

Table of Contents

<u>Attack that killed diplomat couldn't be avoided.....</u>	1
<u>Canadian diplomat's death in Afghanistan 'not preventable' – report.....</u>	3
<u>Diplomat's death 'not preventable': report.....</u>	5
<u>Death of Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan 'not preventable': military report.....</u>	6
<u>bc-CCN-ON-GOV-PLT.....</u>	8
<u>The Canadian Press News Budget, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007.....</u>	10
<u>INDEX:Defence, International, Politics.....</u>	13
<u>--Eighteenth NewsWatch--.....</u>	14
<u>Helicopters will reduce bomb risks, panel says; Probe finds diplomat's death in 2006 attack was 'not preventable'.....</u>	16
<u>Diplomat's death 'not preventable,' inquiry finds.....</u>	18
<u>Diplomat's death 'not preventable'.....</u>	19
<u>AFGHANISTAN UPDATES.....</u>	20
<u>Diplomat's death 'not preventable'.....</u>	21
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION: SUICIDE BOMBING Assault that killed diplomat was not preventable, military inquiry reports.....</u>	22
<u>Deadly suicide bombing 'not preventable'; Military panel rules on killing of diplomat.....</u>	24
<u>Envoy's death ruled act of war.....</u>	26
<u>Around Canada.....</u>	27
<u>Diplomat's death 'not preventable,' report says; National Defence reviews suicide bombing in 2006....</u>	28

Attack that killed diplomat couldn't be avoided

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PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
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DATELINE: OTTAWA
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A suicide attack that killed a Canadian diplomat and wounded three soldiers in Afghanistan almost two years ago was "not preventable," a military board of inquiry has concluded.

Diplomat Glyn Berry died after an explosives-laden van drove into his convoy as it returned to the Canadian reconstruction team's base outside Kandahar, the nine-member board says in a partially censored report.

After interviewing 53 witnesses and reviewing 18 reports, the inquiry found the Jan. 15, 2006, attack was the result of "unpredictable hostile action."

It says the 1:25 p.m. attack was launched by a single suicide bomber driving a 1989-92-vintage Toyota van — a common vehicle in Afghanistan.

"The van was hidden amongst the numerous taxicabs, which normally congregated in this area along Highway 1," says the 46-page report, released yesterday.

"The heavy congestion of vehicle traffic along with numerous pedestrians, bicycles and fruit carts provided anonymity for attackers to hide and move."

It says the suicide bomber quickly pulled out from the crowd as the lead military vehicle passed, merging abreast of the second vehicle in the convoy before detonating.

The explosion, combined with forward momentum, flipped the armoured G-Wagon into the air. It rolled several times before coming to rest on the other side of the road, about 20 metres away.

"The board believes that the driver had full control over the time and place of the detonation," says the report. "The bomber would have used his left hand to actuate the electronic switch connected at one end to a power source and at the other to the leads of an initiator."

At least two of the military jeep's occupants were thrown clear, while another was trapped inside and could not be freed until engineers extracted a damaged rocket from inside the wreckage.

"The immediate and professional conduct of patrol members saved the lives of the three seriously injured soldiers," says the report.

The board of inquiry, which found no fault with operational security prior to the operation, makes nine recommendations. Among them:

More mission-specific tactical and medical training.

Better situational awareness on patrols.

Ballistic glasses for all personnel.

Blast testing on military jeeps.

Deployment of full-time incident investigators in-theatre.

Witnesses told the inquiry that soldiers could do with more training in operational driving before deployment, particularly, including evasive, offensive and speed manoeuvres.

They also said there should be more emphasis on chaos and stress during mass-casualty drills, "particularly realism in dealing with serious casualties such as dismemberment, heavy bleeding and severe trauma."

Berry is the only Canadian civilian killed in Afghanistan. Seventy-one soldiers have died.

Master-Cpl. Paul Franklin, Cpl. Jeffrey Bailey and Pte. William Salikin were seriously wounded in the attack as they returned from meetings with village elders and police officials.

Canadian diplomat's death in Afghanistan "not preventable" – report

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.24
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A6
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
BYLINE: Stephen Thorne
WORD COUNT: 365

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"The van was hidden amongst the numerous taxicabs, which normally congregated in this area along Highway 1," says the 46–page report, released Tuesday. "The heavy congestion of vehicle traffic along with numerous pedestrians, bicycles and fruit carts provided anonymity for attackers to hide and move."

It says the suicide bomber quickly pulled out from the crowd as the lead military vehicle passed, merging abreast of the second vehicle in the convoy before detonating.

The explosion, combined with forward momentum, flipped the armoured G–Wagon into the air. It rolled several times before coming to rest on the other side of the road, about 20 metres away. "The board believes that the driver had full control over the time and place of the detonation," says the report.

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Diplomat's death 'not preventable': report

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.10.24

SECTION: National

PAGE: A11

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Stephen Thorne

DATELINE: Ottawa

WORD COUNT: 302

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The board of inquiry found no fault with operational security prior to the operation.

Berry is the only Canadian civilian killed in Afghanistan. Seventy-one soldiers have died.

Death of Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan `not preventable': military report

DATE: 2007.10.23
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 406

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Master-Cpl. Paul Franklin, Cpl. Jeffrey Bailey and Pte. William Salikin were seriously wounded in the attack as they returned from meetings with village elders and police officials.

The board of inquiry, convened Feb. 7, 2006, consisted of four military officers, a Foreign Affairs representative and four advisers.

DATE: 2007.10.23

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 371

^Release of Board of Inquiry (BOI) Report: Suicide Bomber-Kandahar Af@<

October 23, 2007

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Oct. 23, 2007) – The Canadian Forces today released the findings of the BOI which examined the suicide bomber attack that killed Canadian Diplomat Glyn Berry and seriously injured Master-Corporal Paul Franklin, Corporal Jeffrey Bailey and Private William Salikin on 15 January 2006 at Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Convened on 7 February 2006, the Board of Inquiry comprised four Canadian Forces members, one representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and four advisors. The Board was directed to make findings about the factors contributing to the death and injuries to personnel involved in the attack and recommend measures to improve general operational readiness and effectiveness related to such incidents. Throughout this process, the Board interviewed witnesses, reviewed reports and researched pertinent documents and information.

The Report is comprehensive and concluded that the death of Mr. Berry and the serious injuries of the three soldiers were attributed to unpredictable hostile action. The attack occurred as the convoy in which they were travelling was returning from a planned Leadership Engagement Operation where they met a nearby District Chief and a local Police Chief. "The Board of Inquiry findings and recommendations are conclusive," said General Rick Hillier, Chief of the Defence Staff. "I am confident that the Board members have met their objectives and that their recommendations will help to reduce the likelihood of similar attacks in the future against Canadians in Afghanistan."

A Board of Inquiry is an administrative inquiry convened to examine and report on complex or significant events. Through its findings and recommendations, the Board can propose measures that might prevent the possibility of recurrence but has no authority on criminal or civil liabilities. A summary of the Board of Inquiry final report is available at: http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/focus/15JAN06/index_e.asp

Notes to Editors and News Directors: appropriate portions of the BOI final report have been severed out in accordance with the law governing Access to Information regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Information: 613-996-2353/54

After hours: 613-792-2973

www.forces.gc.ca

INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,

Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,

homeland etc), Government – State

SUBJECT: PLT

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

The Canadian Press News Budget, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007

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WORD COUNT: 1570

Here are coverage plans for top Canadian news as of 23:00 ET. If you have any questions, contact CP's National Desk at 416-507-2150.

For queries about non-CP syndicated copy, call the Specials Desk at 416-507-2152.

SURREY, B.C. _ Police have identified the six men murdered in a suburban Surrey apartment last week and say at least two of them were in the wrong place at the wrong time. At a news conference Tuesday, the RCMP called the killings an outrageous act of violence and the product of a combination of guns, gangs and drugs. 600 words. By Terri Theodore. See CP Photos JOH101-107. BC-Multiple-Homicide, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Finance Minister Jim Flaherty urged Canadian businesses and consumers on Tuesday to do their part in ensuring there aren't significant gaps between the prices for identical goods in Canada and United States just because of the border. Flaherty met with industry representatives to discuss pricing in the wake of the surging loonie. Meantime, Canadian Auto Workers president Buzz Hargrove said auto dealers will be forced by consumer pressure to bring down prices of automobiles in response to the strong Canadian dollar. 650 words. By Julian Beltrame. See CP Photos. BC-Dollar-Consumers. Moved General (G) and Business (B).

OTTAWA _ The federal Conservative government has reintroduced the most contentious elements of the 2001 Anti-terrorism Act _ provisions that lapsed after five years and sparked debate about whether they should be renewed. 600 words. By Jim Bronskill. BC-Anti-Terror-Law, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The military has concluded that a suicide bomb attack that killed a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan two years ago was "not preventable." A report by a nine-member board of inquiry says diplomat Glyn Berry died as a result of "unpredictable hostile action." 500 words. By Stephen Thorne. BC-Afghan-Cda-Diplomat, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Airport screeners should pay less attention to what passengers are carrying aboard planes and more to the kind of people carrying them, the Air India inquiry has been told. 600 words. By Jim Brown. See CP Photo FXC101. BC-Air-India, 1st Writethru. Moved.

CALGARY _ The Opposition Alberta Liberals have staked out a hard position on oil and natural gas royalties, saying they support hiking them by at least 20 per cent. Increasing the province's share of energy revenues as recommended by a government-commissioned panel and supported by the auditor general would help diversify Alberta's economy, leader Kevin Taft said Tuesday. 600 words. By John Cotter in Edmonton. BC-Royalty-Ruckus, 3rd Writethru. Moves General (G) and Business (B). Moved.

EDMONTON _ Five weeks after a panel recommended the province increase its royalty take by 20 per cent, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach is preparing to tell Albertans how far he's prepared to go. Here's an outline of the current royalty regime, the recommended changes and rationale used by the panel and some of the criticisms. 600 words. By Jim Macdonald. With BC-Royalty-Ruckus-Liberals. See Also MTL

BC–Royalties–Trusts. BC–Royalty–Ruckus–Primer. Moves Business (B) and General (G). Moved.

TROIS–RIVIERES, Que. _ A provincial commission hearing from the public on the so-called reasonable accommodation of immigrants into Quebec society sits Tuesday night in this central Quebec city not far from Herouxville, the small town that adopted a controversial code of conduct for would-be immigrants last winter. 450 words. By Les Perreux. BC–Que–Accommodation. Moved.

MONTREAL _ Students from two Montreal high schools returned to class Tuesday under increased police surveillance after a 14-year-old girl was beaten up for uttering a racial slur. Two of four girls charged with assault in last week's attack appeared in youth court on Tuesday and were released into the custody of their parents. 400 words. By Peter Rakobowchuk. BC–Girls–Race–Fight, 1st Writethru. Moved.

MONTREAL _ Cannabis in small doses has some beneficial effects for curbing depression, but too much of the drug can cause the polar opposite effect, a new study suggests. 480 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. BC–HEALTH–Marijuana–Depression. Moves General (G) and Lifestyles (L). Moved.

QUEBEC _ A Parti Quebecois bill on Quebec identity that would require immigrants to learn French before they could run in elections will stay on the shelf because it is harsh and retrogressive, Premier Jean Charest said Tuesday. 400 words. By Martin Ouellet. BC–Que–Identity–Crisis. Moved.

HALIFAX _ Nova Scotia's opposition parties dismissed Premier Rodney MacDonald's cabinet shuffle Tuesday, saying the move is nothing more than a feeble attempt to deflect public criticism over a failed immigration program. But MacDonald insisted his decision to appoint a new immigration minister is not an indication of failure within the department. 600 words. By Melanie Patten. See CP Photos HAL101–102. With BC–Cabinet–List, BC–NS–Nominee–Refund. BC–NS–Cabinet–Shuffle, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

HALIFAX _ When he agreed to pay \$130,000 to come to Canada through Nova Scotia's immigrant nominee program, Ali Shirazi believed he would gain fast entry to his profession as a plastic surgeon. But Shirazi said no one with the province's Office of Immigration helped him find a job in his field. Instead, an official pressured him to find his own employment within 12 months of landing in Canada. "To be a plastic surgeon and work at a car dealer, it's crazy," Shirazi said. "I have made a mistake." 600 words. By Brian Flinn, Halifax Daily News. BC–NS–Nominee–Refund. Moved HFX OUT.

NEWMARKET, Ont. _ Closing arguments began Tuesday in the case of a former Toronto police officer accused of killing his mistress and stashing her body behind a false wall in his home. The Crown alleges Richard Wills killed Linda Mariani after she refused to leave her husband, while Wills's lawyers insist Mariani died when she accidentally fell down the stairs at his home in Richmond Hill, Ont. _ where he hid the body in order to bury her later. 600 words. By Tobi Cohen. BC–Cop–Murder–Trial, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

WINNIPEG _ A 17-year-old boy was given the maximum 10-year sentence Tuesday under the Youth Criminal Justice Act for killing a lovestruck woman who refused to have an abortion. He will serve just six years in prison, followed by four years probation _ a result that prosecutor Brent Davidson blamed on the law and "all its deficiencies." 721 words. BC–CRIME–Pregnant–Slaying, 1st Writethru. Moved.

UNDATED _ Canadian mystery novelist Maureen Jennings says she's in "delayed shock" one day after being rescued from powerful Florida rip currents by a stranger who died during the rescue effort. The Toronto writer says she's inspired by the goodwill and bravery of two good samaritans who rushed to her aid while on holiday at a beach resort. 500 words. By Cassandra Szklarski. PRECEDES Cocoa Beach, Fla. BC–Cda–Novelist–Saved, 1st Writethru. Moves General (G) and Entertainment (E); earlier story moved Worldl (W) and Entertainment (E). Moved.

UNDATED _ The World Health Organization issued an optimistic update on the picture for pandemic

influenza vaccine Tuesday, saying expansion of the global seasonal flu vaccine production capacity means several billion more people could be vaccinated during a pandemic. But industry insiders and other experts questioned whether the pharmaceutical industry can sell enough seasonal flu vaccine to sustain the production capacity needed to make vast quantities of pandemic flu vaccine. 700 words. By Helen Branswell. BC–Pandemic–Flu–Vaccine. Moved.

TORONTO _ John Tory, still smarting from his recent election loss, is leaning towards remaining at the helm of Ontario's beleaguered Progressive Conservatives, but doesn't feel he's consulted enough to make a final decision, party sources said Tuesday. As Tory prepares to face his caucus for the first time following the Oct. 10 election, some caucus members are rallying around their leader following the loss _ saving their vitriol for the leader's senior election advisers _ while others want to hear him explain why the Conservatives are still sitting in opposition. 550 words. By Chinta Puxley. See CP Photo CPT105. BC–Elxn–Tory–Future, 1st Writethru. Moved Regional (C).

TORONTO _ NDP Leader Howard Hampton said Tuesday that he's not about to rush into any decisions about his future as leader of Ontario's third-largest political party, despite failing to win any additional seats in the Oct. 10 election. The New Democrats emerged from the election with 10 seats, the same number they held when the legislature adjourned last June, but they did manage to increase their popular support across the province by just over two percentage points to 16.8 per cent. 500 words. By Keith Leslie. BC–Elxn–Ont–Hampton–Future, 1st Writethru. Moved Regional (C).

HALIFAX _ A panel studying a proposed basalt quarry and marine terminal at White's Point on Nova Scotia's Digby Neck is recommending that the federal and provincial governments reject the controversial project. Members of the joint federal-provincial review panel said Tuesday that the plan put forward by Bilcon of Nova Scotia Corp., a U.S.-based company, was likely to have significant adverse environmental effects. 600 words. BC–NS–Quarry, 2nd Writethru. Moved Regional (A).

CP is also following . . .

WINNIPEG _ Climate change conference brings together municipal and provincial leaders, business owners, transportation experts and academics. CP staffing; story planned.

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.23
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
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OTTAWA – The military has concluded that a suicide bomb attack that killed a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan two years ago was 'not preventable.'

A report by a nine-member board of inquiry says diplomat Glyn Berry died as a result of 'unpredictable hostile action.'

It says Berry was killed and three three soldiers were injured when an explosives-laden vehicle drove into their convoy outside Kandahar on Jan. 15, 2006.

The report makes nine recommendations, including more tactical and medical training, and better situational awareness on patrols.

Berry is the only Canadian civilian killed in Afghanistan; 71 soldiers have also died.

The board interviewed 53 witnesses and reviewed 18 reports.

(The Canadian Press)

--Eighteenth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.10.23
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
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WORD COUNT: 266

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is telling retailers if they can trim prices to reflect a stronger loonie, the cuts should come as soon as possible.

If not, Flaherty says Canadians will speak with their feet and shop in the United States.

At a meeting with retailers in Ottawa, Flaherty says he understands retailers have to sell goods they bought when the loonie was weaker before they can trim prices.

The loonie closed the day up 1.5 cents to 103.51 cents U-S. (18)

(Flaherty Taxes)

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is downplaying a report that he will announce major tax cuts in next month's fiscal update.

Flaherty suggests he has no plans to bring in big tax cuts before his next budget, which is expected next March. (18)

(California Wildfires) (Audio: 202)

Almost a (m) million people have fled their homes because of wildfires raging across southern California.

The fires, which started on Sunday, are blamed for at least two deaths, and have left more than 40 injured.

More than 13-hundred homes and businesses have been charred by the blazes, which have blackened 15-hundred square kilometres.

Firefighters concede there's little they can do to stop the flames, which are whipped by winds of more than 100-kilometres an hour. (18)

(Wildfires California-Canada)

Canada is sending the world's largest water bomber to help battle wildfires in southern California.

The Martin Mars -- a Second World War-era flying boat -- can drop 27-thousand litres of water in one pass.

There are only two Martin Mars left in the world -- both stationed on Vancouver Island.

One is due to leave for California tomorrow morning. (18)

(Afghan-Cda-Diplomat)

A military board of inquiry concludes a suicide attack that killed a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan almost two years could not have been prevented.

Glyn Berry died on January 15th, 2006 in an attack by a suicide bomber driving a Toyota van.

The nine-member board says it was the result of ``unpredictable hostile action." (18)

(Senate Abolition)

Canadians could get a chance to vote in a referendum on whether the Senate should be abolished.

A bill calling for such a referendum was tabled today in the Upper Chamber by Hugh Segal, a Conservative senator.

Segal says he would vote to keep the Senate, saying the Upper Chamber can be a check of poorly drafted laws rushed through the House of Commons. (18)

(NewsWatch by Bill Marshall)

Helicopters will reduce bomb risks, panel says; Probe finds diplomat's death in 2006 attack was 'not preventable'

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SECTION: News
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BYLINE: Allan Woods
SOURCE: Toronto Star
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Canadian soldiers and government officials in Kandahar should use helicopters – even though they have none – to move around because the threat of suicide bombers and roadside bombs cannot be eliminated, says a military investigation into the 2006 death of a senior diplomat.

Glyn Berry was killed on Jan. 15, 2006, when the four-vehicle military convoy he was travelling in was attacked by a suicide bomber driving a bomb- laden white Toyota van that had been hidden away at a busy taxi stop outside of Kandahar city.

The armoured Mercedes G-Wagon Berry was riding in was thrown into the air by the force of the explosion, flipped over several times and came to rest 20 metres away on the opposite side of the road.

Three Canadian soldiers were seriously injured in the blast, which kicked off a wave of suicide bombings, roadside bombs and a more aggressive insurgency by militants in Afghanistan last year.

The investigative panel completed its deliberations on April 7, 2006, but only released its 46-page report yesterday, more than 18 months later. It said the attack was "not preventable" and praised the response to the bombing as "exceptional," but lamented that there is little defence for Canadian soldiers against an elusive insurgent threat.

"Suicide bombers who are intent on killing themselves, and who have the initiative of when, where, who and how they will attack pose a formidable challenge to (Canadian) and coalition forces," the report states.

Suicide bombers or roadside bombs have killed 41 Canadians, including Berry, in Afghanistan since 2002. Because it is impossible to eliminate the threat, the board of inquiry recommended that heavily armoured vehicles be used in high- risk areas, specifically in Kandahar. Those convoys should be "extremely robust and offensively oriented" and be accompanied by air support.

The Canadian military has since replaced the G-Wagon with the LAV3 and, more recently, the Nyala, which has a rounded hull to dissipate most of the impact of roadside bombs.

"In addition, helicopters should also be used to transport individuals wherever possible," the report said. "This approach will mitigate the risk since the threat of suicide bombers and (improvised explosive devices) cannot

Helicopters will reduce bomb risks, panel says; Probe finds diplomat's death in 2006 attack was 'not preventable'

be eliminated."

The United States, Britain and the Netherlands, three other countries that are carrying a heavy load in Afghanistan, all have helicopters, but Canada has none. Instead, Canadian soldiers are forced to hitch a ride with their coalition partners or move personnel and equipment by road.

A number of countries, including Germany, France, Turkey and Spain, turned down requests in recent months from NATO to send helicopters to Afghanistan, and reports this week said the alliance planned to lease 20 medium-lift helicopters for use in operations.

"It's a big issue within the alliance," said retired colonel Alain Pellerin, executive director of the Conference of Defence Associations.

Helicopters are difficult to maintain in such a rough and dusty environment and the use of them to transport Canadians could run contrary to the trust that coalition soldiers are trying to build with the Afghan population, Pellerin said.

"I would try to avoid helicopters around the city mainly because what you're trying to do in that sort of a context ... is get closer to the population where you can."

NDP defence critic Dawn Black said the warnings about roadside bombs raise further questions about how Canadians can fulfill the development end of their mission.

"How do you do any of those things that are really needed to bring peace and security to Afghanistan?" asked Black.

Diplomat's death 'not preventable,' inquiry finds

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SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 226

OTTAWA – There was no way to prevent the death of a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan, a report by National Defence has concluded.

A board of inquiry report released Tuesday determined that the death of Glyn Berry and the serious injuries suffered by three Canadian soldiers in 2006 were the result of "unpredictable hostile action."

Berry, a diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the soldiers were travelling in a four-vehicle convoy of "G" Wagons, on Jan. 15, 2006, when they were attacked by a suicide bomber in Kandahar.

The five-member board interviewed more than 50 witnesses and reviewed 18 reports on the deadly incident.

"The board found that the death and injuries were incurred as a result of hostile action (i.e. a suicide bomber) in a special duty area. The dead and injured personnel were clearly on duty at the time of the attack. Equally certain, the death and injuries were attributable to military service and service to the government of Canada," the report states.

"The incident was not preventable."

The board makes nine recommendations, among them is the suggestion that "G" Wagons be tested against improvised explosive devices (IED) to determine if any modifications are required.

The board said, however, that the witnesses they interviewed expressed confidence in the "G" Wagon, that it handles well on the road and provides adequate protection.

"Nonetheless, in high-risk areas or in more open country, more heavily armoured vehicles (e.g. Nyala) would be preferable," the report said.

Diplomat's death 'not preventable'

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DATE: 2007.10.24
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PAGE: A3
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 261

There was no way to prevent the death of a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan, a report by the Defence Department has concluded.

A board of inquiry report released yesterday determined that the death of Glyn Berry and the serious injuries suffered by three Canadian soldiers in 2006 were the result of "unpredictable hostile action."

Mr. Berry, a diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the soldiers were travelling in a four-vehicle convoy of "G" Wagons, on Jan. 15, 2006, when they were attacked by a suicide bomber in Kandahar.

The Defence Department launched an inquiry soon afterwards to investigate the factors that contributed to the death and injuries and to make recommendations on how to improve "general operational readiness."

The five-member board interviewed more than 50 witnesses and reviewed 18 different reports on the deadly incident.

"The board found that the death and injuries were incurred as a result of hostile action (i.e. a suicide bomber) in a special duty area. The dead and injured personnel were clearly on duty at the time of the attack. Equally certain, the death and injuries were attributable to military service and service to the government of Canada," the report states. "The incident was not preventable."

The board makes nine recommendations, among them the suggestion that "G" Wagons be tested against improvised explosive devices (IED) to determine if any modifications are required. The board did say, however, that the witnesses they interviewed expressed confidence in the "G" Wagon, that it handles well on the road and provides adequate protection.

Mr. Berry is the only Canadian diplomat to be killed in Afghanistan. Seventy-one soldiers have died.

AFGHANISTAN UPDATES

SOURCETAG 0710240653

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.10.24

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Bill Graveland, CP CLOSE CALL: One of the new Canadian force's Husky deminers was blown up after driving over an IED on a narrow road west of Masum Ghar, Afghanistan, yesterday. Its driver, Cpl. Pierre Brule, reflects after a close call.

BYLINE: CP

WORD COUNT: 214

– One of Canada's newest weapons against roadside bombs in Afghanistan became the victim of an improvised explosive device yesterday. The Husky mine-detection vehicle was damaged by an explosion; the driver escaped unhurt. Roadside explosives have taken a terrible toll on Canadian soldiers, so it was with pride that the military recently unveiled the Husky, a vehicle built in South Africa that resembles a road grader. In essence, the vehicle acts like a bird dog using a combination of technology including X-ray and metal detection. If it spots anything suspicious, it drops a puddle of ink so the spot can be further investigated.

– A suicide attack that killed a Canadian diplomat and wounded three soldiers in Afghanistan almost two years ago was "not preventable," a military board of inquiry has concluded. Diplomat Glyn Berry died after an explosives-laden van drove into his convoy as it returned to the Canadian reconstruction team's base outside Kandahar, the nine-member board says in a partially censored report. After interviewing 53 witnesses and reviewing 18 reports, the inquiry found the Jan. 15, 2006, attack was the result of "unpredictable hostile action." KEYWORDS=WORLD

Diplomat's death 'not preventable'

SOURCETAG 0710240835
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.24
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 22
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 79

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After interviewing 53 witnesses and reviewing 18 reports, the inquiry found the attack was the result of "unpredictable hostile action." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

THE AFGHAN MISSION: SUICIDE BOMBING Assault that killed diplomat was not preventable, military inquiry reports

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072970195

DATE: 2007.10.24

PAGE: A16

BYLINE: STEPHEN THORNE

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 392

WORD COUNT: 380

STEPHEN THORNE The Canadian Press OTTAWA A suicide attack that killed a Canadian diplomat and wounded three soldiers in Afghanistan almost two years ago was "not preventable," a military board of inquiry has concluded.

Diplomat Glyn Berry died after an explosives-laden van drove into his convoy as it returned to the Canadian reconstruction team's base outside Kandahar, the nine-member board says in a partly censored report.

After interviewing 53 witnesses and reviewing 18 reports, the inquiry found the Jan. 15, 2006, attack was the result of "unpredictable hostile action." It says the 1:25 p.m. attack was launched by a single suicide bomber driving a 1989-1992 Toyota van - a common vehicle in Afghanistan.

"The van was hidden amongst the numerous taxicabs, which normally congregated in this area along Highway 1," says the 46-page report, released yesterday.

"The heavy congestion of vehicle traffic along with numerous pedestrians, bicycles and fruit carts provided anonymity for attackers to hide and move." It says the suicide bomber quickly pulled out from the crowd as the lead military vehicle passed, merging abreast of the second vehicle in the convoy before detonating.

The explosion, combined with forward momentum, flipped the armoured G-Wagon into the air. It rolled several times before coming to rest on the other side of the road, about 20 metres away.

"The board believes that the driver had full control over the time and place of the detonation," the report says. "The bomber would have used his left hand to actuate the electronic switch connected at one end to a power source and at the other to the leads of an initiator." At least two of the military jeep's occupants were thrown clear, while another was trapped inside and could not be freed until engineers extracted a damaged rocket from inside the wreckage.

"The immediate and professional conduct of patrol members saved the lives of the three seriously injured soldiers," the report says.

The board of inquiry, which found no fault with operational security prior to the operation, makes nine recommendations. Among them: * More mission-specific tactical and medical training.

THE AFGHAN MISSION: SUICIDE BOMBING Assault that killed diplomat was not preventable, military inquiry

- * Better situational awareness on patrols.
- * Ballistic glasses for all personnel.
- * Blast testing on military jeeps.
- * Deployment of full-time incident investigators in-theatre.

The board of inquiry, convened Feb. 7, 2006, consisted of four military officers, a Foreign Affairs representative and four advisers.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; war deaths; diplomatic service; inquiries

PERSONAL NAME: Glyn Berry

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

Deadly suicide bombing 'not preventable'; Military panel rules on killing of diplomat

IDNUMBER 200710240034
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.10.24
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A12
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Toronto Star File Photo / Canadian diplomat GlynBerry ;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Stephen Thorne
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 398

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- * More mission-specific tactical and medical training.
- * Better situational awareness on patrols.
- * Ballistic glasses for all personnel.
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- * Deployment of full-time incident investigators in-theatre.

Witnesses told the inquiry that soldiers could do with more training in operational driving before deployment particularly including evasive, offensive and speed manoeuvres.

They also said there should be more emphasis on chaos and stress during mass-casualty drills, "particularly realism in dealing with serious casualties such as dismemberment, heavy bleeding and severe trauma."

Berry is the only Canadian civilian killed in Afghanistan. Seventy-one soldiers have died.

Master-Corporal Paul Franklin, Corporal Jeffrey Bailey and Private William Salikin were seriously wounded in the attack as they returned from meetings with village elders and police officials.

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Envoy's death ruled act of war

IDNUMBER 200710240008
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.24
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
COLUMN: Newsmakers
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Glyn Berry;
SOURCE: Herald News Services
WORD COUNT: 145

There was no way to prevent the death of a Canadian diplomat in Afghanistan, a report by National Defence has concluded.

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Around Canada

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.10.24

PAGE: A9

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 374

CP Wire Inquest to be held VANCOUVER — A coroner's inquest will be held into the death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver International Airport. Robert Dziekanski died Oct. 14 after being zapped by a Taser wielded by RCMP officers trying to subdue him. No date has been set for the inquest.

Death not preventable OTTAWA — A suicide attack that killed Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry and wounded three soldiers in Afghanistan almost two years ago was "not preventable," a military board of inquiry has concluded.

Where's the evidence? NEWMARKET, Ont. — A former Toronto traffic cop accused of murdering his mistress wasn't acting as a "right-thinking member of society" when he decided to seal her corpse in a garbage bin rather than call 911 after she died from an accidental fall, but his lawyer argued Tuesday there's no forensic evidence to suggest Richard Wills, 50, should be held responsible for the death of Linda Mariani.

Tory may lead Tories TORONTO — John Tory is leaning towards staying on as leader of Ontario's battered Progressive Conservatives, party sources said Tuesday as Tory prepared to face his caucus members for the first time since the Liberals claimed election victory two weeks ago.

Security a concern OTTAWA — Nearly half of Canadian business executives say they believe the confidential information they store is at risk to hackers and security breaches, according to a new survey to be released today.

Conduct under review AT least three universities and colleges in Ontario are planning to rewrite their codes of conduct so they can punish students with fines or suspensions for off-campus rowdiness.

Homes are important THREE-QUARTERS of young Canadians say owning a house is important to them, according to a new Statistics Canada report, but everything from their family background to where they live influences how likely they are to make that dream a reality.

— From the news services {Vancouver BC}

Diplomat's death 'not preventable,' report says; National Defence reviews suicide bombing in 2006

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PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.24
EDITION: National
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 246

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KEYWORDS: SUICIDE