrowly missed being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and been followed through the streets. I've also had my office door kicked in and my office searched."

He admits to feeling fear, yet professes a deep admiration for the Afghan people.

Three decades of war have altered the Afghans mindset. Smith relates an observation made by a fellow journalist in this regard.

"My colleague has likened the Afghan collective state of mind to post-traumatic stress syndrome. So it's no surprise that they are incapable of trusting others. War has also erased their capacity to behave in a trustworthy manner."

A sense of fatalism results from this status quo, and is expressed by Afghans in the word "Insh'allah" ("God willing").

"If you ask an Afghan if he is going to fix the door of his hut, he'll answer you, 'Insh'allah -- God-willing.' If you ask him if he wishes his children to live in a country free from war, the response is the same -- 'Insh'allah.' I don't think we westerners can even begin to comprehend this way of thinking."

Yet, driven by a strong code of honour, Afghans run out to meet danger head on. Recently, Smith was on a convoy when Taliban insurgents ambushed coalition forces. He watched as British forces in armoured vehicles quickly withdrew from the fray; he watched, wide-eyed, as Afghan army forces met the Taliban head on.

"The Afghans are bravest people I have ever met."

Paradoxically, given their reticence to contemplate the future, Afghans are a surprisingly materialistic people.

"They spend their money on surprising things -- like rose bushes," Smith said. Satellite TV is another "wanna have" in 21st-century Kandahar.

And the most popular television show in town? "WWE wrestling, hands down," Smith said with a laugh. "Afghans equate the wrestlers they see on TV with the powerful warlords they've watched, in person, all their lives. Warlords beat people up; knock them out and the strongest one survives to win the pot of gold. Wrestling makes total sense in Afghanistan."

Other trappings of western life too have crept into Kandahar since coalition ground forces replaced American troops. Burger King, McDonalds, even a Tim Hortons have arrived on the scene. Shower trailers and Internet

cafes are also bright spots in an otherwise bleak landscape.

Despite these western trappings, Smith cautions that Kandahar is anything but a safe and welcoming place for foreigners like himself. Seven other journalists and photo-journalists from across Canada are also stationed in Kandahar. They're joined by others from around the world. Although no journalist has been killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan, the recent death of Canadian military photographer Darrell Priede has underscored the dangers journalists face in this hostile land.

And while common sense might dictate to Graeme Smith that he move on to less dangerous assignments, he looks forward to returning to Kandahar.

"There are more reasons to stay than to go," he said.

Committed to remaining until at least 2008, Smith eagerly anticipates writing stories on "the birth of the free Afghan nation."

"Things aren't quite there yet, but they're moving in the right direction," he said.

Canadians hear a total of six torture claims from Afghans

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PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.06.09
SECTION: Dgcanada
PAGE: A11
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 257

Canadian officials have heard a total of six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay conceded Friday.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse — involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities — had been reported.

MacKay corrected the record on Friday and a spokesman said that foreign affairs staff have been keeping track of reports only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

"The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay, a spokesman for MacKay.

Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul — the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar. The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

"All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said LeMay. "These officials had clear and unrestricted access."

Where the alleged abuse took place is also unclear.

Canadians do not patrol the Afghan capital and all of their prisoners are taken in the southern provinces of Kandahar or Helmand. It is routine practice once Afghan authorities take custody of a prisoner for that individual to be transferred to Kabul for interrogation by intelligence officers.

CFB Gagetown to hold funeral for slain photographer Tuesday

IDNUMBER 200706090089
PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.06.09
SECTION: Dgfront; Dgcity
PAGE: A3
BYLINE: MICHAEL STAPLES staples.michael@dailygleaner.com
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 162

A military funeral will be held Tuesday for a Canadian Forces Base Gagetown soldier killed May 30 in Afghanistan.

The service for Master Cpl. Darrell Priede will be held at St. Luke's Chapel, on base, at 1:30 p.m.

Priede, 30, was killed when a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter went down about 95 kilometres northwest of Kandahar City.

The popular soldier, described as one of the best photographers in the Forces, had been in the war-torn region since April 18 as a member of the Army News Team from Gagetown. His job was to photograph the activities of Canadian soldiers. He was enroute to an operation when his chopper was apparently attacked by Taliban forces.

He was serving with the International Security Assistance Force Regional Command (South) Headquarters at Kandahar Airfield.

Priede is being remembered for his passion in helping those in need, his professional abilities and his deep commitment to his wife Angela, families and friends.

In the military since 1996, Priede worked first as a gunner and then as a imagery technician.

He was the oldest son of John and Roxanne Priede of Grand Forks, B.C.

Priede will be resting in Oromocto Select TM Community Funeral Home, 108 Winnebago St. in Oromocto.

Visitations will be Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Woman dead, soldier hurt in P.E.I. crash

IDNUMBER 200706090084
PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.06.09
SECTION: Dgfront; Dgcity
PAGE: A1
BYLINE: KATIE SMITH Charlottetown Guardian
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 137

One woman from Oromocto was killed and a soldier from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown was injured Thursday in an automobile accident in Prince Edward Island.

The soldier is believed to have been on leave from a tour in Afghanistan.

Names and addresses of the victims are being withheld until the family is notified.

The 29-year-old woman was thrown from the vehicle and died on impact, a firefighter said.

The soldier, a 28-year-old male, was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown with serious head injuries. He was later transported to the Moncton Hospital.

The RCMP said he's in stable but critical condition.

The Queens District RCMP, the North River Fire Department and Island EMS responded to the two-vehicle crash in central P.E.I.

Firefighter Benny Grant said a Chevrolet Cavalier was cutting across Route 13 when a SUV heading west towards Summerside smashed into it, ripping the car in half.

"The front of the car was still on the road, and from the rear seats back it was down in the field," he said.

The 18-year-old female driver of the SUV and the two 16-year-old female passengers escaped with minor cuts and bruises, Grant said.

Pentagon will fight Khadr ruling; Review sought for decision on Canadian detainee

IDNUMBER 200706090244
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A7
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Omar Khadr;
KEYWORDS: CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 330

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon announced Friday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops.

The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's war crimes tribunals.

Khadr's defence attorneys said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration plots its next move.

"I think, strategically, the prosecution's gambit is to use the motion for reconsideration to buy time to get this appeals court up and running in some form and fashion," said Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler, the military defence attorney detailed to Khadr's case.

Khadr, who has been detained at Guantanamo since late 2002, had been charged with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, spying and providing material aid to terrorists.

Airbus pitches deal to MPs; Asks Canada to ditch plans for Hercules

IDNUMBER 200706090243
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
KEYWORDS: AIRCRAFT; AEROSPACE INDUSTRY; AIRLINES; TRANSPORTATIONINDUSTRY
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 350

OTTAWA – A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to also purchase new search and rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

On Thursday, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion in the process. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search and rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to purchase much-needed search and rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the ongoing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use their existing newer model C-130 aircraft, along with the A400M, to handle shorter-range airlift.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin we have the opportunity and indeed the duty to bring this (proposal) to the attention to the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010 and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008 and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Thompson said that's not true.

Dan Ross, the Defence Department's assistant deputy minister for material, said the military needs the transport aircraft quickly and, although a contract has yet to be signed with Lockheed Martin, it is expected

that the C-130J will be flying on operations with the air force by 2011.

Ross also questioned whether an A400M delivered in 2010 would be trouble-free as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes.

Terror suspects held in secret prisons: report; CIA denies using sites in Poland and Romania

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PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A16
KEYWORDS: ESPIONAGE; TERRORISM; SECURITY
DATELINE: ROME
BYLINE: Christine Spolar and Tom Hundley
SOURCE: Chicago Tribune
WORD COUNT: 444

ROME – The CIA ran secret prisons in Poland and Romania to hold terror suspects from 2003 to 2005, including some now notorious al-Qaeda operatives, according to a critical report released Friday by the Council of Europe.

The investigation, undertaken by Senator Dick Marty of the council's assembly, states that the one-time East Bloc countries were willing participants in a U.S.-directed war on terror and "knowingly complicit" in the practice known as rendition, in which suspects were snatched and held in foreign countries for interrogation.

Officials in Poland, Romania and the CIA on Friday called the report's conclusions baseless.

The report, for the first time, cites unnamed CIA sources as providing the names of key terror suspects sent to Poland: Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a leader in the 2001 attacks in the United States; Abu Zubaydah, a suspected senior al-Qaeda operative, and Ramzi Binalshibh, another al-Qaeda suspect.

Rendition remains one of the most controversial aspects of the Bush administration's attempt to quell terror attacks. President George W. Bush acknowledged the secret detention program only in September 2006, and the administration has been silent and unresponsive to questions about where the prisons were.

The report by the Council of Europe, an influential, intergovernmental body focused on democracy and human rights considerations, is an attempt to fill in the gaps.

It identifies a remote Polish intelligence service base at Stare Kjekuty as an important CIA interrogation centre. The base is a few kilometres from a former military airfield, known as Szymany, in northeastern Poland. Between 2002 and 2005, at least 10 flights apparently operated by CIA rendition teams were received at the airfield, and six of those came directly from Kabul, Afghanistan, the report said.

In most cases, the flights were disguised so they could not be tracked or recorded by transnational air control, the report said.

"Highest state authorities" in those countries co-operated and knew of the alleged detention centres, the report said.

In Poland, Marty names then president Aleksander Kwasniewski, among others, as a key collaborator. In

Romania, Marty names a "small circle of trust" that allegedly collaborated, including former president Ion Iliescu, his minister of national defence and the head of military intelligence.

Both countries, democratic allies of Washington since the fall of communism, were eager to co-operate with the United States. Washington had been instrumental in supporting reforms, including those in the intelligence realm, the report said.

By Friday night, official denials were being broadcast in both countries. On Realitatea TV in Romania, Iliescu was blunt, asserting, "This is all unfounded."

Polish authorities have steadfastly denied the existence of CIA detention facilities at Stare Kjekuty, although they acknowledge that the CIA has special privileges at the base.

The CIA quickly discounted the 72-page report as "biased and distorted" and did not address any details cited in it.

Prince Harry parties in Calgary

IDNUMBER 200706090116
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: National
PAGE: A10
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / Britain's Prince Harry made an appearance in Calgary Wednesday ;
DATELINE: CALGARY
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 272

CALGARY (AFP) — The third in line for the British throne visited a popular nightclub in Calgary's entertainment district overnight for ladies' night in Western Canada, local media said Friday.

Prince Harry, 22, arrived at Cowboys Niteclub at 12:30 a.m. dressed in a white T-shirt, jeans and a Red Sox baseball cap, and mixed with party goers until it closed a few hours later, witnesses told public broadcaster CBC.

"He is the Prince Charming — he's very polite and nice," gushed 22-year-old Cherie Cymbalisky, who reportedly received a parting kiss on the cheek from the royal.

"It was hot," she said.

Harry was accompanied by three fellow British soldiers and two plainclothes Canadian federal police officers, staff said, and declined a private area of the club for his group.

Sales manager Scarlet Lee told the Calgary Sun the prince was not immediately recognized by staff, and was asked to present identification at the door.

"He was ID'd like anyone else who looks under a certain age. He showed his British army identification, and obviously our doormen don't see that very often," Lee said. "It took a minute or two before they realized, 'Oh my god, this is Prince Harry.' "

She said Harry stayed clear of the dance floor, mingling mostly with friends and bar staff. "He specifically mentioned . . . 'This is awesome . . . I never really get to do this without cameras in my face,' " she told the Sun.

Second-Lieutenant Harry is training with his regiment, the elite Blues and Royals of the British Army's Household Cavalry, at a Canadian base about 160 kilometres southeast of Calgary, ahead of a possible deployment to southern Afghanistan.

He has earned a reputation as a party prince, with British media widely documenting — and photographing — his antics at nightclubs.

Pentagon plans to appeal dismissal of Khadr charges

IDNUMBER 200706090104
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: A13
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 438

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon announced Friday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesperson, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops.

The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military of Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of Friday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Khadr's defence attorneys said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration

plots its next move.

"I think, strategically, the prosecution's gambit is to use the motion for reconsideration to buy time to get this appeals court up and running in some form and fashion," said Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler, the military defence attorney detailed to Khadr's case.

"I don't think it exists in the sense that we would think a court exists. They have a clerk, so theoretically they have a warm body you could send an appeal to."

Khadr, who has been detained at Guantanamo since late 2002, had been charged with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, spying and providing material aid to terrorists.

In the wake of the legal developments at Guantanamo this week, Democratic and Republican lawmakers have said they are considering legislation to amend the Military Commissions Act to clarify the law establishing the war crimes tribunals.

A job with Afghan police unappealing

IDNUMBER 200706090062
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: D6
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: The National Post / Abdul Hakim, a police commander in Kandahar province, isn't thrilled by Canadian support ;
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 377

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The Afghan National Police offers one of the most dangerous jobs on Earth, but the recruits keep coming.

"For 30 years, I have only seen death," says police Col. Mohammed Hussain. "I don't see any other thing. I can't take it anymore."

The liaison officer with the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team for Kandahar province said that in the six months that ended last September, 127 of 4,000 police officers were slain.

Some officers are killed on their off-duty days when they return to home villages, Hussain said. It happened six times in the past week: A knock, the police officer opened the door, "and they were shot."

To expose themselves to that kind of risk, officers are paid the equivalent of about \$70 a month, significantly less than what soldiers earn. A pay raise is in the works, but some officers near Kandahar already quit this spring to pick poppies for \$20 a day.

RCMP Supt. Dave Fudge, who heads a team of Canadian police who help train the Afghans, said a big part of the problem is that police in Afghanistan are treated like soldiers and become soft targets for Taliban bombings. Yet, they are equipped only with light weapons, chiefly the AK-47 rifle.

Meanwhile, with their sometimes boorish behaviour and corruption, the officers don't always win the hearts and minds of the civilians they are supposed to serve.

In Kandahar's Panjwai district, for instance, elders complained that police officers were demanding credit for goods they bought from local merchants, then not paying their debt. Last year, the district's police chief was fired for selling uniforms on the black market.

Corruption "destroys confidence with the police, with the government," Fudge says. But it is hardly surprising, he said, in light of the low wages policemen are paid. "It's born out of survival."

The RCMP teaches basic skills, such as hand-cuffing, searching and self-defence, and mentor officers working at their posts. A pilot program is also in the works to combat illiteracy levels of about 70 per cent, which make essential tasks like taking notes and writing reports impossible. If funds flow from Canada's Foreign Affairs Department, the Mounties also plan to create a \$5-million police academy.

In the meantime, why do young Afghans keep lining up for such dangerous work?

"They love their country," Hussain explains. "They love their profession, and they love to protect their families."

(NATIONAL POST)

Canadians leave Afghans vulnerable, critic believes

IDNUMBER 200706090061
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: D6
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 461

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar pith the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

In fact, Hakim contends, a lack of co-operation between the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago .

"This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said.

Hakim is no general in the anti-insurgent war. He heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag crew for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle frevel perspective. He does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents. In fact, they have had numerous firefights with the Taliban over the past several weeks, and a Canadian corporal was killed recently in a major operation.

Rather, NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars, the commander said. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, like Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless," because the militants hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often They hide to avoid confrontation and sometimes lay down improvised explosive devices to sabotage the Canadian advance, the officer observed.

"Unity is a must among the police, the Canadians and the ANA," Hakim said, languidly brushing aside flies. "Without, there will be no security."

A Canadian Forces spokesperson declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, at least, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers — like the chief in neighbouring Panjwai district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search — have made the Canadians skeptical of the local advice.

Experts say that police officers like Hakim are taking a beating everywhere in southern Afghanistan. With just 10 days of training and equipped with a minimum of firepower, they are used as a military force, a sort of

"canary in the coal mine" or tripwire to flush out the Taliban, said Supt. Dave Fudge, the RCMP officer who runs a police training program for the provincial reconstruction team.

So, for every Afghan army soldier killed, 27 police officers lose their lives to insurgent attacks.

SUS AUX PIN UP AVIONS DE COMBAT

SOURCETAG 0706090071

PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal

DATE: 2007.06.09

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 32

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: LONDRES

WORD COUNT: 119

LONDRES — (AP) Les autorités aéronavales britanniques ont ordonné jeudi que l'on efface les images de pin-up peintes sur le nez de deux avions de combat, la vue de ces demoiselles pouvant indisposer les femmes pilotes ou mécaniciennes. Les deux jets Harrier avaient été décorés des silhouettes de Lucy Pinder et Michelle Marsh, qui avaient rendu visite l'an dernier aux troupes stationnées en Afghanistan dans le cadre des opérations de l'OTAN, mais ce n'est que récemment que des officiers de la Royal Air Force (RAF) ont découvert ces ornements lors d'un passage des appareils sur une base en Grande-Bretagne.

Pentagon challenges dismissal of charges against Khadr

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PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.06.09

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A17

KEYWORDS: CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 209

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon announced Friday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal.

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"If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider," he said. "That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

At a court hearing Monday at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops. The distinction is potentially important because Khadr would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

Harry takes shine to Calgary bartender; 'It was hot,' confides aspiring Playboy Bunny after Prince's after-hours visit

IDNUMBER 200706090015
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A9
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Agence France–Presse; Getty Images / Cherie Cymbalistry, as pictured on the website towergaming.com, says Harry was polite and nice. ;
KEYWORDS: MONARCHY; VISITS; ANNIVERSARIES
DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Jamie Komarnicki
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 337

CALGARY — A Calgary bar is basking in reflected royal limelight, after a bartender caught the eye of Prince Harry.

The young prince, training at CFB Suffield, visited Calgary's Cowboys bar during Wednesday ladies' night, but spent much of the evening chatting up local bartender Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, said Cowboys manager Doug Donald.

"If it goes somewhere, fantastic," he said. "She'd look fantastic on the dollar bill."

Prince Harry headed straight for the shooter bar where Cymbalistry was working, and he took "quite a shine to her," Donald said.

After spending a few hours drinking and chatting, Harry returned to Cowboys after the crowds had left the bar to say goodbye to Cymbalistry.

"I can certainly see why he'd be attracted to her. They're both young . . . young kids having some fun."

"He is the Prince Charming — he's very polite and nice," the 22-year-old Cymbalistry told CBC radio.

The second lieutenant in the British military — and third in line to the throne — came to Cowboys around midnight, accompanied by a military buddy, two RCMP officers and two British security guards.

Hiding under his baseball cap, the 22-year-old prince had his ID checked before he was allowed to go in.

As word of his presence spread, he strolled through the bar, shaking hands and chatting.

"He was good with that, but the crowd was good with him. They didn't annoy him, they didn't constantly hound him," Donald said.

Harry takes shine to Calgary bartender; 'It was hot,' confides aspiring Playboy Bunny after Prince's after-ho

"He said to Cherie, 'I don't get to do this, I don't get to go to places without microphones and cameras constantly being pushed in my face.'"

He came back after the crowd had left around 2 a.m.

"He quietly knocked on the door. He wanted to know if he could come in say goodbye and have a little chat with her.

"He came in, we brought the crew back in and they had a little quiet time upstairs," Donald said.

"They had a little chat, a few laughs."

"It was hot," said Cymbalistry, who reportedly received a parting kiss on the cheek from the son of Prince Charles and the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

Cymbalistry's biography for the Canada's Hottest Bartender contest lists her favourite drink as Crown and Coke with a twist of lime and her favourite body party as her "tummy."

She lists modelling as an aspiration. "I plan to be a Playboy Bunny or Playmate in three or four years! (cross fingers) Haha ..." she writes on the contest's website.

Second-Lieutenant Harry is training with his regiment, the elite Blues and Royals of the British Army's Household Cavalry, ahead of a possible deployment to southern Afghanistan.

He has earned a reputation as a party prince, with British media widely documenting — and photographing — his antics at nightclubs.

Pentagon to appeal dismissal of Khadr charges

IDNUMBER 200706090097
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 392

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Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops. The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of Friday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Khadr's defence attorneys said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration plots its next move.

"I think, strategically, the prosecution's gambit is to use the motion for reconsideration to buy time to get this appeals court up and running in some form and fashion," said Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler, the military defence attorney detailed to Khadr's case.

"I don't think it exists in the sense that we would think a court exists. They have a clerk, so theoretically they have a warm body you could send an appeal to."

Mental toughness not a problem for kicker

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Vancouver Province / B.C. Lions backup punter/kicker Rob Pikula. ;
DATELINE: VANCOUVER
BYLINE: Lowell Ullrich
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 768

VANCOUVER -- The dominant sense for Rob Pikula and other burgeoning CFL kickers is one of isolation.

The feeling is no different in training camp as it is during practice sessions leading up to Grey Cup week. The B.C. Lions are off working out on one part of the field. Pikula and his fellow kickers are by themselves, alone with their thoughts and issues.

For on-field advice, Pikula has been able to lean on Paul McCallum, a 14-year veteran who lacks little on his resume.

For anything else, he could ask his brother. If only Brad Pikula could come to a phone.

The 23-year-old brother of the Lions kicker has a life drastically different than that of his sibling, or most everyone else for that matter. You could ask Pikula if his brother has a job description for his role with the Canadian Armed Forces, but you'll get a different and more understandable answer.

"He basically acts as a spy," Rob Pikula said.

Passing a bombardier training course eventually led Brad Pikula to become part of the year-old Tan Berets, a 135-member force formally known as the Special Operations Regiment which operates stealth missions for the Canadian Armed Forces.

The simple act of a phone call to mom and dad, suffice to say, takes on a much more treasured experience, even if it is short on details. Any other contact, such as mail correspondence, must be sent to a numbered address.

For Joyce and John Pikula, who won't normally get more than two overseas calls a month to their Brantford, Ont., home, just knowing either son is doing well is all they get for the time being.

"We don't know what he's done and he's not allowed to say what he's done," Rob Pikula said during a break at Lions training camp Thursday in Abbotsford.

"He can't even hint at anything geographical. We assume he's talking about Afghanistan but we don't really know. All my brother is allowed to say is that he's healthy. You do hear little things, like bombs that (come close). But that's all we'll ever get.

"My mom is a basket case over it."

In a very small way, having a brother who could serve as Tom Clancy material might explain why Pikula has been able to deal with the obstacles placed in his path during his short stint so far as a kicker.

He was deemed expendable months after being signed as an undrafted rookie free agent last year by the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who gambled unsuccessfully and instead handed both punting and place-kicking jobs to Simon Fraser University rookie Luca Congi.

Landing alongside McCallum with the Lions was the perfect next career step, enabling the 24-year-old to develop at a far slower pace.

Then came a two-game stretch early in the season with McCallum out in which Pikula hit six of seven field goals and had a 48.2-yard punting average, naturally starting with a road debut against Saskatchewan.

"That game told me a lot about him," said Lions special teams coach Mike Benevides. "When someone fires you and you get on with someone else, your focus can be a huge distraction, but it didn't. It tells you he's got everything you want mentally."

It's tough enough knowing your only real chance to contribute this year will be if Wally Buono brings Pikula out of reserve-roster exile by trading him, something the Lions coach says is in the cards only with an extraordinary offer.

But his teammates say the kicker is handling the dilemma brilliantly, especially when stories of his brother float around the dorms at the Columbia Bible College in Clearbrook, the current home of the Lions, at night.

For brief periods the kicker is humanized by his teammates, who normally are only prone to acknowledging the athletic talents of those at his position after hitting a game-winning field goal.

"It's one thing to have to battle for a roster position, but he's got (his brother) on the side. It says a lot about him," said Pikula's roommate, defensive lineman Ricky Foley.

"If he can deal with that on his mind, imagine what he can do without it."

But Brad Pikula will often be in the mind of his brother. And for the times when he is not, the kicker rolls up his right sleeve as if on a covert mission himself to reveal a camouflage-style Army rubber band that goes everywhere as a reminder.

Benevides says Pikula has made significant strides in his year with the Lions, owing to the fact the kicker responded with enthusiasm to a request after last season to add to his core strength.

"I can have my back turned to the ball and I can tell when he's kicking just by listening to the sound," the coach said. "His strength is off the charts compared to what it was a year ago."

That strength, however, doesn't compare to the mental toughness gained by having a sibling who is making untold sacrifices for his country.

To Pikula, the greatest reward would be having his brother visit Vancouver as planned next month so that he could watch him kick professionally for the first time, and maybe even compare notes.

"There aren't very many similarities," the kicker said. "My job depends on focus. But if he's not focused, his life is over. I'm proud of him."

Somewhere alone, out in the desert perhaps, the feeling is undoubtedly mutual.

Vancouver Province

Airbus pitching planes to Ottawa

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OTTAWA — A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to also purchase new search-and-rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

On Thursday, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion in the process. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search-and-rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to purchase much-needed search-and-rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the ongoing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, Defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use their existing newer model C-130 aircraft, along with the A400M, to handle shorter-range airlift.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin we have the opportunity and indeed the duty to bring this (proposal) to the attention to the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010 and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008 and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Thompson said that's not true.

"Overall the program is on track," he said. "Like any program of this size and complexity there are elements of it which are slightly behind schedule, others which are slightly ahead of schedule."

The government is currently in negotiations with Lockheed Martin to purchase 17 C-130Js. The government estimated it will spend \$3.2 billion on the program. Another \$1.7 billion will be set aside for a 20-year

in-service support contract for the planes.

Ross also questioned whether an A400M delivered as early as 2010 would be trouble-free as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes. "Companies promise all kinds of stuff until they get a contract," he added.

The Commons defence committee, which is studying defence procurement, has also heard from some witnesses who have voiced concerns over the C-130J. In March the Pentagon's former director of equipment testing, Philip Coyle, told the Commons committee that the C-130J is still facing ongoing technical problems.

Airbus officials also point out that the C-130J is not capable of carrying the light armoured vehicles used by the Canadian Forces without first having them stripped of their turrets. At the same time, the A400M represents new generation technology and stands to become the main transport plane for a large number of Canadian allies, they argue.

Ross said light armoured vehicles would be carried by the larger C-17 aircraft that Canada is buying.

Is Canada making the same mistakes the Soviet Union did a generation ago?

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Victoria's Nikolai Lanine Photo / Nikolai Lanine's regiment delivers aid to an Afghan village (above) after the Soviet's official withdrawal in February 1989. ; Photo: Victoria's Nikolai Lanine Photo / In the summer of 1988 (left), Lanine's team is shown during the military operation in North-Eastern Afghanistan to protect a Soviet convoy at the time of the Soviet withdrawal. Photos of life with Soviet forces in Afghanistan taken by Victoria's Nikolai Lanine, a native of Russia who served in Afghanistan in the late 1980s. ;

DATELINE: VICTORIA
BYLINE: Jack Knox
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
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VICTORIA -- He was an ordinary 18-year-old from an ordinary family when he marched off to war in Afghanistan.

He did so with the assurance that not only was he protecting his own country's security, but was bringing peace and happiness to an oppressed people, too.

But by the time Nikolai Lanine and the rest of the Soviet army pulled out of Afghanistan 16 months later, his faith was shaken, his feelings conflicted.

And now the Victoria resident hears the echoes of his Afghan experience in his new country, Canada.

There are the same simplistic assessments of a complicated war, the same assumption that foreigners can "fix" Afghanistan, the same media focus on "our" soldiers, with the Afghans reduced to bit players in their own tragedy. And there is the same fear that military action will backfire, fuelling -- not extinguishing -- the spread of terrorism and violence.

Lanine, neither a pacifist nor a militarist, is anxious to add to, not inflame, the debate, and to avoid having his views simplified and hijacked to bolster someone else's agenda. Last August, he was in Comox, B.C., for the funeral of his wife's cousin, Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom, who was killed in an Afghan suicide bombing. Debating the sacrifice of others is, he knows, sensitive stuff. The Canadian soldiers fighting in Afghanistan are brave; Lanine relates to them whenever he sees footage from Kandahar. ("Get your head down," he'll tell the screen. "Your helmet is showing over the wall.")

But he also knows he offers a rare perspective, that he walks with enough Afghan dust and blood on his boots to make his story worth hearing.

The Soviet Union had been up to its ears in Afghanistan for eight years by the time Lanine got there in 1987.

The West howled in outrage when the U.S.S.R. invaded in December 1979, but Moscow argued that it had been invited by Afghanistan's Marxist government, which was dealing with a growing Islamic fundamentalist movement that threatened to cross the border into the southern Soviet republics.

Russians, at least those who paid attention to the far-off conflict, were told their troops were protecting Afghan and Soviet security against international Islamic terrorists.

"We were told that the resistance was waging a war against its own people, burning schools and executing teachers for allowing female students in, attacking a peaceful population supportive of government and killing anyone who worked for Afghan and Soviet authorities," says Lanine.

"Media also focused on the Soviet aid and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and on how the Soviet presence was helping to liberate Afghan women. Like in Canadian media now, a large part of Soviet coverage was focused on soldiers' personalities and their heroism and 'courageous service' in the heat and dust of Afghanistan. The common themes were how much the troops believed in their mission and took tremendous risks at war. One could read about soldiers' anguish over the deaths of their friends who 'gave their lives' for 'their country and for the people of Afghanistan,' or see a photo of Soviet troops during the mission or of a disabled veteran learning how to walk on prosthesis and trying to adjust to life back home.

"So, in many ways, the coverage did reflect reality, but it was one-sided with almost no mention of civilian casualties or serious attempts to understand the resistance."

Lanine, called up for compulsory military duty at 18, found himself part of an automatic-grenade-launcher crew when he arrived in Afghanistan in late 1987. Over the next 16 months, he became the squad leader, participated in both military operations and reconstruction efforts.

"In the beginning, I was overwhelmed and didn't question things much." That changed over time, as he met Afghans — including resistance fighters — and as reality became more complicated. "I saw how Afghans constantly switched sides — Afghan soldiers deserted to the mujahedeen, or the resistance groups would start fighting on the government side — and how the population was caught in between, innocent people getting killed. Like now, violence didn't improve the situation in Afghanistan, it made it worse. It led to even more violence and misery and empowered fundamentalists."

"By the end of the war, I wrote in my journal that the war was not as justified 'as I had perceived ... before' and that the only excuse I could find for myself to be in Afghanistan was my desire to stay with my friends and support them.

"But even with all my doubts and soul-searching, I wasn't absolutely sure what the right thing to do was. On one hand, there was a great resentment by Afghans towards Soviet troops: We had no right to be there. On the other, Afghans who supported the government, particularly secular Afghans in urban areas, depended on us. Some of them saw the Soviet withdrawal as a betrayal. They felt that we were abandoning them for slaughter by the resistance."

There is, obviously, a big difference between the Soviet Union's massive commitment to its war in Afghanistan and Canada's limited deployment of troops. But Lanine can see us treading down the same path.

"In both Canada and the Soviet Union, the biggest mistake was the arrogant assumption that, somehow, we were entitled to interfere in a foreign country and decide which Afghans were 'good' or 'bad.' Official Soviet and Canadian pretexts were different, but the logic was the same: We have a right to 'bring stability' and to 'fix' whatever we believed to be wrong with 'those people,' especially if we decided that they are dangerous to us. Both governments had a lot of misconceptions about Afghanistan, and both societies were not free from Islamophobia. The U.S.S.R. took a side in a civil war inside Afghanistan, the U.S. did the same in 2001, and

NATO and Canada followed.

"Aggressive combat tactics by the Soviet military led to civilian casualties, antagonized the Afghan population and drove it to resistance. Similar things are happening now on a smaller scale.

"Also, Soviet aid was distributed mainly by the military. I took part in such efforts. It hurt the people because the resistance targeted anyone they associated with foreign troops, including Soviet engineers, medics, teachers, and other (reconstruction) workers. Canada is making the same mistake." Because soldiers are doing relief work, Afghans no longer draw a line between foreign troops and humanitarian organizations, which have now become targets for the Taliban.

Lanine says he is dismayed by the lack of an independent Canadian policy on Afghanistan. "Last year, we turned our soldiers into a de-facto U.S.-led force in Kandahar under the NATO umbrella, and now Afghans don't discriminate between Canadian and U.S. troops.

"Canada's approach to Afghanistan is decreasing long-term security for Canadians the same way that Soviet and U.S. policies in the 1980s led to a fundamentalist backlash against both countries culminating in Sept. 11. Back in the 1980s, one could see that a backlash was coming in one form or another — even we, regular soldiers, saw that — but all countries ignored it."

It was during the last months of his war, as his regiment increased contacts with insurgents, negotiating with various resistance groups, that Lanine got an inkling of what was to come. "We would sometimes find ourselves in a strange situation standing next to the armed jihadists during some meeting, operation, or in passing on the base. Some of them were responsible for killing and mutilating many Soviet soldiers and Afghans, or carried weapons taken from the dead Soviet soldiers. It was a very strange and emotionally confusing period for many of us — they were, after all, our official enemies. But it was exactly this kind of exposure that allowed me to learn something."

Contact with the insurgents, seeing the war through their eyes, led him to believe the Soviets were merely fuelling the insurgency — and a jihad that would not end when the Soviets pulled out. The Afghans said as much, and indeed jihadists did bring violence to the former Soviet Union in later years. "Now, in retrospect, I see how we ignored a growing religious force, which is called now militant fundamentalism and terrorism. Back then, I just had a vague feeling that we were failing to understand something important that would come to haunt us. When 9/11 happened, I was shocked like many, but not surprised — I had an instant flashback to the figures and words of the mujahedeen back in Afghanistan in the 1980s."

And now Lanine sees Canada following in the Soviets' footsteps, worsening a situation already made bad by the U.S. invasion of Iraq. "Canada is taking part in the same short-sighted U.S. policies that are significantly increasing the threat of terrorism. Why are we doing that? Is it in the interests of Canadians?"

"Even if some Canadians don't care about Afghans — and I think they should — purely pragmatic considerations would lead to the conclusion that our aggressive approach in Afghanistan is diminishing, not increasing, security for Canadians. This alone should be a sufficient reason to change Canada's policy."

So, what's the alternative?

"Any foreign army usually has one acceptable alternative: to leave," Lanine says. "Other alternatives are well known. First of all, we should stop aggressive hunt-and-destroy tactics that kill innocent Afghans. Right now, we are driving the population into resistance — exactly what the U.S.S.R. did — and this is one of the major reasons why the Taliban are regaining power."

He has other ideas: Disarm the warlords, legalize poppy-growing for medicinal opium production, funnel aid

not through multinational contractors, but through groups such as the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan.

"After 9/11, many Afghans favoured a real peacekeeping force in their country. So Canada needs to push diplomatically for genuine UN peacekeeping, not a pretense of one. I don't see why Canada couldn't play such role."

"Ultimately, it should be up to Afghans to decide what occupying forces should be doing there. It is their country. It applied to the Soviet Union. And it applies to Canada and NATO as well."

Victoria Times Colonist

Sufi poet Rumi rides wave of popularity 800 years after his birth

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Mohammad Noorae knew exactly what he needed when Brandeis University students asked him to distill the essence of Sufism, an Islamic mystical tradition, one recent Sunday afternoon.

Noorae, director of the Nimatullahi Sufi order in Boston, needed Grapes, a poem by Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, the 13th-century poet and mystic. The poem describes an argument among four wise men who all want grapes but don't know it because they speak different languages. The lesson: People must understand each other or be lost to bickering.

"Sufism is nothing more but love of God and love of other human beings," said Noorae. "And Rumi is the greatest teacher of Sufism."

Americans who haven't heard of Rumi probably will soon as the world celebrates his 800th birthday on Sept. 30. UNESCO has declared this year the International Year of Rumi. Fans and followers are organizing readings and concerts, while the legendary Whirling Dervishes, inspired by Rumi, are touring throughout the world. Given the tensions between the Islamic and western worlds, many Muslims and non-Muslims alike welcome an occasion to reflect on Rumi's message.

"He's more than a poet," said Akbar Ahmed, chairman of the Islamic studies department at American University. "He's a cultural ambassador for Islam."

Rumi was born in present-day Afghanistan into a family of Islamic theologians. He became a respected Islamic scholar, but following a chance meeting with a travelling Sufi dervish, Rumi embraced Islam's mystic tradition. After his death, his followers founded the Mevlevi Sufi order, one of several Sufi orders that hold Rumi in prominent regard.

His best-known work is the Masnavi, five volumes of rhyming couplets in a complex poetic form that incorporate stories, commentaries and prayers. Many consider it the most comprehensive Sufi interpretation of the Qur'an.

Celebrated for centuries in Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and South Asia, Rumi burst onto the American scene in 1995 after poet Coleman Barks translated a collection of his poems into *The Essential Rumi*, which has sold more than 500,000 copies. Several other successful translations followed, including one by Deepak Chopra, while Rosa Parks and Madonna are among the stars appearing on the CD *Love Poems of Rumi*.

Rumi's success isn't surprising to those who say he presents a simple but powerful message of spirituality and love.

"People in America are renewing their love of God, and Rumi is perhaps the most famous and articulate lover of God," Valerie Noor Karima, who heads the Hawaii-based Mevlevi Order of America, wrote in an e-mail. "Rumi speaks in the language of the heart, which is universal and timeless."

Others believe Rumi's appeal is in the accepting and hopeful nature of his poetry.

"Rumi has provided the humanist face of Islam to the West and America," said Louay Safi of the Indianapolis-based Islamic Society of North America.

His poems, Safi said: "Reflect a larger concern, to have a meaningful life and to pay attention to our spiritual existence. That's lacking in the U.S., where there is so much emphasis on the material."

Karima agrees, writing: "While Islam is often perceived in terms of its extremists, its laws and its veils, Rumi shows us the inner secret of Islam: that we can experience the Divine, transcendent, all-pervading, and also imminent. To see the face of God: This is the experience we've been waiting for all our lives. As Rumi said: God is 'nearer to us than our jugular vein.' "

Not all Muslims approve of Rumi and Sufism.

In Saudi Arabia, Sufis endured various forms of harassment and had to meet in secret until post-9/11 scrutiny on the country's dominant Wahhabi sect forced the Saudis to relax restrictions.

"There has always been tension in Islam between inclusivists and exclusivists," Ahmad said.

Some Muslims complain that some Sufi practitioners neglect the central importance of Islam and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

Karima acknowledges a liberal view toward Islam, but says it doesn't diminish Sufis' devotion to God.

THE NEW THREAT OF CORE AL-QAEDA; TERROR NETWORK GROWS

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If international terrorism has a global headquarters, it is probably to be found in the barren mountains of Waziristan lining the ungovernable north-west frontier of Pakistan.

Here, Western intelligence officials believe, al-Qaeda's core leadership, headed by Osama bin Laden and his Egyptian deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has regrouped and found refuge.

For several years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, they were engaged in little else than avoiding capture and fleeing the U.S.-led offensive in Afghanistan.

Today, by contrast, they are probably secure enough to give strategic direction to al-Qaeda cells across the world. Once, al-Qaeda was best thought of as a franchise operation: a brand name adopted by numerous terrorist groups operating independently of the key leaders around bin Laden, which Western counterterrorism officials call "core al-Qaeda."

But this assessment is probably outdated. "Core al-Qaeda" is believed to have reasserted itself and decided on several key objectives.

First, bin Laden and his allies are seeking to establish networks in the Maghreb countries of North Africa.

Last September, an Algerian terrorist organization styling itself the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, known by its French acronym GSPC, decided to merge with al-Qaeda. Its fighters have waged a brutal Islamist insurgency in Algeria for the past 15 years.

Significantly, this move was revealed not by the GSPC but in a taped message from Zawahiri. "Osama bin Laden has told me to announce to Muslims that the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat has joined al-Qaeda," he said.

Zawahiri added that France, Algeria's former colonial power, would be a key target.

"This should be a source of chagrin, frustration and sadness for the apostates [in Algeria's regime] and the treacherous sons of France," Zawahiri said, promising a blow against the "French crusaders."

The GSPC then said, "We pledge allegiance to Sheik Osama bin Laden. Our soldiers are at his call so that he

may strike who and where he likes."

Western officials say "core al-Qaeda" regarded this move as a coup.

They believe the leadership's second key objective is to expand into Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

The sudden emergence of Fatah al-Islam, the extremist group now fighting Lebanon's army in a Palestinian refugee camp near Tripoli, could be the result. Fatah al-Islam's leader, Shaker al-Abssi, has proclaimed his support for bin Laden.

But his group has also been linked to Syria's regime, which al-Qaeda despises as an "apostate" dictatorship. It is too early to say whether core al-Qaeda's strategy of expansion into the Levant is bearing fruit, but Western officials believe an effort is being made.

Another Sunni extremist group, styling itself Asbat al-Ansar, is active in south Lebanon and has more definite links with core al-Qaeda.

The GSPC's merger with al-Qaeda is viewed as especially significant. The Algerian diaspora is spread across Western Europe, concentrated mainly in France. Officials fear GSPC cells in these communities could be used by al-Qaeda to strike targets throughout Europe.

While core al-Qaeda gives strategic direction to its followers, it does not exert day-to-day operational control over them. Bin Laden does not sit in a cave in Waziristan and issue orders for specific attacks on given targets. There is no centralized command structure with him at its apex. Instead, core al-Qaeda is a moving circle of people, possibly numbering in the dozens, who give general direction to cells across the globe.

In particular, they decide which regions of the world to target for expansion or for attack. So bin Laden and Zawahiri were sporadically in touch with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the terrorist leader who created al-Qaeda in Iraq. Until his death last year, Zarqawi seized the chance offered by the U.S. invasion of Iraq to open a new front against the Western allies.

One important indicator is the number of taped messages released by the two key figures. Last year, bin Laden and Zawahiri managed 21 public messages, twice as many as in 2005. Several of these missives mentioned events that had taken place a few days earlier.

Instead of living in isolation, they are secure enough to receive timely information and send regular public messages to their global constituency.

North and South Waziristan are two of Pakistan's seven federally administered Tribal Areas. These barren enclaves on the frontier with Afghanistan are beyond the control of any government, including General Pervez Musharraf's embattled regime.

Under agreements first negotiated by the British, the Tribal Areas are run by local chiefs from the Pashtun people and no one else. Pakistani law does not apply to them and no police or security forces are allowed to enter.

By tradition, even the army is confined to main roads and agreed outposts. Pakistan has vetoed requests for U.S. troops to enter these areas, where criminals and smugglers have found refuge for centuries.

No better sanctuary for core al-Qaeda could be imagined than this ungoverned expanse of territory covering more than 25,000 square kilometres of some of the world's most rugged terrain. Moreover, the Tribal Areas have been strongholds of Islamist extremism for decades. Many of the chiefs are supporters of bin Laden,

perhaps explaining why the U.S. reward of US\$25-million has failed to yield any result so far.

In addition, the chiefs live by the traditional Pashtun code known as Pashtunwali. Once you accept a guest into your house —and bin Laden has clearly been accepted by somebody —he must be offered absolute protection.

Under U.S. pressure, Gen. Musharraf broke with tradition and sent Pakistan's army into the Tribal Areas last year. The only result was fierce fighting and the deaths of at least 600 Pakistani soldiers.

Safely beyond the reach of Pakistani and U.S. forces, core al-Qaeda has staged something of a recovery. When the network was based in Afghanistan before the destruction of the Taliban regime in 2001, al-Qaeda's key role was training recruits. It operated scores of camps where thousands of terrorists learned their skills. Now there are signs it is once again running training camps, this time in North Waziristan. Surveillance has identified compounds where recruits are thought to be gathering.

Yet the blows suffered by bin Laden's network should not be underestimated. Since 9/11, al-Qaeda's training camps in Afghanistan have all been destroyed and several key figures captured or killed. Ramzi bin al-Shibh and Khalid Sheik Mohammed, two experienced operatives who specialized in planning terrorist attacks, were arrested in Pakistan in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Mohammed Atef, another of bin Laden's key lieutenants, was killed by a U.S. air strike in Afghanistan in 2001.

Bin Laden and Zawahiri appear to have spent two or three years after 2001 doing little but evading capture. Western observers often assume that striking the United States or Europe is their only ambition. In fact, they view toppling Gen. Musharraf in Pakistan and overthrowing the Saudi royal family as equally important. Bin Laden sees both these regimes as despicable Western puppets.

But Western officials say al-Qaeda's decision to attack Saudi Arabia was a major strategic error. After the network carried out a series of attacks on foreign and economic targets in 2003 and 2004, the Kingdom's security forces responded with ruthless efficiency. At least 2,000 suspects have been arrested—172 in a single operation in April.

In Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf clings to power, despite al-Qaeda's best efforts to assassinate him. The General, who claims to have cheated death 11 times, had his narrowest escape on Boxing Day, 2004, when a suicide car bomber came close to detonating alongside his limousine.

So the "apostate" General is still in office and the Saudi royal family, who have been bin Laden's sworn enemies since they invited U.S. troops into the Kingdom in 1990 and stripped him of his Saudi citizenship, are probably more secure today than they were in 2001.

Elsewhere, al-Qaeda's efforts to subvert Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in the world, have been successfully countered. Jemaah Islamiyah, the Indonesian group responsible for the bombing of a nightclub in Bali in 2002, has been crippled by hundreds of arrests, and its spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, is now behind bars.

Neither North America nor Western Europe has suffered a mass-casualty terrorist attack since the London bombings almost two years ago. Financing terrorism has become harder and co-operation between the world's intelligence agencies is closer than ever.

But the unknown factor is whether the war in Iraq will produce a new cadre of battle-hardened al-Qaeda recruits. The first generation of al-Qaeda leaders had fought alongside bin Laden against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. The next generation had combat experience in Algeria's Islamist insurgency in the 1990s, the Chechen war against Russia or the struggle against Indian rule in Kashmir.

The key question is whether a new leadership of al-Qaeda will emerge from the furnace of Iraq. If so, they will probably be more capable than bin Laden's generation, having survived close combat against the most advanced armies in the world. Yet bin Laden is probably as far away from achieving his strategic aims as he was before 9/11, when he commanded a network of camps across Afghanistan producing thousands of trained recruits.

However, the United States, Britain and all bin Laden's countless other enemies seem no closer to hunting him down, still less to crushing al-Qaeda. The probable truth is that what George W. Bush, the U.S. President, called the "war on terror" has reached a stalemate. Neither side is close to achieving its goals.

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

Combative Coderre; Liberal defence critic says he's a 'straight shooter'; foes say he's 'a buffoon'

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COLUMN: John Ivison

ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / Liberal MP and former Cabinet minister Denis Coderre says, "What you see is what you get ... sometimes you have to break eggs to make an omelette." ;

DATELINE: OTTAWA

BYLINE: John Ivison

SOURCE: National Post

WORD COUNT: 1452

OTTAWA –Lincoln and Laurie Dinning were just wrapping up an emotional press conference on Parliament Hill, at which they complained that the government had covered less than half the funeral costs for their son, Matthew, who was killed in Afghanistan last year.

Suddenly, a voice piped up from the back of the podium: "If I may..." and a diminutive figure elbowed his way to the microphone, past the towering Mr. Dinning. All that was visible was a head until the cameras panned down to take in Denis Coderre, the rambunctious Liberal defence critic, who launched into a partisan attack on the Defence Minister, Gordon O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor, if he was watching, must have breathed a sigh of relief as the sympathy drained from the room. Mr. Coderre seemed far more interested in acquiring a political scalp than in the iniquities of military funeral compensation.

You either love Denis Coderre or loathe him. Fans say he is the kind of hard-working MP you want on your side in a scrap; opponents say he embodies old Liberal values of sleaze and pork-barrel politics. Mr. Coderre says he's just a "straight shooter."

"What you see is what you get ... sometimes you have to break eggs to make an omelette," he says.

In recent weeks, it is his critics who have been making the most noise. He has been called an "idiot" (by government whip Jay Hill), "a bottom-feeder" (by Mr. O'Connor) and "a buffoon" (by Mr. O'Connor again).

Eager to reinforce the impression that Mr. Coderre is a publicity hound, Conservatives have been circulating archive footage from Radio-Canada, in which a then 15-year-old Mr. Coderre claims to have seen a UFO. The clip shows the young Denis, a fan of astrology, describing how he'd seen something "phenomenal" in the sky, accompanied by drawings of the object that look suspiciously like something from a 1950s B-movie. "It turns out it was a weather balloon. But you have to admire the confidence of the young man," Mr. Coderre said, laughing, yesterday.

Many prominent Liberals do not see the funny side of Mr. Coderre's performance as defence critic. "His presence on this file has undermined our effectiveness," complained one Liberal strategist. "O'Connor is weak beyond belief but, were we forced to rely on Coderre's credibility to advance our case, one can only lament the sorry position we'd find ourselves in. It's the only advantage the Defence Minister has enjoyed."

Mr. Coderre's critics agree it was smart politics for Liberal leader Stephane Dion to employ a Quebecer as defence spokesman — and to put a supporter of rival leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff into a key position. But a number of Liberals say his blatantly partisan style strikes the wrong chord on such a sensitive file.

"There is a perception he is anti-military," said one Liberal MP. Mr. Coderre's comment that the Chief of the Defence Staff, Rick Hillier, is merely "a prop" for the Conservative Party has hardly eased that impression.

The Liberals are said to be re-evaluating their front bench, and insiders suggest that former leadership candidate Scott Brison and New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc will play a larger role in the House come the fall. Mr. Coderre could be moved to a less prominent role.

Mr. Coderre says his passion for politics was formed when he became president of his kindergarten class at age six. His formative political years were marked by the internecine Liberal feuds of the last 20 years. As Sun Media columnist Greg Weston detailed in *Reign of Error*, his book on John Turner's troubled leadership, Mr. Coderre was already a force during the 1986 leadership review. He was a pro-Turner youth organizer responsible for ensuring students made the trip from Quebec to Ottawa to support Mr. Turner. Mr. Coderre admitted in the book that "private local sponsors" were found to pay the expenses of the youth delegates. Mr. Weston also details an incident in which one organizer received a gift-wrapped shoe box full of cash to help recruit delegates. Mr. Coderre denies he was the anonymous figure who entered Liberal folklore as "Shoebox Boy."

Between 1993 and 1996, he was deputy executive director for the Quebec wing of the Liberal Party. His involvement meant Mr. Coderre was called as witness at the Gomery Inquiry into the sponsorship scandal and his name popped up frequently during testimony. Before getting elected in 1997, Mr. Coderre was hired to do public relations by Groupe Polygone, a firm that went on to receive \$40-million in government sponsorship funds, including \$330,000 for a non-existent hunting and fishing show in 2000.

His route into elected politics was a bumpy one. He ran for office three times before getting elected, finally, in 1997.

Once in government, Mr. Coderre was appointed Secretary of State for Amateur Sport in 1999 by his political "father and mentor," Mr. Chretien. After 9/11, the prime minister promoted him to immigration minister. Those who worked for him describe a conscientious, energetic minister who fought hard for his department and its priorities, but when Paul Martin became Prime Minister, Mr. Coderre received a junior role as president of the Queen's Privy Council and minister for la Francophonie. Supporters say Mr. Martin kept Mr. Coderre around for his organizational skills in the upcoming election. With that won, they note, Mr. Coderre was dumped from Cabinet. "His presence was not overly missed," said one Martinite.

Yet anyone who thought it might be the end for Mr. Coderre sorely underestimated him. During the 2006 election, he created a storm by accusing National Hockey League player Shane Doan of trash-talking a francophone linesman at a game in Montreal. Later, he wrote to the Canadian Olympic Committee asking them to keep the Phoenix Coyote star off the roster for the Turin Olympics.

Mr. Doan was cleared by the NHL and subsequently launched a lawsuit against Mr. Coderre for defamation. Mr. Coderre launched a countersuit, while decrying the historical treatment of francophones in the NHL as second-class citizens.

Mr. Coderre ruled himself out of the running for the Liberal leadership after Mr. Martin stepped down, instead endorsing Mr. Ignatieff. He told reporters the contest would be won by a candidate from Ontario, "with a francophone next to him" — a reference many took to mean that if his preferred candidate fell under a bus, he would be there to inherit the crown. "All Quebec MPs see themselves as future prime ministers," said one Liberal.

That helps explain what one senior Liberal called Mr. Coderre's "blatant attempt to mobilize" against Justin Trudeau in his bid for a riding in east Montreal. "He didn't want the Cabinet competition," said the Liberal. Mr. Coderre denies he organized against Mr. Trudeau. "I'm not an insecure person. I don't even feel there is competition between Justin Trudeau and me," he said.

Mr. Coderre's support was warmly welcomed by Mr. Ignatieff, not least because his riding contained 3,500 Liberal members —nearly 15% of the total in the province. It proved to be a typically dirty little war, prompting Mr. Dion's Quebec co-chair Eleni Bakopanos to claim: "Coderre did everything in his power to make sure Mr. Dion didn't get elected." When Mr. Dion triumphed, Mr. Coderre was visibly upset at the victory by a fellow Quebecer. When asked if he was prepared to support the new leader, he said he needed time to think. "I have an MBA, so I'll be okay," he said at the time.

All of which made his resurrection as defence critic perplexing. Jamie Carroll, national Liberal director, is quoted by journalist Linda Diebel in her new book on Stephane Dion as saying: "I am starting to wonder if he [Mr. Dion] may not have been a little too good to his former competitors... What they do in public doesn't bother me. It's the s**t they do behind the scenes — which I may not know they are doing — that keeps me up at night."

Mr. Coderre clearly saw this as a veiled personal attack, blasting Mr. Carroll's comments as "totally misplaced" and "totally unacceptable."

While professing loyalty, Mr. Coderre clearly still covets the top job. The problem is that a number of prominent Liberals think he has been overtaken by a new generation of Liberals such as Mr. Brison, Mr. LeBlanc and another former leadership contender, Gerard Kennedy.

He may yet prove his critics wrong, using his elbows and organizational skills to re-emerge as the Comeback Kid. But in Stephane Dion's squeaky clean, post-Gomery Liberal Party, at age 43, Mr. Coderre looks ever more like an old hand on a brave new frontier.

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KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

TERROR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS; BOMBINGS IN ALGERIA; Al-Qaeda seeks out like-minded violent groups

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ILLUSTRATION: Color Photo: Louafi Larbi, Reuters / Victims of a suicidecar bomb call for help after an explosion near the Prime Minister's office in central Algiers on April 11. Three suicide bombers struck Algeria that day, killing 30 people. The bombings were the work of an Algerian Islamic rebel group that had formed an alliance with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda. ; Color Photo: Fayez Nureldine, AFP, Getty Images / Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem's office was hit by a bomb in April. ;

DATELINE: ALGIERS

BYLINE: Daniel Williams

SOURCE: Bloomberg News

WORD COUNT: 707

ALGIERS – On April 11, three suicide truck bombers hit in and around Algiers, killing 30 people. One bomb blew up at the gates of Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem's office, a French colonial palace on a hill.

The bombings were the work of Algeria's Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, an Islamic rebel group that has been weakened by years of government crackdown. They may also be the fruit of the recently formed alliance between the GSPC (the group's French acronym) and al-Qaeda, the global terror network headed by fugitive leader Osama bin Laden.

Since January, the GSPC has operated under the name al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb. Government officials say the union is an effort to boost recruitment and benefit from al-Qaeda money and weapons, raising the prospect of increased violence in the gas-rich country and instability across North Africa.

"This was a big wake-up call," said Arslan Chikhaoui, chairman of Nord-Sud Ventures, an Algiers strategy and consulting firm. "Algeria cannot become complacent."

Since al-Qaeda's training camps in Afghanistan were destroyed during the 2001 U.S.-backed overthrow of the Taliban government after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the organization has moved into a kind of partnership with previously existing violent groups elsewhere.

"One of the keys to al-Qaeda's resilience has been its ability to co-opt and exploit local, ready-made networks to its ideological and operational advantage," Emily Hunt, an analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, wrote in a February report.

Islamic groups in Algeria turned to violence in 1992, the year the army canceled parliamentary elections a Muslim-based party was set to win. An

amnesty program initiated by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in 1999 has shrunk rebel ranks: From a high of about 25,000 terrorists, about 500 remain active, almost all in the GSPC, government officials estimate.

Over the years, al-Qaeda dabbled on and off with the rebel groups, which were manned in part by hundreds of Algerians who fought the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, then streamed home when the civil war broke out in 1992. Estimates of the dead from the conflict range as high as 200,000.

Al-Qaeda and the various Algerian rebel groups occasionally exchanged Internet and televised words of support, but global holy war by and large wasn't on the Algerian agenda. "Our terrorists generally like to bomb their own country," said Ahmed Ouayahia, who heads the National Liberation Front, Algeria's dominant political party.

That may be in the process of changing. The Qaeda-GSPC link makes Algeria a potential platform to extend violence into neighboring Morocco, Tunisia and Libya as well as into Europe, officials contend.

In Tunisia, where there have been several reports of Algerian-based Islamists entering the country, a court sentenced 12 men to between four months and four years in jail on charges of terrorist activity and ties with the GSPC.

Heralding the alliance with the GSPC last September, bin Laden's top aide, Ayman al-Zawahiri, declared in a message on al-Jazeera, the Arabic-language satellite news channel, that "our brothers will be a thorn in the neck of the American and French crusaders." Two days after the April 11 Algiers bombings, Nicolas Sarkozy, then in the middle of his successful campaign for France's presidency, declared, "The main terrorist threat in France comes from Algeria."

Meanwhile, analysts say that al-Qaeda offers a potential funnel of arms and money into Algeria through sub-Saharan Mali, Niger and Mauritania, where Islamic terrorists have built smuggling routes and mobile training camps. "The action in fighting al-Qaeda will be south of the Sahara," Mr. Chikhaoui said. "That is Qaeda's real value to the GSPC."

The GSPC's first attack under the al-Qaeda label occurred Feb. 13, when members bombed police stations in eastern Algeria, killing six police officers, according to an account by the International Crisis Group. On March 3, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb bombed a bus carrying foreign workers to a natural-gas pipeline construction site. The latest attack took place this week, when guerrillas ambushed a military convoy and killed a soldier.

The April 11 attack on Mr. Belkhadem's office had particular shock value, said Mounir Boudjema, editor of the newspaper *Liberte*, who has investigated Algerian terrorism for many years. "It was kind of a publicity stunt, though that does not make it any less dangerous."

KEYWORDS: RIOTS; VIOLENCE; YOUTH; ETHNIC GROUPS; FRANCE

Britain still behind Afghan narcotics war

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Re: Canadian Funds To Fight Narcotics Trade Left Unspent, June 6.

Contrary to the suggestion in Steven Edwards' article, Britain has not stopped payments to the UN-administered Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF) for Afghanistan. Nor are we aware that any other country has done so.

The CNTF supports the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, seeking to focus that effort as tightly as possible and giving the Afghan government the greatest possible responsibility for it. So far the CNTF board has approved funding for 30 projects worth \$22.95-million, mainly for alternative livelihoods (e.g., greenhouses, agricultural production, carpet weaving), rural infrastructure (roads, bridges), drug demand reduction (treatment centres) and criminal justice (prison design).

The CNTF can make a real difference in the fight against drugs trafficking. We are surely right to try to develop the Afghan government's own capacity to take on the challenge. But -- as I know from experience working with Chris Patten to oversee EU international assistance -- it is exceptionally difficult to manage programs and to audit spending in countries that are still developing their administrations and find it difficult to control spending. With Canada and other donors, we are working with the Afghan government and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen oversight. We must be able to assure donors that their money is being well spent. But it should surprise no one that it is taking time to distribute the available funds.

Anthony Cary, high commissioner, British High Commission, Ottawa.

KEYWORDS: 0

WHEN

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SOURCE: New York Times News Service
WORD COUNT: 113

The National Geographic Society has struck a US\$1-million deal with the Afghan government to bring ancient Afghan gold treasures —part of the storied, 2,000-year-old Bactrian hoard— to the United States for a travelling exhibition next May; however, some cultural experts question whether Afghanistan is being properly compensated. "This is a travesty," said Lynne Munson, former deputy chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. "The Bactrian hoard is simply the most valuable possession of the poorest people on earth. To ask them to lend it and give so little in return is unconscionable."

KEYWORDS: 0

BRIGHT SUN, WARM BREEZE, HOT READS; Henry James thought the words 'summer afternoon' were the most beautiful in the English language. We'd add 'book' to the mix

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BYLINE: Brianna Goldberg

SOURCE: Weekend Post

WORD COUNT: 2540

On the threshold of summer — and as members of the publishing world gather in Toronto this weekend for their annual trade show, BookExpo Canada — we asked booksellers across the country for their picks for the hot books this season. From lifeguard love to the inevitable Harry Potter, they put together a stellar list for those long languid days ahead.

BACK-PORCH LITERATURE

Staff at Duthie Books in Vancouver were eager to share their top picks for summer fiction. Manager Ria Bleumer suggests *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Viking Canada; \$34) by Khaled Hosseini. The new novel from the author of *The Kite Runner* spans 30 years in Afghanistan, from the Soviet invasion to the post-Taliban era, as seen through the eyes of two women. But it's more than just a history lesson. "This story is gripping from the first page," Bleumer says, "gripping and deeply moving."

Duthie Books's co-owner Cathy Legate recommends *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name* (HarperCollins Canada; \$29.95) by Vendela Vida. In this literary thriller, a young woman's search for her father takes her far into northern Europe and into the world of the Sami.

Assistant manager Michael Varty, meanwhile, is partial to *The Falling Man* (Scribner; \$32) by Don DeLillo, the story of a family trying to come to grips with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The book's title derives from the horrifying photo of a man jumping from one of the towers of the World Trade Center, and from the performance artist in the novel who recreates this act. "DeLillo weaves a tapestry of meaning out of a shameless act, and humanizes that iconic day," Varty says.

Fellow B.C. bookseller Robert Wiersema, of Bolen Books in Victoria, says Ann Brashares's new book, *The Last Summer (of You & Me)* (River-head; \$31), is also one to watch. "It's going to please the same people who grew up with Brashares's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, and are now venturing into adult books," he

BRIGHT SUN, WARM BREEZE, HOT READS; Henry James thought the words 'summer afternoon' were the

says. "It's about friendship, romance and getting on in the world as a young adult. It's about summer vacations on Fire Island, and a romance with a lifeguard."

Over the Rockies and on to the Prairies, book buyer Chris Hall of McNally Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg observes that there's hype and then there's hype, and the hype for Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (HarperCollins Canada; \$33.95) is not your usual hype. "Superlative terms are often bandied about by the press and booksellers, but this time they're true!" he says of the new novel by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. Chabon's book is a mystery story that imagines a Yiddish-speaking homeland for Jewish refugees in Alaska after the Second World War. "This book has high entertainment quality, but depth as well," Hall says. "I think that's what you want in the summer: a page-turner that will give you something to think about."

Another good bet for summer is *On Chesil Beach* (Knopf Canada; \$27) by Ian McEwan. "This is a very quiet, very small story," Hall says of McEwan's tale of a young couple on their wedding night, in a time — 1963 — before there's an accepted language for sex. "It's about people caught in the silences," Hall says. At less than 200 pages, it's a restrained little story about the problem of too much restraint.

Of course, there's an elephant in the reading room: "Harry Potter: What more needs to be said?" says Sharon Budnarchuk, manager of Audrey's Books in Edmonton. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Raincoast; \$45; release date is July 27) is the culmination of an incredible series," she says of J.K. Rowling's final Potter novel, which was touted as a surefire summer blockbuster by nearly every bookseller interviewed for this story. As usual, Rowling has kept mum about the plot, but no matter: Budnarchuk says this one's sure to be as much of a page-turner as the rest of the series. "There are not many people in the world who did not read and enjoy them," she says.

But for those who favour wizardry with words over the Hogwarts variety, Budnarchuk suggests *The Penguin Book of Summer Stories* (Penguin Canada; \$24), edited by Alberto Manguel. "Short stories are just great for the summer," she says. "You can go read one, do some more gardening, savour another..."

Along the same lines, Heather Reisman, owner of Indigo Books and Music, recommends Neil Smith's short-story collection, *Bang Crunch* (Knopf Canada; \$29.95). Reisman says that though the short story is not her favourite form, Smith's collection pulled her in with colourful characters, real emotion and quirky plot twists. One story features a hilarious re-enactment of an *I Love Lucy* episode. Another concerns a widow who talks to her husband's ashes, which are interred inside a curling stone.

DOCKSIDE CANLIT

On the Canadian front, several strong works of fiction have been released in time for summer, including Mary Borsky's *Cobalt Blue* (Thomas Allen; \$24.95), Joanne Proulx's *Anthem of a Reluctant Prophet* (Viking Canada; \$28) and *The Ladies' Lending Library* by Janice Kulyk Keefer (HarperCollins Canada; \$32).

To this distinguished list, Heidi Hallett, owner of Frog Hollow Books in Halifax, would add Michael Ondaatje's new novel, *Divisadero* (McClelland & Stewart; \$34.99), the story of a farmer raising his two daughters in northern California, and the terrible sequence of events set in motion when one of the daughters falls in love with their farmhand. "This is a very moving novel told in several distinct, but subtly linked, stories," Hallett says. "While the early sections of the novel are full of passion and violence, the later section of the book takes on an atmospheric and dreamy quality. A perfect book for reading in a ray of warm sunshine, as it exudes a warmth all its own."

In a lighter vein, *Lucky Strike* (Rendezvous Press; \$14.95) by Pat Wilson and

Kris Wood is a funny Maritimes mystery that's perfect for summer, Hallett says. After an accountant from

Toronto gets caught up in a Mafia trial, he's sent to the remote Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia as part of the witness protection program. "With a hilarious cast of characters and clever little mystery, this is a great beach or cottage read, especially if you happen to be vacationing in Nova Scotia," Hallett says.

For those lucky sods with a nice long stretch of vacation looming, Hallett recommends *The Book of Negroes* (HarperCollins Canada; \$34.95) by Lawrence Hill. "Epic, un-put-downable and thought-provoking," she says of Hill's sweeping exploration of slavery, from the point of view of one of the strongest heroines ever to appear in Canadian fiction. Hallett says this is a good one for a vacation or long weekend when a reader wants to get caught up in an extraordinary saga with remarkable characters and attention to historical detail.

THE BIG PICTURE The printed word is not the only way to tell a meaningful story. Highly topical graphic novels such as *Persepolis* (Pantheon; \$16) by Marjane Satrapi remain some of the strongest sellers at The Beguiling books and art store in Toronto. Owner Peter Birkemoe says Israeli illustrator Rutu Modan's new book, *Exit Wounds* (Drawn & Quarterly; \$21.95), will be a big summer hit in this tradition. The story follows a young taxi driver in Tel Aviv as he searches for his father, who may have been killed in a suicide bomb attack. "This is one of the most subtly crafted stories I have ever read," Birkemoe says. "Her scenes on a beach perfectly capture the thrill of an impromptu ocean dip, making this ideal summer reading."

Birkemoe is also excited about Fantagraphics's re-release of early stories from *Love and Rockets* (\$19.95) by Jaime and Gilbert Hernandez, which makes the series more affordable for readers looking to acquaint themselves with classics such as *Maggie the Mechanic* and *Heartbreak Soup*.

And action fans can take heart: "For a more stylish and intelligent take on the traditional escapist comic book, the super-spy genre you used to devour on summer vacation is back," Birkemoe adds. *Casanova* (Image Comics; \$27) by Matt Fraction and Gabriel Ba traces the adventures of Casanova Quinn, a kind of James Bond meets Nick Fury, and sexes it up a few notches.

IMAGINATION RUN WILD

Science fiction and fantasy often grab the top spots on best-seller lists year-round, and summer is no exception. Chris Szego, manager of Bakka-Phoenix Books in Toronto, is excited about the newest entry from Robert Charles Wilson, the Hugo Award-winning author of *Spin* (Tor Books; \$10.99). In that book, astronomers discovered the world would come to an end in 30 years. Wilson's new book, *Axis* (Tor Books; \$29.95; out later this summer), is in some ways a continuation of that story, taking readers to the world next door. "He is a brilliant writer, and for the past few years

he has just been getting better and better with every book," Szego says. "Spin was thought-provoking, it was real, it was moving. Axis promises to be more of the same."

Can a fantasy novel double as a simple romance story fit for the beach? Szego says author Lois McMaster Bujold has pulled off this unlikely feat with the second instalment of her novel *The Sharing Knife* (HarperCollins Canada; \$32.95; out next week). This volume, titled *Legacy*, tells the story of a farmer girl and a Lakewalker man who fall in love and get married. But their union changes the world. "When you get two very smart and very determined people from two very different backgrounds who finally, finally, begin to understand the other person's background, that's how change really begins," Szego says.

And for summer readers who aren't in it for the long haul, Szego suggests *The King of Attolia* by Megan Whalen Turner (HarperCollins Canada; \$9.99), the third in a series about the fantasy kingdom of Attolia. "One of the conventions of fantasy is that they tend to be written and stopped," Szego says. "You get to the end of the book and you scream, 'What happens next?'" But Szego says each book in this series can be enjoyed on its own or alongside the other episodes. "It's funny. It's deathly serious. And it's a young-adult novel. writer with a slew of books to his credit. Among them are the Peter Diamond novels, about a

BRIGHT SUN, WARM BREEZE, HOT READS; Henry James thought the words 'summer afternoon' were the

curmudgeonly detective superintendent in Bath. The ninth in the series, *The Secret Hangman* (Soho Crime; \$24), has just been released. "If you have not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Diamond, you could — no, should — start with the first in the series, *The Last Detective*, and carry on from there," Singh says. "Be forewarned, however; he's addictive."

The Unquiet (Atria; \$29.99), featuring

John Connolly's Maine PI, Charlie

But I have to say it's probably the book I've enjoyed reading most this year."

FOR DARK AND STORMY NIGHTS It wouldn't be summer without a nail-biting mystery or two, whether it's the noir classics or more recent fare. JD Singh, owner of Sleuth of Baker Street in Toronto, says Michael Connelly's newest Harry Bosch novel, *The Overlook* (Little, Brown; \$27.50), is just the ticket for a potboiling evening on the porch. It pits the tough L.A. homicide detective against both the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI. The book was originally serialized in *The Sunday New York Times Magazine*, "though the finished book is more fully fleshed out and includes more action and thrills for Harry," Singh says.

Peter Lovesey is a prolific British Parker, has also just been published. "It's not for the faint of heart, as all who have sampled him know, so don't hand it to your fragile friends without reading it first," Singh warns. "The body count tends to be high in this series and people tend to expire in bunches, but the writing is accomplished."

FROM FACT TO PHENOMENON OK, we know you political junkies out there like your literature served up with a healthy dollop of facts, so we have a few suggestions for you. History lovers might enjoy *The Reagan Diaries* (HarperCollins Canada; \$43.95), a fascinating chronicle of the late U.S. president's time in office. And for those long, long, long summer days, there's *The Invincible Quest* (McClelland & Stewart; \$45), Conrad Black's well-received (1,168-page) biography of Richard Nixon.

Paragraphe Bookstore in Montreal might seem about as far in the mind's eye from Washington as it is from Timbuktu, but assistant manager Bruce Cartledge predicts that three American politics books will be the hot summer reads in non-fiction at his McGill area bookstore. Cartledge cites Al Gore's *The Assault on Reason* (Penguin Press; \$32.50), John Perkins's *Secret History of the American Empire* (Dutton; \$32.50) and Carl Bernstein's *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton* (Knopf; \$35.95) as timely, provocative books that will be popular this summer.

"As the pace slows down in the summer, people have more time to delve into issues they normally don't have time for: history, science, politics," he says. "That's the time when people promise themselves they'll tackle that big book they've always wanted to tackle."

As for the U.S.-saturated list, he makes no apologies: "We're inundated with 24-hour American news channels. That's the nature of the media today, and that's what people want to know about."

As spring blossoms into summer, so do the seeds we've sown blossom into good things to eat. Sharon Budnarchuk of Audrey's Books recommends two works that explore the movement toward sustainable eating: *The 100-Mile Diet* (Random House Canada; \$32.95) charts Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon's year-long attempt to consume food that came only from within a 100-mile radius of their Vancouver apartment; and in her non-fiction narrative *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (HarperCollins Canada; \$33.95), Barbara Kingsolver and her family attempt to munch sustainably by growing their own food themselves. Bonus for foodies: There are recipes.

Both of these books owe much, at least in spirit, to author Paul Hawken, who has been described as a pioneer

BRIGHT SUN, WARM BREEZE, HOT READS; Henry James thought the words 'summer afternoon' were th

in the environmental movement. Previous works such as *The Next Economy* and *The Ecology of Commerce* have been credited with forwarding the thinking of already forward-thinkers. His new book, *Blessed Unrest* (Viking USA; \$31), traces the roots of the environmental movement and is itself a sort of manifesto of grassroots activism. "It's powerful stuff," Robert Wiersema of Bolen Books says: an important, if unexpected, summer read. "It's not a beach book, until you consider that if it weren't for people like Paul Hawken, we'd be looking at a lot fewer beaches."

KEYWORDS: 0

Prince Harry makes 'em swoon as he hits Calgary wild west nightclub

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: CELEBRITY DEFENCE ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 314

CALGARY (CP) _ Prince Harry had 'em swooning when he and his mates _ and their RCMP escorts _ hit a wild west Calgary country bar early Thursday morning.

The royal party-boy-turned-soldier arrived at Cowboys Niteclub about 12:30 a.m. It was ladies' night, and according to at least one female staff member, he did not disappoint.

“He is the prince charming _ he's very polite and nice,” gushed Cherie Cymbalisty, 22, who said she recognized the third in line to the throne.

Cymbalisty asked if he was the prince, and he responded by showing his army ID. Then, before he left, he kissed her on the cheek.

“It was hot,” she purred.

Prince Harry landed in Alberta last week for training at Canadian Forces Base Suffield, near Medicine Hat.

The 22-year-old wasn't immediately recognized by the club's doormen and was initially treated like a regular guest, said Scarlet Lee, sales and marketing manager for Penny Lane Entertainment.

“He was ID'd like anyone else who looks under a certain age,” she said.

“He showed his British army identification, and obviously our doormen don't see that very often. It took a minute or two before they realized, ‘Oh my God, this is Prince Harry.’”

His Royal Hotness was dressed in a white T-shirt, jeans and a Red Sox baseball cap, Lee said.

His entourage included three fellow British soldiers and two plainclothes RCMP officers.

“He actually flew under the radar pretty good,” said Lee.

Unlike other celebrity patrons at Cowboys _ such as actors Samuel L. Jackson, Josh Hartnett, Jamie Foxx and Don Johnson _ the prince's posse declined a private area at the club, Lee said.

“They specifically said, ‘No, we're dressed in plain clothes, we don't want to draw additional attention,’” she said.

Harry and his pals closed the bar down at 2 a.m., but the prince and a friend returned without RCMP protection to chat with bar staff as they finished up for the night, said Lee.

“He specifically mentioned ... ‘This is awesome ... I never really get to do this without cameras in my face,’” she said.

Harry, or 2nd Lieut. Wales as the British military refers to him, is being trained for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

Although he wanted to be sent to Iraq, the British military decided against that last month, citing specific threats to his life and risks to his fellow soldiers.

(Calgary Sun)

Canadians hear a total of six claims of torture from Afghans: minister

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 492

OTTAWA (CP) _ Canadian officials have heard a total of six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay conceded Friday.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse _ involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities _ had been reported.

MacKay corrected the record on Friday and a spokesman said that foreign affairs staff have been keeping track of reports only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

``The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay, a spokesman for MacKay.

Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul _ the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar. The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

``All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said LeMay. "These officials had clear and unrestricted access."

Where the alleged abuse took place is also unclear.

Canadians do not patrol the Afghan capital and all of their prisoners are taken in the southern provinces of Kandahar or Helmand. It is routine practice once Afghan authorities take custody of a prisoner for that individual to be transferred to Kabul for interrogation by intelligence officers.

The latest revelation could boost a legal challenge by Amnesty International and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which have applied to the Federal Court for an injunction to halt the transfers. They argue that Canada could find itself complicit in torture if it knowingly hands prisoners over to authorities who will abuse them.

In April, Day revealed that two Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from a pair of prisoners in the notorious jails of the Afghan intelligence service that they had been tortured. Those reports are still being investigated by Afghan authorities, but LeMay raised a question Friday as to whether Canada had an interest in their cases beyond usual human rights concerns.

``It is not clear whether these particular detainees had been transferred by Canada or other NATO forces," he said.

Media reports have said as many as 33 prisoners captured by Canadians and handed over to the Afghans may have been beaten.

The allegation in late April set off bitter opposition attacks, which set the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper back on its heels. After two weeks of contradictory explanations, the Conservatives signed a revised transfer agreement with Afghanistan _ one that allowed Canadian officials direct, private access where the condition of detainees could be checked.

The initial agreement, inked by the former government of prime minister Paul Martin in the early weeks of the 2005–06 election, did not provide such access.

CTV National News, Friday, June 8

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 403

OTTAWA _ Federal government will relax rules for issuing and renewing passports; Canadians will be able to renew passports without further proof of citizenship or a guarantor; the U.S. has said as long as Americans can prove they've applied for a passport they won't need one to fly back into the country, but the same courtesy will not be extended to Canadians. CVD.

HELIGENDAMM, Germany _ Bono and Bob Geldof single out Prime Minister Stephen Harper to blame for G8's final pledge of a \$60-billion aid package for Africa, which contains no new money; Canadian officials couldn't say how the \$60-billion limit would be reached or how much each country would spend; Geldof and Bono say Canada blocked specific language in the Africa statement; Harper also said if the U.S. doesn't set and meet air quality targets then Canada can't be expected to meet targets either. CVD.

UNDATED _ European report confirms reports that the CIA operated secret prisons in Poland and Romania and that CIA planes would carry prisoners from Afghanistan to these prisons. CVD.

TORONTO _ Canadian Cancer Society the first agency in the world to recommend taking Vitamin D supplements to prevent cancer. CVD.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. _ Space shuttle Atlantis takes off. CVD.

OTTAWA _ CRTC gives CTV/Globemedia to buy CHUM's radio and TV stations across the country, but must sell five CityTV stations first. CVD.

LOS ANGELES _ Paris Hilton led screaming and crying back to jail to serve the remainder of her 45-day sentence for driving with a suspended licence; the sheriff who let her out says when Hilton arrived in jail she was medicated for a psychiatric problem corrections officials knew nothing about; the sheriff says he can still cut Hilton's sentence in half, and she'll be out in another 18 days. CVD.

CALGARY _ Prince Harry parties at a popular nightclub, chats up a bartender. CVD.

UNDATED _ Storm dumps rain from Windsor, Ont., to Ottawa. CVD.

TERRACE, B.C. _ Highways and city streets continue to be flooded and with the roads closed in and out of the community, there are fears of shortages and hoarding; rivers in the region aren't rising, but aren't falling either; some becoming frustrated at lack of government support for their efforts to save their properties; forecasters predict water will peak over the weekend. CVD.

MONTREAL _ City gears up for 39th Canadian Grand Prix. CVD.

TORONTO _ Concession stands in downtown theatres could soon be stocked with beer and wine. CHECKING.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. _ Republican senator punches Democratic colleague in state legislature after the Democrat reportedly called the Republican a nasty name. CHECKING.

Snubbed my military, Airbus takes sales pitch to MPs

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: BUSINESS DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS TRADE TRANSPORT

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 485

OTTAWA (CP) _ Giant European defence contractor Airbus Military did an end-run around the Defence and Public Works departments Friday, taking its transport-plane sales pitch directly to Parliament.

Airbus submitted an unsolicited proposal to the House of Commons defence committee, suggesting the Conservative government abandon plans to buy 16 of Lockheed-Martin's C-130J tactical-lift transport planes in favour of eight of its A-400s.

Company vice-president Richard Thompson said the plan to acquire the C-130J, also known as the Hercules, is not final. And he said he felt obliged to present the alternative to MPs, who've been studying military procurement, given criticism the government has faced over a recent flurry of sole-sourced military contracts.

“There has been a lot of evidence submitted by a number of people regarding the . . . procurement process and whether its competition, not competition; whether its best value or not best value,” Thompson said in an interview.

“We thought that so long as no contract has been agreed and signed with Lockheed-Martin that we still have an opportunity and indeed probably a duty to present as evidence to those hearings a potentially innovative solution.”

For months, Airbus has complained that no one in the Conservative government or defence bureaucracy will listen to its bid, mostly because the A-400 is just coming into production. But Thompson said in the year since the transport planes were announced, his company has made significant strides and its first aircraft is about to roll off the assembly line.

Last fall, the Defence Department announced it intended to negotiate with U.S. giant Lockheed-Martin to purchase 16 C-130-J Hercules, the most up-to-date version of the veritable transport plane that was first introduced the 1960s. The price tag of the aircraft and life-time service support was expected to be \$4.9 billion.

In its submission to the defence committee, Airbus is proposing that Canada buy eight A-400 aircraft and refurbish eight of its existing C-130-H Hercules, the youngest of the air force's transport planes.

The proposal could save taxpayers \$2 billion over the current plan and allow the Conservative government the flexibility to purchase new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft, Thompson claims.

Although promised over two years ago, the plan to replace the country's mixed fleet of Buffalo and Hercules search planes, has been stalled, mostly because the war in Afghanistan has been big draw on the capital budget at National Defence.

Both the defence and public works department were also given copies of the proposal Friday, Thompson noted.

Lockheed-Martin dismissed the bid, suggesting the appeal was too late.

“The C-130J was selected by Canada after an exhaustive selection process,” spokesman Peter Simmons said in a statement.

“The C-130J meets Canada's urgent need to replace its aging C-130 fleet.”

His comments were echoed by a spokeswoman for Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, who noted that three companies expressed interest selling tactical-lift aircraft to Canada and that matter was settled except for the formal contract signing.

“Industry was given a fair, open and transparent opportunity to demonstrate that they could meet the tactical airlift performance requirement last summer,” said Isabelle Bouchard in an e-mail statement.

New Brunswick woman dead in two-vehicle crash on Prince Edward Island

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: JUSTICE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 112

HUNTER RIVER, P.E.I. (CP) _ A soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan was the driver of a car involved in a fatal two-vehicle collision in Prince Edward Island.

The collision Thursday night near Hunter River killed a 29-year-old woman from Oromocto, N.B.

The 28-year-old male driver, also from Oromocto, is in hospital in Moncton in critical condition.

Their names have not been released, but the military has confirmed that the man was stationed at CFB Gagetown.

The car they were travelling in collided with an SUV at the intersection of Route 225 and Route 13.

The force of the impact ripped the car in two and the woman was thrown from the wreckage.

The 18-year-old female driver of the SUV and the two 16-year-old female passengers escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Sgt. Dave Thibeau of the RCMP said the only reason the girls survived was because they were wearing seatbelts.

"This was a very violent crash," he said.

(Charlottetown Guardian)

Bush suffering from stomach ailment at G8 summit, meets with Sarkozy in room

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS HEALTH

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 193

HEILIGENDAMM, Germany (AP) _ U.S. President George W. Bush came down with a stomach ailment Friday at the G8 summit in Germany and is resting in his room.

``I'm not sure if it's a stomach virus yet or something like that," Dan Bartlett, counsellor to the president told reporters. ``He's just not feeling well in his stomach,"

Although ill, the president did meet for an hour with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, but the meeting took place in Bush's private room.

``The president felt that they established a real personal rapport," Bartlett said, adding that they discussed a myriad of issues, including Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, trade and missile defence. Dr. Richard Tubb, Bush's doctor, is monitoring the president's health, Bartlett said.

He said Bush hoped to rejoin the other leaders at the summit.

Bartlett joked that Bush was staying in his room because he didn't want to follow in the footsteps of his father, former President George H. W. Bush.

Bush's father became ill and collapsed in the international spotlight in January 1992 during a summit in Tokyo. The president called his fainting, which was captured on film and run repeatedly on television, ``a little tiny bout of the flu" adding, ``That's all there is to it."

1st add CP News Look–Ahead List for Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 23

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 1000

HALIFAX _ Maude Barlow, national chair of Council of Canadians, to lead anti–Atlantica discussion. (7 p.m. at Dalhousie University, Scotia Bank Auditorium, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Building)

HALIFAX _ Second annual Atlantica conference on enhancing trade. Through June 16. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

x–OTTAWA _ Daily question period. (2:15 p.m. at House of Commons, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases April survey of manufacturing. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Air India Inquiry hold public hearings. (9:30 a.m. at Old City Hall, 111 Sussex Dr.)

CONCORD, Ont. _ OPP Golden Helmets kick off summer motorcycle season with precision riding show and demonstration featuring new black and white bikes. (11:30 a.m. at Deeley Canada, 830 Edgely Blvd.)

ST. THOMAS, Ont. _ City of Toronto provides site tour of Green Lane Landfill. (11 a.m. at Green Lane Landfill, Southwold Township south of St. Thomas)

TORONTO _ Morningstar Investment conference on global investing. (7:45 a.m. at The Carlu, 444 Yonge St. 7th floor)

TORONTO _ Global Mining and Materials conference; Inmet Mining President/CEO Jochen Tilk speaks at 11 a.m. (Four Seasons Hotel)

TORONTO _ Education Quality and Accountability Office releases results of Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test by school and school board.

CALGARY _ Gas and Oil Expo 2007. Through June 14. (Calgary Stampede Park)

EDMONTON _ 2007 National Education Conference of the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association. Four hundred infection control professionals will listen to speakers and attend workshops on hospital–acquired infections, ethics and infection control. Through June 14. (Shaw Conference Centre)

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. _ Convention of the Alberta branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Through June 13.

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. _ Jerry Johnson, 56, appears in court on charges relating to a fraudulent investment scheme.

x–MEDICINE HAT, Alta. _ Trial for girl charged with murdering her parents and eight–year–old brother. Through July 6. (10 a.m.)

WINNIPEG _ Don Gayton, ecologist and author, is the keynote speaker at the Rivers Heritage Conference. Runs through June 13. (8 a.m. at Hotel Fort Garry)

x-NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. _ Murder trial of accused serial killer Robert Pickton (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. _ Inquest into 1999 death of toddler Amanda Jean Simpson. Through June 15. (9:30 a.m. at 250 George St.)

VANCOUVER _ Hearing on whether to certify passengers' class action suit against B.C. Ferries over sinking of Queen of the North in March 2006. Through June 15. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER _ Crown appeals six-year sentence given Cody Paul LeMay for aggravated sexual assault of baby. (10 a.m. at B.C. Court of Appeal)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

DUBLIN _ Winner of IMPAC Dublin literary award to be announced.

LONDON _ TSX-listed European Minerals Corp. holds annual meeting. (11 a.m. at Grosvenor House Hotel)

HALIFAX _ Second annual Atlantica conference on enhancing trade. Through June 16. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

LAVAL, Que. _ Sentencing for ex-Montreal police officer Benoit Guay, who pleaded guilty to five counts of sexual assault. (Laval Courthouse)

MONTREAL _ Commercial printer Transcontinental holds quarterly results conference call. Call 1-800-732-6179. (4:15 p.m.)

MONTREAL _ Trial for Rouba El-Merhebi on charges she tried to help her son flee Canada after he set fire to the library of a Jewish school. Her son was sentenced in January 2005 to 40 months in prison. (Courthouse)

x-OTTAWA _ Daily question period. (2:15 p.m. at House of Commons, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ Air India Inquiry hold public hearings. (9:30 a.m. at Old City Hall, 111 Sussex Dr.)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases government finance: revenue, expenditure and surplus as of March 31, 2007. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

ORILLIA, Ont. _ Canadian men's softball team versus New Zealand in the first of three doubleheaders. They will play again on June 15 (Sebringville) and June 16 (Kitchener).

TORONTO _ Global Mining and Materials conference; Agrium CFO Bruce Waterman speaks at 10 a.m.

CALGARY _ Gas and Oil Expo 2007. Through June 14. (Calgary Stampede Park)

CALGARY _ Conservative party of Canada appeals lower court decision ordering it to hold a new nomination in riding of Calgary West where MP Rob Anders was acclaimed last summer. (10 a.m. at Alberta Court of Appeal)

CALGARY _ Energy services firm Dynastar holds annual meeting.

EDMONTON _ 2007 National Education Conference of the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association. Four hundred infection control professionals will listen to speakers and attend workshops on hospital-acquired infections, ethics and infection control. Through June 14. (Shaw Conference Centre)

EDMONTON _ Seven Alberta community leaders are inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence. They are: Evelyn Buckley (Cochrane), Chief Victor Buffalo (Hobbema), Donald Laubman (Red Deer), David Leonard (Edmonton), Gary McPherson (Edmonton), Douglas Mitchell (Calgary) and Patrick Nixon (Calgary).

EDMONTON _ The Disputes Inquiry Board report into the ambulance worker dispute in Flagstaff County will be made public at www.employment.gov.ab.ca. Flagstaff County and the Health Sciences Assoc. of Alberta will have until midnight June 18 to respond to it.

x-MEDICINE HAT, Alta. _ Trial for girl charged with murdering her parents and eight-year-old brother. Through July 6. (10 a.m.)

x-NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. _ Murder trial of accused serial killer Robert Pickton (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

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VANCOUVER _ Hearing on whether to certify passengers' class action suit against B.C. Ferries over sinking of Queen of the North in March 2006. Through June 15. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER _ John Dickson, deputy chief of mission at U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, holds public dialogue. (5 p.m. at SFU Vancouver campus, 515 West Hastings St., room 7000)

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

GREENWOOD, N.S. _ Military support squadron returns after six-month deployment in southwest Asia as part of Task Force Afghanistan. (14 Wing Greenwood)

HALIFAX _ Second annual Atlantica conference on enhancing trade. Through June 16. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

OTTAWA _ Air India Inquiry hold public hearings. (9:30 a.m. at Old City Hall, 111 Sussex Dr.)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases April new motor vehicle sales. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases June economic observer. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases 1993-2004 study: persistence of low income among working aged unattached individuals. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

x-OTTAWA _ Daily question period. (11:15 a.m. at House of Commons, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

KINGSTON, Ont. _ EX-SCTV comic Anthony Rosato, jailed for two years without trial on charges of criminal harassment, in court for pre-trial motion date setting. (Ontario Superior Court)

SEBRINGVILLE, Ont. _ Canadian men's softball team versus New Zealand in the second of three doubleheaders. They will conclude their series on June 16 (Kitchener).

EDMONTON _ Men accused in May 27 slaying of Eric Olsen, 20, of Stony Plain will make bail appearances. (Court of Queen's Bench)

x-MEDICINE HAT, Alta. _ Trial for girl charged with murdering her parents and eight-year-old brother. Through July 6. (10 a.m.)

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. _ Inquest into 1999 death of toddler Amanda Jean Simpson. Through June 15. (9:30 a.m. at 250 George St.)

VANCOUVER _ Hearing on whether to certify passengers' class action suit against B.C. Ferries over sinking of Queen of the North in March 2006. Through June 15. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

HALIFAX _ Second annual Atlantica conference on enhancing trade. Through June 16. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

KITCHENER, Ont. _ Canadian men's softball team and New Zealand play the last doubleheader of their three-day series.

MORE

TV tips for the week of June 11

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 1859

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Monday, June 11

- Think you've got trouble keeping things calm on the domestic front? Your woes are nothing next to those faced by Bill Paxton's character on ``Big Love." He plays a Utah polygamist who has to keep not one, not two, but three wives happy. Season 2 of the acclaimed show, which also stars Chloe Sevigny and Jeanne Tripplehorn, airs tonight. (The Movie Network, Movie Central)
- Moving from the escapist to the deadly serious, PBS airs its top-notch documentary ``Kansas to Kandahar" tonight. It follows a helicopter unit from Kansas to missions in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- And a battle of a decidedly less serious kind continues tonight on ``Hell's Kitchen" as contestants put their food preparation skills to the test. (Citytv, Fox)
- Speaking of hell, onscreen terror doesn't get much better than ``The Exorcist" starring Linda Blair as a 12-year-old girl possessed by Satan. Blair, Ellen Burstyn and Jason Miller all received Oscar nominations for their roles in this 1973 classic. Settle in, though _ this one clocks in at almost three hours. (AMC)
- Looking for something a little lighter? Look no further than the 1998 Vanessa Williams flick ``Dance With Me." Williams shows some impressive moves, and the music is undeniably catchy. (Showcase)
- Transitioning from the topic of ``catchy" to the act of ``catching," tonight marks the season premiere of the human cat-and-mouse chase series ``Mantracker." The home-grown reality show features an Alberta cowboy (Terry Grant) hunting down human ``prey" through Alberta's foothills, the Yukon and northern Ontario. The participants don't win anything if they outwit and outrun their hunter _ just bragging rights. (OLN)

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Tuesday, June 12

- Another round of warblers and wannabes try to impress judges Jake Gold, Sass Jordan, Zack Werner and Farley Flex tonight on ``Canadian Idol." (CTV)

– As California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appears on "The Hour" to discuss his environmental plans (CBC), a group of celebrities will hit the track for a less-than-green initiative: racing vehicles in "Fast Cars & Superstars: The Young Guns Celebrity Race" (ABC). Former professional basketball player John Salley and singer Jewel are among those who put the pedal to the metal in this episode. At six feet 11, Salley has a tough time fitting into the car but has no problem talking trash to his competitors.

– Hockey fans bemoaning the end of the playoffs can get their fix tonight with the classic sports film "Slap Shot," which follows the fortunes of the hapless Charlestown Chiefs coached by Reggie Dunlop (Paul Newman). It's consistently cited as one of the best sports films of all time.

– If hockey's not your thing, check out "I (Heart) Huckabees." This 2004 vehicle starring Dustin Hoffman and Lily Tomlin got mixed reviews. It's probably worth a look, however, especially for those who have seen the riveting outtakes that recently surfaced online featuring Tomlin and director David O. Russell screaming obscenities at each other. (Citytv)

– The program "Identity Theft" is a timely one given the recent report by Canadian privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart on the issue. Stoddart wrote last month that too many businesses in this country are failing to train staff in how to handle personal information. See how such oversights can allow thieves to take advantage of unsuspecting victims in this TV special. (National Geographic Channel)

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Wednesday, June 13

– After a gruelling audition phase, the top 20 contestants on "So You Think You Can Dance" put on spectacular solo performances tonight. The results show airs tomorrow when two contestants will be sent home. (CTV, Fox)

– Some clever video editing is going down at "Canada's Next Top Model." Last week the footage made it seem as if the judges were quite enthusiastic about Jacqueline's photo. But alas, she was sent packing in the end, allowing chatty Steph _ whose photo was less than stellar _ another chance to prove herself. She may not succeed on that front though _ previews for tonight's episode indicate her behaviour continues to annoy the others in the model apartment. (Citytv)

– Keep your eyes peeled for possible Canadian content on tonight's Season 5 premiere of "Last Comic Standing." Earlier this year, judges scoured the globe to discover witty contestants for the show. Canadian auditions took place in Montreal. (CH, NBC)

– There's more wacky summer reality programming at ABC, starting with "The Next Best Thing: Who Is the Greatest Celebrity Impersonator?" featuring the Las Vegas auditions. The voting public decides on the winner, who walks away with US\$100,000. Also airing tonight is Simon Cowell's reality show "American Inventor," which will see hopefuls pitching their ideas in Los Angeles and San Francisco. (Note: "American Inventor" also airs on Global.)

– Are you an animal lover who goes overboard when it comes to pampering your pet? Do you put on a baby voice when you talk to your furry friend, or identify more with four-legged creatures than humans? "Pets: A Very Natural History" explains why some people have strong friendships with animals. (PBS)

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Thursday, June 14

– "Pirate Masters" is chARRRging ahead in the ratings in the early going, drawing in curious audiences with its silly premise and compelling backdrop of the Caribbean island of Dominica. Competitors in the series _ which airs tonight _ search for hidden treasures. The winner gets US\$500,000. (CTV, CBS)

– Months of debate around the beer keg about who are the best NHL teams and players come to a head tonight when the "NHL Awards" air from Toronto. The event, hosted by CBC "Hockey Night in Canada" personality Ron MacLean, honours outstanding hockey players of the 2006–2007 NHL season. Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo and Sidney Crosby are up for most valuable player. (CBC)

– Contestants on "From the Ground Up With Debbie Travis" design a chandelier for a trendy restaurant tonight. (Global)

– Keeping in line with the home decorating genre is "Designer to the Stars: Kari Whitman," which features the conclusion of a two–part episode with starlet Jessica Alba. Whitman had to renovate a kitchen for Alba's parents. (W Network)

– It's part 2 of a three–part storyline on "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip." In this episode, Jordan's health worsens and Simon lashes out at the press. We'll also get to learn why Matt and Danny were fired from the show. (NBC)

– Wine lovers might want to tune in to the special "Wineries of Canada's Niagara Peninsula," which highlights a region that's quickly being recognized internationally as a producer of quality wine. (PBS)

– Gabrielle Reece and William Shatner are among the celebrities in tonight's episode of "Fast Cars & Superstars: The Young Guns Celebrity Race."

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Friday, June 15

– It's the end of an era in the world of television game shows. Bob Barker retires from the "Price Is Right" in this show taped June 6 and airing this evening, ending his 35–year run as host of TV's longest–running game show. (CBS)

– As Barker says adios to his game show career, he could be saying hello to a new trophy as the "Daytime Emmy Awards" air from Hollywood tonight. Barker _ who already has 17 Daytime Emmys _ is up for best game show host at the 34th annual gala, which honours the stars of soap, talk and children's shows. His competition includes Canadian Alex Trebek of "Jeopardy," Pat Sajak of "Wheel of Fortune" and Ben Bailey of Discovery's "Cash Cab." The CBS soap opera "Guiding Light" has a leading 17 nominations. Lee Phillip Bell, co–creator of "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and the Beautiful," will receive the Lifetime

Achievement Award at the event in Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. (CBS)

– For the teenyboppers and pop culture junkies alike, there's the return of the beachside reality drama ``8th & Ocean," about a comely group of young people trying to make it in the cutthroat world of modelling. (MTV Canada)

– In the same vein is the 2000 movie ``Sunset Strip," about six friends trying to break into the Los Angeles music business. The comedy–drama stars Anna Friel and Simon Baker, who played the charming heartthrob Christian Thompson in ``The Devil Wears Prada." (Star)

– For family–oriented programming, check out the Season 2 premiere of ``Kyle XY" (it premiered on ABC Family in the U.S. earlier this week). This season, we'll see Kyle (Matt Dallas) learning more about his past as a shadowy corporation tries to get its hands on him. (ABC)

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Saturday, June 16

– See Meg Ryan before she got drastic plastic surgery on her face, as two of her films from the 1990s, ``Addicted to Love" and ``Kate and Leopold," air back–to–back this evening. (W Network)

– It's not the kind of programming you want to tune in to while eating bonbons and chips all night. But for those looking for a little inspiration to get into shape for the summer, there's the ``Wild on Island Marathon," featuring shapely hosts Jules Asner and Brooke Burke donning bikinis for crazy parties with buff people in exotic Caribbean locales. The marathon is capped off with the airing of ``30 Most Memorable Swimsuit Moments." (Star)

– ``Man on the Moon" stars Canada's favourite rubber–faced funnyman, Jim Carrey. The actor won a Golden Globe Award for his role as the late eccentric comic Andy Kaufman. The 1999 flick also stars Paul Giamatti, Danny DeVito and Courtney Love. (Showcase Diva)

Today on the tube...

By Victoria Ahearn

The Canadian Press

Sunday, June 17

– Top of mind for many tubers, no doubt, is tonight's Season 4 premiere of ``Entourage." We already know that Eric and Vince have taken on new roles as producers, and in this new round of episodes we'll find out how audiences receive their film. ``Flight of the Conchords" premieres next. The HBO original series follows the trials and tribulations of New Zealand music–comedy duo Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie as they make a living in New York City. (The Movie Network, Movie Central)

– Music lovers and gossip hounds alike will want to catch the ``MuchMusic Video Awards." The annual street party at Much headquarters in Toronto is to feature appearances by party girl Tara Reid, ``Canada's Next Top Model" host Jay Manuel and RBperformer Joss Stone. Performers include Avril Lavigne, Fergie, Billy Talent,

Hilary Duff, Alexisonfire and Maroon 5. (MuchMusic)

– They're not the most sentimental examples of father–daughter relationships, but you can bet they're entertaining _ and in some cases quite dysfunctional. ``True Hollywood Story Father's Day Marathon" profiles rocker Rod Stewart and his hard–partying daughter Kimberly, and singer Lionel Richie and his tabloid favourite daughter Nicole. Also part of the marathon is the ``True Hollywood Story: Rock Star Daughters" special. (Star)

– ``Supertools" _ a series of specials dedicated to the construction of big city projects _ might qualify as more conventional ``dad–oriented programming." Back–to–back airings tonight cover the Woodrow Wilson Bridge that connects Virginia to Maryland across the Potomac River, and three buildings, including the Palms Casino in Las Vegas. (Discovery Channel)

– And there's more Father's Day fodder on ``Out of Control," which profiles how scientists and mechanics have had to stop dangerous machines when things go wrong. (Discovery Channel)

Prep-Country-Road

DATE: 2007.06.08

KEYWORDS: ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC TELEVISION

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 433

The C-M-A Music Festival is continuing through this Sunday in Nashville.

Performing tonight in concert are Montgomery Gentry, Sara Evans, Jason Aldean, Carrie Underwood, Little Big Town and Sugarland.

The festival gives country music fans a chance to meet their favourite artists.

There are autograph shows, artist booths and fan club parties throughout Music City.

(COUNTRY-CMA Music Festival-Stephen Cochrane)

Stephen Cochran is taking part in his first C-M-A Music Festival this week in Nashville.

He says meeting the fans is the best way to find out what they want.

He says if the fans don't buy the C-D or like his live shows, he's "out of a job."

Cochran joined the Marines and fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was seriously injured in Afghanistan after his vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

He broke his back and was paralyzed for eight months.

Ron Payne was a fellow serviceman and friend who died in Afghanistan.

Cochran wrote a song about him, "When A Hero Falls."

His debut single is "Friday Night Fireside," which was co-written by Issac Rich, the younger brother of John Rich of Big and Rich.

It's off Cochran's self-titled debut album.

That comes out June 26th.

Cochran says his favourite artist growing up was Waylon Jennings because Jennings did things "his way."

He says as far as long range goals, he'd like to be playing packed stadiums like Kenny Chesney in the next five to ten years.

(COUNTRY-Keith Urban-Tour)

Keith Urban's "Love, Pain and the Whole Crazy World Tour" begins its U-S swing tonight in Phoenix, Arizona.

Urban began the tour in Germany.

He then made stops in the United Kingdom and Australia.

His latest single "I Told You So" is now a top-ten hit.

The song is off the C-D "Love, Pain and the Whole Crazy Thing."

(COUNTRY–Austin City Limits–Concert)

The two-day Austin City Limits Music festival is October 13th and 14th at Texas World Speedway.

This year's performers include Tim McGraw, Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Los Lonely Boys, Trace Adkins, Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley, Gary Allan and Jack Ingram.

(COUNTRY–Brad Paisley–New CD)

Brad Paisley is releasing his new C-D "5th Gear" June 19th.

It's the follow-up to his double-platinum "Time Well Wasted," which was named C-M-A album of the year.

The C-D launched three back-to-back number one hits.

"Ticks" is the first single off the new C-D.

Paisley was named A-C-M Male Vocalist of the Year last month.

(COUNTRY–Tracy Lawrence–Greatest Hits CD)

Tracy Lawrence's greatest hits C-D is coming out July 10th.

It's called the "The Very Best of Tracy Lawrence" and it contains 21 songs from the studio albums he released between 1991 and 2004.

It also includes "Renegades, Rebels And Rogues," a Top Ten hit recorded for the "Maverick" soundtrack.

Lawrence's career nearly ended before it began.

He was shot four times by robbers in 1991.

He recovered and had his first number one hit in "Sticks and Stones."

Lawrence has seven career number one country songs.

(COUNTRY–Winstock Festival)

Trace Adkins, Gretchen Wilson and Miranda Lambert are performing at the 14th annual Winstock Country Music Festival in Minnesota.

The two-day festival begins today in Winsted, a town just west of Minneapolis.

Other acts scheduled to perform include Rodney Atkins, Diamond Rio and the Bellamy Brothers.

The festival wraps up Saturday.

Money raised during the event goes to the Holy Trinity Catholic School.

The festival has raised over one-and-a-half (m) million dollars for the school.

(COUNTRY-AC-Dolly Parton-Award)

It's no contest to Dolly Parton.

She says if she had to choose between singing and songwriting, it's songwriting that would win.

Parton was in New York last night to be honored by the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

She received the Johnny Mercer award for her career achievements.

(COUNTRY-TV-GAC-"Top 20 Country Countdown")

The G-A-C "Top 20 Country Countdown" goes on location as "Lonestar and Friends Strike Out for the Kids" tonight.

The band hosted the fundraiser in Nashville last Monday.

Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Some of the artists who bowled included Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry, Tracy Lawrence, Trent Tomlinson, Julie Roberts, Danielle Peck and Emerson Drive.

(COUNTRY-Shorts)

Sarah Johns makes her debut on the Grand Ole Opry stage tomorrow night in Nashville.

She'll be performing her single "The One In The Middle."

Johns says "it's an honor to be on that stage where all of my heroes have sung."

Lantana is singing the national anthem before an Indy Car race at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, tomorrow.

Eric Church and his fan club -- the Church Choir -- are planting 25 trees in Nashville's East Park today as part of the bringing the country to the city campaign.

"C-M-T at Summerfest 2007" is back for three one-hour shows, beginning August 3rd.

The shows feature Sugarland, Sara Evans and Big and Rich.

(COUNTRY-Today's Birthdays)

Bluegrass guitarist Tony Rice is 56.

Singer Sara Watkins of the group Nickel Creek is 26.

(COUNTRY–Sunday's Birthdays)

Singer–songwriter Thom Schuyler is 55.

Guitarist Brian Hofeldt of the group The Derailers is 40.

dap

Pentagon to challenge decision in Khadr case

IDNUMBER 200706090147
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
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SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Omar Khadr: Canadian held at Guantanamo;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 331

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon announced yesterday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops. The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war-crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of yesterday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Khadr's defence attorneys said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration plots its next move.

Afghan policeman voices frustration; Front-line commander complains Canadians ignore calls for help, overlook tips on Taliban

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell/National Post / "This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," says Abdul Hakim, a police commander in Kandahar province's Zhari district. ;
DATELINE: ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 692

ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan — On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar province's Zhari district is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

In fact, Hakim contends, a lack of co-operation between the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago .

"This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said in an interview on the floor of his mud-walled headquarters. "We give information to the Canadians, and they are not acting upon it. That is why the enemy is getting stronger and stronger."

Hakim is no general in the anti-insurgent war. He heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag bunch who, for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle from his desert-level perspective.

He does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents. In fact, they have had numerous firefights with the Taliban over the past several weeks, and a Canadian corporal was killed recently in a major operation.

Rather, the police and NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars, the commander said. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, like Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless," because the insurgents hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often involve tanks. They hide to avoid confrontation and sometimes lay down improvised explosive devices to sabotage the Canadian advance, the officer observed.

"Unity is a must among the police, the Canadians and the ANA," Hakim said, languidly brushing aside flies. "Without the co-operation of these three groups, there will be no security."

A Canadian Forces spokesman declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, at least, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers — like the chief in neighbouring Panjwai district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search — have made the Canadians skeptical of the local advice.

Meanwhile, Canadian troops have begun using decoy tactics in Zhari to try to deflect the Taliban's attention and make their operations more of a surprise.

Regardless, one thing is clear. The under-equipped, out-gunned Afghan National Police are bearing the brunt of the fighting in Zhari.

"The police are in really bad, bad conditions down there," said Col. Mohammed Hussain, the national force's liaison officer at the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team. "They are fighting 24 hours, every hour, every minute, every second of the day."

Experts say that policemen like Hakim are taking a beating everywhere in southern Afghanistan. With just 10 days of training and equipped with a minimum of firepower, they are used as a military force, a sort of "canary in the coal mine" or tripwire to flush out the Taliban, said Supt. Dave Fudge, the RCMP officer who runs a police training program for the provincial reconstruction team.

So, for every Afghan army soldier killed, 27 police officers lose their lives to insurgent attacks.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, said in a telephone interview that insurgents can see the Canadian operations coming and avoid a direct conflict.

"We are moving and launching a hit-and-run war against them," he said. He also confirmed that the Taliban have focused on destroying police checkpoints in Zhari.

"Then we are able to go around and plant mines and attack the Canadian or foreign troops," he said. "It's harder to bring the Canadians down."

Hakim's account of the conflict agreed. He said his checkpoints are attacked almost daily and he actively avoids firefights with the Taliban — even though he could be in the middle of one just by driving 15 minutes from his headquarters.

Airbus makes pitch; Europeans suggest Canada scrap Hercules plan and buy from them

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DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 384

OTTAWA — A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to also purchase new search-and-rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

On Thursday, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion in the process. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search-and-rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to purchase much-needed search-and-rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the ongoing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, Defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use their existing newer model C-130 aircraft, along with the A400M, to handle shorter-range airlift.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin, we have the opportunity and indeed the duty to bring this (proposal) to the attention of the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010 and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008, and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs, and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Thompson said that's not true.

"Overall the program is on track," he said. "Like any program of this size and complexity, there are elements of it which are slightly behind schedule, others which are slightly ahead of schedule."

The government is in negotiations with Lockheed Martin to purchase 17 C-130Js. The government estimated it will spend \$3.2 billion on the program. Another \$1.7 billion will be set aside for a 20-year in-service support contract for the planes.

Defence official Dan Ross questioned whether an A400M delivered as early as 2010 would be trouble-free, as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes. "Companies promise all kinds of stuff until they get a contract," he added.

Bush in Italy amid reports of secret CIA detentions

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Tony Gentile/Reuters / Italian Carabinieri,paramilitary policemen, patrol Rome's Tiber River yesterday, prior to the arrival of U.S. President George W. Bush. ;
DATELINE: ROME
BYLINE: Gina Doggett
SOURCE: Agence France Presse
WORD COUNT: 497

ROME — U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in Italy yesterday, hours after a trial opened in Milan over the kidnapping of a terror suspect in Washington's heavily criticized "extraordinary rendition" program.

The visit, which follows the Group of Eight summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, also coincided with the release of an explosive report detailing secret CIA prisons in Europe.

The Milan court yesterday began trying in absentia 25 CIA agents accused of kidnapping Milan imam Osama Mustafa Hassan — better known as Abu Omar — and transferring him to a high-security prison outside Cairo, where he claims he was tortured.

Also yesterday, Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty released a report in Strasbourg saying the CIA ran secret prisons in Poland and Romania from 2003 to 2005 to interrogate terror suspects under a program authorized by the countries' presidents.

The European Commission immediately called on EU countries accused of taking part in the covert CIA program to conduct impartial investigations "as quickly as possible" to establish responsibility.

Military issues are particularly thorny in Italy, such as Rome's tenuous commitment to its mission in Afghanistan and widespread domestic opposition to a plan to enlarge a U.S. military base in northeastern Italy.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi was briefly forced to step down three months ago after losing a foreign policy vote in the Senate, principally over the deployment of 2,000 Italian troops in Afghanistan, for lack of support from the far left of his ruling coalition.

Bush said in an interview with the daily La Stampa that he wanted to speak to Prodi about his "difficult choices" in Afghanistan. "I want to let him know how important the Italian commitment is in Afghanistan, now and in the future," he said.

The Iraq war has also produced strains over the killing of Italian secret service number two Nicola Calipari, whom an American marine shot dead in March 2005 on Baghdad's airport road in a so-called "friendly fire" incident. The marine, Mario Lozano, is being tried in absentia in Rome, charged with voluntary homicide.

Most observers say, however, that the longstanding friendship between Rome and Washington remains strong despite bumps in the road.

The Pope, for his part, opposes the Iraq war but supports the U.S. leader's stance on abortion and other social issues.

Bush got along swimmingly with the staunchly pro-U.S. Silvio Berlusconi, who lost to Prodi in a neck-and-neck electoral contest last year, but relations have been more difficult with the pro-Europe Prodi.

Sergio Romano, a leading political analyst, told AFP: "That Bush has finally decided to come to Italy is a signal that things are better. America cannot maintain the attitude of an angry country indefinitely."

While Berlusconi was an unflinching supporter of the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Prodi withdrew the last Italian troops from the country last December.

Analysts were left speculating over the motivations for Bush's visit, which Rome-based political scientist James Walston said "is apparently to nobody's advantage, because on the one hand Bush doesn't like the idea of facing the usual anti-American crowd ... and Prodi doesn't terribly want to have George Bush around because it'll make his left wing mad."

Will Canada adapt to power shift?

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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 539

Once odious as well as easy, comparing Stephen Harper to George W. Bush is at least momentarily flattering. A U.S. president supposedly rendered impotent by Iraq effectively manipulated this year's G-8 summit to have his way with climate change and with the evolving new world order.

In just three days, Bush got the weak environmental agreement the U.S. wants while advancing his overarching strategy of making more space for emerging powers in the cozy international club. Each Bush success is significant and both are loaded with implications for Canada and for Harper.

Not surprisingly, Harper found much to like and something to question in the environment compromise. Arriving late to a swelling consensus, the Prime Minister praised the acceptance of global targets while worrying about how long it will take to set them.

What he didn't say and what seems to elude the Tory brain trust is that more than climate change is in the air. In looking beyond Kyoto to include China and India while dickering with Russia on missile defence, Bush is realigning international influence in ways that make sense even if they won't necessarily benefit Canada.

This week's summit is an anachronism. Even with Russia now a regular G-8 partner, it's self-evident that the tectonic plates of global power are on the move.

It's not just that China is wallowing in a trillion dollars of cash reserves or that India's economic explosion is exponential. By 2025, the combined growth of those countries plus Brazil and Russia is predicted to be more than double that of the original group of seven leading industrial nations.

Anything expanding that fast is difficult to control and the Bush challenge is to include the so-called BRIC countries in existing international institutions before the new giants create replacements in their own interest. Washington's grand scheme is to make them "responsible stakeholders" and the strategy manifests itself in everything from opening trade doors for China to changing non-proliferation rules to accommodate India's nuclear fact.

How well it will work remains uncertain. How it will affect Canada is problematic.

Power is a zero-sum game. Someone's gain is someone's loss and this country, as former prime minister Paul Martin spotted, faces threats from surging competitors offering more than geographical or philosophical proximity to the last standing Cold War colossus.

Making that more troubling is Harper's retreat to the hemisphere. A foreign policy focused on Afghanistan through Washington's lens and with an overlay of monarchist nostalgia relegates China, India and Africa to the background.

There are useful things Harper can do for Canada and the U.S. in the Americas, beginning with his summer tour. Cuba after Fidel Castro and Venezuela with Hugo Chavez are among the opportunities for this country to be a good neighbour and a moderating force.

Still, Canada's position on the broader board is precarious. Harper's fondness for using foreign affairs for domestic political advantage tilts China policy toward more pleasing than effective human rights criticism and to more attention on Israel than India.

As did other leaders, Harper presented the summit for home consumption. He wisely created some climate-change distance from Bush while using the media to effectively project a larger-than-life image. But the bottom line is this: Bush is keeping the U.S. first while Harper should be worrying more about how long Canada will last among the world's leading eight.

James Travers' national affairs column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Canada

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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
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Quebec

Fearful Guinean mother

wins deportation battle

A 24-year-old mother has won a reprieve from deportation and the choice between abandoning her 21/2-year-old daughter in Canada or taking her back to Guinea to face genital mutilation.

"I want to thank the entire population and government of Canada," Oumou Toure said in Montreal yesterday after receiving a federal order that allows her to stay. She will now go through the process of becoming a permanent resident.

After she was earlier refused refugee status, Toure was scheduled to be deported in July to her native country, where she feared her daughter would be mutilated in a tradition still prevalent in Guinea.

New Brunswick

Trial begins for priest

accused of shaking girl

A trial began yesterday for a Roman Catholic priest accused of shaking or shoving an 11-year-old girl during catechism at his church.

Rev. Raoul LeBlanc faces an indictable assault charge in the 2005 incident at St-Louis-de-Gonzague church in Richibucto, N.B. The girl's family claims she suffered whiplash-type injuries.

The Moncton diocese announced in May 2006 that LeBlanc was taking a year's leave of absence. The priest now has a position with the church in Quebec, his lawyer said.

British Columbia

Ferry company won't

try to raise sunken ship

No attempt will be made to raise BC Ferries' sunken Queen of the North or remove what little oil is believed to be still on board the ship, which is resting upright more than 400 metres below the surface.

Canada

The 125-metre-long vessel suffered so much damage when it sank in March 2006 off B.C.'s north coast there is probably very little fuel left on board, a BC Ferries spokesperson said.

Ninety-nine passengers and crew were rescued from the ship, but two B.C. residents failed to escape.

Nova Scotia

Mumps plan needed,

university leaders agree

Health officials and university presidents have agreed that a mumps immunization plan is necessary following an outbreak of the disease. Officials reported 24 new cases this week, bringing the Nova Scotia total to 350 since February.

The outbreak has spread across the country as university-aged students have returned to their homes. Cases have been reported in seven other provinces.

Prince Edward Island

Soldier on Afghan leave

injured in fatal crash

A soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan was the driver of a car involved in a fatal collision in Prince Edward Island.

The collision Thursday night near Hunter River killed a 29-year-old woman from Oromocto, N.B. The 28-year-old male driver, also from Oromocto, is in critical condition. The military has confirmed he was stationed at CFB Gagetown.

From the Star's wire services

What's with the teenaged male brain?

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ILLUSTRATION: From left: Omar Khadr, Chevon Josephs and Jordan Manners;

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WORD COUNT: 270

At 15, Omar Khadr reportedly killed a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan. At 15, Chevon Josephs stole a car and crashed into a cab at 150 kilometres per hour, killing himself and two teenage girls. At 15, Jordan Manners was killed at his North York school. A teenaged classmate stands accused. What impulses drive young males to reckless, impulsive behaviour?

It's important to bear in mind that only a minority (10 per cent to 15 per cent) of young men are predisposed to acting on aggressive impulses, says Toronto psychiatrist Ron Charach.

"There are biological, temperamental, psychological and environmental/ familial factors that feed into individual aggressivity," Charach explains. "It is true that young people with certain biological conditions, from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to Attention Deficit Disorder to Bipolar Disorder experience their aggressive drives more powerfully, as will some kids on certain street drugs or alcohol, especially when these are mixed with prescription drugs.

"It is well-known that aggressive impulses are not evenly divided among the males of the population, and that some males are more aggressive than others. So, are some parents more stimulating of or approving of aggression, as was clearly the case with Khadr's father? Kids who get disciplined by being hit and shamed a lot are also more likely to pass on violence to others.

"Because jockeying for position is universal, and won't go away, society prefers that teens have access to words rather than fists, fists rather than switchblades, and switchblades rather than guns, or for that matter, fast stolen cars."

– Star staff

Review of Khadr ruling sought; Pentagon asks judge to reconsider dismissal

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PAGE: AA01
BYLINE: Tim Harper
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 342

The Pentagon has formally requested a military judge reconsider his decision to dismiss war crimes charges against Canadian Omar Khadr.

Officials here say such a request is "standard practice" but others said yesterday it appeared to be an attempt by the Bush administration to buy enough time to properly establish a three-judge military appeals panel and launch an appeal of two decisions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which left its military commissions process in disarray.

Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesperson, said if the judges refuse to reconsider their rulings, appeals will be launched.

Khadr, the 20-year-old Canadian who has languished at the Cuban prison for five years, and Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni alleged to have been Osama bin Laden's driver, had charges against them dismissed Monday.

Khadr was 15 when he was captured in 2002 on the battlefield in Afghanistan following a pitched battle with U.S. forces. He is charged with killing one U.S. soldier and wounding another.

The judges in the two cases said the Pentagon could not prosecute them because they had not been identified as "unlawful" enemy combatants.

The U.S. defence department maintains the judges' decisions were rooted in semantics, but a number of analysts here believe the ruling goes to the heart of the system for trying combatants in the war on terror which U.S. President George W. Bush has fruitlessly tried to begin. The 2006 legislation passed by the U.S. Congress which created the military commissions gave them jurisdiction over "alien unlawful enemy combatants" but the Pentagon has classified Khadr, Hamdan and an estimated 380 others detainees as "enemy combatants."

Gordon said the U.S. government believes it is "implicit" in that classification that those at Guantanamo are unlawful combatants.

"All of them are unlawful by the nature of their activities," he said.

He said the Pentagon judges them unlawful because they are not members of the armed forces of any

recognized nation state, serve in no army with an official chain of command, do not display their arms openly, do not wear a uniform and do not have any rank insignia.

Bryan Whitman, the chief Pentagon spokesperson, said there was no "material" difference between the two terms.

Most observers consider it unlikely the judges would change their minds.

The Tories' cone of silence; 'I have to check with Ottawa' is synonymous with envoys being stifled by the government

IDNUMBER 200706090199
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA02
ILLUSTRATION: David Holloway GETTY IMAGES Under Michael Wilson, the Harper government's man in Washington, silent diplomacy seems to be prevailing. ;
BYLINE: Tim Harper
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 517

The death sentence is usually pronounced in six words.

"I have to check with Ottawa."

With that mournful phrase, information dries up, phone calls go unreturned, email requests float in the ether and the Canadian perspective on bilateral relations with the United States dies.

It is a strange policy, this determination by the Stephen Harper government to clamp the cone of silence on its U.S. representatives.

Stranger still, because it is not state secrets U.S.-based Canadian journalists are usually seeking, but a ringside view of a relationship that twists and turns daily, on issues that can range from beef exports, to passports, to matters of life and death on the battlefield.

But "I have to check with Ottawa" has become code for "sorry, we'll never talk again."

There are many ways to advocate for Canada, and not all of it has to be an ambassador shouting on high from the rooftop of the majestic Canadian embassy on Washington's Pennsylvania Ave.

Allan Gotlieb wooed the powerful and the influential with the type of social events that made him a boldface name in the Washington Post's style section.

Frank McKenna fired off demands for apologies when Canadian positions were misrepresented and went toe-to-toe with the talking heads at Fox to make the Canadian case.

But under the Harper government and its envoy Michael Wilson the policy seems to be silent diplomacy.

The policy stretches from the U.S. capital all the way to the consulates of the west coast.

When California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger prepared to visit Canada recently, it seemed logical for a visiting reporter to check in with the Canadian consulate here, or Los Angeles, or, as the offices eagerly

The Tories' cone of silence; 'I have to check with Ottawa' is synonymous with envoys being stifled by the go

suggested, both places.

California has the world's seventh-largest economy, has unique trade issues with Canada and is home to more Canadian expatriates than any other state in this country.

But as dates were being firmed up for informal meetings, telephone contact slowed, the fatal six words were uttered – and contact died.

One West Coast diplomat, who shall remain unnamed, says the policy is "criminal ... a lost opportunity that money couldn't buy."

The silent treatment is not limited to the west coast.

When a South American source called the Star recently regarding a policy-breaking vote cast by Canada at the Organization of American States, OAS officials spoke freely and fully.

But a call for clarification to the Canadian mission, housed in a building a couple of stumbles from the newspaper's Washington office, was met with the dreaded "check with Ottawa" mantra.

The call never came back.

When Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor visited Washington for a meeting with U.S. counterpart Robert Gates – two men whose troops are fighting and dying side-by-side in Afghanistan – the advisory came from the Pentagon, not normally known as the exemplary conduit for media information.

No one from O'Connor's office bothered to alert any Canadian-based reporters in Washington.

Remember Rona Ambrose? We don't. The former environment minister slipped in and out of Washington at least twice without talking to a Canadian reporter.

Shortly after Canada's "new" government took power, the embassy here embarked on a major public relations effort to advertise Canadian "boots on the ground" in Afghanistan, buying advertising space in key Washington Metro stations used by Pentagon employees, congressional aides and lobbyists.

So, how did they get the word out? Well, they didn't. They just assumed, they said at the time, that someone would notice and call.

A complaint by a reporter no longer being spoon-fed?

No, there are lots of stories in Washington and the U.S.

This is a lament for the reader who should have – and could have – a little more depth in the reporting on Ottawa's most important international relationship if the Harper government would allow its officials to stick their heads out of the bunker every now and then.

Answers to quiz on Page AA1

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SECTION: World And Comment
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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 305

1. Prior to the G-8 summit, Chinese officials emphasized the country would not put caps on greenhouse gas emissions lest it impede industrialization.

After the United States, China is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas producer and scientists estimate it will outpace the U.S. by 2009. Coal comprises between 61 per cent and 69 per cent of China's total primary energy supply, compared with approximately 23 per cent for the United States and 11 per cent for Canada.

2. Yukon's Herschel Island "is perhaps our most dramatic example of a site that's affected by climate change," the U.S.-based World Monuments Fund says.

Rising seas caused by global warming threaten to wash away buildings and archaeological sites on the island, Yukon's first territorial park. The site contains Inuit artifacts dating back 1,000 years, historic structures relating to the 19th-century whaling industry and the gravesites of former settlers. The monuments fund issues a biannual report on threatened cultural heritage sites around the globe. Included in this year's report are: Sir Robert Scott's hut (Antarctica), the Church of the Holy Nativity (Bethlehem), leftover fragments of the Bamiyan Buddhas (Afghanistan), New Orleans and various sites in Iraq.

3. The Six Day War, pitting Israel against Egypt, Jordan and Syria, began on the morning of June 5, 1967. It ended with the defeat of Arab forces and Israeli control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the eastern portion of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. By some estimates, 15,000 Arabs and roughly 700 Israelis died. In 1979, Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in exchange for a cessation of hostilities.

This and the preceding Camp David accords were the first treaties signed between Israel and an Arab state.

But the war also led to Israel's controversial occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Compiled by Rick Sznajder/

Toronto Star library

Layton makes Afghanistan his mission; Woos Quebecers. Canada's role there will be key issue in election, he vows

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EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: JOHN KENNEY, THE GAZETTE / Tree Hugger: NDP leader Jack Layton talks to bark-and-leaf-clad Paolo Duchesneau at the Salon national de l'environnement in Old Montreal yesterday, after giving a speech on Canada's foreign policy to Montreal's Conseil des relations internationales. ;

KEYWORDS: STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGNPOLICY; CANADA; UNITED STATES

BYLINE: HUBERT BAUCH
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 368

Quebecers will be able to have a say on Canada's Afghanistan mission the next time they vote, NDP leader Jack Layton promised yesterday.

Layton said the NDP will make Afghanistan a leading issue in the next federal election, and in by-elections likely to be held this fall.

"Only the NDP is the party of peace today," he said in a speech to Montreal's Conseil des relations internationales.

The NDP position is that Canada should immediately curtail its current "aggressive" military mission to Afghanistan and turn its efforts to peacekeeping and promoting negotiations for a lasting peace between the warring factions in the country.

"Quebecers will be able to say no to Afghanistan at the voting booths," he said.

Unless a general election comes first, there will be three federal by-elections in the province, in the vacant ridings of Outremont, Roberval and Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot.

Recent polls show a majority of Canadians have doubts about the Afghanistan mission, and nowhere more than in Quebec.

Layton said Canada's troops in the country are performing admirably, but maintained the mission is misguided and not winning over the Afghan population.

"At this time, we're on the path to spending a lot more money and losing more lives. Two more years of this mission are two years too many."

Canada is currently committed to maintaining its current military presence in the country until at least 2009.

Layton makes Afghanistan his mission; Woos Quebecers. Canada's role there will be key issue in election, he vows

Layton was sharply critical of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's foreign policy, saying he is aligning himself slavishly with U.S. positions and abdicating Canada's traditional goodwill role in foreign affairs.

He accused Harper of siding with U.S. President George W. Bush on climate change and missile defence at this week's G8 summit meeting in Germany.

"The way to create a safe world is not an arms race focused on the weaponization of space," he said of the government's support for the U.S. missile shield project. "Mr. Harper doesn't understand what's going on in the world."

He also slammed Harper for snubbing rock stars and self-styled anti-poverty crusaders Bono and Bob Geldof at the summit meeting.

"He says they speak only for themselves, but let us not forget that Nelson Mandela stood with Bob Geldof. Saying what he did was unfair."

Layton also accused the Conservative administration of fiddling the accounting of its foreign aid contribution and trying to pass off what is in fact a reduction as an increase.

"When you consider that Canadians have values based on equality, this is particularly wrong," he said.

Layton was introduced at the luncheon by Tom Mulcair, the former Quebec environment minister and now the NDP's star recruit in the province.

Mulcair noted that in the most recent poll of voting intentions in Quebec, the NDP came out ahead of the Liberals among francophone voters.

"This is a fantastic result and something to build on," he said.

hbauch@thegazette.canwest.com

Scrap Hercules, buy our aircraft, firm urges; Says forces could save \$2 billion. Cash could fund search-and-rescue planes, European company points out

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KEYWORDS: AIRCRAFT; AEROSPACE INDUSTRY; AIRLINES; TRANSPORTATIONINDUSTRY
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: DAVID PUGLIESE
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 563

A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to also purchase new search-and-rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

This week, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search-and-rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to purchase much-needed search-and-rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the continuing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, Defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use their existing newer model C-130 aircraft, along with the A400M, to handle shorter-range airlifts.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin, we have the opportunity and indeed the duty to bring this (proposal) to the attention to the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010 and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008 and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Thompson said that's not true.

Scrap Hercules, buy our aircraft, firm urges; Says forces could save \$2 billion. Cash could fund search-and-

"Overall, the program is on track," he said. "Like any program of this size and complexity, there are elements of it which are slightly behind schedule, others which are slightly ahead of schedule."

Dan Ross, the Defence Department's assistant deputy minister for materiel, said he can't comment on Airbus's claims about savings, but he noted the military needs the transport aircraft quickly and, although a contract has yet to be signed with Lockheed Martin, it is expected that the C-130J will be flying on operations with the air force by 2011.

"Once you're at contract, you can negotiate delivery slots with other customers that would be earlier than 2010, maybe significantly earlier," Ross said of the C-130J.

The government is currently in negotiations with Lockheed Martin to purchase 17 C-130Js. The government estimated it will spend \$3.2 billion on the program. Another \$1.7 billion will be set aside for a 20-year in-service support contract for the planes.

Ross also questioned whether an A400M delivered as early as 2010 would be trouble-free as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes. "Companies promise all kinds of stuff until they get a contract," he added.

The Commons defence committee, which is studying defence procurement, has also heard from those who have voiced concerns over the C-130J. In March, the Pentagon's former director of equipment testing, Philip Coyle, told the Commons committee that the C-130J is still facing technical problems.

Airbus officials also point out that the C-130J is not capable of carrying the light armoured vehicles used by the Canadian Forces without first having them stripped of their turrets. At the same time, the A400M represents new generation technology and stands to become the main transport plane for a large number of Canadian allies, they argue.

CIA operated secret prisons in Europe, report says; Terrorism suspects interrogated in Poland and Romania with countries' approval

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PAGE: A20

KEYWORDS: ESPIONAGE; TERRORISM; SECURITY; PRESIDENTS; POLITICIANS; UNITED STATES

DATELINE: PARIS

BYLINE: CAROLE LANDRY

SOURCE: AFP

WORD COUNT: 573

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency ran secret prisons in Poland and Romania from 2003 to 2005 to interrogate terror suspects under a program authorized by the countries' presidents, a report by a European investigator said yesterday.

The prisons in northeast Poland and southeast Romania were part of a "global spider's web" of detentions and illegal transfers spun out around the world by the United States and its allies after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, said the report by Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty.

He claimed that North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States reached a secret framework deal in 2001 allowing the CIA to run the covert prisons.

"There is now enough evidence to state that secret detention facilities run by the CIA did exist in Europe from 2003 to 2005, in particular in Poland and Romania," Marty said in the report.

At least eight terror suspects were held in Poland including Abu Zubaydah, a close associate of Osama bin Laden and Khalid Sheikh Mohamed, considered Al-Qai'da's mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, he said.

The report named former Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski, Romania's former leader Ion Iliescu as well as current President Traian Basescu as having authorized the program and said they should be held accountable.

"We have sufficient grounds to declare that the highest state authorities were aware of the CIA's illegal activities on their territories," said the report, which also cited senior defence, military and intelligence officials.

But Poland and Romania flatly rejected Marty's report, saying it was based on unsubstantiated claims from unidentified sources.

"There were no secret bases in Poland," said Polish foreign ministry spokesperson Robert Szaniawski.

Romania's foreign ministry said the report "provided no proof to confirm the allegations with the exception of unidentified sources whose credibility cannot be judged."

In Brussels, the European Commission called on EU countries accused of taking part in the covert CIA program to conduct impartial investigations "as quickly as possible" to establish responsibility.

The 72-page report, which followed a first probe last year into CIA transfers of terror suspects, said a 2001 NATO agreement to support Washington's "war on terror" contained secret annexes that allowed for the detentions.

"We believe that the framework for such assistance was developed around NATO authorizations agreed on Oct. 4, 2001, some of which are public and some which remain secret," the report said.

At least 10 flights – eight of which departed from Kabul – by at least four different CIA aircraft flew into Poland, probably to drop off detainees, Marty said.

He also accused Germany and Italy of obstructing investigations into the covert program "by invoking the concept of 'state secret.' "

U.S. President George W. Bush admitted to the existence of the secret prisons in September, but said all remaining prisoners had been moved to the U.S. naval facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Citing interviews conducted with about 30 former and serving intelligence agents in the U.S. and Europe, Marty said the secret prisons were set up by the CIA as a parallel facility to Guantanamo Bay where the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the military were involved.

The report also touched on the detention of German national Khalid el-Masri who was abducted and flown out of Macedonia in January 2004 and held in a secret CIA prison in Afghanistan until his release in mid-2004.

"I don't know which is more shocking: that European governments have been complicit in these activities, violating their legal obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, or that they have used anti-democratic methods to conceal their actions and frustrate parliamentary and judicial investigations," said Rene van der Linden, the president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, Europe's rights watchdog.

Pentagon to appeal Khadr ruling; Canadian had charges thrown out

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KEYWORDS: CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: SHELDON ALBERTS
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 312

The Pentagon announced yesterday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesperson, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Colonel Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's standard procedure," Gordon said.

"If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops. The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military of Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of yesterday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Khadr's defence attorneys said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration plots its next move.

The eye of the beholder; It's a wrap, folks. The gig is up. After nearly 25 years of trolling the globe, camera in hand, and 25 years of chronicling Montreal for The Gazette, today I rest my lens.

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PAGE: F1 / BREAK
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: GORDON BECK, THE GAZETTE / Water Fight!cooling off on a St. Henri sidewalk in July 2005 ; Colour Photo: (See hard copy for photo description) ;
BYLINE: GORDON BECK
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 948

What convention calls retirement, at 65, I call a pause to refocus.

"Tell us the story in 800 words," the editor proffered. That works out to 12 words per year. No sweat.

I grew up in pre-TV days, hunkered close to my radio, lights out, listening to Johnny Dollar, Boston Blackie and The Shadow. It taught me to visualize; to create in my mind. That proved to be the first lesson in photography.

Weekend bike trips with a simple Kodak Brownie camera led to the purchase of an Aries 35mm camera and the understanding I would become a photojournalist.

It was a "cold and dark" January night in 1960 that produced my first published photo. A propane depot caught fire, and in a sense so did my determination. I came away with two shots that made the front page of The Gazette. It was a connection that has lasted 47 years.

I headed west in an old '53 Crown Victoria, with a correspondence Diploma from the New York Institute of Photography in hand, and arrived at a serendipitous moment. The Edmonton Journal was about to launch its first in-house photo department and must have wanted some exotic flavour from the far east as I was hired as a founding member.

My career was launched. For the next 20 years, it devolved into two-year cycles. Two at the Journal, followed by two at the Hamilton Spectator and two in Europe where I freelanced in London for the Daily Sketch and later the Observer.

A telegram from Montreal offered a post as a photographer at Expo 67 and I headed home. Mayor Jean Drapeau continued the fair for two years as Man and His World 68, then 69. I headed the photo department. One day, he said: "Gordon, remember this; there are no problems. Only solutions."

For all Drapeau's faults, he was a dreamer who transformed the city into a player in the global village. These were heady times. Especially for journalists. I was hired by the Montreal Star and quickly immersed in

The eye of the beholder; It's a wrap, folks. The gig is up. After nearly 25 years of trolling the globe, camera in

coverage of the separatist movement and the FLQ crisis. I was there the night in October 1970 when they discovered the body of Liberal cabinet minister Pierre Laporte, and quickly learned to abhor the violence wrought by extremism.

The open road call of the siren beckoned again and my wife, journalist Linde Howe, and I were off for a two-year, 50-country jaunt in a Westphalian (VW) camper called "Gulliver." We spent 45 days behind the Iron Curtain in the U.S.S.R., drove the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, camped alone in the ruins of Roman towns, climbed the pyramids at dawn, became deadly ill in Afghanistan, drove through the Khyber Pass to the Vale of Kashmir and convalescence on a houseboat called the Sunbeam, hit the hippie trail to Kathmandu in Nepal and, after the overwhelming sights of India, finally arrived in Malaysia and Singapore where when our money ran out. I was able to use my camera to pay for a trip home on a freighter to Vancouver for the three of us.

I was welcomed back at the Star and two years later quit to parlay my amiable marital divorce into the bohemian life of a photographer in the garret of a Old Montreal vanilla-essence factory.

During this two-year stint, I freelanced for magazines and corporations, studied historical geography at Concordia, documented the folkways of the Chateauguay Valley and was hired as one of the official 1976 Olympic Photographers. During the opening ceremonies, I shot from a special platform high atop the stadium, using every lens from fisheye to long telephotos. The poignancy of that moment was recalled years later when I covered the "No" rally during the referendum from a position atop the Sun Life Building. It's at times like this that I feel both the passion and responsibility of faithfully documenting what in some sense becomes history as the shutter is pressed and the moment passes. But in truth my greatest pleasure comes in the simpler guise of street photographer where you can avoid the burden of others expectations and concentrate on the minutia of daily life.

In 1978, the Edmonton Sun was launched and I became chief photographer. The usual wanderlust struck after two years and I received a Canada Council Grant for a re-photography project in Western Canada. Using an old 8 x 10 view camera and location scouting, I duplicated early topographical paintings and photographs from the 1800s. My companions were mosquitoes, coyotes under full prairie moons and my faithful Gulliver. He was to be overshadowed later that year when, while visiting Montreal, I met Ewa Bujnicka. She has become the lasting pillar of strength and love in my life and while running her Old Montreal restaurant, Stash Cafe, has found the patience and energy to believe in and guide me.

A mentor from Expo 67, George Cree, then chief photographer at The Gazette hired me, and now 25 years later, I finally leave the city of my birth to operate a photographic gallery in an 1832 stone cottage in the historic village of Merrickville on the Rideau. If not in the gallery (to be called "from here ... to infinity"), then disguised as a country squire, I'll be "out standing in my field."

What I won't miss about Montreal are the potholes and the maniacal drivers who tailgate and most emphatically, cut in at the front of the line. I will return to visit, to photograph, to feed off the vitality and cultural verve, and enjoy the sense of place that is contemporary Montreal.

This, then, is my ode to Montreal and Montevalers.

Viewfinder: one last assignment. Page F2

Gordon Beck's Montreal in photos. Page F3

The eye of the beholder; It's a wrap, folks. The gig is up. After nearly 25 years of trolling the globe, camera in

7 Quotes; "Things they said this week"

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June 2

"As he grew older he wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do, but seemed to find his place in the army."

Joey Deliva, cousin of Cpl. Christopher Deliva, at his funeral at St. Gabriel's church in Point St. Charles. Cpl. Deliva was killed in an accident at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta. He was helping troops prepare to deploy to Afghanistan.

June 3

"It appears harbouring hostility hurts."

A study in the journal Health Psychology that found young people with short tempers have impaired lung function.

June 4

"If I were the minister of the environment, I would concentrate less on planting trees and more on unplugging polluters."

Daniel Green of the Sierra Club, reacting to a plan by Quebec Environment Minister Line Beauchamp to plant trees around algae-clogged lakes as part of an effort to clean them up.

June 5

"I have no idea who this man is."

Vittorio Rossi, after the surprise announcement that little-known Roy Surette is the new boss of the Centaur Theatre. Playwright Rossi had applied for the job.

June 6

"This is the worst feeling you can have as an athlete. It makes you sick to your stomach."

Ottawa Senators forward Mike Comrie, as the Anaheim Ducks celebrated their Stanley Cup win.

June 7

"We're not targeting homeless people. We're responding because a lot of citizens and merchants said they felt unsafe."

Jacques-Alain Lavallee, spokesperson for Ville Marie borough, responding to criticism of a plan to ban dogs from Viger Square and Emilie Gamelin Park.

June 8

"We started by going after the worst offenders, but we will have other blitzes in coming weeks."

Ville Marie borough mayor Benoit Labonte, announcing that merchants have been handed 116 tickets for a total of \$60,000 in fines for violations of the cleanliness bylaw. Individual offenders are the next targets.

They're back, in shape for summer praised and prize-winning books are all worth a look

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PAGE: K8

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: PETER J. THOMPSON, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Rawi Hage's novel *De Niro's Game* has won many honours ; Photo: MARIE-FRANCE COALLIER, THE GAZETTE / Margaret Atwood's *The Tent* is brief, but not "lite." ; Photo: PETER REDMAN, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Leonard Cohen's *Book of Longing* contemplates aging. ; Photo: WARD PERRIN, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Eden Robinson is in top form with *Blood Sports*. ;

SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 2660

One of the ironies of my job is that I don't actually get to read many of the books we cover in these pages – and especially not on company time. I'm too busy doing all of the other things it takes to produce the weekly Books section (finding out what books are available, figuring out which of them to have reviewed, choosing reviewers, doing various editing and administrative tasks).

So I can relate to those who see summertime as catch-up time.

Fortunately, it's also a time when many recent books have just reappeared in paperback, a format that's convenient for summer travel, be it to a distant seashore or the community swimming pool. And some have added features, like a new epilogue or book-club discussion guide, not in the original hardcover.

I've read only one of the books that follow, but would suggest that all are worth a look. Each one either was reviewed favourably by our critics, has won important literary honours – or both. For convenience, they are grouped as fiction or non-fiction. But first, here are three in a category of their own:

Book of Longing, by Leonard Cohen (McClelland & Stewart, 232 pages, \$21), is a poetic memoir about aging, illustrated with Cohen's own sketches. Reviewer Harold Heft found that Cohen "has taken what his friend Irving Layton called 'the inescapable lousiness of growing old' and has given it, in its waning days, a profound romantic dignity."

The Tent, by Margaret Atwood (McClelland & Stewart, 158 pages, \$17.99), is a collection of short, fictional pieces, also illustrated by the author. "The Tent is brief but it is not Atwood 'lite.' Be warned," wrote Gazette Book Critic Pat Donnelly, who said that Atwood, at age 66, remained "sharp as a rapier, clear as a bell – one that's tolling for an entire generation."

This is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada, by Noah Richler (McClelland & Stewart, 478 pages, \$24.99), "invites us to join the author for an armchair tour of Canada as he wrestles with the big questions of place, story and identity," wrote Pat Donnelly. Richler conducted interviews with more than 100 authors. "At the heart of Richler's work is a keen sense of objectivity and diplomacy that distinguishes him from his father, a ribald satirical novelist who took no prisoners as a polemicist," wrote Donnelly. The book

won this year's British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, a national prize being promoted as the non-fiction counterpart to the Giller.

Fiction

De Niro's Game, by Montrealer Rawi Hage (Anansi, 280 pages, \$19.95), has won widespread acclaim. It was a finalist for the Governor-General's Award and Scotiabank Giller Prize, and won two Quebec Writers' Federations prizes (for fiction and first book). It has also just been chosen as the featured book for Edmonton Reads. It's the story of two childhood friends living – and trying to survive – in Beirut during the Lebanese civil war. Darryl Whetter was in the minority last year in giving the novel a negative review. Pat Donnelly, who later read the book in preparation for an interview with Hage, called it "a gripping read."

Suite Francaise, by Irene Nemirovsky (Vintage Canada, 432 pages, \$22), "depicts France's darkest hour – its capitulation and occupation – with panoramic sweep, an implacable eye, a wellspring of humanity and a mordant, waspish humour," wrote reviewer Elaine Kalman Naves of this novel, a sensation when it was published in France a few years ago. It has been on Canadian bestseller lists since its English publication last year. While the novel itself is remarkable for the quality of the writing and the author's take on human nature (this is one I did manage to read myself), its backstory is no less compelling. Nemirovsky, a successful novelist before the war, was murdered in Auschwitz in 1942 because of her Jewish background. The manuscript, written while France was under Nazi occupation, had been saved in a suitcase by her daughters, who had thought it was her diary.

Vandal Love, by Montreal writer D.Y. Bechar (Anchor Canada, 345 pages, \$21), has just won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best first book. It's the multi-generational saga of a French-Canadian family whose members are born either giants or runts, and end up living in various North American locales. Reviewer Joel Yanofsky found the characters "simultaneously quirky individuals and an eloquent metaphor for the French fact in North America." However, Yanofsky wrote that "for all its epic ambition, all its lyrical prose," the novel was not as moving as it might have been.

The Secret River, by Australian writer Kate Grenville (Harper Perennial, 350 pages, \$19.95), tells the story of a British riverman banished to New South Wales in the early 19th century, a period of "first contact" between settlers and aboriginals. Reviewer Marilyn Simonds called the novel "an engrossing, unsettling tale that does not bring history alive so much as (it) forces a reader deep into the past to stand face to face with both the exploiters and the dispossessed." It won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize last year for overall best book and was shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize.

Blood Sports, by B.C. writer Eden Robinson (McClelland & Stewart, 284 pages, \$21), set partly in Vancouver's Downtown East Side, springs back and forth in time as it tells the story of two cousins – one "charismatically malignant," the other trying to transcend his checkered past – who live in a marginal world of drugs and crime. "Robinson had already established herself as a compelling and original writer, but here she has made a quantum leap. ... Make the leap with her, though, and you'll have one of the most intense and rewarding experiences in recent fiction," reviewer Ian McGillis wrote.

The Birth House, by Ami McKay (Vintage Canada, 396 pages, \$22), has been a fixture on bestseller lists since it came out in hardcover last year, its author touted as Knopf's New Face of Fiction for 2006. Set mainly in a small Nova Scotia village during the First World War, it's the story of Dora, who becomes a midwife just as an obstetrician builds a maternity home in the area. "The inevitable struggle between the new and the old ways of having babies becomes an extended metaphor for the struggle between progress and tradition, between science and art, between the men and the women of the Bay," wrote reviewer Marilyn Simonds.

Carry Me Down, by M.J. Hyland (Harper Perennial, 326 pages, \$19.95), is the tale of an 11-year-old boy growing up in a dysfunctional family in early-1970s Ireland. "A novel whose basic narrative elements are

unremittingly grim, Carry Me Down is actually far from a grim read," reviewer Ian McGillis wrote, adding that Hyland is a "supremely talented writer." The book was shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize.

Everyman, by Philip Roth (Vintage, 182 pages, \$16), has relatively little of the sex and satire Roth is known for. The tone is understated; the focus is on mortality, on the ordinary life and death of an unremarkable man. "There's an inescapable urgency about this small, powerful novel. Even if you're able to put it down, you'll have a tough time not thinking about it," wrote reviewer Joel Yanofsky.

Poppy Shakespeare, by Clare Allan (Anchor Canada, 344 pages, \$19.95), "isn't like anything you've read before, but if you absolutely had to make a comparison ... you'd have to say it's like a cross between Catch-22 and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," wrote reviewer Marilyn Simonds. She said that the author "succeeds absolutely in boldly and brightly painting this shady border between sanity and its counterpart" as she tells the story of a British woman who finds herself committed to a day-patient program at a London hospital for the mentally ill. "Don't give this a miss. It's the real thing," Simonds wrote.

Inside, by Kenneth J. Harvey (Vintage Canada, 282 pages, \$19.95), looks at what happens after a man, in jail for 14 years after a wrongful conviction, is released back into the community. "Harvey is a sharp and interesting writer, always in control of his material, never afraid to plunge into the darkness of his characters' lives," reviewer Tess Fragoulis wrote.

Other novels, newly out in paperback, that our reviewers liked include:

The Lizard Cage, by Karen Connelly (Vintage Canada, 432 pages, \$21). On Wednesday, it was announced that Connelly had won the Orange Broadband award for new, female writers, for this novel set in Burma.

Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen (Harper Perennial, 335 pages, \$17.95).

Blue Shoes and Happiness, by Alexander McCall Smith (Vintage Canada, 228 pages, \$19.95).

Second Honeymoon, by Joanna Trollope (McArthur & Co., 382 pages, \$10.99).

As for short-story collections:

Babylon and Other Stories, by Alix Ohlin (Vintage, 276 pages, \$17.95).

Gallatin Canyon, by Thomas McGuane (Vintage, 220 pages, \$17).

Non-Fiction

The Bloody Red Hand: A Journey Through Truth, Myth, and Terror in Northern Ireland, by Derek Lundy (Vintage Canada, 352 pages, \$22), covers 400 years of Northern Ireland's history as the author examines the lives of three of his Protestant ancestors. "History is his forte. He draws out its complexities, offering masterful analysis with a personal touch. His clear, disciplined prose makes for pleasant page-sailing," wrote Pat Donnelly.

Iran Awakening: From Prison to Peace Prize: One Woman's Struggle at the Crossroads of History (Vintage Canada, 236 pages, \$21), is the memoir of Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote human rights in her native Iran. "What we discover in this memoir is no firebrand, but a quietly courageous individual, a woman dedicated to her family, her profession and, most of all, to promoting justice in her society," wrote reviewer Donna Nebenzahl.

A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with the Red Army, 1941-1945, by Vasily Grossman, edited and

translated by Antony Beevor and Luba Vinogradova (Vintage Canada, 380 pages, \$24), is based on Grossman's notebooks, published articles and letters, as well as memoirs of his colleagues. It serves as "a compelling biography of one of the Soviet Union's most remarkable novelists and war correspondents," wrote reviewer Levon Sevunts. Grossman, a writer of "unshakable integrity and tremendous moral courage," worked for the Red Army newspaper Red Star, and was noted for his reports that, in his own works, told "the ruthless truth of war."

Bringing Back the Dodo: Lessons in Natural and Unnatural History, by Wayne Grady (McClelland & Stewart, 234 pages, \$21.99), is a collection of thought-provoking essays on the relationship between humans and nature. "This is good science writing, concise, full of mind-boggling facts and laced with witticisms. Yet unlike a lot of science writing, it also expresses the emotion that persuades the reader to change his point of view, whether through the author's musings on walking, the reason we garden or why we need nature around us," wrote reviewer Eric Boodman.

The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions, by Karen Armstrong (Vintage Canada, 564 pages, \$22), is an intellectual history of the period from 800 to 200 BC, a time of epic advances in religious thought in four regions of the world. Reviewer Lorenzo DiTommaso, an assistant professor of theology at Concordia University, found some shortcomings in the author's academic rigour. However, he wrote, "The narrative of the book is superb. Armstrong, author of several popular books on religion, deftly handles four cultures, seven centuries of history and countless princes, prophets and philosophers without ever losing her way or leading the reader astray. Her ability to explain complex topics in clear, engaging language recalls the histories of the late Barbara Tuchman."

Angels of Death: Inside the Bikers' Empire of Crime, by William Marsden of *The Gazette* and fellow Montrealer Julian Sher (Vintage Canada, 472 pages, \$22), describes the global expansion of outlaw motorcycle gangs. The authors draw vivid portraits of the people involved – criminals as well as law-enforcement officials – and parts of the book read like an action novel, reviewer J.D. Gravenor wrote. "Amplly informative, gripping, often personal and generously illustrated with photographs, this is a valuable contribution to crime writing – and one that many readers will enjoy," wrote Gravenor.

American Vertigo: Traveling America in the Footsteps of Tocqueville, by Bernard-Henry Levy (Random House, 310 pages, \$19.95), should not be mistaken for a travel guide, Pat Donnelly advised. "Levy has a flair for choosing the telling detail and placing it in the shop window of his argument. Although the reader has to be prepared to stumble through a dark labyrinth of dubiously translated, overwritten prose in order to get to his flashes of undeniable brilliance, the payoff is, on the whole, worth the effort," she wrote.

Sorry, I Don't Speak French: Confronting the Canadian Crisis that Won't Go Away, by Graham Fraser (McClelland & Stewart, 340 pages, \$21.99), is a thorough history of the theory and practice of bilingualism in Canada. Fraser was appointed commissioner of official languages after the publication of the hardcover version of this book; clearly, he knows his stuff. Reviewer Claire Holden Rothman said she thought that the book would be of value to students of politics and journalism, but was perhaps too detailed for some readers.

The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion (Vintage, 230 pages, \$17.95), chronicles the author's thoughts and feelings in the year following the sudden death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne, a year in which she also had to deal with the serious illness of their daughter, who died after this book was completed. Karen Heller of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, whose review we reprinted, called it a "compact, powerful book" in which Didion was able "to document grief while trying to keep self-pity at bay." This memoir won the U.S. National Book Award for non-fiction in 2005, and has been a bestseller across North America.

Searching for Bobby Orr, by Stephen Brunt (Vintage Canada, 296 pages, \$22), got lots of ink when the hardcover appeared last fall, and that was no surprise, even to a non-sports fan like myself. When one of the country's finest sportswriters takes a look at one of our national sport's greatest figures, that's bound to spark

considerable interest. And the book did not disappoint. Reviewer Dave Stubbs, a fine sportswriter himself, wrote that "Brunt offers a valuable, illuminating look at a complex superstar who shaped our national winter sport, at a time when its landscape was changing forever."

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (Penguin, 350 pages, \$18.50), tells the inspiring story of Greg Mortenson, a mountaineer who built more than 50 schools for girls in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This tale of how one person can make a difference won the 2007 Kiriyama Prize for non-fiction about Asia and the Pacific Rim. We didn't get a chance to review the hardcover when it was published last year, but a friend of mine has read this book, and highly recommends it.

Honouring the fallen should be a commitment

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A Sherman tank and pair of Howitzers guard the Canadian Armed Forces freebie nobody wants to collect. The only cost is your life.

A free burial plot, coffin interment and simple grey headstone with a carved black cross await any slain soldier whose family requests space surrounding a 24-tonne stone memorial in an Ottawa cemetery.

But in the wake of one family's very public disclosure on their struggle to cover a slain son's funeral costs, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier told me he is exploring the idea of a cross-Canada network of military cemeteries for the fallen.

The burial decision for families given the dreaded call with news they're an Afghanistan casualty's next of kin is complicated by geography. They have to decide if the soldier will be buried near them or within the military fraternity. There is only one military option — and less than a third have accepted their rightful space in the National War Cemetery.

Hillier has ordered an investigation into ways to reduce or eliminate distance from a family's burial decision.

"I've asked the chief military personnel to consider the need for several military cemeteries across our country in the longer term. Perhaps one per region," Hillier said in an interview.

"Soldiers whose families live within driving distance of Ottawa are prone to have them buried here. The closer you live, the more you consider that option to put a soldier among other soldiers because you can still come visit his grave. Coming from British Columbia, for example, it's more difficult."

SUITABLY DIGNIFIED

It only makes sense to have Canada's military casualties buried together in a suitably dignified setting that doesn't inconvenience their families. Locating them near or on the country's major military bases would not seem to be logistically complicated or expensive.

I visited the two tree-laced sections of land in the national historic site on a dull Monday morning in the capital.

A few students were planting geraniums, but there wasn't a visitor to be seen. Sod had not yet been rolled over the plots of the most recent casualties from Kandahar. A handful of newer graves were marked by a red rose in the mud, others with a Maple Leaf flag.

The most recent row of headstones is a grim rollcall of still-familiar names from the ramp, repatriation and funeral ceremonies of the last year. Nichola Goddard. Jason Warren. Francisco Gomez. Shane Stachnik. Robert Mitchell. Allan Stewart. Darcy Tedford.

But the most sobering sight is the line of headstones waiting to be expanded, an inevitability without a miraculous turn of events in Kandahar.

This is no Arlington, the national cemetery for America's war dead, which attracts four million visitors to a site with more than 300,000 graves, including former presidents, Supreme Court justices and astronauts.

That's good news. They bury 27 bodies a day in Arlington and the sprawling grassland reserved for the continuing carnage from Iraq and other conflicts stretches beyond the horizon. By contrast, the most recent addition in our eight-hectare National War Cemetery was a month ago.

OTHER STEPS

But there are other steps Hillier plans to take to put the public relations disaster of the funeral expenses flap behind him, a serious black eye for a military-saluting government that could yet cost Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor his job for cumulative bad judgment.

A Hillier-launched fund to support families has \$500,000 in the bank even before it becomes operational.

He vows the government will now cover rental costs for any halls or arenas required for military funeral services where mourner demand exceeds church space.

He's also ordered all victim families to be revisited to ensure they weren't dealt with under outdated Treasury Board guidelines.

"As right as you can make something in arrears, we'll do it. We'll go back and check with all other families and make sure about the support they're getting," Hillier says. "If there is anywhere that demand exceeded supply, we cover it for them."

It all adds up to an impressive, albeit overdue, military operation of political damage control.

If the next step is to dedicate military burial space for the fallen yet to come, well, the public humiliation heaped on the government by one family will have done a service to our military.

They deserve special dignity in death. Canadian soldiers shouldn't just fade away as just another plot in a sprawling public cemetery.

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Pentagon to challenge dismissal of Khadr case

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DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
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WASHINGTON – The Pentagon announced Friday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops. The distinction is potentially important for Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military of Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of Friday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Lacrosse team to honour wounded Canadian soldier; Barnewall to be made honorary member of Fratmen

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Mike Barnewall;
BYLINE: Dave Waddell
SOURCE: Windsor Star
WORD COUNT: 310

The AKO Fratmen have a chance to maintain their hold on first place tonight when they host the Guelph Regals, but that will be of secondary significance to what happens before the game.

The Fratmen (9–4), who lead the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Junior B League's West Division, will pay tribute to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces by making Cpl. Michael Barnewall an honorary member of the team.

Barnewall, an Essex native, lost his right foot and his lower shin as the result of stepping on a landmine in the Pashmul region of Afghanistan Nov. 21, 2006.

"It's nice to know people recognize the sacrifice the guys are making," said Cpl. Barnewall, who has returned to duty at the Canadian Forces base in Petawawa. "I ask why me?"

"I don't know what makes me any different than anyone else."

Barnewall, who played lacrosse into his teen years, already has strong ties to the Fratmen.

He's friends with AKO trainer Dave Orton and Fratmen forward John Orton as well as having played for head coach Greg Ducharme.

"He was a phenomenal athlete," AKO general manager Mike Soulliere said. "He could run like the wind.

"At (St. Clair) college, he ran a course so quickly the coach thought he'd cheated and taken a short cut. Mike said, 'Then run it with me.' The two of them did and they still passed a lot of kids on the second circuit."

Fans attending the game are urged to wear red in support of the Canadian Forces. The 10–minute pre–game ceremony, which will also feature some local members of the Essex–Kent regiment, is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Forest Glade Arena.

The Fratmen will present Barnewall with a jersey and a signed stick, but he's hoping the one thing they don't present him with is a microphone.

"Nope," said Barnewall when asked if he'd prepare a few words just in case.

One more gift

After the ceremony, the Fratmen hope to give Barnewall and the fans one more gift.

The Regals are one of three teams in the OLA's Junior B league the Fratmen have yet to defeat.

Elora and Spartan are the other clubs who have never tasted defeat at the hands of AKO.

"We're looking forward to changing that," Soulliere said.

"They (Regals) play in the toughest division in the league, so I think their record (3-11) isn't an indication of how good they are."

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Top U.S. military officer replaced amid war fallout

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Friday he was replacing Gen. Peter Pace as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to avoid a divisive showdown in Congress focusing on the Iraq war.

The surprise shakeup removes a general who has been at the centre of U.S. military decision-making for the past six years, from the war in Afghanistan to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"I am disappointed that circumstances make this kind of a decision necessary," Gates said of the loss of Pace, who has held the country's top military post since September 2005.

The moves comes amid persistent difficulties in Iraq and sharpening political tensions at home with Congress already gearing up to receive a key progress report from U.S. military commanders on the Iraq war in September.

Pace was replaced by Admiral Michael Mullen, who is currently the chief of naval operations.

Mother's grief exploited; Ottawa author distressed by manipulation of emotions in order to gain support for sometimes 'dubious' causes

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Star, File / LOST SONS: There was devastation everywhere and almost 2,000 Canadians were killed in the 1915 battle of Ypres, Belgium in the First World War. ; Photo: Suzanne Evans ;

DATELINE: OTTAWA

BYLINE: Janice Kennedy

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 1005

OTTAWA – If they hadn't already been killed or maimed that December of 1915, husbands and brothers and sons were huddling in muddy trenches overseas, their absence a deep shadow over the approaching Christmas holiday. Canadians, especially Canadian women left to tend the home fires, needed hope, consolation, inspiration.

It came in an article published by Everywoman's World, the most widely read magazine in the country during the First World War – distributed to 67,000 homes in 1915, and 125,000 two years later. The article, titled I Am A Proud Mother This Christmas, was by a "Mrs. E.A. Hughes," a widow who had just received a telegram informing her of the death of her son, Private Danny Hughes, her only remaining child.

In the story, she describes her initial fleeting sadness, followed by her realization of the greater truth: "I am a proud mother this Christmas. For I gave Canada and the Empire a Christmas present. I gave them my chiefest possession ... I sacrificed the life of my boy."

That historical nugget is just one among many found in the new first book by Suzanne Evans. Mothers of Martyrs: World War I and the Politics of Grief is crammed with such fascinating stories – and with fascinating postscripts.

Researching the Hughes story, the 50-year-old Ottawa writer uncovered something intriguing. Since no one with Danny's profile turns up in any of the archived documents of the time – something easy to check today but not within reach of the average citizen 92 years ago – Hughes and her Danny, who died so valiantly in action, may in fact have been a fiction.

Rich with analysis and anecdote, Mothers of Heroes, Mothers of Martyrs looks critically at the manipulation of emotional impact for a cause.

Evans says the image of the sacrificing war mother has long been a potent, and useful, symbol.

"We think we would do anything to keep our children safe," she says, a mother herself. "A story like the Mrs. Hughes one takes that expectation and turns it around, so that anyone listening to it must say, 'What is the

Mother's grief exploited; Ottawa author distressed by manipulation of emotions in order to gain support for s

cause for which this mother is willing to sacrifice her child?' – and then, 'I wish to follow this cause.' I think that is what the propagandists of World War One were hoping. These stories were designed to gain followers."

Evans, who shares her comfortable home with two daughters and her husband, novelist Alan Cumyn, has a doctorate in religious studies from the University of Ottawa. She first became intrigued by the topic of war mothers when she stumbled upon the phrase "mother of martyrs" while reading a book about Islam. The reference was to Palestinian women of the first intifada.

"It floored me," she recalls. "I couldn't imagine a mother being proud of the sacrifice of her son for a cause – and showing joy. At first, I just thought, 'Well, that's gross,' and I closed the book and put it away. But it stuck like a burr in my brain."

The idea came one Remembrance Day nearly 17 years ago. Bundling her young daughter into her stroller, Evans went downtown to the ceremonies at the National War Memorial. Seeing the Silver Cross mother, she found herself thinking about the enormity of loss felt by mothers who lose children to war, and went on to research the history of the Silver Cross.

"World War One became my access point to understanding stories from other places and other times." It was not her era, but it was her culture. In her family, she says, there are all kinds of stories of women, including her great-grandmother, who willingly saw their sons off to war.

Looking for echoes of familiarity in other parts of the world, especially in current conflicts, Evans says she found them – present-day mothers willing to sacrifice their children, and government recruitment posters geared at women, urging them to give their sons to the cause.

In other words, the gulf between the Mrs. Hugheses of 1915 and today's Islamic "mothers of martyrs" proved to be no gulf at all.

But as she finished the book, and the Canadian death toll in Afghanistan rose, it became increasingly apparent to her that the present ties with the past lie in more than a resonance with intifada mothers.

"It's incumbent upon us to ask questions," she says of the mission in Afghanistan. "I have seen how stories of old martyrs have been used as touchstones to create a background and add a whole world view to modern stories."

She was especially uneasy about the way Canadian officials used the rededication ceremonies at Vimy in April, drawing glorified parallels between then and now.

"When you see the picture of Mr. Harper with his hand on the wall of the monument, it's like the power of that mythology infusing him. He becomes a war leader."

While she does not compare Afghanistan to the 1914–18 conflict, where the death toll was a thousand times higher, she thinks the machinery of martyrology is at work in much the same way.

In the First World War, she says, as in wars from the beginning of time, it was assumed that "God was on our side," whichever side that may have been. She cites one of the letters that her husband has from a great-uncle who fought during that conflict. "He writes that something really snapped in him when, on the battlefield, he saw the buckle on a German uniform. And it says, in German, 'God is on our side.' "

Religion or maternal love, Evans is distressed by the kind of manipulation that exploits and twists and serves a sometimes dubious cause.

"The whole idea of offering a son, and now daughter, to fight for a cause and be sacrificed turns our expectation of motherlove on its head," she says, alluding to the present because these days there is no escaping it.

The mythologizing that comes of such reversals, she suggests, tends to silence people at a time when there should be no silencing. "In times of war, people seem to dispense with questions rather than raise them." And that, says Evans, is not the answer.

Not as long as there are sons and daughters dying for someone's idea of a cause. Not as long as there are mothers left behind to mourn.

Airbus urges Canada to buy its planes instead; Scrap plan to buy Hercules transport planes and save \$2 billion, defence committee told

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A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to purchase new search-and-rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

On Thursday, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting that Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion in the process. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search-and-rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to buy much-needed search-and-rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the ongoing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use its existing newer model C-130 aircraft along with the A400M to handle shorter-range airlift.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin, we have the opportunity, and indeed the duty, to bring this (proposal) to the attention to the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Mr. Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010, and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008 and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs, and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Mr. Thompson, however, said that is untrue. "Overall the program is on track," he said. "Like any program of this size and complexity there are elements of it which are slightly behind schedule, others which are slightly ahead of schedule."

Dan Ross, the Defence Department's assistant deputy minister for materiel, said he cannot comment on Airbus's claims about savings. But he noted the military needs the transport aircraft quickly, and although a contract has yet to be signed with Lockheed Martin, it is expected that the C-130J will be flying on operations with the air force by 2011.

"Once you're at contract you can negotiate delivery slots with other customers that would be earlier than 2010, maybe significantly earlier," Mr. Ross said of the C-130J.

The government is currently in negotiations with Lockheed Martin to purchase 17 C-130Js. The government estimated it will spend \$3.2 billion on the program. Another \$1.7 billion will be set aside for a 20-year in-service support contract for the planes.

Mr. Ross also questioned whether an A400M delivered as early as 2010 would be trouble-free, as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes. "Companies promise all kinds of stuff until they get a contract," he added.

The Commons defence committee, which is studying defence procurement, has also heard from some witnesses who have voiced concerns over the C-130J. In March the Pentagon's former director of equipment testing, Philip Coyle, told the Commons committee that the C-130J is still facing ongoing technical problems.

U.S. moves to reinstate charges against Khadr; Pentagon asks judge to reconsider dismissal as appeals court set up

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Terrorism charges against Omar Khadr weredismissed after a judge ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to try him because the Pentagon failed to show he was an 'unlawful enemy combatant.' ;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 391

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon announced yesterday it will challenge a military judge's decision to dismiss all terrorism charges against Canadian Omar Khadr, even as the Bush administration scrambles to assemble an appellate court to hear a formal appeal of the ruling.

Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military prosecutors will file a motion asking army Col. Peter Brownback to reconsider his decision earlier this week to throw out the U.S. government's case against the 20-year-old Canadian detainee.

"It's the first route you take. It's standard procedure," Mr. Gordon said. "If you don't agree with the judge's findings, you file a motion to reconsider. That way, when you go to the appeals court, you will have exhausted every possible way to get your case resolved."

During a court hearing Monday at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Col. Brownback ruled U.S. military commissions lacked jurisdiction to put Mr. Khadr on trial because the Pentagon had failed to show he was an "unlawful enemy combatant" as required by law.

Mr. Khadr, accused of throwing a grenade that killed U.S. army Sgt. Christopher Speer in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, had previously been designated an "enemy combatant," leaving open the possibility he was lawfully waging war against American troops.

The distinction is potentially important for Mr. Khadr because he would be entitled to full prisoner-of-war rights if deemed to be a lawful combatant.

While the Pentagon claims the charges against Mr. Khadr were dismissed on a "semantic" technicality, human rights groups argue the ruling could lead to the collapse of the Bush administration's controversial war crimes tribunals.

The Khadr ruling initially caught the Pentagon off guard, with no avenue to appeal the decision because the Court of Military Commission Review had not yet been assembled.

As of yesterday, the appeals court "has been established, judges have been appointed, and the court is prepared to receive appeals," Mr. Gordon said.

The Pentagon acknowledged, however, the fledgling court was not yet ready to hear appeals.

Mr. Khadr's defence lawyers said the Pentagon's decision amounts to a delaying tactic as the Bush administration plots its next move.

"I think, strategically, the prosecution's gambit is to use the motion for reconsideration to buy time to get this appeals court up and running in some form and fashion," said Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler, the military defence attorney detailed to Mr. Khadr's case.

Mr. Khadr, who has been detained at Guantanamo since late 2002, had been charged with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, spying and providing material aid to terrorists.

Hope & despair; Amid the ongoing violence, Afghan families are building new lives, brick by brick

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PAGE: B1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Map: Afghanistan; Photo: David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen / Nafesea sits with one of her children in the bombed-out ruins she lives in with her family on the outskirts of Kabul. Her husband can't find full-time work, and her children often go hungry. ;

DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan

BYLINE: David Pugliese

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 1073

KABUL, Afghanistan – It's common these days to hear less than complimentary things in this country about Hamid Karzai's government.

There's talk about corruption and anger over the failure of the president's administration to put Afghanistan back on its feet despite having received billions of dollars of aid money from the international community. Unemployment is running at about 50 per cent. Some former government officials, such as one-time foreign minister Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, warn that the Karzai regime is growing increasingly isolated from Afghans.

Living in the bombed-out concrete ruins of what was once a government building, Nafesea, who like some Afghans only uses one name, speaks firsthand about that isolation and the growing anger and frustration among Afghans.

"No one cares about poor people here," she says through an interpreter. "The government promised us everything and we have nothing. Karzai has done nothing."

Two years ago, her family was told they'd have jobs and land if they left a refugee camp in Pakistan and returned to Afghanistan.

Today, they are squatters among the abandoned buildings on the outskirts of Kabul.

When a foreigner first arrives to speak to her, Nafesea covers part of her face with her brown head scarf. But as she talks about her family's situation and Afghanistan's government, her voice rises in anger and she becomes animated enough to drop the scarf, revealing her weathered face. Nafesea is 36, but she looks at least 10 years older.

Some of her seven children play among the ruins of the destroyed buildings.

Her 13-year-old mentally handicapped son stands off to the side, seemingly content in his own world.

About 50 people live these ruins while hundreds of other squatters have taken over an abandoned apartment building a couple of kilometres away. Others are camped out in tents on small bits of land scattered

throughout the city.

Just down the road from Nafesea's makeshift shelter is the former Canadian military base, Camp Julien, a \$140-million installation that the federal government turned over to Afghanistan when it relocated troops from Kabul to Kandahar.

The sprawling camp, at its peak once home to 4,000 Canadian and NATO soldiers, now houses an Afghan government ministry.

In the other direction several kilometres away, construction is underway on a massive building that will become a new religious school. Government office buildings are also being revamped and glitzy wedding halls, a relatively new phenomenon among Afghans wealthy enough to afford extravagant nuptials, have been erected.

Left out in the cold, literally, at times, are the tens of thousands of homeless people barely eking out an existence in Kabul. Most have returned from Iran or Pakistan where they had originally fled to escape Afghanistan's seemingly constant wars.

The return of the refugees from those countries has been cited as a success story and a sign that Afghanistan is slowly putting itself back on its feet.

Due to decades of war, more than eight million Afghans left for the safety of Iran and Pakistan. Between 2002 and 2005, almost three million returned from Pakistan and another 1.5 million from Iran. But the number of returnees dropped substantially in 2006 as word spread about the lack of jobs and housing in Afghanistan.

There are still several million Afghans in Pakistan and Iran and many have told the United Nations they don't want to return because they remain unconvinced their lives will improve.

"Returnees face a depressed job market, insecurity and the general underdeveloped situation of Afghanistan, which is difficult to return to after many years spent in Iran and Pakistan, where they experienced higher standards of living," warns a report produced in January by the French aid agency ACTED.

Women, in particular, tend to gain benefits from living in the more developed economies of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries since they can find work more easily, the report added.

Iran and Pakistan are now pressuring many of the refugees to return home, convinced their presence is at least partially linked to terrorist attacks that have increased over the last year as well as the growing drug trade. They plan to send millions of Afghans packing, a move that government and international officials worry will overwhelm the Afghanistan's limited resources.

The result is a growing political crisis for the Karzai government. In mid-May, Refugee Minister Mohammad Akbar Akbar lost his job over his failure to properly deal with the refugee problem. Afghanistan's parliament also dismissed the country's foreign minister, Rangeen Dadfar Spanta, for his poor handling of the issue. But Mr. Spanta refused to leave his job and after a series of legal moves, the country's Supreme Court ruled that the firing was unconstitutional.

Some Afghan officials believe there are other issues behind the forced return of the refugees. They claim that Pakistan is trying to destabilize Afghanistan by flooding it with refugees who have no jobs or homes to return to.

Mr. Spanta argues that Iran's motives are also suspect. It is unhappy over Afghanistan's close relationship with the U.S. and NATO, as well as angry over the construction of dams that could affect Iran's water supply, he

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says.

But the forced resignations of political officials and ongoing squabbling between Afghanistan and its neighbours mean little to Nafesea and her family. Her husband can't find a full-time job. Her children often go hungry. Nafesea says if she knew what awaited the family in Afghanistan, they would have never left the refugee camp.

Winters are particularly hard, she explains. The temperatures here can dip to -20 C and the few blankets the family has do little to ward off the cold. The wind roars through the gaps in the crumbling and collapsed walls. On milder days, melting snow causes water to pour down the concrete walls, soaking bedding and clothes.

Twenty metres away from Nafesea's shelter sit Wahid Ualla, 35, and his daughter. His seven other children are playing nearby, chasing each other over the cement slabs. Some of his family lives in a tent he has erected. Others occupy a room in one of the abandoned buildings.

Every day Mr. Ualla walks several kilometres to a site where unskilled day workers are hired. If he is picked, he can make anywhere from \$2 to \$4 a day. More often than not, there are more workers than there are jobs.

Mr. Ualla and his family have been living in the ruins for a year and a half and he seems resigned that not much will change. "We will stay," he explains, "because we don't have anywhere else to go."

The family left for Pakistan eight years ago, fleeing fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance, a coalition of mujahadeen groups.

Mr. Ualla returned two years ago because it seemed like the situation in Afghanistan had improved. "We came back because all the people say there is peace and Karzai says he will give us land," Mr. Ualla explained. "But there was no job, no land."

Just the bombed-out ruins.

Hope & despair; Amid the ongoing violence, Afghan families are building new lives, brick by brick

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen / AbdulWahid, with his and other local children, stands outside his new house in the Afghan village of Khowja Alwan. The building materials for the house were provided by a French NGO as part of a pilot project to return land to Afghan refugees. ; Photo: David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen / A young girl stands outside her new home in the village of Khowja Alwan. The supplies for the home were provided by a French non-governmental organization. ; Photo: David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen / French aid agency ACTED is financing construction of this northern Afghan school. ;

DATELINE: KHOWJA ALWAN, Afghanistan
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 1353

KHOWJA ALWAN, Afghanistan – Wahid Ullah is about halfway through what will eventually become his first real home in five years. Over a week-long period, he dug, by himself, the 20-metre deep well in front of his new house. Now he and his five-year-old son are carefully placing bricks as they construct the walls of what will eventually be a two-room structure. Mud, which under the relentless Afghan sun will dry as hard as concrete, is used to bond the evenly aligned bricks.

"I hope to be finished in a month," the 32-year-old Mr. Ullah says through an interpreter. He had fled with his family of five to Pakistan in 2001 to escape the fighting between coalition forces and the Taliban. He decided to return home last year after being told he could obtain a parcel of land and a house as part of a program to help refugees rebuild their lives after years of war.

Mr. Ullah is constructing his home at a site prepared by the French aid group ACTED, the Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development. The Paris-based non-governmental organization paid a local company to dig 40 wells and build four kilometres of roads in the new community, said Fardeen Zia, one of the agency's engineers. Work is also under way on a school and a clinic. Eventually, 14,000 people are expected to settle in this newly-constructed town in northern Afghanistan, said Mr. Zia.

In addition, ACTED is distributing "self-build" packages that allow Afghans like Mr. Ullah to construct their own homes.

The kits have the basic materials, including windows, beams and doors, needed for a two-room house and latrine.

The Afghan families provide the labour, making the bricks that form the walls, as well as doing all the construction themselves, although ACTED engineers provide technical advice. It takes anywhere from two

months to a year for each home to be built, depending on how fast the prospective house owner works or how many friends and family he has to help him.

Besides providing much-needed shelter, the ACTED development could become the first line of defence against a looming crisis that has the potential to further disrupt Afghanistan's fragile situation.

Over the next two years, Pakistan and Iran plan to send millions of Afghan refugees back home, a situation the United Nations warns will overwhelm the Karzai government. The Pakistanis blame the refugees for an increase in terrorism, while Iranians claim Afghans in their country illegally are involved in the drug trade or have become too much of an economic burden.

The returnees are expected to flood into Afghanistan's already overcrowded cities such as Kabul, where they will join refugees who fled fighting in rural Afghanistan between Canadian and coalition troops and the Taliban over the last year.

There are concerns among aid agencies and analysts, such as the Kabul-based think-tank the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, that those returning from Pakistan and Iran could provide a fertile recruiting ground for the Taliban or turn to crime if they cannot find shelter or work.

An analysis produced last month for the U.S.-based Jamestown Foundation sounded a similar warning. "A surge in repatriated refugees will probably increase unemployment in Afghanistan, which will result in weakening the central government by strengthening drug lords and anti-government elements who may be able to tap into this new pool of potential recruits," wrote Waliullah Rahmani.

Iran has warned it will send about 900,000 Afghan refugees packing over the next year. Since April 21, it has expelled about 100,000 people, Salvatore Lombardo, the United Nations representative on refugees in Afghanistan, said Tuesday.

Pakistan, home to an estimated 2.6 million Afghan refugees, has also warned it will force some of those people back to their country. It will shut down four refugee camps, with a total of 230,000 Afghans, in the next two years. The first of the camps will be shut down in the next few months.

Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2002, more than four million Afghans have returned home from Pakistan and Iran, but the country, already dealing with high unemployment and a lack of housing and shelter, has had difficulty absorbing that many people. In Sajadia village, just outside the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the number of families jumped from 200 to 1,200 over a one-year period, putting considerable strain on limited water resources in the community, according to ACTED.

Khowja Alwan is one of five pilot projects across the country designed to provide land to Afghans displaced by years of war and potentially deal with the increasing refugee problem. Over a five-month period, the community went from a barren tract of land to having the first homes built, according to ACTED official Marianna Franco.

The drilling of the 40 community wells in the village provided water for the Afghans to make bricks for their houses. The four kilometres of road built by ACTED link the village to a highway, making it easier for people to try to find work in the nearby city of Pul-i-Khumri, some 15 kilometres away.

By doing the work themselves, the Afghans learn enough to maintain the shelters and enlarge them if needed. "It also allows them to take ownership of the work, so this isn't seen as some kind of handout," Ms. Franco explained.

Construction is continuing in the community and the payoff seems high, particularly considering that the

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entire project, sponsored by the U.S. State Department, costs around \$2 million.

In a country where many Afghans have seen little tangible evidence of international help, the project is somewhat of a rarity. Part of its success can be traced to ACTED's long-term presence in Afghanistan, particularly in the north, where Khowja Alwan is located. The organization has been working in the country for more than 12 years and it tends to rely heavily on local staff to move projects along.

In Dasht-e-Shor, 17 kilometres north of Mazar-e-Sharif, ACTED is helping an additional 480 families with another self-build shelter program. In Faryab, 31 families began building their houses last year. For those without shelter, ACTED distributes emergency kits in the winter which include quilts, stoves and firewood.

Khowja Alwan is considered the most advanced of the pilot projects and ACTED is hoping to get money for donors to continue with another phase of the program, this time to provide skills so Afghans can become employable or operate their own small businesses.

The creation of jobs is seen as key. Although they are now being supplied with homes, unemployment is still a major concern among those living in Khowja Alwan.

"We have our homeland back, but there is no work," said Abdul Wahid as his seven children crowd around him outside his new home.

The 38-year-old, who lost a leg after stepping on a landmine, lived in Pakistan for more than five years with his family. He left after being assured by the UN there would be land and a home waiting for him in Afghanistan.

Others have complained that promises of help from the Karzai government have not materialized and some in the community question why a grain silo in nearby Pul-i-Khumri, which could provide hundreds of jobs, still remains closed after five years.

Back at his house now under construction, Wahid Ullah says he's concerned that those being forced from Pakistan and Iran will further contribute to the worsening situation in Afghanistan. "These people will face two big problems," he explained. "There are no homes and there are no jobs. It will not be a good situation."

Mr. Ullah, trained as an industrial painter plans to look for work once he finishes constructing his house. He knows that his job prospects in a country where unemployment runs at about 50 per cent are not good.

But some still have hope for Afghanistan's future. Abdullah, who only goes by one name, lived in Pakistan for eight years before returning home. The promise of a home and land was key in making his decision to return, said the 37-year-old whose family includes nine people.

"This is my homeland," he said through an interpreter as he and his son Ferozkhan, 12, take a break from building their house at Khowja Alwan. "We're hoping things will improve. That's all we can do."

David Pugliese, the Citizen's award-winning senior writer for defence, recently returned from Afghanistan.

Malalai's war; She has survived assassination attempts and and been kicked out of parliament for her criticisms. But Afghanistan's youngest and most outspoken MP won't back down

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Malalai Joya, Afghanistan's youngest and most controversial MP, has survived assassination attempts and numerous threats for her outspoken views. She was recently suspended from parliament for comparing fellow MPs to donkeys and cows. 'This parliament is completely non-democratic,' she said. ;

DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Anthony Loyd
SOURCE: The Times of London
WORD COUNT: 741

KABUL, Afghanistan – The rendezvous is clandestine. A voice on the telephone instructs us to drive to a point beside a dusty highway cutting through the suburbs of Kabul.

A dark-blue, four-wheel drive pulls up. Inside, a young gunman checks our identities before ordering us to follow. We drive through alleyways and stop beside the high gates of an anonymous compound.

Another gunman stands inside. He searches us before allowing us to climb a stairwell. At the top, we enter an empty room. The secrecy and subterfuge suggest that an insurgent agent, a Taliban commander or criminal fugitive awaits us.

But the figure that breezes into the room is Malalai Joya, a striking 29-year-old woman, an English-speaking social activist, champion of women's rights and Afghanistan's youngest MP. She is no stranger to mortal danger, having survived four assassination attempts since 2003, when she first criticized the power of warlords in Afghan politics.

Since last month, when she was suspended for calling her fellow MPs donkeys and cows, the death threats have escalated, forcing her to move between safe houses supplied by friends and supporters.

If anything, her expulsion from the lower house has made her even more vitriolic about Afghan parliamentarians: "They are worse than animals." She states immediately: "I apologize to animals ... This parliament is completely non-democratic. How can we be a democracy under the shadow of gunmen and warlords?"

Born in Farah province, Ms. Joya was four days old when Soviet tanks rolled into Afghanistan. As a teenage refugee in Pakistan, she taught literacy courses to other Afghan women. During the Taliban years, she ran an orphanage and health clinic in Afghanistan.

In 2005, two years after she spoke out publicly against warlords involved in drafting the Afghan constitution, she won more votes than anyone from Farah province in the parliamentary elections and was elected. Despite this support, a majority of the 248 MPs voted last month to cancel her membership for the remaining term of the current parliament, which runs until 2009. The previous day she had criticized the parliament for failing to accomplish enough for the Afghan people.

"A stable or a zoo is better (than the legislature)," she told TOLO, a private television channel. "At least there you have a donkey that carries a load and a cow that provides milk. This parliament is worse than a stable or a zoo."

After Ms. Joya's interview was shown to parliament, her colleagues found her guilty of violating Article 70 of the Afghan legislature's rules, forbidding MPs from criticizing one another.

Her specific crime was "insulting the institution of parliament".

A staunch democrat, Ms. Joya has sought to illuminate the role of warlords, criminals and drug traffickers in Afghanistan's fledgling political process. Leading human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, have endorsed her accusations in a series of reports that note the prominence of many suspected war criminals in the current Afghan Government and legislature.

"I am just the voice of innocent people who don't have guns and don't have power," Ms. Joya says, claiming that her suspension was revenge for her previous criticisms, and especially for her damning of an amnesty bill, passed in March, that allowed limited protection for MPs and organizations guilty of crimes during the jihad and subsequent civil war.

Her honesty, in a country where most foreign diplomats accept democratic shortfalls in the interests of preserving long-term stability, is refreshing. Of tact, diplomacy and self-preservation, however, she seems to know nothing.

In the space of a few minutes she says that 70 per cent of MPs are warlords and that "Saddam Hussein is their brother". She calls the slain Northern Alliance commander Ahmed Shah Masood an Afghan icon, "a hero war criminal".

Continued on xxxShe names one of the country's most senior politicians as "a criminal" and another as "a puppet of Iran who killed many people". A relative of President Karzai is "a druglord man", she says.

While numerous foreign political observers share Ms. Joya's views, they call for time and patience in reforming Afghanistan's democracy, and point to the dangers of Iraq, where the ruling elite was wiped from the board overnight.

A dramatic character and ardent polemicist, she is an isolated voice in the Afghan political arena. Ms Joya says that she has had water thrown on her, been called a prostitute and threatened with rape — all by MPs during parliamentary session. Some among the 68 female MPs support her, many do not.

"Unfortunately, most of them belong to warlords," Ms. Joya says. "Even one shouted at me, 'Malalai, I'll do to you what no man could do!'"

In parting, she adds: "If something happens to me it's these fundamentalists in power — they killed me."

Women against medievalism

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WORD COUNT: 534

The greatest heroes in Afghanistan won't be leaving when the war is over. Afghan women will be risking their lives to fight injustice for years, probably decades, to come.

Zakia Zaki is the latest victim. She died in bed, as her infant son slept beside her. The reports say three men burst into the bedroom and shot Ms. Zaki seven times.

It isn't hard to identify a motive for this cowardly murder. Ms. Zaki was a teacher and a journalist and, whether she identified herself as such or not, a feminist. It's a wonder she lived to 35. She had criticized the Taliban and the former mujahedeen, and she had run a radio station since 2001. She was a symbol of change, of democracy and of the power of women.

As for who killed her, well, it could almost be anyone. The government suspects a group of men with ties to Hezb-e Islami, a guerrilla group headed by a warlord. In Afghanistan, misogyny is the norm, and by no means limited to outright enemies of the government. Even many supporters of democracy have less-than-enlightened attitudes about women.

Some parts of Afghanistan are more dangerous for women than others, but no part of the country is entirely safe. A few days before Zakia Zaki's murder, a young female television presenter was killed in Kabul.

Women such as Zakia Zaki know they are risking death. Every day they wake up and confront that fear and go to work anyway. They also confront constant disapproval from male relatives who would prefer that their women stayed behind walls and burkas, mouths shut. The struggle for gender equality is not only deadly but often lonely.

Despite all this, bright and cheerful young women are learning to operate cameras and report on their country. One of the documentaries made by a young woman, *If I Stand Up*, profiled Zakia Zaki.

Afghan women are writing opinion articles and hosting radio programs and appearing on television. They are running for office and going to school and starting businesses. They do all this while looking after their own children (Zakia Zaki had six). While all of those activities are extremely difficult still, most weren't even possible under the Taliban. If Canada withdrew its troops from Afghanistan tomorrow, life for women there wouldn't improve, and it would certainly get worse.

Women are standing up in other fundamentalist Muslim societies, too: in Iran, in Iraq, in Saudi Arabia. They have been standing up for some time, and risking death in their own countries. A female journalist was killed in Iraq on Thursday.

The real barometer of change is not in the activities of the bravest women, but the attitudes of their husbands and brothers and fathers and sons. There are equality-minded men in Afghanistan, of course, but there aren't

enough of them. The Afghan government must stand up for heroic women and protect them, as much as it can, from the hatemongers and murderers. Protect them, in other words, from medievalism.

As a donor country, Canada thinks a lot about the education of girls, but perhaps we should be thinking even harder about the education of boys, so that the next generation of Afghan men doesn't grow up to be woman-killers.

Going Out

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CONCERTS

Splash'n Boots: 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Perth Studio Theatre, 63 Gore St. E. Tickets \$7 at 613-267-8721.

Behind the Music: A performance/lecture with the NAC Orchestra's talented young violinist Jessica Linnebach, 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the NAC Salon. Tickets \$12 for Friends, \$14 non-members, \$6 students at the NAC box office or TicketMaster, 613-755-1111.

The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra: David Thies-Thompson, and NACO violinist Donnie Deacon as soloists, 8 p.m. Saturday at First Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Ave. Tickets \$10, \$8 students/seniors at The Leading Note and at the door. 613-623-6089.

Ottawa Baroque Consort: A Gallant Evening, a concert dedicated to the rococo, 8 p.m. Saturday at St. Giles Church, corner of Bank and First Ave. Tickets \$20, \$10 students at Leading Note, Compact Music and Collected Works Bookstore. 613-730-2977.

NACO Kinderconcert: A journey to Dixieland, 11 a.m. (ages three to five), 3 p.m. ages five to eight (English performance); 3 p.m. ages five to eight (French performance) in the NAC Panorama Room. SOLD OUT.

The Ottawa Valley Festival Chorus and Orchestra: Rhythms of jazz and the spirit of Gospel with clarinetist Peter Stoll, 3 p.m. Sunday at Almonte Town Hall, Almonte. Tickets \$20, \$10 students at the door or 613-863-0335.

Summertime: A new musical review, 8 p.m. to July 28 at Theatre du Casino in Gatineau. Tickets \$40 at Casino du Lac-Leam box office or Admission Network, 1-800-361-4595 or www.admission.com.

Sous les ponts de Paris: This musical revue pays homage to the great performers of French chanson, 2 p.m. to June 29 at Theatre du Casino in Gatineau. Tickets \$20 at Casino du Lac-Leamy box office or Admission Network, 1-800-361-4595 or www.admission.com.

CD Release Concert: Shelley Posen launches MENORAH: Songs from a Jewish Life, 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Library and Archives Canada Auditorium, 395 Wellington St. 613-798-9818 ext. 263.

Shakespearean Concert: The Impressions in Jazz Orchestra present The Duke & The Bard, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the International Ballroom Crowne Plaza Hotel, 101 Lyon St. Tickets \$30, \$20 students/seniors (65+) at ticketweb.ca, Compact Music, CD Warehouse locations.

NAC Orchestra — Pops Series: From Vienna, With Love, Jack Everly conducting, 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, June 16 in the NAC Southam Hall. Tickets from \$28.73 at the box office or TicketMaster,

613-755-1111.

NAC Debut Series: Eric Friesen, host, Michele Bogdanowicz, soprano, Lawrence Wilford, tenor, Robert Kortgaard, piano, noon Friday in the NAC Foyer. Tickets \$4 at the door.

Thomas & Friends Live! On Stage: 7 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, June 16 at Scotiabank Place. Tickets at the box office or www.capitaltickets.ca.

THEATRE

Beowulf!: Outdoor theatre presented by the Ottawa Stilt Union, Saturday, Sunday at Tabaret Lawn corner of Laurier and Cumberland on the University of Ottawa campus. Free admission. For all ages.

Forever Yours: By Michel Tremblay, presented by Ottawa Chamber Theatre Company and Cube Gallery, 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 16 at Cube Gallery, 7 Hamilton Ave. Tickets \$39. Catered reception following the play. 613-728-1750.

The Ottawa Fringe Festival: Friday to June 24 featuring theatre, workshops and more at venues including Alumni Auditorium, Academic Hall, Studio Leonard Beaulne, Arts Court Library, Arts Court Theatre. Full programs available at most Ottawa public library branches and Bridgehead coffeeshops or visit www.ottawafringe.com.

Scarlett's Dinner Theatre: Presents Deadly Desperate Housewives! 7 p.m. Saturday at Scarlett's is at 62 York St. (above Fat Tuesdays) Cost is \$25 for show, three-course dinner available from \$22-\$27. Reserve at 613-850-9700.

COMEDY

Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St.: Mike Storck with MC Lamar Williams and Wendi Reed, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m. Sunday; Pro-Am Night, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Dinner-show packages for \$25 plus tax/tip and under. 613-233-8000.

Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club, 88 Albert St.: Scott Faulconbridge with Ben Minor and David Tsonos, Saturday; New Talent Showcase, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; Angelo Tsarouchas with Dan Rock and Phil Shuchat, Thursday to Saturday, June 16. Reserve at 613-236-5233.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Subterranean Cinema: Diefenbunker Film Club, 3911 Carp Rd., Carp.: Top Gun (1986) PG, starring Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis and Val Kilmer, 7 p.m. Tuesday. \$6, \$15 with mini tour. 613-839-0007.

LIVE MUSIC-ROCK

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Video release with Red Light Saints, 9 p.m. Saturday. \$10 in advance from Sounds Unlikely or End Hits.

Bassline Station, 2557 Baseline Rd.: Erin McCallum and Roadtrip, 9 p.m. Saturday.

Bourbon Street Music Hall, 2557 Baseline at Greenbank: Trevor Finlay, 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong: The Ryvyls, Saturday; Open stage, Thursday; Bill Barnes and Retro, Friday.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: Pride Tiger, Die Mannequin, The Mighty Eagle Band, Saturday, \$9 advance; Delay, The Explosion, The Blazers, Ari Lyon, Monday, free tickets; Rockets Fall, The City Above, Wednesday, \$6 door; Amanda Rheume and guests, Friday, \$8 advance.

LIVE MUSIC–BLUES–WORLD–FOLK

Baker Street Cafe, 385 Richmond Rd.: Terry Gillespie, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday. (Afterhours Westfest.)

Auberge Heritage Restaurant, 2607 Montreal Rd., Cumberland: Live music by Jean–Pierre Henley, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Avant–Garde Bar, 135 1/2 Besserer St.: My Tiny Circus, Saturday; Mike Essoudry and Linsey Wellman, Tuesday; Brian Downey Jazz, Wednesday; Radar, Thursday, Theodosios Band, Friday.

Blacksheep Inn, 753 Riverside St., Wakefield.: Nathan Wiley, Stephanie Hardy, Megan Hamilton, 9 p.m. Saturday; Romi Mayes, John Evans 4:30 p.m. Sunday; Hayes Carll, 8:30 p.m. Thursday; Elmer Ferrer Band, 9 p.m. Friday.

The Branch, 15 Clothier St. E., Kemptville: Rocken Blues with Austin Fire, 9 p.m. Saturday; Blues open stage, 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Brig British Pub, 501 Hazeldean Rd., Kanata: Karaoke by Dog and Pony, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

The British Hotel, 71 Principal St., Aylmer: Karaoke with Vanylou, 3:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Sundays; DJ spins Thursdays to Saturdays.

Charlies Pub and Grill, 308 Palladium Dr., Kanata: Karaoke Night, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Daniel O'Connell's Pub, 1211 Wellington St.: Open stage, Saturdays; Irish traditional music session, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

D'arcy McGee's, 44 Sparks St.: The Joe August band, Saturday; The Empty Suits, Friday, Saturday, June 16.

Duffy's Tavern, 6 Lennox Rd., Richmond: Karaoke, Thursdays.

J.R. Virgin's Karaoke Club at Ha Ha's, 1220 Old Innes Rd.: Singing and dancing with Peter, 9 p.m. Wednesdays–Fridays.

Lieutenant's Pump, 361 Elgin St.: Acoustic series, 9:30 p.m. Sundays.

Main Street Pub, 1408 Main St., Stittsville: Karaoke, Fridays.

The Old Mill at Ashton, 113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton: Open stage with Jaan Kolk and friends, 2–6 p.m. Sundays.

Pendradon Pub, 1490 Merivale Rd.: Karaoke, Thursdays.

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray St.: CD release for Kevin Marks, 9 p.m. Saturday; Rally Car, 9 p.m. Sunday; Stacie's Showcase with Pat Johnson, 9 p.m. Monday; Open blues jame, 9 p.m. Tuesday; Clear, 9 p.m. Wednesday; Salted, Thursday; Eddie Turner, Friday.

Rasputin's Folk Cafe, 696 Bronson Ave.: Northbrook Nine, Saturday; Celtic Session, Monday; Jamalong with host Peter Conroy, Tuesday; Open stage, Wednesday; Christina Marchant, Friday and Saturday, June 16.

The Roxy, 292 Elgin St.: DJ Jamie C, Fridays; Ebony and Ivory Soundcrew, Saturdays.

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St. at Hunt Club: Barrelhouse, Saturday; Light jazz, 8 p.m. Wednesdays; acoustic blues, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; Wicked Grin, Friday.

Whispers Pub and Eatery, 249 Richmond Rd.: Greg Wyard, Saturday; Mike Crepin, Friday.

LIVE MUSIC–JAZZ

Arrow and Loon Pub, 99 Fifth Ave.: The Glebop Jazz Trio, 6–8 p.m. Sundays.

Cafe Nostalgica, 603 Cumberland St.: Yves Laroche and friends, 9 p.m. Wednesdays, No cover.

Chez Lucien, 137 Murray St. at Dalhousie: Jazz Sundays with the Hugh O'Connor Duo, 4–7 p.m. Sundays.

Fiddleheads Bar and Grill, 53 Herriott St., Perth: Dave Renaud, clarinet, Clay Young, piano, noon–3 p.m. Sunday.

Fresco's, 354 Elgin St.: Jeff Rogers and Kelly Craig, Thursdays.

Grillman's Restaurant, Highway 16 and Colonnade Rd.: The Grillman Hot Jazz Trio, 6–9 p.m. Fridays.

Humphreys, 683 Bank St.: Brian Asselin, sax, Jake Von Wurden, bass, and Rick Pearlman, drums, 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m. Saturday.

Options Bar, Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Dr., Kanata: Andrei Krylov, 8 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Sunday; Tyler Kealey, 9 p.m. Thursday.

Roses Cafe, 1285 Wellington St.: Elise Letourneau Trio, Saturday.

The Royal Oak, 329 March Rd.: Magnolia Rhythm Kings, 3–6 Sunday.

Vineyards Wine Bar and Bistro, 54 York St.: Dave Ward Duo, Sunday; Hugh O'Connor Duo, Tuesday; Clay Young, Wednesday.

LIVE MUSIC–COUNTRY

Le Bar Spectacle La Maison, 836 St. Louis, Gatineau: Gary Fairburn and Unwound, 9 p.m. Saturdays.

The Constance Bay Legion, Constance Bay: Mike Armitage Band, 8 p.m. Saturday.

Greenfields Pub and Eatery, 900 Greenbank Rd.: Destroyer, 7 p.m. Saturday; The Eric Eggleston Band, Thursday; Shakedown Groove, Friday, 9:45 p.m. Friday.

Vanier Grill, 159 Montreal Rd.: Chris McCann open jam 7 p.m. Sundays.

Westboro Legion, 391 Richmond Rd.: W.R.D., 8 p.m. Saturday, Peter C, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, June 16.

LIVE MUSIC–LOUNGES

The Aloha Room, 323 Bank St.: Rock n' Roll and Country with DJ Billy, 10 p.m. Saturdays.

Banco, 1 Casino Blvd., Gatineau: Saxophonist 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Sundays.

The Collection and Bar 56, 56 Byward St.: Martini and Manicure Mondays; DJ Joe Juarez, Tuesdays; DJ Dusty, Wednesdays; DJ Illo, Thursdays; DJ Craig Hooper, Fridays; KJ Jim Reilly, Saturdays, DJ Adam White, Sundays.

Frescocielo, 354 Elgin St. (upstairs): Slow grooves, rhythm and blues, 9 p.m. Thursdays; Dee and Lil–Sis, Urban jazz and classic R9:30 p.m. Fridays; Maya and friends, classic and contemporary soul and R10 p.m. Saturdays.

Friday's Roast Beef House and Piano Parlour, 150 Elgin St.: Noel at the piano, 8 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays.

Full House Restaurant, 337 Somerset St. W.: Robert Clarot, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays.

Le Baccara (3rd level), Casino du Lac Leamy, 1 boulevard du Casino, Gatineau: Classic harp nightly from 7–11 p.m.

Myranda Restaurant, 2440 St. Joseph Blvd.: Aurele LeCompte, piano, Saturdays.

Shanghai Restaurant, 651 Somerset St. W.: Shanghai Hi–Fi, 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Thirsty Toad Lounge, 1344 Bank St.: Miller's Groove, DJ Music Master, Ras Lee & weekly special guests, Thursdays. 613–738–8623.

Villa Lucia Steak House, 3430 Carling Ave.: Robin Haydon on piano and Pablo Juarez on drums, 7–11 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays; Amigo Band with Luis and Pablo, and Emily Vinett, 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays. 613–829–6801.

DANCE CLUBS

Babylon, 317 Bank St.: Punk Rawk with DJs Mike and Murielle, Wednesdays; Ready, steady with DJs Cam and Brodie, Thursdays; Progressive techno with international DJs and residents S4 and Quake, Fridays; Dance music alternative style with DJ Simon, Saturdays; RB with old–school hip hop, Sundays.

Barrymore's, 323 Bank St.: Retro '80's with DJs JP & Ellen, 8 p.m. Sundays; Retro '90's with DJs Cowboy & Indian, 8 p.m. Thursdays; New Music Fridays with DJs Cowboy and Indian, 8 p.m. Fridays.

Bulldog Pub, 380 Elgin St.: Retro '80s Gender Bender with DJ Chemical Cam, Thursdays; The best music in town with DJ Chemical Cam, Fridays, Saturdays.

The Cornerstone Bar and Grill, 92 Clarence St.: DJ's, Fridays, Saturdays.

Balcony Bar and Lounge, 360 Elgin St.: Hip hop and house with Dj Flip and DJ DV8, Thursdays; Hip hop and Top 40 with DJ DV8, Fridays; Hip hop and techno with DJ DV8, Saturdays.

The Great Canadian Cabin, 95 York St.: DJ's Spanky Todd and Chris play a variety of new and oldschool favourites, Thursdays to Saturdays.

Heaven Nightclub, 400a Dalhousie St.: Hip–Hop party with DJ Illo and guests, Thursdays; International world class DJs; Fridays; Martin Villeneuve, Saturdays.

Friday: Featuring: International World Class DJs

International Folk Dancers of Ottawa: 7:30–10 p.m. Thursdays at the Jack Purcell Community Centre, 320 Jack Purcell Lane. Teaching 7:30–8:30 p.m., partners not required.

Maxwell's Bistro, 340 Elgin St.: DJ and dance floor, 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays.

Ottawa English Country Dance Club, John G Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Dr.: 7:30 p.m. Fridays. Experience and partners not necessary.

Paraiso, 300 Preston St.(upstairs): Salsa, merengue, bacchata, all Latin, Fridays, Saturdays.

Suite 34, 34 Clarence St.: DJ Wet Willy Electric Ballroom, Saturdays.

Swing Dance Night: The Ottawa Swing Dance Society, 8:30 p.m. One-hour lesson included. Fridays, 151 Chapel St. \$5.

Tantra Night Club, 212 Sparks St.: Quattro Rouge with resident DJs MistaSho, Richniques, Mes, BoJangles, Fridays.

Whiskey Bar, 112 York St.: DJ's Best of '80s Rock DJ Grime, Thursdays; Best of '80s, '90s Rock, Fridays; DJ Spanky, '70s, '80s, '90s Dance DJ Tommy Segin, Saturdays.

Whiskey West, 1280 Baseline Rd.: DJ's Thursdays to Saturdays.

Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.: The Electric Ballroom with DJs Simon & Tim, Saturdays; Ice Cream Sundays with DJ Lady MsMyrrh; Manic Mondays with DJs Tim and Matt; Industrial Strength Tuesdays with DJs Leslie & Jairus; PopScene with DJ Emmett, Wednesdays; Full Flavour with DJ Simon, Thursdays; The Electric Ballroom with DJs Stef and Fiver, Fridays.

LITERARY EVENTS

Book Signing: CBC movie critic and author Robert Fontaine signs copies of his book *Movies Ate My Brain*, and discusses the fine art of movie reviewing, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Read's Book Shop, 130 Lansdowne Ave., Carleton Place. 613-257-7323.

Readings: Dan Waber, Jennifer Hill-Kaucher, Stuart Ross, 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Carleton Tavern upstairs, Parkdale Avenue at Armstrong.

Stories and Tea with Ottawa Storytellers: *The Story Told in Song*, with Gail Anglin, Anne Nagy and Ruthanne Edward, 7–9 p.m. Tuesday at the Tea Party, 119 York St. 613-722-2606. Free admission.

The Plan 99 Reading Series: Book launch of Rob Winger's debut poetry collection, *Muybridge's Horse*, 5 p.m. Saturday at the Manx Pub, 370 Elgin St. 613-231-2070.

Sasquatch Writers Performance Series: Fraser Sutherland, poetry, fiction and non-fiction writer, 2 p.m. Sunday at the Royal Oak II, 161 Laurier Ave. E. 613-830-1829.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Dr. Lee's Spring Djembe Workshops: Beginner noon–2 p.m., intermediate class, 2–4 p.m. Sundays to June 17 at Arts Court, 2 Daly Ave. \$150 for seven workshops. 819-777-1585.

SINGLES

Active Singles Group: Meets 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Malone's, Dow's Lake Pavilion. 613-235-6337.

At Eight: For single professional people over 50 to meet for good conversation and fine dining.
www.ateight.biz

Le Cercle Amical Tremblay: 8 p.m. Saturday at Centre Pauline Charron, 164 Jeanne Mance. Proper dress.
Andre 819-663-5610 or Bernadette. 613-744-1648.

Cercle d'amitie Jonathan: For French-speaking, 45-plus singles, non-smoking. Sunday breakfast served until 10:30 a.m. at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull. 613-746-2204.

Magic Encounters Dances: Single's Dance, every Sunday night for 30+ at 270 Marier Ave. 819-246-3363.

The New Friendship Singles Club: Dance 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Fridays with door prizes at 1000 Byron Ave. close to Woodroffe Avenue and Richmond Road. 613-729-3631.

Friday Friends: Fun-focused group of unattached adults who meet at O'Connors Pub, Kanata Centrum, 650 Earl Grey Dr., Kanata. 613-832-4653.

One Parent Families Association: Friendship group for single parents meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Rd. Ongoing adult and family activities. 613-834-1308.

Ottawa Valley Social Group: Linking friends throughout the Valley with parties, skiing, day trips and more. 613-832-4653.

People Meeting People: Dance, 8 p.m. Saturday at Carleton Heights Community Centre on Appeldorn St. Western night, wear jeans. 613-825-7083.

Prinzo's Dance Bar, 85 O'Connor/Slater: Dance for singles 30 and up, 9 p.m. Saturdays featuring great DJ dance music. Neat casual dress, no denim. \$5 cover 613-565-1328.

Socialites and Company: 8 p.m. Saturday at The Barley Mow, 2034 10th Line Rd. 613-823-8028.

Sunday Brunch Group: For singles has brunches in various restaurants Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Reserve at 613-825-7083.

OTHER EVENTS

Baskets with Pinache: A fundraiser by the Canada Agriculture Museum to enable under-privileged children attend the Museum's programs and summer day camps, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Thursday in Building 95 at the Canada Agriculture Museum. Free parking. Tickets \$50 per person in advance from 613-993-7457 or www.agriculture.technomuses.ca .

Brockville Heritage House and Garden Tour: Featuring five homes ranging from 1829 to 1952, a former 1928 church converted to a bed-and-breakfast, and one garden, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets \$20 in advance from the Brockville Museum. 613-342-4397.

Dance: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ottawa, 9 p.m. Saturday at Good Companion Centre, 670 Albert St. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. 613-846-4175.

Perth Doors Open: Twelve of Perth's finest sites open their doors for free public tours, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. 613-267-3200 or www.perthchamber.com .

Recycle and Donate to Charity Event: BBQ family entertainment, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Rideauview Community Centre, 4310 Shoreline Dr., Riverside South. free in exchange for an item donated to charity, visit www.Riversidesouth.org for details.

Heritage Ottawa Walking Tour: Central Experimental Farm with guide Katharine Fletcher, author of *Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*. Meet at Dominion Observatory, Irving Place at Carling, 2 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$10, \$8 for members. No reservations required. 6130230–8841.

Garden Party in Westboro: 6–8 p.m. Wednesday (rain date: Thursday) presented by The Volunteers' Circle of the National Gallery of Canada. \$50 per person at 613–729–3504.

Canine with a Cause: Annual garage sale/bake sale 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday at 905 Balzac Lane, Orleans.

Italian Week Program: To Sunday, June 17 in Little Italy. For a complete schedule of events go to www.italianweekottawa.com or call 613–224–4388.

Around About Ottawa: Guided walking tours of historic landmarks and tourist sites in Ottawa's downtown core. Minimum two people. Reserve at 613–599–1016.

Ghosts and the Gallows: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613–232–0344.

Crime and Punishment Jail Tour: 7 p.m. nightly. Depart from lobby of the Ottawa Jail Hostel, 75 Nicholas St. Reserve 613–232–0344.

Naughty Ottawa Pub Walk: 7 p.m. Saturdays, depart from ticket office, 73 Clarence St. Reserve 613–232–0344.

The Original Haunted Walk of Ottawa Tour: 8 p.m. nightly. Departs from the corner of Sparks Street and Elgin Street. Reserve at 613–232–0344.

Ottawa On Foot: Historical walking tours of downtown Ottawa. Private tours only. 613–447–7566.

Parliament of Canada — Tours: Free Centre Block guided tours available daily; schedule varies throughout the year and when Parliament is sitting. Visit www.parl.gc.ca/vis or call 613–239–5000. (Tours may be re-routed or cancelled without notice due to parliamentary activity). 613–239–5000.

Tour of the Supreme Court of Canada, Wellington Street: Law students conduct free guided tours by reservation from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday to Friday. For reservations 613–995–5361.

Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg: Heirloom plant sale and more, Saturday, Sunday. Old-fashioned horse-drawn wagon rides. 613–543–4328 or 1–800–437–2233.

Valleyview Little Animal Farm, 4750 Fallowfield Rd.: Open Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Weekends, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and holiday Mondays. 613–591–1126.

MUSEUMS

Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St.: Ottawa's historic crown jewel in the heart of the city which was once home to one of the founding families. Open noon–5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday. Fee. 613–247–4830.

Bytown Museum, 1 Canal Lane: The museum showcases the early days of Ottawa and the founder of Bytown, Lt.-Col. John By and offers new permanent exhibitions, a community gallery and new play space for families and students. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., between the Rideau Canal locks and the Parliament Buildings. Admission applies. Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily to Thanksgiving weekend. 613–234–4570 or www.bytownmuseum.com.

Canada Agriculture Museum, Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle: Tractors exhibition; The Museum Passport; Access to the animal barns and exhibitions, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Food for Health Exhibition, to Oct. 31; New themes for birthday parties year-round for ages three–12. Fee. Seniors Free on Tuesdays to Oct. 613–991–3044.

Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Parkway: Art Flight 2007; Introduction to Aviation Art Workshops, New Storage Wing Tours. Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. until Labour Day. 613–993–2010.

Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.: The Science of Hockey, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday with activities for all ages; Autopsy of a Murder exhibit, to Sept. 3; Collection Tours, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. 613–991–3053.

Canadian Clock Museum, 60 James St., Deep River: Large exhibits of Pequegnat, Westclox, and Snider Canadian clocks. Call to confirm hours. 613–584–9687. Fee.

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau: Dream Painting and Storytelling, paint workshop (bilingual), 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday with Neal McLeod's Cree stories noon, 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. (English only); Lecture: The Roots of Chinese Civilization, 7 p.m. Thursday in the Theatre. Tickets \$5; In My Lifetime, Contemporary Aboriginal Art, to March 8; Treasures from China, to Oct. 28. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Children's Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: Make Your Own Toy Story!, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. (bilingual) Saturday, Sunday in the Studio. Free with museum admission. Top Secret: Mission Toy, to Sept. 3. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Postal Museum, in the Canadian Museum of Civilization: The Post Goes Pop, exhibition looks at the role played by the postal service in everyday life; Signed, Sealed, Delivered; Reflections of Canada: The National Stamp Collection. Fee. Open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. 819–776–7000.

Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St.: Celebrate Ocean Day, 11 a.m.–noon and 1–2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and see live ocean creatures up close and learn how they move, feed and protect themselves; Renovated West Wing features the new Talisman Energy Fossil Gallery, which represents the end of the dinosaur age and rise of mammals, a refurbished interactive Mammal Gallery and a new Bird Gallery with hundreds of birds plus a special play area for kids; The Rise of Mammals, a guided tour of the mammals that flourished after the dinos disappeared, weekdays and weekends in English and French. (East wing is closed for renovation.) 613–566–4700.

Canadian Ski Museum, 1960 Scott St.: Explore the history of skiing, see how the sport has evolved and learn about Canada's great champions in the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame, 3rd floor Trailhead. 613–722–3584.

Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place: Family: Letters to my Mother, weekends in June; War Brides: Portraits of an Era and Stitches in Time which features 15 quilted artworks, through January 6; Afghanistan, A Glimpse of War: A Journalist's Kit and A Soldier's Kit, weekends in July, daily in July, August. Open Tuesday–Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m., closed Monday. 819–776–8600.

Champlain Trail Museum and Pioneer Village, 1032 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke: Open 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

weekdays until Oct. 5. 613-735-0517.

Diefenbunker, 3911 Carp Rd., Carp: See 100,000 sq. ft. bunker that was intended to protect the government and military in the event of an attack. Visits by guided tour only, Monday-Fridays at 2 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. Reservations required. Fee. 613-839-0007.

Fulford Place Mansion Museum, 287 King St. E., Brockville: In honour of the exhibition *The Pleasure of Your Company: Coffee and Tea Artifacts*, talk by author Frances Hoffman, *Steeped in Tradition: A Celebration of Tea and Much to be Done: Private Life in Ontario from Victorian Diaries*, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets \$15 per talk or both for \$25. Open for tours Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last tour departing at 3 p.m. Tearoom. 613-498-3003.

Glengarry Pioneer Museum, County Road 24 at the crossroads with County Road 30: *Art Fayre and Victorian Tea: Seventeen area artists display and sell their works*, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Open 1-5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays to June 30. 613-527-5230.

Macdonell-Williamson National Historic Site, East Hawkesbury: House tours of the c.1817 home. Full English tea can be arranged. 613-632-6662.

Mill of Kintail Conservation Area and R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum, 2854 Concession 8, Almonte: Open daily 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Oct. 16. 613-256-3610.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, 3 Rosamond St., Almonte: *Community Threads*, to July 8 in the re-opened *Norah Rosamond Hughes Gallery*; *Weaving and spinning demonstrations*, 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays. Free with admission. *The Millennium Journal* by Judith Martin, to July 29. 613-256-3754.

National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr: *Big and Small, Tiny Tots Workshop*, 10:30 a.m. Friday, registration required at 613-998-8888; *Renoir lecture: Let him do no more portraits, let him remain a landscape painter*, by Colin B. Bailey, co-organizer of the exhibition, 2 p.m. Sunday; *Artsparks!*, a mix of art, music, commentary, and hands-on projects in a lively social atmosphere for adults, 7 p.m. Thursday; *Renoir Landscapes 1865-1883*, to Sept. 9; *Modernist Photographs from the National Gallery of Canada's collection* to Aug. 26; *De-con-structions*, to Sept. 3; *Changing Times, Continuing Traditions*, to Sunday; *Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts*, to June 17. Open Tues.-Sun. from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursdays to 8 p.m. 613-990-1985.

Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Ave.: *InGrained, Cultivating the Cultures of Nepean*, a display of rice, to Sept. 22. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Canada's Centennial and another Centennial -- 100 years -- of the Boy Scouts of Canada. 613-723-7936.

Old Stone Mill, National Historic Site & Museum of Early Industrial Technology, 4 Court St., Delta: Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 613-928-2584.

The Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Ave.: *Elemental Simplicity*, with Suzanne Bergeron and Claude Picher, to June 24; OAG Art Rental and Sales, group show in the context of *Splash!*. 613-233-8865.

Perth Museum/Matheson House, c1840, 11 Gore St. E., Perth: Four restored period rooms, two galleries with featuring exhibition, *Victorian Fashion and Society in Perth*; Victorian garden, outdoor bake oven and herb garden. Admission by donation. 613-267-1947.

Pinhey's Point Historic Site, Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin: Enjoy the scenic views of the Ottawa River at Pinhey's Point, an 88-acre historic site and one of the City's earliest estates. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday to Friday. Closed Monday, Tuesday. 613-832-4347.

Symmes Inn Museum, 1 Front St., Gatineau: Regional history museum, open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Free.

The Royal Canadian Mint, 320 Sussex Dr.: Along with seeing \$1 million in gold, you can hold more than \$175,000 of pure gold in your hands. 613–993–8990.

The Victoria School Museum, 256 Edmund St., Carleton Place: The Place for All Seasons, view the history of Carleton Place through the decades and the seasons. Displays, original artifacts and hands–on activities. Open daily 10 a.m.–4, 1–4 p.m. Sundays. 613–253–7013.

Waba Cottage Museum & Gardens, in the Village of White Lake: Several heritage buildings situated in an eight–acre park with 11 themed gardens, picnic tables, boat launch. Open Saturday, Sunday from 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 613–623–8853.

new art shows

Arbor Gallery, 36 Home Ave., Vankleek Hill: LivingScapes, by Elizabeth Savard, to Wednesday.

Entrez chez l'Artiste: Open Studio Tour with 12 artists in Buckingham, Gatineau, and Masson–Angers, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. Maps at any of the libraries of the town of Gatineau or 819–986–1085 or www.entrezchezlartiste.com .

Family Ties: Paintings by Catherine Gutsche, to June 30, vernissage 1–3 p.m. Saturday at The Herb Garden, 3840 Old Almonte Rd., 613–256–0228.

Foyer Gallery, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave.: Splash, Wednesday to July 15. 613–580–2424, ext. 42226.

Gallery Montcalm, Maison du Citoyen, 25 Laurier St., Gatineau: Tarot, by Marita Liulia, vernissage 7–9 p.m. Wednesday to July 29. 819–595–7488.

Galerie St–Laurent+Hill, 333 Cumberland: Brent McIntosh, Five New Paintings, to June 20, artist reception, 1–5 p.m. Sunday. 613–789–7145.

Heartwood Gallery in Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St.: Elena Deroche Kisslitsyn, an inspiring floral theme, to June 29 . 613–241–5937.

Lux Gallery, 11 Lake Ave. W., Carleton Place: Photography by Mark Schacter, vernissage 1–4 p.m. Sunday to Aug. 5.

Painter Potter Painter: Abstract painters Geral Paul Swift, Joan Owen and raku potter Janet Keefe, Saturday to July 2, vernissage 2–5 p.m. Sunday at The Abbey for the Arts, 21489 Butternut Lane, Glen Nevis, Ont. 613–347–1602.

Pontiac Artists Studio Tour 2007: Fourteen artists in 12 studios west of Aylmer along the north shore of the Ottawa River in Quebec, 10 am.–6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and June 16, 17. Brochures with maps available at stores along Hwy 148 Aylmer and Fort Coulonge. 819–647–3130 or www.pontiacartists.com .

Timothy's@Sussex, 541 Sussex Dr.: Photographs by Liza Linklater, to June 30. 613–562–4690.

still at the galleries

Artguise Gallery, 590 Bank St.: New works by Hayden Menzies, to June 20. 613-238-3803.

Atrium Gallery, Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Dr.: The Nepean Museum: Serving Nepean's Heritage, to July 3. 613-580-2828.

AxeNeo7, 80 Hanson, Gatineau: Premices, to June 30. 819-771-2122.

Blink Gallery, Major's Hill Park: Features 10 contemporary artists from Ottawa area. Free. 613-244-4858.

Centre d'exposition Art-Image, 855 boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau: Emergence! Landscape Reinvented, to Aug. 5. 819-243-2325

Cumberland Gallery, 255 Centrum Blvd., 2nd Floor, Orleans: Arts Ottawa East, Selections 2007, to June 26. 613-580-2424, ext. 29288.

Espace Odysse, Maison de la Culture de Gatineau, 855 Gappe Blvd., Gatineau: Do Not Feed the Artist, acrylics on canvas by Vincent Beauchemin, to Sunday. 819-243-2325.

Galerie de l'Alliance Francaise, 352 MacLaren St.: Ensemble by Dominique Laurent, to July 20. 613-234-9470 ext 226.

Galerie D'art Jean-Claude-Bergeron, 150 St. Patrick St.: Paysages, works by Marc Seguin, to Sunday. 613-562-7836.

Kanata Civic Art Gallery, Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Dr.: Visual Feast with featured artist, Normand Baril, to June 24. 613-580-2424, ext. 33341.

Lafreniere and Pai Gallery, 13 Murray St.: A group show of glass sculpture, to Wednesday. 613-241-2767.

Karsh-Masson Gallery, 136 St. Patrick St.: Ione Thorkelsson: Ossuary, to July 8. 613-580-2424, ext. 14167.

La Petite Mort Gallery, 306 Cumberland St.: Meaghan Haughian, The Lois Diaries, Fragments of a life unknown, to July 1. 613-860-1555.

The Parkdale Gallery, 229 Armstrong St.: Solo exhibition of paintings by Tadeusz Chlodek, to June 17, artists's reception 1-4 p.m. Sunday. 613-614-4308.

Rothwell Hauck Gallery & Framing, 1718 Montreal Rd.: Prelude to Summer, a group exhibition, to June 30. 613-745-6410.

Tay River Gallery, 28 Wilson St.W., Perth: Converging Worlds: Paintings by Shirley Mancino, to June 30. 613-264-5448.

Europeans push for their aircraft; Want Canada to scrap Hercules purchase in favour of A400M

IDNUMBER 200706090190
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Supplied / An illustration of the A400M;
KEYWORDS: AIRCRAFT; AEROSPACE INDUSTRY; AIRLINES;
TRANSPORTATIONINDUSTRY
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 380

OTTAWA – A major European aerospace firm is proposing the Canadian Forces scrap its plans to buy new Hercules transport planes and buy its aircraft instead, saving enough money in the process to also purchase new search-and-rescue aircraft.

Last year, the Harper government approved the purchase of a fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft although it has yet to sign a contract on the deal.

This week, officials with Europe's Airbus Military made a direct plea to the Commons defence committee, suggesting Canada buy eight of its A400M transport planes and save \$2 billion in the process. Part of that money could then be used to buy new search-and-rescue planes, according to the company.

The military's plan to purchase much-needed search-and-rescue planes has been delayed at least four years because of a lack of money and the ongoing emphasis on purchasing equipment needed for Afghanistan, Defence officials say.

Under the Airbus proposal, the Canadian Forces would use their existing newer model C-130 aircraft, along with the A400M, to handle shorter-range airlift.

"We think as long as a contract has not been signed with Lockheed Martin we have the opportunity and indeed the duty to bring this (proposal) to the attention to the authorities and the Canadian public," said Richard Thompson, Airbus Military's vice-president.

Thompson said the company is ready to guarantee Canada delivery of the first aircraft in December 2010 and the remaining planes by February 2013. The A400M is scheduled to fly in the beginning of 2008 and first deliveries for NATO customers will start in 2009, according to Airbus officials.

But supporters of the C-130J say the A400M program has been delayed because of technical programs and it is unclear when the aircraft will be available.

Thompson said that's not true.

"Overall the program is on track," he said. "Like any program of this size and complexity there are elements of it which are slightly behind schedule, others which are slightly ahead of schedule."

The government is currently in negotiations with Lockheed Martin to purchase 17 C-130Js. The government estimated it will spend \$3.2 billion on the program. Another \$1.7 billion will be set aside for a 20-year in-service support contract for the planes.

Ross also questioned whether an A400M delivered as early as 2010 would be trouble-free as it takes years to work out the technical bugs in new planes. "Companies promise all kinds of stuff until they get a contract," he added.

Controversy trails Bush to Rome; Report on secret CIA prisons, Milan trial overshadow stopover to visit Pope

IDNUMBER 200706090127

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.06.09

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: B14

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Italian Carabinieri patrol in front of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome on Friday as security is beefed up for U.S. President George W. Bush's visit today. ;

KEYWORDS: RELIGION; CLERGY

DATELINE: ROME

BYLINE: Gina Doggett

SOURCE: Agence France-Press

WORD COUNT: 440

ROME – U.S. President George W. Bush will be greeted by antiwar demonstrations in Rome today as he meets Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Pope Benedict XVI.

Bush arrived here late Friday following the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, and a brief stop in Poland, hours after a trial opened in Milan over the kidnapping of a terror suspect in Washington's heavily criticized "extraordinary rendition" program.

The visit also coincides with the release of an explosive report detailing secret CIA prisons in Europe.

Bush will face two separate demonstrations as the far left of Italy's ruling centre-left coalition seeks to distance itself from more hardline anti-U.S. campaigners.

The government's two communist parties and the Greens have opted for a rally and pop concert in the Piazza del Popolo in the centre of the Italian capital, while the more radical activists plan a march.

Prodi has asked government members of the Refoundation Communist and Italian Communist parties to stay away from the rally, while party leaders and lawmakers plan to attend.

The event will point up divisions within Prodi's government, which ranges from communists, pacifists and Greens on the left to centrist Catholics such as Prodi himself.

Organizers hope the other, more hardline, protest to be staged by anti-globalization and far-left activists will attract as many as 200,000 people.

However several leftist peace groups plan to attend the Piazza del Popolo event.

The Milan court on Friday began trying in absentia 25 CIA agents accused of kidnapping Milan imam Osama Mustafa Hassan -- better known as Abu Omar -- and transferring him to a high-security prison outside Cairo, where he claims he was tortured.

Also Friday, Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty released a report in Strasbourg saying the CIA ran secret prisons in Poland and Romania from 2003 to 2005 to interrogate terror suspects under a program authorized by the countries' presidents.

The European Commission immediately called on EU countries accused of taking part in the covert CIA program to conduct impartial investigations "as quickly as possible" to establish responsibility.

Military issues are particularly thorny in Italy, such as Rome's tenuous commitment to its mission in Afghanistan and widespread domestic opposition to a plan to enlarge a U.S. military base in northeastern Italy.

Prodi was briefly forced to step down three months ago after losing a foreign policy vote in the Senate, principally over the deployment of 2,000 Italian troops in Afghanistan, for lack of support from the far left of his ruling coalition.

Bush said in an interview with the daily La Stampa that he wanted to speak to Prodi about his "difficult choices" in Afghanistan.

The Iraq war has also produced strains over the killing of Italian secret service number two Nicola Calipari, whom an American marine shot dead in March 2005 on Baghdad's airport road in a so-called "friendly fire" incident.

The marine, Mario Lozano, is being tried in absentia in Rome, charged with voluntary homicide.

The Pope, for his part, opposes the Iraq war but supports the U.S. leader's stance on abortion and other social issues.

A 10,000-strong security detail is planned for Bush's visit.

All that Shabazz; Potential linebacker's multi-layered life story is the stuff of movies

IDNUMBER 200706090103
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Early
SECTION: Sports
PAGE: D1 / FRONT
COLUMN: John MacKinnon
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Bruce Edwards, The Journal / Siddeeq Sabazz, right, collides with Jean-François Romeo during Eskimos training camp on Friday. ;
BYLINE: John MacKinnon
SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal
WORD COUNT: 807

"There's a lot to Siddeeq Shabazz," the Eskimos' prospective strong-side linebacker told a visitor to the CFL club's training camp Friday.

And, brothers and sisters, he wasn't kidding.

For openers, Shabazz was born in Frankfurt, Germany, to military parents who eventually separated. His mother remarried and Shabazz was raised in a blended family in Las Cruces, N.M., which is about 50 kilometres north of the West Texas town of El Paso and not far from Truth or Consequences.

This is an area of the U.S. southwest once known as the Wild West — truly Billy the Kid country — but which now is the proud home to the Whole Enchilada Festival and the backdrop to many a Hollywood movie.

You could make a crackerjack movie about the combined Shabazz-Adeogba family, too, although it would take several sequels to contain the storylines. That's because Shabazz grew up among 13 extremely competitive siblings.

"We had our own football, baseball and basketball teams in the summer, and we were always out there rough housing," Shabazz said. "We grew up pretty tough. Our father is an eighth-degree black belt in karate, so we were always in martial arts classes."

Things have worked out rather well, so far.

"Siju, he's out there trying to make it to the Olympics right now and then go pro," Shabazz said of his 21-year-old brother, who won the 178-pound U.S. National Gold Gloves title last month. "My older brother, Shaheed, is in Afghanistan, protecting the world right now.

"He's a helicopter pilot. My hero."

One of his sisters, Mayokey, is a naval surgeon, based in Norfolk, Va.

Among his athletic siblings, Shabazz reckons the most naturally gifted is Sina, a freshman wide receiver with the University of New Mexico Lobos in Albuquerque. Another brother, Shukree, was a teammate of Siddeeq's

at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and tried out for the Saskatchewan Roughriders last season.

"I'm more of a hard worker," said Shabazz. "I got a lot of what I got from always trying to work harder than the next man, trying to push myself harder this practice than the last time.

"It's a matter of working on something everyday to get a little better and show these coaches I belong out here."

A late bloomer who earned a roster spot at New Mexico State as a walk-on and won himself a football scholarship the hard way, Shabazz was drafted in the seventh round of the 2003 NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders.

Thus began a pro football odyssey with stops at Atlanta, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Miami, as well as with the Rhein Fire in Europe.

It was during a two-year hitch with the Falcons in Atlanta that Shabazz resumed regular contact with his brother Mayode Adeogba — or, simply Day — a connection he says "changed my life."

"He helped me get rid of some of that baggage that I'd been carrying — just confidence issues," said Shabazz, who is planning to join his brother's fitness and life skills concern — Your Day, etc. "He just brings out the best in me.

"That's what he does — character fitness.

"Once I opened up to his ideas, I really saw a difference in the way I work out, the way my body felt, the way I eat, everything," Shabazz said. "I just know (now) that no matter what I do, I'm going to have success if that's what I choose. And that is what I have chosen."

Shabazz has made his share of mistakes, too. In July 2006, for instance, Las Cruces police investigated him on suspicion of assault after an altercation at a Wal-Mart resulted in a one-punch fight and a man being hospitalized. Charges were dropped after witnesses said another man taunted Shabazz, who was shopping with his fiancée, Sharlene, and their two young children.

"In that situation, I should have just walked away," Shabazz said. "But if you push me . . .

"When it's go time on the field, you're going to see me getting after people. A switch flips. I'm mean on the football field. (Off it) I'm a quiet, nice, loving guy who likes nice stuff — like poetry, movies, the ocean."

Mean or not, Shabazz doesn't believe he ever got a full shot at earning a spot in the NFL, but acknowledges "I might not have given myself a shot, just because of where I was at mentally."

Well, he's sure getting a chance with the Eskimos, who are revamping a secondary that struggled with age, injury, inexperience and ineptitude last year.

Shabazz has been working out at strong-side or SAM linebacker, doing the same drills as fellow import Ray Perryman, who is also his training camp roommate. On Friday, Shabazz had a couple of knockdowns and also dropped a sure interception.

Defensive co-ordinator Rick Campbell describes Shabazz as a quick study and just plain quick.

"He's not only fast, he commits to situations with speed," Campbell said. "When he sees something, he moves there in a hurry.

"He'll have every opportunity to be here, that's for sure."

That's all a guy like Shabazz needs, really. He's been competing for everything he's ever had his whole life.

"I've never had anything handed to me and I kind of like that," he said. "The harder you have to work for something, the less likely it is you'll look back with regret.

"That builds character, I think."

Check out my blog at: www.edmontonjournal.com

jmackinnon@thejournal.canwest.com

ESKIMOS SITE KICKS OFF

For more on the Eskimos, go to: www.edmontonjournal.com/eskimos.

The new site offers an archive of football stories from The Journal's team of reporters and columnists, as well as these exclusive features:

- An audio soundslide from rookie camp
- Blogs by players Kamau Peterson and Ryan Kelly, and Eskimos beat writer Vicki Hall
- A chance to sound off on how training camp is going so far
- Breaking news on the team
- Links to sites for the rest of the CFL teams

Watch the site throughout the season for more features and updates.

More suspected Afghan abuse cases

SOURCETAG 0706090701
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: 28
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 313

Forty-eight hours after conceding Canadian diplomats had received four direct complaints of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, the Conservatives belatedly set the record straight yesterday, admitting there now are six abuse allegations.

The revelation led to renewed opposition charges of a coverup over the political handling of the prisoner scandal.

Four of the abuse claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse – involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities – had been reported.

A spokesman for MacKay corrected that yesterday and said that Foreign Affairs staff have been keeping track of reports within their own department only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

"The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay.

Liberal foreign affairs critic Ujjal Dosanjh reacted with outrage, saying it's clear the department wasn't paying attention before the controversy erupted.

"There is obviously a lot of confusion on the detainees issue, with each of these three ministers – defence, foreign affairs and public safety – saying different and contradictory things at different times," said Dosanjh.

"It appears no one is in complete control of the situation."

Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul – the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar.

The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

"All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said

LeMay. "These officials had clear and unrestricted access."

NDP defence critic Dawn Black said she finds it hard to believe any assurances from the government.

"Since I started asking questions about the treatment of detainees more than a year ago, we have heard nothing but contradictions, fabrications and coverup from this government – and now we find they've misled two Parliamentary Committees? This is unacceptable." KEYWORDS=CANADA

Harry goes Cherie picking

SOURCETAG 0706090674
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.06.09
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 3
BYLINE: TODD SAELHOF, SUN MEDIA
DATELINE: CALGARY
WORD COUNT: 163

Bottles of Dom Perignon are chilling if Prince Harry wants to make a curtain call in another city hotspot or two, say nightclub managers.

Popular Calgary bars would welcome the royal party-boy-turned-soldier in their establishments following a surprise visit by the man third in line to the throne to Cowboys Niteclub downtown.

INVITE

And Al Hlusiak, the manager of the Roadhouse, figures he has just the invitation for Prince Harry.

"We have a couple bottles of Dom and a VIP room we can set him up with – we'd do pretty much anything to accommodate him," Hlusiak said.

"We'd be more than happy – seeing him here would be unbelievable."

Prince Charles's second son is in the Calgary area at CFB Suffield, about 225 km east of Calgary, likely training for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

At 12:30 a.m. Thursday, the second lieutenant in the British military made his way to Cowboys, where staff said he kept a low profile alongside his entourage and befriended 22-year-old bartender Cherie Cymbalistry.

KISS

Staff at Cowboys confirmed Harry gave Cymbalistry a kiss on the cheek before he made his escape in the wee hours Thursday.

And it's being reported the Calgary bartender is turning down requests for interviews after signing an exclusive interview deal with a media outlet in Britain. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

Canada hears six claims of Afghan jail abuse

SOURCETAG 0706090613

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.09

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 38

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 147

Canadian officials have heard six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay conceded yesterday.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse — involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities — had been reported.

MacKay corrected the record yesterday and a spokesman said foreign affairs staff has been keeping track of reports only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

"The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay, a spokesman for MacKay.

Precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although MacKay described the initial reports as serious. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

City bars wish to crown royal Pubs hope someday their prince will come

SOURCETAG 0706090573

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.09

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of CHERIE CYMBALISTY Close encounter 2. photo of PRINCE HARRY Royal party boy

BYLINE: TODD SAELHOF, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 289

Bottles of Dom Perignon are chilling if Prince Harry wants to make a curtain call in another city hot-spot or two, say nightclub managers.

Popular Calgary bars would welcome the royal party-boy-turned-soldier in their establishments following a surprise visit by the man third in line to the throne to Cowboys Niteclub downtown.

And Al Hlusiak, manager of The Roadhouse at 840 9 Ave. S.W., figures he has just the invitation.

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Prince Charles' second son is in the Calgary area at CFB Suffield, about 225 km east of Calgary, likely training for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

At 12:30 a.m. Thursday, the second lieutenant in the British military made his way to Cowboys, where staff said he kept a low profile alongside his entourage and befriended 22-year-old bartender Cherie Cymbalisty.

Michelle Alexander, manager of The Back Alley Night Club, thinks it's a score for all of the Calgary hot-spots to have royalty in any of the city's dance houses.

"It'd be really cool if he did show up here," said Alexander of the popular club at 4630 Macleod Tr. S.

"I'm hoping everyone he talks to is saying, 'The Alley is the place to be,' so he shows up."

After the close encounter at Cowboys, many of Calgary's female servers wouldn't mind if the prince paid a visit to their respective bars, said one young staffer at Ranchman's.

Meanwhile, staff at Cowboys confirmed Harry gave Cymbalisty a kiss on the cheek before he made his escape in the wee hours Thursday.

And it's being reported the Calgary bartender is turning down requests for interviews after signing an exclusive interview deal with a media outlet in England.

Whether any such royal encounters happen again in Calgary is anybody's guess and may depend on how long he is at CFB Suffield for training.

Meghann Smethurst, a spokeswoman for Snatch Rock &Roll Lounge, is inviting Prince Harry to return for a VIP party to celebrate the bar's grand opening on June 22.

"We would love to have him here," said Smethurst of the club at the old Outlaws site at 7400 Macleod Tr. S.E. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

THE PAKISTANI–AFGHAN BORDER A game of 'whose line is it anyway?' The concept of control at Spin Boldak, where thousands of people a day cross the border, is like the frontier itself: a bit theoretical

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071600266

DATE: 2007.06.09

PAGE: A19 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: MURRAY CAMPBELL

SECTION: Column

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: SPIN BOLDAK, AFGHANISTAN

WORDS: 781

WORD COUNT: 751

MURRAY CAMPBELL SPIN BOLDAK, AFGHANISTAN It's a torrent of motorbikes, motorized rickshaws, brightly painted transport trucks and pedestrians.

On one side of the border, Pakistani border guards in their British–style uniforms stand guard at a four–lane highway. On the other side, Afghan police in their ill–fitting, drab uniforms shuffle around on a dirt road lined with run–down merchants' stalls. They raise such a cloud of dust that their disdainful counterparts put on surgical masks.

Down the line a bit, the fence separating the two countries sags almost completely, begging scofflaws to simply bypass the entire hectic scene.

Some people say that 12,000 people cross the border here every day, while others say it's more like 30,000.

The point is no one really knows how much movement there is between Afghanistan and Pakistan, just as no one really knows how vast the drug trade is – or the scale of smuggling goods. The concept of border control at Spin Boldak and over the line in Chaman is like the frontier itself: a bit theoretical.

"This is one of the busiest border–crossing sites in Afghanistan, yet it produces virtually no revenue, from the customs standpoint, for the national government," said Brigadier–General Tim Grant, commander of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. "There's something fundamentally wrong there." Canadian troops have been charged by the NATO–led International Security Assistance Force with turning things around along the 100–kilometre border of Kandahar province. Their concern isn't so much the opium or contraband as it is the Taliban menace coming from Pakistan.

In early May, a reconnaissance squadron from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based in Petawawa, Ont., moved into a sprawling French Foreign Legion–style fort six kilometres from the border town of Spin Boldak. The squadron's task is to get to know the local leaders, to instill more professionalism among Afghan security forces, and to discover the various routes by which people cross the border without acknowledging any authorities.

The aim of Operation Satyr Nix is to disrupt the flow of Taliban supporters looking to kill Canadian troops in the areas west of Kandahar city, about 85 km away. Until now, the porous border has allowed the Taliban to cross with impunity. It has given them an easy bolt hole in Pakistan (where ISAF troops can't follow) and the ability to bring back new recruits from Pakistan's Islamic religious schools.

"They have a place where they can go to when things don't go well – where they can regroup, they can rearm, they can rest and then they can come and fight us another day," said the squadron's commander, Major Steve Graham.

Taking away that sanctuary is a huge challenge. For a start, there is no agreement about where the border should be. The 1,500-kilometre line on the map was traced more than a century ago by a British civil servant, Sir Mortimer Durand, and it has been loathed and ignored by both sides ever since.

Afghans believe the authority for the line expired on its 100th anniversary in 1993. Pakistan showed its respect for the line by moving its border-crossing at Chaman, 1.6 km into Afghanistan, after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. It built a towering Friendship Gate; Afghans blocked it with sandbags and walked around it.

"It's a line drawn through the desert, and the local people here don't respect it," shrugged Major Graham. "They just go back and forth." Canadian officials rule out the construction of the sort of fences seen in Israel and along the U.S.–Mexico border. For a start, they say, a barrier would hurt people who live and work on opposite sides of the Durand Line and it would require an enormous monitoring force, they say.

Representatives from Pakistan, Afghanistan and ISAF have been holding talks about the border, but they are beset by generations of distrust. After one meeting in early May, held to discuss previous skirmishes between border guards, a man reportedly wearing a Pakistani uniform opened fire as the meeting adjourned and killed a U.S. officer.

There is some urgency to the task of creating a real border. There are more than two million Afghan refugees living in camps in Pakistan, and the job of repatriating them is getting under way. The United Nations is closing four camps this year, which will displace 220,000 people, and Pakistan is making noise about closing others early.

The Canadians won't have any choice about who returns to Afghanistan.

That's okay with Major Graham "as long as they're not coming in with weapons."
mcampbell@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan; Afghanistan; Spin Boldak

SUBJECT TERM: boundaries; strife; internal security; foreign relations; foreign policy

DEATH OF A JOURNALIST The Taliban are silencing the voices of Afghanistan's women

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071600208

DATE: 2007.06.09

PAGE: A21 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: SHAUNA SYLVESTER

SECTION: Comment

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 791

WORD COUNT: 794

SHAUNA SYLVESTER Former executive director of IMPACS, now a fellow at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue I read with shock the news of the assassination of Zakia Zaki, a prominent Afghanistan journalist who headed Radio Sohl (it means Peace Radio) – one of the first radio stations to broadcast after the fall of the Taliban.

Although I never met Ms. Zaki – I feel like I knew her well. For more than four years, the organization I headed – IMPACS, the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society, supported the creation of women's radio stations in Afghanistan. In 2001, IMPACS helped Ms. Zaki's radio station get on the air and, in 2002, IMPACS sent two Canadian journalists – Jane McElhone and John Keating – to help train her staff.

Ms. Zaki was a force of nature. In addition to operating her own radio station, she was headmistress at a local girl's school, a community organizer and a mother of six. For many young female journalists she was a model and a leader. By example and determination, she demonstrated to women that they did not have to hide in their homes or behind their burkas, that women had valuable contributions to make to the reconstruction of their country, and that, with the right tools, they could be successful. She demonstrated that women could not only be journalists in a post-Taliban era, but that they could also be owners and managers of their own media.

When IMPACS began working in Afghanistan, Ms. Zaki was a mentor to us.

She helped us design a project that would see the creation of four women's radio stations spread across the country, a women's production unit and a women's newspaper; all within a three-year period. The stations, which became known as the Parwana Media Network, were run by women, staffed by women and programmed for women. Like Ms. Zaki's Radio Sohl, these stations became the most listened-to radio stations in their communities.

They were a source of pride for women and men alike who appreciated the mix of local news, entertainment and in-depth investigative journalism.

They also were a source of pride for many Canadians. Several dozen volunteers, interns and project staff were involved in helping to launch the women's radio stations. Some of these Canadians, like Vancouver-based photojournalist, Christopher Grabowski, had the pleasure of meeting and working with Ms. Zaki. When he returned to Canada, Christopher wrote about his experiences at Radio Sohl and mounted an exhibition of his photographic works.

Through the period 2002 to 2005, Ms. Zaki and the women's radio stations garnered considerable international attention. The Canadian-supported women's radio stations were recognized as the first wave of community media in Afghanistan and an important vehicle in amplifying the voices of women in the reconstruction process. In 2005, all of this changed. For reasons I will never fully understand, CIDA – the Canadian International Development Agency – decided to stop funding IMPACS's women's media program. Although funders from other countries stepped in to provide some support, they did not carry with them the same kind of commitment to supporting women's media and advocating for the protection of women journalists.

Without this commitment, women journalists became more vulnerable.

It's hard to describe what the death of Ms. Zaki means for women in Afghanistan. For women journalists in that country it's a clear warning that the Taliban are back. While they may not physically be in power, the perverted values that fuelled their despotic reign are on the rise. Given that Ms. Zaki's murder was the second assassination of a female journalist within a week, they are unlikely to wane any time soon.

But Ms. Zaki's death isn't just a warning to female journalists; it's a warning to all Afghan women. It delivers a clear message that women are not welcome in the public arena. They are neither to be seen, nor heard. As a Canadian who benefited from Ms. Zaki's wisdom and vision, I feel angry about her death. I am disgusted with the men who murdered her and I am furious with the system that let this happen. But most of all, I feel a profound sense of shame.

As a Canadian I realize that in our efforts to fight the Taliban militarily on one front, we have lost another, perhaps more important battle on another front. We abandoned women journalists, and in so doing, we abandoned women's voices in the reshaping of Afghanistan.

These voices were among our greatest weapons against the fear, hatred and intolerance invoked by the Taliban. And now, these voices are being silenced – one gun shot at a time.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; women; murder; journalists; media; radio; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Zakia Zaki

ORGANIZATION NAME: Radio Sohl; Taliban

PRINCE HARRY IN ALBERTA His Royal Hotness creates heat at Calgary club

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071600150

DATE: 2007.06.09

PAGE: A7 (ILLUS)

BYLINE:

SECTION: National News

SOURCE: CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Calgary AB

WORDS: 471

WORD COUNT: 397

Canadian Press CALGARY Prince Harry had 'em swooning when he and his mates -- and their RCMP escorts -- hit a Wild West Calgary country bar early Thursday morning.

The royal party-boy-turned-soldier arrived at Cowboys Niteclub about 12:30 a.m. It was ladies' night, and according to at least one female bartender, he did not disappoint.

"He is the Prince Charming -- he's very polite and nice," gushed Cherie Cymbalistry, 22, who said she recognized the third in line to the throne.

Ms. Cymbalistry asked if he was the prince, and he responded by showing his army ID. Then, before he left, he kissed her on the cheek.

"It was hot," she purred.

Ms. Cymbalistry, who is among 20 finalists for an online contest called "Canada's Hottest Bartender," was quoted in a biography as saying she is seriously considering becoming a model.

"[B]ut for now I plan to stay home sweet home and entertain my friends and my regular customers that depend on me to make their day," she wrote. ". . . which I always do." Prince Harry landed in Alberta last week for training at Canadian Forces Base Suffield, near Medicine Hat.

The 22-year-old wasn't immediately recognized by the club's doormen and was initially treated like a regular guest, said Scarlet Lee, sales and marketing manager for Penny Lane Entertainment.

"He was ID'd like anyone else who looks under a certain age," she said.

"He showed his British army identification, and obviously our doormen don't see that very often. It took a minute or two before they realized, 'Oh my God, this is Prince Harry.'" His Royal Hotness was dressed in a white T-shirt, jeans and a Red Sox baseball cap, Ms. Lee said.

His entourage included three fellow British soldiers and two plainclothes RCMP officers.

"He actually flew under the radar pretty good," Ms. Lee said.

Unlike other celebrity patrons at Cowboys, such as actors Samuel L. Jackson, Josh Hartnett, Jamie Foxx and Don Johnson, the prince's posse declined a private area at the club, Ms. Lee said.

"They specifically said, 'No, we're dressed in plainclothes, we don't want to draw additional attention,' " she said.

Harry and his pals closed the bar down at 2 a.m., but the prince and a friend returned without RCMP protection to chat with bar staff as they finished up for the night, Ms. Lee said.

"He specifically mentioned . . . 'This is awesome . . . I never really get to do this without cameras in my face,' " she said.

Harry, or 2nd Lieut. Wales as the British military refers to him, is being trained for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

Although he wanted to be sent to Iraq, the British military decided against that last month, citing specific threats to his life and risks to his fellow soldiers.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Alberta; Calgary

SUBJECT TERM:royal family

PERSONAL NAME: Prince Harry

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

ANALYZE THIS: TERROR TERMINOLOGY In Guantanamo, nobody can hear you parse

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071600136

DATE: 2007.06.09

PAGE: F2

BYLINE: COLIN FREEZE

SECTION: Focus

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 541

WORD COUNT: 542

COLIN FREEZE A semantic shocker hit on Monday when a U.S. judge dismissed charges against Guantanamo Bay inmate and Canadian citizen Omar Khadr because he had not been called an "unlawful enemy combatant," as tribunal regulations require, but merely an "enemy combatant." Yet another language question hangs unresolved: Why was Mr. Khadr charged with "murder" in the first place? On July 27, 2002, U.S. forces raided an al-Qaeda compound in Afghanistan after militants fired on them. The U.S. called in three hours worth of air strikes. Soldiers pulled at least three bodies from the wreckage, when they realized one fighter wasn't dead yet.

It's alleged that the survivor, Mr. Khadr, then 15, lobbed a grenade that killed a soldier during the mop-up operation. The death of Sergeant Christopher Speer forms the basis of the murder charge.

At a U.S. State Department briefing days before the arraignment, The Globe and Mail asked John Bellinger, legal adviser to U.S. Secretary of State, why murder was the appropriate charge – a question that remains important, since Mr. Khadr may face it again.

John Bellinger: [...] In a normal war, where both sides have a right to engage in combat with one another . . . it's not murder unless it is done somehow contrary to the laws of war perfidiously, or killing someone when they are — have already surrendered. In this case, though, the members of the al-Qaeda and the Taliban, while they may have thought they were defending themselves, they had no legal right under the laws of war to be engaging in combat.

Any combat that they were engaged in was illegal.

And so, as I say, while they may have thought that they were defending themselves, as they no doubt thought they were against someone who was shooting them, nonetheless, the only people who were in the right were U.S. and coalition forces because we were acting pursuant to a UN resolution in an act of self-defense against the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

So simply that we were engaged in a conflict against them does not mean that any military action that they took was therefore lawful.

So therefore, the action that they would take against us that results in a death of our forces would be illegal and would be an act of murder.

The Globe : [. . .] You keep repeating Omar Khadr made decisions.

I mean, did he have a choice to take part in that battle? Did he? . . . I mean, in the moment he threw a grenade, was that self-defence or was that an act of an illegal combatant? Mr. Bellinger : He could've surrendered at that point. And he had instead — and I think there will be eyewitnesses that will be available to describe this — that's the prosecution plans to put on eyewitnesses — instead, fought and threw grenades. And so this — since he would not have been a lawful combatant engaged in lawful combat in which any actions would be immunized; instead, his acts of combatants would be unlawful and therefore he can be charged for violations of the laws of war. And . . . that is as a matter of international law.

Colin Freeze is a reporter for The Globe and Mail.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: United States; Guantanamo Bay

SUBJECT TERM:terror; suspects; prisoners; justice; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Omar Khadr

FIVE THINGS THE G8 Protests, poverty, pollution – and repeat Since 1975, the G6/7/8 summit has offered more of the same, Simon Beck writes

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PAGE: B2 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: SIMON BECK

SECTION: Report on Business

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 1066

WORD COUNT: 1068

Simon Beck Thank you, Gerald Ford 1 It's not something people like to talk about much, but the G7/8 was actually a French idea.

In between battling unemployment, modernizing France's rail system and the occasional 4 p.m. Pernod-and-Gitanes break, President Valery Giscard D'Estaing thought it would be a good idea if the world's biggest economies talked more. The 1973 oil crisis was still reverberating and economic growth was sluggish, so with the help of his German buddy Helmut Schmidt, President Giscard hosted the first summit just outside Paris in 1975, inviting Italy, the United States, Japan and Britain to join in.

Note that the Paris gabfest was actually a G6, Canada not judged to be one of the big boys. If it wasn't for the accidental president, Gerald Ford, we might still be eating the cookies outside the main conference room, hanging around with an "Observer's Status" pass and waiting for a chance to raise the issue of fishing quotas with the VIPs. President Ford hosted the following year's summit, in Puerto Rico, and insisted that Canada be brought into the fold.

Ironically, this meant that at his first summit, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was immediately thrust into the spotlight as the senior G7 leader, having been the longest-serving national chief of them all. Not to mention the coolest.

Nowadays, the G8 countries (now including Russia) are home to 14 per cent of the world's population but account for approximately 65 per cent of its GDP, despite Italy's best efforts to screw it up for everyone else. O Canada, you're such a friendly host 2 Our home and native land has played host to the G7/8 four times: OTTAWA, 1981 Pierre Trudeau joins Maggie Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and other political Hall of Famers in decrying the Soviet Union's arms buildup, expressing concern on global inflation and telling Third World countries they would try to help them stop being so poor (running theme, that one).

Toronto, 1988 With Brian Mulroney at the helm, the summit acknowledges the defeat of 1970s-style inflation, the growth of information technology and globalization, and slams apartheid in South Africa and the continued Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. Oh yes – the leaders also say this: "Global climate change, air, sea and fresh water pollution, acid rain, hazardous substances, deforestation, and endangered species require priority attention." Halifax, 1995 With the Cold War long over, Russia's Boris Yeltsin gets a day pass to the G7 party, where it's now all about the money.

Jean Chretien's summit promotes open trade and urges the IMF to get a better grip on the increasingly interconnected world economies to prevent a repeat of the recent Mexico meltdown. The violence in the former Yugoslavia, especially between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo, is the main foreign policy problem. The summit also notes that the poor are still poor and the environment is still up the creek without a paddle.

Kananaskis, 2002 In the first post-9/11 summit, hosted again by Mr. Chretien, the now-G8 spends much time talking about how to combat global terrorism. It offers support for the new Taliban-free authority in Afghanistan, but strangely makes no mention of a need to invade Iraq. On the subject of poverty, the focus is now firmly on the goal of helping relieve African countries' debt. The leaders agree to let Russia host its first summit in 2006 and offer up the names of some reliable caterers.

Canada's next date with destiny is in 2010. If the Liberals are back by then, it will be held somewhere – anywhere – in Quebec.

If Stephen Harper is still at the helm, it will be the first mobile G8, on a Calgary-sized piece of ice hurling along the Northwest passage.

3 There's nothing like a G8 summit for some wild Molotov cocktail action. While World Trade Organization meetings cannot be matched as the Olympics of Rioting, the G8 still brings out the best in every self-respecting anarcho-socialist. Germans got an early start before this week's meeting, with some skillful bottle throwing, matched by tear gas and water cannons from the Polizei .

The worst rioting took place in Genoa in 2001, when one protester was killed by a police bullet. Determined not to let history repeat itself, Mr. Chretien drew such a security wall around the Kananaskis summit the following year that the best the protesters could summon up was a mass lie-in on the pavement in Calgary.

The location for 2003 summit was the remote French Alps, but the protests hit the publicity jackpot when, during an attempt to block a mountain bridge, police cut the climbing rope of a protester and sent him crashing 25 metres into rocks below. One of the quietest summits was last year's in St. Petersburg, due to a clampdown so ruthless it may have reminded leftist agitators of the good old days of the Soviet Union.

G7/8 is not to be confused with: 4 The multiple other types of G7s. For instance: G7: A.k.a. the Group of Seven, the illustrious circle of Canadian landscape painters from the early 20th century, whose members included Lawren Harris and A.Y. Jackson. (Or G8 if you include Tom Thomson.) G7: A chord used widely in jazz and also in rock music to add a bluesy feeling to a standard 12-bar chord progression of G, C and D.

G7e: A family of deadly torpedoes deployed by Nazi U-boats during the Second World War.

the J8: Every year, while the G8 leaders talk and dine to no good effect, a parallel conference of young people called the J8 takes place. This year's Canadian delegates flew to Germany from a high school in Quebec City. Unlike their senior counterparts, J8 members always agree unanimously on a plan to solve global warming, win the war on terror, eradicate HIV in Africa and get Bono's autograph with time to spare before the sightseeing portion of the program.

We couldn't have put it better ourselves 5 "The G8 summit is one of those depressing meetings of people with more power than they deserve for the purpose of deciding more things than they understand." –British political philosopher Roger Scruton.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Industrialized World; Third World

FIVE THINGS THE G8 Protests, poverty, pollution – and repeat Since 1975, the G6/7/8 summit has offered

SUBJECT TERM: summit conference; wealth; poverty; environment; history

CFB GAGETOWN COMMANDER RETIRES Colonel trades military post for potholes

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IDN: 071600058

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PAGE: A7

BYLINE: JOANNA SMITH

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Early

DATELINE:

WORDS: 548

WORD COUNT: 475

JOANNA SMITH After navigating the Agent Orange controversy and speaking to the families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan, Colonel Ryan Jestin is looking forward to dealing with potholes.

The commander of Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick is retiring from three decades in the military to become the roads maintenance manager with the City of Calgary.

"It's certainly very different from what I've been doing for the last 30 years," said Col. Jestin, 47, who has led Gagetown since August, 2004.

Beginning July 2, Col. Jestin will oversee street cleaning, winter maintenance and summer repairs on 14,000 kilometres of roadways.

As an electrical mechanical engineer with an MBA, Col. Jestin believes the leap isn't as large as it seems.

"I'm really looking forward to being able to use those skills in a really vibrant, exciting place," said Col. Jestin, who is from Moose Jaw, and looks forward to returning to the West.

The roads department hired a recruiting agency to search across Canada for qualified candidates to manage the division, which has an annual budget of \$70-million.

"We are experiencing a tremendous amount of new construction and growth in our inner network and it consistently shows up as a high priority for Calgarians," said Malcolm Logan, director of roads for the city of Calgary.

Around the same time, Col. Jestin was thinking about his future.

The day before the Easter Sunday bomb blast that killed five Gagetown soldiers and a Halifax reservist in Afghanistan, Col. Jestin had decided to retire. He was headed to Ottawa to manage the army's armoured vehicles, but then the Calgary offer came along.

"I'm not sure there could have been a better job I could have gone to in uniform [after Gagetown]," Col. Jestin said.

Col. Jestin said that managing the infrastructure at Gagetown is very similar "to what happens in Calgary in

terms of roads, in terms of maintenance, in terms of deciding priorities." He expects his background in strategic planning, which he developed when he earned his MBA through distance–education courses, will help him figure out how to keep the roads up with Calgary's expanding population.

Many of the division's 350 to 400 employees are unionized, and Mr. Logan said Col. Jestin's experience in that area was also an asset. While serving as director of land personnel at the Department of National Defence's Ottawa headquarters in 2003, Col. Jestin worked on a "cutting edge" co–development strategy that brings unions and managements together to brainstorm solutions that work for both sides.

The public service has implemented the strategy in several federal departments, he said.

Mr. Logan was also impressed with his new recruit's approach to dealing with employees.

"He didn't come across as Gen. Patton," Mr. Logan said. "He wasn't going to command and control. He was going to lead and collaborate." That doesn't surprise Col. Jestin's chief of staff, Lieutenant–Colonel Paul Kearney.

"I expect in six months, I'm going to get a picture of him out in a construction site somewhere with a hard hat and a coffee in his hand, leaning on a shovel talking to the boys and girls that are filling in the potholes," said Lt.–Col. Kearney.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: defence; retirement; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Ryan Jestin

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

IN BRIEF MacKay says he heard torture allegations

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BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 41

WORD COUNT: 52

CP Ottawa Canadian officials have heard a total of six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay conceded yesterday.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner-transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:torture

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

TOP OF THE WORLD

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Les Perreux, the Canadian Press / CANADA A 24-year-old woman who feared her young daughter would undergo genital mutilation if they were deported to Guinea thanked her supporters after being allowed to stay in Canada. Oumou Toure hugged the human rights activists who worked on her case at a news conference yesterday in Montreal. "I want to thank the entire population of Canada," Toure said. "I want to thank all the people who helped me." A spokesperson for a human rights groups that worked to save Toure from being deported says Immigration Canada has accepted her application to stay in this country on humanitarian grounds. Marie-Eve Couture says the confirmation that Toure can stay in Canada was sent to the woman's lawyer. "Even now I can barely believe it," said Toure, who was facing deportation to her native Guinea in early July. Her 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Fanta, is a Canadian citizen. Toure was facing the heartbreaking choice between leaving her behind in Canada and taking her into danger in Guinea. She also has a nine-month-old son who was born in Canada. ; Photo: Russell Ingle, the Associated Press / TENNESSEE A woman in Tennessee who shot and killed her preacher husband has been sentenced to three years in prison. But Mary Winkler may end up serving only 60 days in a mental hospital. Under yesterday's sentence, she has to serve 210 days of her sentence before she can be released on probation. But the judge says she gets credit for the five months she has already spent in jail. That leaves just two months — and the judge said up to 60 days of the sentence can be served in a facility where she could receive mental health treatment. She was convicted of manslaughter in April 2007, and could have received up to six years for killing her husband, Matthew. He was killed with a shotgun blast to the back as he lay in bed in the church parsonage where the family lived. At the trial, she testified that she had been physically and emotionally abused by her husband for years. ; Photo: Reuters File Photo / UNITED STATES General Peter Pace, above left, is being replaced as chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, a move that reflects a feeling among top civilian officials at the Pentagon and in the White House that the American military needs new leadership after years of being strained by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pace is to be succeeded by Admiral Michael G. Mullen, who has been chief of naval operations since the summer 2005, Defence Secretary Robert M. Gates announced yesterday. Gates, above right, said that renominating Pace would be an intolerable "divisive ordeal" for the military and the general himself. Pace wanted to be nominated for a second term as chairman. ; Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / GERMANY Prime Minister Stephen Harper says it would be difficult for Canada to meet greenhouse-gas targets unless the United States also signs an emissions treaty. He said at the closing news conference of the G8 summit in Germany yesterday that unless the Americans — and ultimately the Mexicans — sign an international agreement, such targets would penalize the Canadian economy. That's why it's important to get the United States and other major emitters to agree to a deal. Harper said earlier this week that such an agreement could take months or years — but it's important to get it right. All G8 countries agreed this week to the need for binding greenhouse-gas emission targets monitored by the United Nations. ; Photo: The Associated Press File Photo / ANTARCTICA The Antarctic base occupied by British explorer Robert Falcon Scott on

his ill-fated expedition to the South Pole on foot has been included on a list of the world's 100 most endangered historical, architectural and cultural sites. The World Monuments Fund, which released the list this week, identified climate change as the biggest threat to the hut, built in 1911 at Cape Evans. The hut — visited by Princess Anne, above, in 2002 — is wooden but for decades was permanently frozen. With the ice melting, the timbers have become waterlogged and are rotting. Thousands of objects and artifacts from the expedition remain in and around the hut. ; Photo: Reuters / FRANCE A report released yesterday says the CIA ran secret prisons in Poland and Romania from 2003 to 2005 to interrogate high-level detainees in the United States' war on terror. Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty, of Switzerland, accuses Germany and Italy of obstructing his probe. His report says top terror suspects Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed were secretly held and interrogated in Poland. He said in Paris that "highest state authorities" in the countries involved knew of the detention centres. ; Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / JAPAN A group of scientists in Japan have developed a robot that acts like a toddler, to better understand child development. The Child-Robot with Biomimetic Body, or CB2, was developed by a team of researchers at Osaka University and is designed to move just like a real child between one and three years old. CB2 has 197 sensors for touch, small cameras working as eyes, an audio sensor and artificial vocal cords. ; Photo: Nick Ut, the Associated Press / CALIFORNIA Paris Hilton was sent screaming and crying back to jail yesterday after a judge ruled that she must serve out her sentence behind bars rather than in the comfort of her Hollywood Hills home. "It's not right!" shouted Hilton, who violated her probation in a reckless driving case. "Mom!" she cried out to her mother. Hours earlier, the 26-year-old hotel heiress was taken handcuffed from her home in police car, paparazzi sprinting in pursuit and helicopters broadcasting live from above. She entered the courtroom dishevelled and weeping, her hair askew, without makeup, wearing a fuzzy grey sweat shirt over slacks. She cried throughout the hearing, dabbing her eyes, and her body shook constantly. Despite being ordered to serve the remainder of her original 45-day sentence, Hilton could still be released early. Inmates are given a day off their terms for every four days of good behaviour. The judge was apparently irked by the sheriff's decision to release Hilton three days into her sentence due to an unspecified "medical condition." "At no time did I approve the defendant being released from custody to her home," he said. ;

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

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WORD COUNT: 4

NO TEXT

CIA-run prison in Poland housed top terror suspects

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Toni Marimon, the Associated Press / A suspected CIA plane is seen taking off from Spain's San Joan Palma de Mallorca airport in March, 2004. ;
DATELINE: LONDON
SOURCE: The New York Times
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 872

Investigators have confirmed the existence of clandestine CIA prisons in Romania and Poland housing leading members of al-Qaeda, contends a new report from the Council of Europe, the European human rights monitoring agency.

Dick Marty, the Swiss senator who has been leading the inquiry, said in a recent interview that his conclusions were based on information from intelligence agents on both sides of the Atlantic, including members of the CIA counterterrorism centre.

The report, released yesterday, says the jails operated from 2003 to 2005. "Large numbers of people have been abducted from various locations across the world and transferred to countries where they have been persecuted and where it is known that torture is common practice," it says.

These suspects included Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, suspected master planner for the Sept. 11 attacks; Ramzi Binalshibh, a member of the Hamburg, Germany, cell that organized the conspiracy; and Abu Zubaida, believed to have been a senior figure in al-Qaeda.

The report says that some of the information comes from trusted intelligence agents, who reported directly to former President Alexander Kwasniewski of Poland and to two former Romanian leaders, Ion Iliescu and Traian Basescu.

The governments of Poland and Romania have denied the existence of such prisons.

Poland has criticized Marty and his investigators in the past for not travelling there to investigate the compound that the report describes as a prison.

The current president, Lech Kaczynski, has said that since he came to power in December 2005 "there has been no secret prison -- I am 100 per cent sure of it." He added: "I am assured there never were any in the past, either."

Romania has repeatedly denied the presence of a secret prison there.

But last year, President George Bush acknowledged for the first time that terrorism suspects had been held in CIA-run prisons overseas, without specifying where.

Paul Gimigliano, a CIA spokesman, said "Europe has been the source of grossly inaccurate allegations about the CIA and counterterrorism."

He added: "People should remember that Europeans have benefited from the agency's bold, lawful work to disrupt terrorist plots."

"What was previously just a set of allegations is now proven," contends the report.

Apart from the statements of what his report describes as former and serving intelligence agents, Marty quotes aviation records that he suggests provide detailed evidence of clandestine visits by CIA planes to Szymany, in Poland; as well as the text of confidential military agreements signed between the United States and Romania that, he suggests, allowed the establishment of a CIA base in the country.

Marty said that the CIA's partners in establishing the secret prisons were the military intelligence agencies of both countries, which reported only to their presidents and ministers of defence. Neither the countries' prime ministers nor parliaments' intelligence committees were consulted or informed.

Prisoners in the secret jails were subjected to sleep deprivation and water-boarding, or simulated drowning, said Marty, who also said that the two jails had been divided into two categories.

The main CIA jail was centred in a Soviet-era military compound at Stare Kjekuty, in northeastern Poland, where about a dozen high level terrorism suspects were jailed, the report concludes. Lower level prisoners from Afghanistan and Iraq were imprisoned in a military base near the Black Sea in Romania, the report contends.

Jails were staffed entirely by the CIA, and local guards secured the perimeters, the report says. "The local authorities were not supposed to be aware of the exact number or the identities of the prisoners who passed through the facilities — this was information that they did not 'need to know,'" the report said.

Marty said last month, in an interview with the Swiss newspaper *La Libere*, that the report relied on information from disaffected CIA agents and other intelligence officials on the other side of the Atlantic. Many of the agents said they were surprised that the prisons remained a secret for so many years. "They spoke to me because they found what was happening to be disgusting," he was quoted as saying.

The report includes more specific conclusions than a study issued in June last year that contended that at least 14 European countries had accepted secret transfers of terrorism suspects by the United States. That report listed a web of landing points around the world that it said had been used by American authorities for its air network.

The new report contends that the CIA took extraordinary measures to cover its activities. When CIA jets flew to the Szymany airport in Poland, they used flight plans with "fictitious routes," it says, giving no indication that the airport was the destination. Polish air traffic controllers — working with military intelligence — completed the coverup, the report says.

Although the report singled out Poland and Romania, it said that it could not rule out the possibility that other European countries permitted these jails to operate.

Among its accusations, this report said NATO agreements, under the guise of waging a "war on terror," provided the framework that the CIA used to expand its European operations after Sept. 11.

The Marty report says it would be pointless for researchers to visit the Polish compound because "we have no doubts about the capability of those who would have removed any traces of the prisoners' presence."

None of the prisoners were American citizens, the report said, reflecting "a kind of legal apartheid and an exaggerated sense of superiority" on the part of the Americans.

"Once again, the blame does not lie solely with the Americans, but also, above all, with European political leaders who have knowingly acquiesced."

Bhutto lays ground for comeback; Former Pakistani prime minister is said to be negotiating a power-sharing deal with president

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COLUMN: International affairs
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Joao Silva, the New York Times / Benazir Bhutto istrying to position herself as a leader to bring Pakistan to a moderate path. ;
DATELINE: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan
BYLINE: Carlotta Gall
SOURCE: New York Times News Service
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 1348

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto is stirring up Pakistani politics by quietly talking through intermediaries about a power-sharing deal with the president, General Pervez Musharraf, and suggesting in an interview that she could return to Pakistan before the end of the year.

Threatened with arrest and dogged by corruption charges, Bhutto has sat out the last eight years in self-imposed exile in London and Dubai, while still leading what is arguably the country's largest opposition party.

In that time, she has seen Musharraf, her former chief of military operations, seize power in a coup.

She has watched the political turmoil build as Pakistanis grow restless under military rule, galvanized most recently by Musharraf's ouster of the chief Supreme Court justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Her party, the Pakistan People's Party, was heavily represented in a peaceful rally for Chaudhry in Abbottabad on Saturday, just weeks after more than 40 people died in Karachi in clashes related to his ouster.

As Pakistan veers toward elections this year, Musharraf has run into mounting opposition over his plans to seek a second term.

Bhutto, 53, is raising her profile once again and positioning herself as saviour of the nation, someone who can lead Pakistan back to democracy and provide a more reliable ally than Musharraf, whose performance she criticized in fighting terrorism and extremism.

Under Musharraf, she noted, al-Qaeda and the Taliban have used lawless areas of northern Pakistan to regroup and cause havoc in neighbouring Afghanistan and in Pakistan itself. Yet Washington continues to support Musharraf, she said, giving him billions of dollars in assistance since 2001.

Despite his repeated insistence that Bhutto will not be allowed to participate in the elections, Musharraf, according to aides and diplomats, has been conducting discreet negotiations for some kind of deal that would allow her to return and him to stay on as president.

The corruption charges, which Bhutto says are politically motivated, might then be dropped. "General Musharraf says that he wouldn't allow me back and I interpret that to mean that he would then arrest me and prevent me from having freedom of movement and freedom of speech and freedom of association," Bhutto said in the interview, which took place recently at one of her homes outside Pakistan.

"In any event, I'd like to go back and I'm looking at the window between September and December to do that."

To some, the prospect of Bhutto's return confronts Pakistan with an unsavoury choice, one it has faced before.

Since its independence in 1947, this nation of 149 million that now has nuclear weapons has alternated between rule by generals who have fronted for a domineering military and civilian politicians who have won an enduring reputation for corruption.

They have, by turns, worn out their welcomes. The country has had no fewer than four constitutions, four military takeovers of government and never experienced a constitutional transfer of power.

Musharraf seized power in a coup in October 1999, overthrowing Bhutto's successor, Nawaz Sharif, who also lives abroad to avoid prosecution on corruption charges.

Musharraf was at that time embraced by much of the population, wearied by turbulent years of short-lived, self-serving civilian governments. Yet today, Bhutto, part of a storied family dynasty, is probably the most popular politician with national appeal.

If allowed to return, she may well be in a position to form the next government and serve again as prime minister, even if Musharraf remains as president, if both agreed.

The daughter of a politician executed by the military, educated at Harvard and Oxford and the first woman to serve as prime minister in the Islamic world at age 35, Bhutto captivated supporters in the West as well as many Pakistanis in her early days.

She was twice prime minister, from 1988 to 1990 and then from 1993 to 1996, when her personal and political fortunes unravelled.

She left Pakistan eight years ago under a cloud. She was embroiled in a family feud when her brother, Murtaza, tried to claim leadership of the party their father founded, the Pakistan People's Party.

Her brother was shot dead in 1996. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was jailed on suspicion of the murder, though the case was never proved. Bhutto says the killing was a plot by Pakistani intelligence to divide and weaken her family.

That same year, Bhutto's three-year-old government was dismissed amid accusations of mismanagement and corruption.

Three months later, she suffered a resounding defeat in elections. While she says the balloting was rigged, the polls also reflected the disillusion and anger of Pakistanis over a deteriorating economy, rising violence and a leadership that many here felt was concerned only with itself.

Bhutto lays ground for comeback; Former Pakistani prime minister is said to be negotiating a power-sharing

Though she has lived in self-imposed exile since 1999 to avoid prosecution for corruption, she denies wrongdoing.

Her party fared badly in the previous two elections, after she and her husband left the country, but it remains politically strong.

No date has been set for the next elections, but voting must take place by the end of the year.

"Ultimately, for the elections to be credible, it is important that the participation should not be denied to a leader of a party and a party which is the most popular party in the country," Bhutto said.

For the general's part, after a series of political missteps in recent months, including the suspension of the justice, he finds himself in ever greater need of allies if he is to win re-election by Parliament. Some of his supporters see Bhutto as the preferred moderate partner.

The violence in Karachi that left more than 40 people dead on May 12 occurred after parties backing Musharraf clashed with members of the Pakistan People's Party and other opponents as the justice flew in to make a speech.

After that, Bhutto declared that all negotiations with Musharraf were off. But in the interview she made clear that she still wanted to find a smooth transition to democracy.

"The fact that he was ready to engage with the P.P.P. was positive," Bhutto said.

"I think he toyed with the idea of moderate forces getting together." Bhutto presents herself now as a leader who not only can help Pakistan thread a potentially treacherous course back to civilian rule, but as someone who can stem a tide of extremism, a claim that opponents say she is exaggerating to gain favour in the West.

Two battle lines are being drawn in Pakistan, she said, military dictatorship versus democracy, and moderate Islam versus extremism.

While Musharraf is her most obvious foe, she says the elections may also be Pakistan's last chance to choose a moderate path. "My fear is if we don't act in these elections, by the next elections it might be too late," Bhutto said.

"Anyone who has lived in Pakistan knows very well that there is a group of people who believe in a war against the West," she added, referring to religious extremists both in the government's intelligence agencies and in jihadi groups. "And it is not just that, it is the hatred that they preach."

A negotiated transition to democracy remains her preferred option, she said, because violent confrontation could quickly be usurped by extremists.

She pointed out that despite the general's declared policy of leading Pakistan toward "enlightened moderation," al-Qaeda and the Taliban had used northern Pakistan to regroup and the Taliban influence was seeping into other parts of the country.

She said she was appalled that the government had made deals that allow foreign militants sway in parts of the country. She pointed out that the building of madrasas, religious schools that have been used to recruit militants, had increased.

Critics have long charged that the situation was not wholly different even under her government, when Pakistan backed the Taliban and used Islamic extremist groups as levers against its neighbour, India, in their

Bhutto lays ground for comeback; Former Pakistani prime minister is said to be negotiating a power-sharing

dispute over the border territory of Kashmir.

But Bhutto defended her government's performance in fighting terrorism, saying that even though she supported the Taliban in their early days, during her time in office there were no Qaeda terrorist training camps in Pakistan and no terrorist acts anywhere in the world connected to Pakistan.

Despite her alarm, Bhutto said she believed the religious extremists in both the intelligence circle and jihadi groups were running out of options. And open and fair elections would show just how little support the religious parties and extremists actually had in the country, she said.

"Elections are important because at the end of the day when we empower the people, the minority extremists will get totally marginalized and sidelined. Their strength is being disproportionately blown up," she said.

"It is a battle for the heart and soul of Pakistan. It is also a battle for the rest of the Muslim world and the world at large. It is not just Pakistan. What we are doing in Pakistan has much larger implications not only on Afghanistan and India, but in my view for the larger world."

Conservatives revise number of torture claims

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CP Wire OTTAWA -- Forty-eight hours after conceding Canadian diplomats had received four direct complaints of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters, the Conservatives belatedly set-the-record straight late Friday, admitting there now are six abuse allegations.

The revelation led to renewed opposition charges of a coverup over the political handling of the prisoner scandal.

Four of the abuse claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a special joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse -- involving Taliban captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities -- had been reported.

A spokesman for MacKay corrected that on Friday and said that Foreign Affairs staff have been keeping track of reports within their own department only since Canada had signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3.

"The government of Afghanistan has committed to investigate the claims and they'll be working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. This is their role and their responsibility," said Andre LeMay.

Liberal foreign affairs critic Ujjal Dosanjh reacted with outrage, saying it's clear the department wasn't paying attention before the controversy erupted.

"There is obviously a lot of confusion on the detainees issue, with each of these three ministers -- Defence, Foreign Affairs and Public Safety -- saying different and contradictory things at different times," said Dosanjh.

"It appears no-one is in complete control of the situation." Three of the fresh reports come from prisoners interviewed in the country's notorious intelligence service jail in Kabul -- the fourth account was obtained in Kandahar. The precise details of the allegations were not made clear, although earlier this week MacKay described the initial reports as serious.

"All I can tell you is that these claims came to light in private interviews with Canadian officials," said LeMay. "These officials had clear and unrestricted access." NDP defence critic Dawn Black said she finds it hard to believe any assurances from the government.

"Since I started asking questions about the treatment of detainees more than a year ago, we have heard nothing but contradictions, fabrications and cover-up from this government -- and now we find they've misled two Parliamentary Committees? This is unacceptable." Where the alleged abuse took place is also unclear. Canadians do not patrol the Afghan capital and all of their prisoners are taken in the southern provinces of

Kandahar or Helmand. It is routine practice, however, once Afghan authorities take custody of a prisoner for that individual to be transferred to Kabul for interrogation by intelligence officers.

The latest revelation could boost a legal challenge by Amnesty International and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which have applied to the Federal Court for an injunction to halt the transfers.

They argue that Canada could find itself complicit in torture if it knowingly hands prisoners over to authorities who will abuse them.

In April, Day revealed that two Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from a pair of prisoners in the notorious jails of the Afghan intelligence service that they had been tortured. Those reports are still being investigated by Afghan authorities, but LeMay cast doubt Friday as to whether Canada had an interest in these earlier claims beyond usual human rights concerns.

"It is not clear whether these particular detainees had been transferred by Canada or other NATO forces," he said.

Media reports have said as many as 33 prisoners captured by Canadians and handed over to the Afghans may have been beaten.

— Canadian Press {Ottawa ONT}

Russia and U.S. don't threaten each other's vital interests Cool the Cold War rhetoric

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Freelance Writer Rajan Menon News reports these days opine with tiresome regularity that Russia and the United States are headed for a new Cold War.

But don't believe the hype.

It's true enough that Moscow and Washington have been exchanging cross words. Defence Secretary Robert Gates told the House Armed Services Committee on Feb. 7 that Russia's military modernization constitutes a threat; the assessment went largely unnoticed here, but not in Moscow.

Things got really nasty three days later. At an international conference in Munich, Germany, with Gates looking on, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the U.S. of riding roughshod over international law and global public opinion and behaving like a rogue state.

The salvos continue. American officials and opinion makers criticize the Kremlin's creeping authoritarianism, on display most recently in its ham-handed harassment of former chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov's anemic opposition movement. (Before that, it was the slaying of journalist Anna Politkovskaya and the mysterious poisoning of ex-KGB agent turned Putin antagonist Alexander Litvinenko.) Moscow, in turn, accuses Washington of rank hypocrisy, charging that its invocation of democratic principles is laughable given that it befriends so many illiberal regimes around the world (which, of course, it does) and uses torture and detention without trial whenever it feels the need.

There are quarrels about foreign policy too. The White House sees Russia's use of gas prices to squeeze Belarus, Ukraine and Georgia and its backing of separatist "statelets" in Moldova and Georgia as evidence of imperialism. The Kremlin retorts that these are appropriate responses to Washington's campaign to undercut Russia's influence in its backyard by funding democratic (read anti-Russian) movements and encouraging the building of energy pipelines that bypass its territory.

The brouhaha this week about American plans to install missile defences in Poland and a radar system in the Czech Republic is just the latest area of contention. As he left for the G-8 summit, Putin, assuming his street-tough persona, sought to fan opposition to the deployments, warning that Russia would target Europe with missiles if it hosted American missile defenses.

So it is a new Cold War after all, right? Wrong. Like the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta in the 5th century BC, the Cold War was an ideological contest between two superpowers with dramatically different blueprints for the world. That epic struggle is history.

Today's tiffs between Russia and the United States are minor by contrast. If both sides have the will and skill, they can set things right by taking some deep breaths and switching from rhetoric to diplomacy.

Putin's government may reject American-style democracy, but it offers no systematic alternative with global, even regional, appeal.

The now-defunct Soviet Union was wedded to supplanting capitalism, but today's Kremlin surely is not. Although Putin has increased state control over the energy sector, Russia's elite hardly reject market principles, let alone capitalism, which has made many of them plutocrats. And Moscow wants to join the World Trade Organization, for goodness sake.

The Cold War also was a contest of raw power. With its gargantuan budget, the Soviet military machine was a formidable foe. But now, Russia's defence expenditures come to only about eight per cent of America's; in dollar terms, the Pentagon spends almost three-fourths the value of Russia's yearly GNP. Much of Russia's arsenal is aging and shopworn; its conscripts are demoralized, poorly paid and ill-equipped.

Russia can bully weak neighbours, but unlike the Red Army, its military does not menace Europe and it lacks a global reach. Recent increases in its defence spending and the testing of a new ICBM should not obscure these weaknesses.

It's the gap between Russia's self-image (it sees itself as a great power) and reality (it is a regional power at best, and could soon be overtaken by India and China) that explains the anger emanating from the Kremlin. Russian leaders feel dissed by the United States, and with anti-American nationalism pervasive in Russia nowadays, Putin's tough talk plays well at home.

Still, predictions of a new Cold War are political hyperventilation.

Russia and the U.S. don't threaten each other's vital interests; they agree on many common dangers, among them terrorism, nuclear proliferation and the fragmentation of states such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. (Yes, Iraq. Should it shatter and become a self-sustaining source of terrorism, Russia has much to lose given the resilience of militant Islam in its North Caucasus region.) But Russian and American leaders can't co-operate while trading insults. If they are serious about pursuing mutually beneficial projects such as arms control, they should first practise some word control. Rhetoric can create its own reality, and the current reality benefits neither side, even though it's hardly a prelude to a Cold War.

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— Special to the Los Angeles Times