

# Table of Contents

<b><u>1,000s say goodbye to medic</u></b> .....	1
<b><u>Afghan boy used in attack on Canadians</u></b> .....	2
<b><u>World journal</u></b> .....	4
<b><u>Thousands say goodbye to paramedic killed in Afghanistan</u></b> .....	6
<b><u>Thousands say goodbye to Calgary paramedic; Cpl. Michael Starker, a reservist, was the 83rd Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan</u></b> .....	8
<b><u>Suicide bomber targets Canadians; Attacker a child, witnesses say</u></b> .....	10
<b><u>Un garçon de 10 ans aurait pris part à un attentat suicide en Afghanistan</u></b> .....	12
<b><u>Thousands at medic's funeral</u></b> .....	13
<b><u>1'0-year-old boy used in suicide attack against Canadian-Afghan patrol</u></b> .....	15
<b><u>Boy with bomb walks up to patrol near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians; He is described as about 10 years old, believed wearing a 'suicide vest'</u></b> .....	17
<b><u>Seeking comfort</u></b> .....	19
<b><u>Boy with bomb near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians</u></b> .....	20
<b><u>Funeral for fallen soldier draws thousands in Calgary</u></b> .....	22
<b><u>Calgarians pay tribute to former paramedic</u></b> .....	24
<b><u>Caption Only</u></b> .....	26
<b><u>Un garçon aurait pris part à l'attentat-suicide qui a blessé deux Canadiens</u></b> .....	27
<b><u>Thousands turn out to say goodbye to Calgary paramedic killed in Afghanistan</u></b> .....	28
<b><u>Thousands turn out to say goodbye to Calgary paramedic killed in Afghanistan</u></b> .....	30
<b><u>Boy with bomb walks up to patrol near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians</u></b> .....	32
<b><u>TOR OUT YYY</u></b> .....	34
<b><u>--Eleventh NewsWatch--</u></b> .....	36
<b><u>INDEX:Advisories</u></b> .....	38

# Table of Contents

<b><u>TOR OUT YYY.....</u></b>	<b>40</b>
<b><u>--Nineteenth NewsWatch--.....</u></b>	<b>42</b>
<b><u>INDEX:Advisories.....</u></b>	<b>44</b>
<b><u>--Fifteenth NewsWatch--.....</u></b>	<b>45</b>
<b><u>--Seventeenth NewsWatch--.....</u></b>	<b>47</b>
<b><u>--Eighteenth NewsWatch--.....</u></b>	<b>49</b>
<b><u>Young boy linked to suicide hit.....</u></b>	<b>51</b>
<b><u>Child bomber injures troops.....</u></b>	<b>52</b>
<b><u>Fallen Calgary reservist had penchant for pranks, loved life; Thousands arrive to pay respects at medic's funeral, while hundreds of people wave flags along route.....</u></b>	<b>54</b>
<b><u>A city says farewell; Thousands honour the Calgary EMS worker and soldier.....</u></b>	<b>56</b>
<b><u>Strangers come together after losing a 'brother'.....</u></b>	<b>57</b>
<b><u>Huge crowd mourns soldier; 'Thank you for the ultimate gift'.....</u></b>	<b>60</b>
<b><u>2,000 mourn soldier; Widow from Windsor finds much support.....</u></b>	<b>63</b>
<b><u>Cpl. Starker wanted to make world better; Calgarians bid farewell to soldier killed in Afghanistan ambush.....</u></b>	<b>65</b>
<b><u>Boy used as human bomb Walked up to patrol; 4 troops hurt.....</u></b>	<b>66</b>
<b><u>Thousands see off Calgary medic.....</u></b>	<b>68</b>
<b><u>Quiet, dignified farewell to hero Calgary medic 'person of love'.....</u></b>	<b>69</b>
<b><u>Thousands turn out to mourn paramedic.....</u></b>	<b>71</b>
<b><u>Medic remembered as 'good guy' AFGHANISTAN: Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, the 83rd Canadian soldier killed in the war since 2002, was buried yesterday in Calgary.....</u></b>	<b>72</b>
<b><u>Wild Art.....</u></b>	<b>74</b>
<b><u>Suicide bomber, age 10.....</u></b>	<b>75</b>
<b><u>Boy bomber wounds two Canadians.....</u></b>	<b>77</b>

# Table of Contents

<b><u>Calgary soldier and paramedic mourned.....</u></b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Wild Art.....</u></b>	<b>81</b>
<b><u>Wild Art.....</u></b>	<b>82</b>
<b><u>Sea of red flags salute dead Canuck soldier.....</u></b>	<b>83</b>
<b><u>Children teach us the lesson of what it is to honour a hero.....</u></b>	<b>84</b>
<b><u>CALGARY'S FALLEN.....</u></b>	<b>86</b>
<b><u>Giving us peace biggest victory Starker called shy but generous.....</u></b>	<b>87</b>
<b><u>FRONTPAGE WE MOURN Grief pours into city streets for fallen soldier.....</u></b>	<b>89</b>
<b><u>THE AFGHAN MISSION Suicide bomber as young as 10 hits Canadians Two soldiers injured near Kandahar.....</u></b>	<b>90</b>
<b><u>Suicide bomber around age 10.....</u></b>	<b>92</b>
<b><u>Final farewells to medic.....</u></b>	<b>94</b>
<b><u>Boy used in Afghan suicide attack.....</u></b>	<b>95</b>

# 1,000s say goodbye to medic

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170015  
**PUBLICATION:** Waterloo Region Record  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Front  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS / Nicole Starker(centre), wife of Cpl. Michael Starker, attends his funeral yesterday in Calgary. ;  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 265

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Thousands turned out yesterday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life — quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

"He'd be uncomfortable," Nicole Starker said. "But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention they're getting."

Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from Emergency Medical Services, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre to honour Starker.

There were no eulogies in the 90-minute Catholic service, as the family decided to read those at a private service on Thursday evening.

Pictures of Starker, both as a member of the Canadian Forces and as a paramedic, were placed in the hallway leading into the salon, which had a seating capacity of 3,000. A screen at the front by the altar flipped through front page stories on his death from local newspapers.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service.

An insignia bearer carried Starker's headgear.

"Michael was a good guy," said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily. Rocheleau said Starker spent his life working to help others and acknowledged he was not one to look for the spotlight.

# Afghan boy used in attack on Canadians

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170005  
**PUBLICATION:** Waterloo Region  
Record  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Front  
**PAGE:** A1  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Torstar  
Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 434

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A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide–bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokesperson for the Canadian Forces battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch–attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote–control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al–Qaida in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in Friday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghan-istan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

The explosion occurred in Dialaram, a small town on the main road running through the west and south of the country. Five police officers, including a district police chief, and seven civilians were among the dead.

Insurgents launched an estimated 140 suicide bombings last year, when more than 8,000 people, mostly militants, died in insurgency-related violence. At least 1,200 people have died so far this year.

# World journal

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170059  
**PUBLICATION:** New Brunswick Telegraph–Journal  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**SECTION:** News;News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Telegraph–Journal (New Brunswick)  
**WORD COUNT:** 673

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## Politics

### No charges in Cadman affair

OTTAWA – The RCMP say no charges will be laid in the Chuck Cadman affair, but the mysterious political story appears to have yet more chapters. The federal Liberals, who originally complained to the Mounties, said Friday the Conservative government still has a duty to give Canadians details of the episode. The Mounties were looking into politically explosive allegations that the Tories offered Cadman a life insurance policy in exchange for his support on a key vote in Parliament in 2005. Cadman, an Independent MP, was dying of cancer at the time.

## Mounties

### Discrimination ruling challenged

TORONTO – An expelled RCMP cadet's cherished dream of becoming a Mountie remained elusive Friday, with the force now challenging an order that it give him another chance to join and pay him \$500,000 in damages. In an application for a judicial review, the RCMP argues the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal was wrong to find the force had discriminated against Ali Tahmourpour of Toronto or that he deserved any compensation. Tahmourpour said he is bitterly disappointed by the challenge.

## Exchange program

### N.L. handling of complaints assailed

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. – The government of Premier Danny Williams is facing accusations it failed to take proper steps after being alerted to a potential problem in an exchange program for foreign students. The Opposition leader in Newfoundland and Labrador said Friday the government's handling of allegations of wrongdoing in the program are reminiscent of the government's handling of botched breast–cancer tests. A recruiter with the exchange program e–mailed the premier's office last year, alleging she was aware of unspecified "corruption." The Liberal party has obtained the e–mail and released a copy of it on Friday.

## Victoria Cross

### New, top medal for bravery unveiled

OTTAWA – What's old is new again as a link with Canada's military past and a symbol for the future was resurrected Friday when the Canadian Victoria Cross was officially unveiled. The new decoration, formally unveiled by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, is almost identical to the original Victoria Cross. It has been modified

slightly by adding fleurs de lis to thistle, shamrock and rose and changing the original English inscription to a Latin motto, Pro Valore. It retains its frowning lion and the royal crown. It replaces a medal which for more than a century was the top bravery award available to soldiers, sailors and aircrew of the Commonwealth.

## Military

### Paramedic killed in Afghanistan mourned

CALGARY – Thousands turned out Friday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life – quiet and dignified. His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated. Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from EMS, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre to make sure Starker received the attention he deserved.

## Bin Laden

### Palestine at heart of al-Qaida's war

CAIRO, Egypt – Osama bin Laden vowed Friday to fight Israel for the liberation of the Palestinians, claiming their cause is at the heart of al-Qaida's holy war with the West. Bin Laden's third statement this year was released to coincide with the Jewish state's 60th anniversary and came out as U. S. President George W. Bush was wrapping up his visit to Israel to celebrate the occasion. "We will continue our struggle against the Israelis and their allies," bin Laden said in a 10-minute audio posted on an Internet site used frequently by al-Qaida. "We are not going to give up an inch of the land of Palestine." Israel has warned of growing al-Qaida activity in Palestinian territory, although the terror network is not believed to have taken a strong role there so far.



# Thousands say goodbye to paramedic killed in Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**BYLINE:** BILL GRAVELAND The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 396

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"I think he would be laughing his ass off right now saying, 'I don't know why you guys are making such a big deal of this,' " chuckled Straub.

"He'd be uncomfortable," Nicole Starker agreed. "But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention they're getting."

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There were no eulogies in the 90–minute Catholic service, as the family decided to read the eulogies at a private service Thursday evening.

Pictures of Starker, both as a member of the Canadian Forces and as a paramedic, were placed in the hallway leading into the salon, which had a seating capacity of 3,000.

The entire event was simple – there was no table of favourite photos or trophies. A screen at the front by the altar flipped through front page stories on his death from local newspapers.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002.

Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, their heads held high and eyes straight ahead, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service. An insignia bearer carried Starker's headgear.

"Michael was a good guy," said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily. "He was a person of love. He would want us to recognize that the things that he did was because of his desire, because of the gifts that God had shared with him.

"We can only imagine how many people's lives Michael has touched. Reaching out for them, caring for him. Each day he shared the gift of life."

Rocheleau said he was fortunate to attend the wedding of Michael and Nicole back in 1997. He remembered when Nicole first brought her home to meet the family in Windsor, Ont., on Boxing Day.

"He was shy, he was afraid, he was uncertain and rightly so, because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without making sure he was the right guy."

# Thousands say goodbye to Calgary paramedic; Cpl. Michael Starker, a reservist, was the 83rd Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan

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

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B2

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland

**PHOTO:** The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** CALGARY

**ILLUSTRATION:** Starker; An honour guard salutes the casket of Cpl. Michael Starker, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan on May 6, at his funeral service yesterday in Calgary.

**WORD COUNT:** 567

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"He was shy, he was afraid, he was uncertain and rightly so because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without making sure he was the right guy," Rocheleau said with a smile. "He spent the entire day with us experiencing a lot of teasing, a lot of jokes at his expense and the third degree and he took it all in quite well. The next time he came, Michael was glad there was a new boyfriend with another cousin on the scene."

Rocheleau said Starker spent his life working to help others and acknowledged he was not one to look for the spotlight.

"He was always wanting to be a better person. Michael enjoyed his family, his friends, his work, his colleagues. He enjoyed the opportunity to share and make our world a better place. I don't think Michael would enjoy such celebrity.

"We must also remember all of Michael's colleagues in Afghanistan today who grieve with us. We offer them our support as they continue to do the work that has been entrusted to them."

Starker's remains were transported from the funeral in a Calgary ambulance, accompanied by a parade of police motorcycles, a military escort and a pipe band playing a lament.

# Suicide bomber targets Canadians; Attacker a child, witnesses say

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

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 438

---

A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide–bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokeswoman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch–attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement. The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote–control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers.

The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al–Qaida in Iraq.

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The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

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Friday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

The explosion occurred in Dialaram, a small town on the main road running through the west and south of the country.

Amin said five police officers, including a district police chief, and seven civilians were among the dead. He said the wounded included at least 11 policemen.

The bomber reportedly approached on foot and detonated the explosives on the busy street where police were inspecting vehicles. Insurgents launched an estimated 140 suicide bombings last year, when more than 8,000 people, mostly militants, died in insurgency-related violence.

At least 1,200 people have died so far this year.

# Un garçon de 10 ans aurait pris part à un attentat suicide en Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** Le Soleil  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**SECTION:** Actualités  
**PAGE:** 23  
**SOURCE:** La Presse Canadienne  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 318

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Un garçon âgé d'une dizaine d'années aurait pris part à un attentat suicide qui a blessé deux Canadiens, hier, en Afghanistan. Deux soldats afghans ont aussi été blessés dans l'attentat perpétré au sud-ouest de Kandahar.

Le garçon, décrit par des témoins comme un jeune âgé d'environ 10 ans, s'est avancé vers la patrouille conjointe canadienne et afghane avec une veste d'explosifs, selon la capitaine Amber Bineau, porte-parole des Forces armées canadiennes à Kandahar. Mme Bineau a condamné l'attaque, qu'elle a décrite comme une vaine tentative de freiner les progrès de l'armée afghane et de l'OTAN.

Des porte-parole de la police afghane ont laissé entendre que la bombe transportée par le garçon a pu être déclenchée à distance.

Un tel attentat, s'il est confirmé, représenterait un virage inquiétant dans la campagne kamikaze des talibans qui sévit depuis plus de deux ans. Plus tôt cette année, en Irak, deux attentats auraient été perpétrés, à leur insu, par deux femmes handicapées mentales portant des vestes d'explosifs. Les deux attentats attribués à Al-Qaida ont fait 73 morts à Bagdad.

Selon la capitaine Bineau, les deux soldats canadiens n'ont pas été blessés gravement; ils ont été en mesure de gagner par leurs propres moyens la clinique médicale à la base aérienne de Kandahar. L'identité des Canadiens blessés n'est normalement pas divulguée, mais Mme Bineau a indiqué que les deux soldats comptaient avertir leurs familles.

Les quatre soldats patrouillaient le matin dans le village de Nalgham, dans le district de Zhari, quand la bombe a été déclenchée. Il s'agissait du deuxième attentat suicide cette semaine en Afghanistan.

La semaine dernière, un soldat canadien avait été tué par balles lors d'une patrouille à pied dans la région de Pashmul, près de Kandahar City. Les funérailles du caporal Michael Starker, un ambulancier de Calgary, se sont tenues hier.

Les insurgés ont réalisé environ 140 attentats suicides l'année dernière. Plus de 8000 personnes sont mortes dans ces violences.

Deux Canadiens et deux soldats afghans ont été blessés dans cet attentat causé par une veste d'explosifs

# Thousands at medic's funeral

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A4

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Bill Graveland

**ILLUSTRATION:** Nicole Starker, widow of Cpl. Michael Starker, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan on May 6, attends his funeral in Calgary on Friday (Jeff McIntosh / CP)

**WORD COUNT:** 455

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CALGARY – Thousands turned out Friday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life – quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

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"Michael enjoyed his family, his friends, his work, his colleagues. He enjoyed the opportunity to share and make our world a better place

# 1'0-year-old boy used in suicide attack against Canadian-Afghan patrol

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster  
**WORD COUNT:** 381

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan on Friday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokeswoman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch-attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement. The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote-control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al-Qaida in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in Friday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary on Friday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Friday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

# Boy with bomb walks up to patrol near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians; He is described as about 10 years old, believed wearing a 'suicide vest'

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**SECTION:** Deaths/World

**PAGE:** B11

**SOURCE:** THE CANADIAN PRESS

**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 342

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Boy with bomb walks up to patrol near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians; He is described as about 10 years old

# Seeking comfort

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Calgary paramedics embrace at the funeral of colleague Corporal Michael Starker, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan on May 6, at his funeral in Calgary on Friday. Canadian Press photo

# Boy with bomb near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians

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<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	The Telegram (St. John's)
<b>DATE:</b>	2008.05.17
<b>SECTION:</b>	International
<b>PAGE:</b>	C14
<b>SOURCE:</b>	The Canadian Press
<b>BYLINE:</b>	Murray Brewster
<b>DATELINE:</b>	Kandahar, Afghanistan
<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	An Afghan blacksmith makes new shoes for a donkey outside his shop in Kandahar, Afghanistan. – Photo by The Associated Press
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	332

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# Funeral for fallen soldier draws thousands in Calgary

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170070  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** B7  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** Canwest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 398

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CALGARY -- Two thousand people crowded a massive city auditorium Friday afternoon to pay their respects to a man who saved lives on the streets of Calgary before losing his own in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, a reservist and medic with 15 Field Ambulance, was killed May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in the Zhari district of Kandahar province.

A military escort carried the former Calgary paramedic's casket, draped in white fabric, into the Roundup Centre on the Calgary Stampede grounds. Soldiers saluted the casket as his family members and many friends in the crowd brushed away tears.

"Michael shared his goodness with us, not for fame, not for status, but because that was the call placed in his heart," Father Robert Rocheleau told the crowd.

"Michael was a good guy. He was a person of love. He would want to us to recognize the things he did was because of this desire to love."

Starker's widow Nicole, dressed in black, occasionally smiled or let out a brief laugh as Rocheleau -- her cousin -- talked about Starker's wild sense of humour and fierce love of life.

"I don't think Michael would enjoy such solemnity," he said. "Those of you that knew him would know he was full of life, full of pranks, full of joy."

Rocheleau thanked the community, Starker's military and Emergency Medical Service colleagues, family members and the entire country for honouring the fallen reservist.

Starker, who worked for Calgary EMS and was a member of the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment, was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He is the fourth Calgarian to die while serving in the war-torn country. A total of 83 Canadian soldiers have died during the Afghanistan mission.

After the funeral mass, Starker's casket was loaded onto a Calgary EMS ambulance draped in black for a slow procession to City Hall. Hundreds of Calgarians lined the route, holding up small paper Canadian flags.

Retired paramedic Bob Smiley brought his young son to watch.

"We're here to give honour to the man that died," Smiley said. "He was a good paramedic and he brought

honour to our profession."

Mike and Diane Bullis, who have a paramedic daughter, said they felt it was important for them to show support for Canadian troops and civilian paramedics.

"They're like one big family and it's important . . . to show support for the Starker family," Diane Bullis said.

The funeral comes on the same day a suicide blast in southern Afghanistan wounded two Canadian soldiers and killed one of their Afghan comrades.

On Friday, Afghan and Canadian troops were conducting a foot patrol in the same area where Starker was killed, just west of Kandahar City, when they were hit by a suicide attack, which also wounded a second Afghan soldier.

All four soldiers were taken to the Kandahar Airfield military base for treatment.

# Calgarians pay tribute to former paramedic

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170063  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B8  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** Canwest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 475

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All four soldiers were taken to the Kandahar Airfield military base for treatment.

At the time of the incident that led to Starker's death, soldiers were conducting a civil–military co–operation patrol in the area, when they came under attack, said Brig.–Gen. Guy Laroche, last week.

Laroche, who is the commanding general of Task Force Afghanistan, said the aim of the patrol was to show Canada's presence, "interact with the local population and discuss the development needs of the community."

Two soldiers were injured in the assault, and both were airlifted by helicopter to the Kandahar Airfield, but Starker was pronounced dead on arrival.

# Caption Only

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170040  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Todd Koro, Reuters / FUNERAL MARCH FOR FALLENSOLDIER: Pipers march in front of an ambulance carrying the body of Cpl. Michael Starker yesterday after his funeral in Calgary. Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was killed in action in Afghanistan last week. The 36-year-old army reservist was killed May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in Kandahar province. He was the 83rd Canadian soldier killed in the conflict. ;

**SOURCE:** Reuters

# Un garçon aurait pris part à l'attentat–suicide qui a blessé deux Canadiens

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16

**KEYWORDS:** DÉFENSE INTERNATIONALE POLITIQUE

**PUBLICATION:** pcf

**WORD COUNT:** 297

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Un garçon âgé d'une dizaine d'années aurait pris part à un attentat–suicide qui a blessé deux Canadiens, vendredi, en Afghanistan. Deux soldats afghans ont aussi été blessés dans l'attentat perpétré au sud–ouest de Kandahar.

Le garçon, décrit par des témoins comme un jeune âgé d'environ 10 ans, s'est avancé vers la patrouille conjointe canadienne et afghane avec une veste d'explosifs, selon la capitaine Amber Bineau, porte–parole des Forces armées canadiennes à Kandahar. Mme Bineau a condamné l'attaque, qu'elle a décrite comme une vaine tentative de freiner les progrès de l'armée afghane et de l'OTAN.

Des porte–parole de la police afghane ont laissé entendre que la bombe transportée par le garçon a pu être déclenchée à distance.

Un tel attentat, s'il est confirmé, représenterait un virage inquiétant dans la campagne kamikaze des talibans qui sévit depuis plus de deux ans. Plus tôt cette année, en Irak, deux attentats auraient été perpétrés, à leur insu, par deux femmes handicapées mentales portant des vestes d'explosifs. Les deux attentats attribués à al–Qaïda ont fait 73 morts à Bagdad.

Selon la capitaine Bineau, les deux soldats canadiens n'ont pas été blessés gravement; ils ont été en mesure de gagner par leurs propres moyens la clinique médicale à la base aérienne de Kandahar. L'identité des Canadiens blessés n'est normalement pas divulguée, mais Mme Bineau a indiqué que les deux soldats comptaient avertir leurs familles.

Les quatre soldats patrouillaient le matin dans le village de Nalgham, dans le district de Zhari, quand la bombe a été déclenchée. Il s'agissait du deuxième attentat–suicide cette semaine en Afghanistan.

La semaine dernière, un soldat canadien avait été tué par balles lors d'une patrouille à pied dans la région de Pashmul, près de Kandahar City. Les funérailles du caporal Michael Starker, un ambulancier de Calgary, se sont tenues vendredi.

Les insurgés ont réalisé environ 140 attentats–suicides l'année dernière. Plus de 8000 personnes sont mortes dans ces violences.

W2810–FGJPA501.mag

# Thousands turn out to say goodbye to Calgary paramedic killed in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE RELIGION SOCIAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 579

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CALGARY \_ Thousands turned out Friday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life \_ quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

“I think he would be laughing his ass off right now saying, ‘I don't know why you guys are making such a big deal of this,’” chuckled Straub.

“He'd be uncomfortable,” Nicole Starker agreed. “But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention they're getting.”

Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from EMS, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre to make sure Starker received the attention he deserved.

There were no eulogies in the 90-minute Catholic service, as the family decided to read the eulogies at a private service Thursday evening.

Pictures of Starker, both as a member of the Canadian Forces and as a paramedic, were placed in the hallway leading into the salon, which had a seating capacity of 3,000.

The entire event was simple \_ there was no table of favourite photos or trophies. A screen at the front by the altar flipped through front page stories on his death from local newspapers.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City in Afghanistan, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002.

Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, their heads held high and eyes straight ahead, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service. An insignia bearer carried Starker's headgear.

“Michael was a good guy,” said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily. “He was a person of love. He would want us to recognize that the things that he did was because of his desire, because of the gifts that God had shared with him.

“We can only imagine how many people's lives Michael has touched. Reaching out for them, caring for him. Each day he shared the gift of life.”

Rocheleau said he was fortunate to attend the wedding of Michael and Nicole back in 1997. He remembered when Nicole first brought her home to meet the family in Windsor, Ont., on Boxing Day.

“He was shy, he was afraid, he was uncertain and rightly so because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without making sure he was the right guy,” Rocheleau said with a smile. “He spent the entire day with us experiencing a lot of teasing, a lot of jokes at his expense and the third degree and he took it all in quite well. The next time he came, Michael was glad there was a new boyfriend with another cousin on the scene.”

Rocheleau said Starker spent his life working to help others and acknowledged he was not one to look for the spotlight.

“He was always wanting to be a better person. Michael enjoyed his family, his friends, his work, his colleagues. He enjoyed the opportunity to share and make our world a better place. I don't think Michael would enjoy such celebrity.

“We must also remember all of Michael's colleagues in Afghanistan today who grieve with us. We offer them our support as they continue to do the work that has been entrusted to them.”

Starker's remains were transported from the funeral in a Calgary ambulance, accompanied by a parade of police motorcycles, a military escort and a pipe band playing a lament.



# Thousands turn out to say goodbye to Calgary paramedic killed in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE RELIGION SOCIAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 555

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# Boy with bomb walks up to patrol near Kandahar, wounds two Canadians

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 462

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan on Friday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

“He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest,” said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokeswoman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a “last ditch-attempt” by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

“These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment,” Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

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The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

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Friday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

The explosion occurred in Dialaram, a small town on the main road running through the west and south of the country.

Amin said five police officers, including a district police chief, and seven civilians were among the dead. He said the wounded included at least 11 policemen.

The bomber reportedly approached on foot and detonated the explosives on the busy street where police were inspecting vehicles.

Insurgents launched an estimated 140 suicide bombings last year, when more than 8,000 people, mostly militants, died in insurgency-related violence. At least 1,200 people have died so far this year.

# TOR OUT YYY

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 311

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A strong aftershock today rocked the part of China decimated by last Monday's magnitude-7.9 earthquake.

The 5.9 aftershock sparked landslides that buried vehicles and cut off roads leading to ravaged areas of Sichuan province.

President Hu Jintao went to the disaster zone today to rally soldiers involved in the rescue effort.

Although the official death toll is 21-thousand, Chinese officials say it could reach 50-thousand. (4)

(Myanmar Cyclone)

Almost two weeks after a cyclone devastated Myanmar, the U-N says aid agencies are still largely in the dark about how badly (m) millions of survivors are suffering.

The U-N blames it on that country's hardline military rulers, who have virtually barred foreign relief workers from entering Myanmar.

Although the government says at least 43-thousand are dead, the Red Cross fears the final death toll could reach 128-thousand. (4)

(Mackenzie Pipeline Delay)

The Globe and Mail says the proposed Mackenzie natural gas pipeline has been delayed by at least a year.

The paper says the panel examining the environmental impact of the 16.2-(b)-billion-dollar project won't have its report ready until sometime in 2009.

Next year is when Imperial Oil initially planned to finish the pipeline, which would bring Arctic natural gas to North American markets. (4)

(Afghan-Cda-Starker) (Audio: 37)

A public funeral with full military honours will be held today in Calgary for the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

Corporal Michael Starker -- a 36-year-old Calgary paramedic -- was killed 10 days ago when his patrol ran into Taliban gunfire.

Starker's widow, Nicole, says "there are so many people who are saying thank you" for his sacrifice, she never thought about holding a private funeral. (4)

(Bin Laden-Israel) (Audio: 54)

A new message purportedly from Osama bin Laden says al-Qaida will continue its holy war against Israel and its allies until Palestine is liberated.

The message, almost 10 minutes long, says the fight for the Palestinian cause is the major factor driving al-Qaida's war with the west.

Although the authenticity of the message cannot be verified, it's posted on a website commonly used by the terrorist organization. (4)

(BC Stadium Roof)

It appears B-C Place Stadium in Vancouver is about to get a new roof, maybe a retractable one like that at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

The announcement will be made today by B-C Premier Gordon Campbell.

His government has been pondering a new roof since the inflated dome at B-C Place Stadium ripped and collapsed 16 months ago. (4)

(NewsWatch by Bill Marshall)

## --Eleventh NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16

**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 337

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Myanmar has doubled the official death toll from the cyclone that hit nearly two weeks ago.

It now stands at nearly 78-thousand people with another 56-thousand missing.

The U-N is sending its top humanitarian official to the country this weekend to try to persuade the country's military leaders to give foreign relief workers more access to the hardest hit region.

Aid groups say a lack of clean water for as many as 2.5 (m) million survivors is threatening to become the biggest killer. (11)

(China-Earthquake-BC-Students)

Ten students from B-C have decided to stay in an earthquake-torn region of China for the duration of their 10-week visit.

Officials at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford say the students are firm about continuing their experience at Sichuan University in China.

They were shaken but unhurt after the massive earthquake on Monday levelled large parts of Sichuan province and claimed more than 22-thousand lives. (11)

(Afghan-Cda-Attack)

A suicide bomber has targeted Canadians in Afghanistan.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated the device as a joint patrol was walking through an area southwest of Kandahar.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol outside Kandahar City.

A funeral service for 36-year-old Corporal Michael Starker is being held in Calgary this afternoon. (11)

(Cadman-RCMP)

The Mounties have ended their investigation into the Chuck Cadman affair and have decided no charges will be laid.

It was alleged the federal Conservatives offered the dying Independent M-P a one (m) million dollar life insurance policy in exchange for his support on a key vote in Parliament in 2005.

Cadman, a former Conservative, ultimately sided with the Liberals in a confidence vote and kept then-prime minister Paul Martin in office for a few more months. (11)

(Baltovich–No–Inquiry) (Audio; 102)

There will be no public inquiry into the 18–year legal saga that ultimately saw Robert Baltovich acquitted of murdering his girlfriend in Toronto.

Ontario's attorney general has decided against the inquiry after speaking with the victim's parents.

Baltovich served eight years in prison before he was freed on bail in 2000.

In April, the Crown effectively said it had no case against him in the murder of Elizabeth Bain 18 years ago.  
(11)

(LA–Water–Plan)

The mayor of Los Angeles has unveiled a sweeping new plan to clean sewage water so it can be recycled as drinking water.

The plan could cost up to two (b) billion dollars over 20 years and is designed to help cope with a shortage of clean water.

Some homeowners oppose the notion of treated wastewater for drinking, calling it a ``toilet–to–tap" approach.  
(11)

(NewsWatch by Phil Godin)



# INDEX:Advisories

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 357

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(Afghan-Cda-Funeral)

A Canadian soldier who was killed in Afghanistan has been remembered as a good guy and a person of love.

Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues attended the funeral in Calgary today for Corporal Michael Starker, a reservist medic who died May 6th.

There were no eulogies in the 90 minute Catholic service for the city paramedic, as the family had decided to read the eulogies at a private service last evening.

The "Last Post" was played as a Calgary ambulance carried his body in a procession to city hall prior to being interred at a private ceremony.

(The Canadian Press)

(Dead-Mountie-Fight) (Alta, Sask note)

A lawyer is asking that people respect an Alberta Court of Appeal decision that allows for the reburial of a slain R-C-M-P officer in Saskatchewan.

Constable Leo Johnston was one of four Alberta Mounties killed near Mayerthorpe in 2005 and his wife, Kelly, has been fighting to have his remains transferred from Lac la Biche (BISH) to the R-C-M-P cemetery in Regina.

Johnston's mother and her supporters have opposed the move, but lawyer Chelsey Bailey says the officer died upholding the law and his widow hopes protestors respect the ruling.

Bailey says they have not yet made plans to move Johnston's body.

(The Canadian Press)

(Mba-Plane-Crash)

A small plane flipped while making a landing in eastern Manitoba today but everyone aboard got out safely.

R-C-M-P say the aircraft came down north of Lac du Bonnet (BONNY) around 2 p-m.

An eyewitness says there were two people in the plane.

It's believed the pilot may have been attempting an emergency landing at the time. (CJOB, CBC)

(Mba-Wildfires)

Water bombers had to be called in today to handle a couple of small fires in tinder dry cottage country east of Winnipeg.

One of the fires forced the closure of a highway but Manitoba Conservation says the situation is being brought under control.

The department says both aircraft have been flying back and forth between both blazes.

Dry, windy conditions have prompted a warning to campers and cottagers to use caution over the long weekend. (CJOB)

(Sask–Nurses–Talks)

Negotiators in contract talks between nurses and their employers in Saskatchewan are expected to take a breather this long weekend off.

They're coming off five days of bargaining in Regina, with word today from the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses that progress is being made.

The negotiating teams are expected to review each other's proposals over the next three days before resuming talks in Regina next Tuesday. (CJME)

(Tories–Judge–Toews) (Mba note)

A Winnipeg newspaper says a Manitoba M–P and cabinet minister may become a judge.

The newspaper (Free Press) says Treasury Board president Vic Toews (taves) is considered a strong candidate to fill one of the vacancies on the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

He is said to be under consideration as a justice in either Brandon or Dauphin.

Toews' office in Ottawa says it's heard nothing about a potential appointment.

(Wpg F–P)

(Prairie Update by Ken Trimble)

# TOR OUT YYY

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 262

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China says a nurse has been rescued after she was trapped for 96 hours in the debris of a clinic that was destroyed by last Monday's earthquake.

The clinic is in one of the last areas of Sichuan province that rescuers reached after the magnitude-7.9 tremor.

The confirmed death toll stands at 19-thousand 509.

However, the Chinese government expects the final toll could reach 50-thousand. (3)

(SCOC-Reverse Onus) (Audio: 28)

The Supreme Court of Canada rules today on how and when teenagers convicted of serious crimes can be sentenced as adults.

Since 2002, Canadians aged 14 to 17 accused of murder or other serious crimes have been sentenced as adults, unless they convince the court they should be treated as children.

The so-called "reverse onus" has been struck down by appeal courts in Ontario and Quebec, but upheld in British Columbia. (3)

(Afghan Violence)

In Afghanistan, a roadside bomb killed one Afghan soldier and left three wounded in southern Kandahar province.

Elsewhere, reported clashes in southern and eastern Afghanistan left eight militants dead. (3)

(Afghan-Cda-Starker) (Audio: 27)

A funeral with full military honours will be held today in Calgary for Corporal Michael Starker.

The 36-year-old Calgary paramedic was killed 10 days ago when his patrol ran into Taliban gunfire outside Kandahar City.

Starker's sister, Carolyn Straub, says the service will be open to the public, adding it's important for everyone to be part of the grieving process. (3)

(BIZ-Sears-Victoria Day)

Sears, the country's second-largest department store chain, could be on a collision course with the Ontario government.

Sears plans to open an unspecified number of its Ontario stores to selected customers on Monday, which is

Victoria Day.

The company claims this won't violate the Ontario law that forces most stores to be closed on Victoria Day and seven other statutory holidays. (3)

(ODDITY–Smallest Helicopter)

The world's smallest helicopter is due to take flight May 25th in the city of Vinci, Italy.

That's the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, who gave birth to the idea of a helicopter more than 500 years ago.

The one–man chopper -- developed in Japan -- weighs 75–kilograms and has a top speed of 90–kilometres an hour.

It carries a price tag of about 57–thousand dollars. (3)

(NewsWatch by Bill Marshall)

## --Nineteenth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 343

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Canada will contribute one (m) million dollars to earthquake relief efforts in China.

The joint announcement from International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier says the money will go to the International Red Cross.

On Thursday, the federal government said it would also match donations made by the public to relief efforts in China and Myanmar. (19)

(China-Earthquake)

Emergency workers in central China rescued more than 30 people trapped beneath rubble Friday.

The official Xinhua News Agency says volunteers spent four hours digging through the ruins of one apartment building after hearing a call.

They pulled free a middle-aged woman who was taken away by medics.

The official death toll currently stands at more than 22-thousand.

Meantime, the government promised to investigate why so many school buildings collapsed in the quake and to severely punish anyone responsible for shoddy construction. (19)

(Myanmar-Cyclone)

The French ambassador to the United Nations says unless Myanmar allows aid to be delivered to cyclone survivors, it "could lead to a true crime against humanity" with hundreds of thousands of lives in jeopardy.

The criticism followed the junta's refusal to allow a French Navy ship with 15-hundred tonnes of aid to deliver food and medicine with small boats and helicopters.

The French diplomat says during a closed-door meeting, his counterpart from Myanmar declared the vessel was a warship and that the relief must be by airlift. (19)

(Afghan-Cda-Starker)

A large funeral Friday afternoon was followed by a private service in the evening for Corporal Michael Starker -- the 36-year-old Calgary paramedic killed in Afghanistan May 6th.

Thousands came out to honour Starker, including members of the 15th Field Ambulance, who acted as pallbearers.

There were no eulogies, but his cousin by marriage, Father Robert Rocheleau, said Starker spent his life working to help others. (19)

(Guantanamo–Bin Laden's Driver)

The trial for Osama bin Laden's former driver is being put off for six weeks.

A military judge says he wants to hear from the Supreme Court before starting the first war crimes tribunal at the Guantanamo Bay prison.

The U–S Supreme Court is expected to rule by the end of June whether Guantanamo detainees have a right to challenge their detention in U–S civil courts. (19)

(Internet–Suicide)

Lawmakers in Missouri have given final approval to a bill that makes harassing someone in cyberspace illegal.

The bill was driven by a Missouri case that has received international attention.

Thirteen–year–old Megan Meier killed herself in 2006 after being teased on the website MySpace.

Just this week, 49–year–old Lori Drew was indicted in California on federal charges in connection with the case. (19)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

# INDEX:Advisories

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
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**WORD COUNT:** 261

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Good Morning! The early editor for the Prairie region at The Canadian Press Edmonton is Irv Thomas. Your queries and contributions are welcome. Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba stations call 780-428-6490 or 1-800-661-6528. Edmontons fax number is 780-428-0663 or 1-800-875-9833. The e-mail address is edmonton(at)thecanadianpress.com.

Here is Friday's calendar for the Prairies. All times are local.

WINNIPEG -- Manitoba Liberal members of Parliament welcome deputy party leader Michael Ignatieff.

EDMONTON -- Haldane Jensen-Huot appears in court on a charge of first-degree murder in the stabbing death of senior Hans Alberts.

CALGARY -- Flint Energy holds first-quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416-644-3414 or go to [www.newswire.ca](http://www.newswire.ca) (9 a.m.)

CALGARY -- Media are invited to meet a 21-year-old woman who had a tumour removed from her brain using neuroArm, a surgical robotic system developed at the University of Calgary. (10:30 a.m. at Libin Theatre, University of Calgary)

CALGARY -- Health Minister Ron Liepert and interim Alberta Health Services Board chairman Ken Hughes will answer questions about the new health care governance model. Dial-in from Calgary 269-4703, dial-in from Edmonton 429-3832. Passcode 79574#. (1 p.m. at McDougall Centre) (Staffing)

CALGARY -- Public funeral for Cpl. Michael Starker, who died when he was ambushed near Kandahar City in Afghanistan. (2 p.m. at Round-Up Centre) (Staffing)

EDMONTON -- Trial for a 19-year-old girl charged with first-degree murder, sexual assault and kidnapping in the death of Nina Courtepatte. (Room 417, Court of Queen's Bench)

STONY PLAIN, Alberta -- Preliminary hearing for Shawn Hennessey and David Cheeseman, each facing first-degree murder charges in the deaths of four RCMP officers near Mayerthorpe, Alta., in March 2005. Police allege the two helped gunman James Roszko in some way. Through June 6. (Provincial Court)

The Canadian Press Edmonton

## --Fifteenth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
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**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
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As a memorial service is held in Calgary for the 83rd Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan comes word that a Canadian–Afghan foot patrol has been targetted by a young suicide bomber near Kandahar.

A boy believed to be about 10, was blown up as he approached the soldiers during a patrol about 40 kilometres from Kandahar City.

Two Canadians suffered non–life–threatening injuries.

The extent of injuries to two Afghan soldiers is not known

The Calgary memorial is for 36–year–old Corporal Michael Starker, who was shot and killed May 6th in a Taliban ambush. (15)

(Myanmar–China Deaths) (Audio: 125)

Death tolls from the world's two most recent catastrophes continue to rise by the thousands.

In cyclone–ravaged Myanmar, the official number of dead nearly doubled to 78–thousand.

In China's Sichuan province, efforts to find survivors of Monday's devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake continues, with the official death toll now at more than 22–thousand. (15)

(Cda–Greenhouse–Gas)

Canada's greenhouse–gas emissions dropped in 2006, but still soared above the targets set out in the Kyoto accord.

The federal government's annual greenhouse–gas inventory says Canadians produced 721 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2006, which was 29 per cent above Canada's Kyoto Protocol target of 558 megatonnes.

The Harper government has abandoned Canada's Kyoto commitment, instead pledging to bring down greenhouse–gas emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 levels by 2020. (15)

(Oil Prices) (Audio: 131)

The price of oil soared more than three dollars U–S a barrel today.

It surpassed 127 dollars for the first time, putting more pressure on already lofty gasoline and diesel prices ahead of the summer driving season in the northern hemisphere.

As U–S President Bush continues his Mideast trip, Saudi leaders have again dismissed his call for more oil production. (15)



(NL–Swindle)

A former Newfoundland financial adviser who stole from his clients to fund a gambling habit has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Thirty–nine–year–old Craig Howell, was employed by Great West Life when he swindled investment savings from 17 customers.

The former St. John's resident who now lives in Barrie, Ontario, must also pay restitution of 40–thousand dollars to the Bank of Montreal and 30–thousand to Great West Life.

He admitted forging client signatures on cheques, then withdrew money from their accounts. (15)

(Obit–Mondavi)

One of California's leading winemakers is dead.

Robert Mondavi was 94.

After being ousted from a family–run venture with his younger brother, Mondavi started his own winery in 1966 at the age of 52.

He built it into a thriving business using innovations such as cold fermentation and stainless steel tanks. (15)

(NewsWatch by Phil Godin)

## --Seventeenth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
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**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 364

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Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from E-M-S, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out in Calgary today for the funeral of Corporal Michael Starker.

Starker became the 83rd Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan May 6th when he was shot during an ambush west of Kandahar City.

There were no eulogies delivered at the service, but in his homily, Father Robert Rocheleau said that each day, Starker shared the gift of life with those around him. (17)

(Myanmar-Cyclone)

French officials are upset with Myanmar's government over its refusal to allow a French navy ship carrying relief supplies to deliver them in the devastated Irrawaddy Delta region.

The ship is carrying 15-hundred tonnes of food and medicine.

U-N Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is sending the organization's humanitarian chief to Myanmar this weekend, where it's hoped he can help establish contact with the country's leadership. (17)

(Toxic-Silicone)

An environmentalist says although the federal government's draft report on 17 substances now deemed toxic falls short of saying they'll harm you, it does say they need to be eliminated.

Kapil Khatter of the group Environmental Defence is reacting to the assessment published today, which highlights three synthetic chemicals found in silicone breast implants.

Another of the substances up for toxic designation is vinyl acetate, which is used in the process of making the base for chewing-gum. (17)

(Taser-Inquiry)

The deputy chief of Vancouver's transit police force says they recently changed their policy on using Tasers on passengers.

Ken Allen testified before the inquiry looking into the use of the weapons that there were problems with the wording of the policy, and that it's been fixed.

There was outrage last month when it was learned that Tasers had been used by the force 10 times since 2004, including instances in which fare-evading transit users had been zapped. (17)

(Cadman-RCMP)

The reporter who wrote a biography of Independent M–P Chuck Cadman says he was contacted by the R–C–M–P during it's investigation.

But Tom Zytaruk says he didn't give them a statement.

The Mounties announced today that no charges will be laid in the Chuck Cadman affair.

They were looking into allegations that Cadman was offered a life insurance policy by the Tories in exchange for his support on a key vote in Parliament in 2005. (17)

(FASHION–Taylor–Fuchs)

A Canadian has earned Forbes magazine's title of top male model.

Twenty–one–year–old Taylor Fuchs (FYOOKS) was discovered at a bar in Calgary two years ago while a student at the University of Calgary.

Now he's the face of such designers as Dolce and Gabbana and Valentino.

He says his buddies back home in White City, Saskatchewan will see to it that his latest success doesn't go to his head. (17)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

## --Eighteenth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2008.05.16  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 297

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Canada's 83rd soldier to die in Afghanistan was remembered today as a man who spent his life working to help others.

About two-thousand people attended the Calgary memorial service for paramedic and reservist Corporal Michael Starker, who was killed May 6th during an ambush.

Starker's wife's cousin conducted the service.

Father Robert Rocheleau said Starker enjoyed the opportunity to share and make the world a better place. (18)

(China-Earthquake)

State media in China are reporting more than 30 survivors have been pulled from the rubble after Monday's earthquake.

Tens of thousands are considered buried or missing and officials are predicting the death toll could hit 50-thousand.

Meantime, American experts are monitoring nuclear facilities in China's earthquake zone after France's nuclear watchdog reported that some had suffered minor damage in the quake. (18)

(Myanmar-Cyclone)

Foreign diplomats will get to tour Myanmar's hard-hit Irrawaddy delta for the first time tomorrow.

However, the country's military regime continues to turn down efforts of help in the wake of Cyclone Nargis.

The latest example: the French have been told that a ship loaded with aid supplies that currently sits in international waters will not be allowed to directly deliver food and medicine.

The French say they are equipped to deliver aid by helicopter and small boats. (18)

(Dead-Mountie-Fight) (Audio: 169)

The lawyer for the widow of Mountie Leo Johnston says his body will be moved as soon as the final paperwork is done.

Alberta's highest court upheld a decision today that Johnston's wife Kelly should decide his final resting place.

Johnston was one of four Mounties killed in Mayerthorpe, Alberta in a shootout in 2005.

His mother wanted his body to remain buried in his hometown of Lac La Biche, but his wife wants him interred at the national R-C-M-P cemetery in Regina. (18)

(MySpace Lawsuit)

A federal court has sided with the website MySpace-dot-com in a lawsuit over the sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl.

The girl's family had sued the site, saying they don't protect young users from sexual predators.

The court, who upheld an earlier decision, noted that the girl circumvented MySpace's safety features when she lied about her age.

She was 13 when she created a profile but said she was 18.

MySpace requires its users to be at least 14. (18)

(SPORTS-World-Hockey-Championships)

Canada will meet Russia in the final of the world hockey championship.

Canada topped Sweden 5-4 today to advance to Sunday's gold-medal game in Quebec City.

The Russians earned a spot in the final by defeating Finland 4-0 earlier in the day. (18)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

# Young boy linked to suicide hit

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170163  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A04  
**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 210

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A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide–bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol. "He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokesperson for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Bineau said the two wounded Canadians were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar city.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

# Child bomber injures troops

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170093  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A13  
**BYLINE:** Ryan Cormier  
**SOURCE:** Canwest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 392

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KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN – A suicide attack by a child bomber wounded two Canadian soldiers and killed one of their Afghan comrades yesterday. The boy, described as about 10 or 11, is believed to have been wearing a vest carrying explosives that was detonated by remote control.

The attack was described by military officials yesterday as a sign of a desperate and failing Taliban insurgency.

"Today's event is an example of the insurgents' reaction to Afghan national security forces' and coalition forces' freedom of movement throughout the area," Canadian Forces spokeswoman Captain Amber Bineau said.

"It is an example of insurgents' last-ditch efforts to disrupt operations in Kandahar province. These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment."

The attack, which occurred at about 10:30 a. m. local time, also wounded a second Afghan soldier.

The Afghan and Canadian troops were conducting a foot patrol through the village of Nalgham, in the Zhari district of Kandahar province, when a suicide bomber approached on foot and triggered a bomb.

All four soldiers were taken by helicopter to the Kandahar Airfield military base for treatment, but one of the Afghan National Army soldiers did not survive.

The exact nature of the injuries of the surviving soldiers was not immediately available, but the Canadians were able to walk unescorted into the trauma centre and managed to telephone their families back home, according to Capt. Bineau. They were later said to be in fair condition.

The attack, which took place roughly 40 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City, came after a male insurgent disguised under a burka triggered a suicide bomb outside a police station in southwestern Afghanistan on Wednesday. The local governor claimed 16 people were killed in that blast.

Since the new Canadian battle group arrived in February, 2008, there has only been one other attack of this nature on coalition forces.

Meanwhile, funeral services for the latest Canadian killed in Afghanistan, Corporal Michael Starker, took place in Calgary yesterday.

Cpl. Starker, 36, was killed on May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in the Zhari district of Kandahar province.

A military escort brought his casket to the Roundup Centre, a large auditorium on the Calgary Stampede grounds. As the ceremony began, a choir sang from a stage decorated with bouquets of white flowers. A procession of soldiers then carried Cpl. Starker's coffin, draped in white, past hundreds of onlookers.

He leaves behind his wife, Nicole. The couple had been together for more than a decade and had no children.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; BOMBINGS; TERRORISM



# Fallen Calgary reservist had penchant for pranks, loved life; Thousands arrive to pay respects at medic's funeral, while hundreds of people wave flags along route

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170063  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Alberta  
**PAGE:** B4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Calgary herald, Canwest news service / More than 2,000 people attended a funeral Friday for former Calgary paramedic Michael Starker, a soldier killed May 6 in Afghanistan. ; Photo: Starker ;  
**KEYWORDS:** CANADIANS; WAR  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** Canwest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 470

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CALGARY – Two thousand people crowded a massive city auditorium Friday afternoon to pay their respects to a man who saved lives on the streets of Calgary before losing his own in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, a reservist and medic with 15 Field Ambulance, was killed May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in the Zhari district of Kandahar province.

A military escort carried the former Calgary paramedic's casket, draped in white fabric, into the Roundup Centre on the Calgary Stampede grounds. Soldiers saluted the casket as his family members and many friends in the crowd brushed away tears.

"Michael shared his goodness with us, not for fame, not for status, but because that was the call placed in his heart," Father Robert Rocheleau told the crowd.

"Michael was a good guy. He was a person of love. He would want to us to recognize the things he did was because of this desire to love."

Starker's widow Nicole, dressed in black, occasionally smiled or let out a brief laugh as Rocheleau -- her cousin -- talked about Starker's wild sense of humour and fierce love of life.

"I don't think Michael would enjoy such solemnity," he said. "Those of you that knew him would know he was full of life, full of pranks, full of joy."

Rocheleau thanked the community, Starker's military and Emergency Medical Service colleagues, family members and the entire country for honouring the fallen reservist.

Starker, who worked for Calgary EMS and was a member of the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment, was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He is the fourth Calgarian to die while serving in the war torn country. A total of 83 Canadian soldiers have died during the Afghanistan mission.

After the funeral mass, Starker's casket was loaded onto a Calgary EMS ambulance draped in black for a slow procession to City Hall. Hundreds of Calgarians lined the route, holding up small paper Canadian flags.

Retired paramedic Bob Smiley brought his young son to watch.

"We're here to give honour to the man that died," Smiley said. "He was a good paramedic and he brought honour to our profession."

Mike and Diane Bullis, who have a paramedic daughter, felt it was important for them to show support for paramedics and Canadian troops.

"They're like one big family and it's important ... to show support for the Starker family," Diane Bullis said.

The funeral comes on the same day a suicide blast in southern Afghanistan wounded two Canadian soldiers and killed one of their Afghan comrades.

On Friday, Afghan and Canadian troops were conducting a foot patrol in the same area where Starker was killed, just west of Kandahar City, when they were hit by a suicide attack, which also wounded a second Afghan soldier.

All four soldiers were taken to the Kandahar Airfield military base for treatment.

At the time of the incident that led to Starker's death, soldiers were conducting a civil–military co–operation patrol in the area, when they came under attack, Brig.–Gen. Guy Laroche said last week.

Laroche, who is the commanding general of Task Force Afghanistan, said the aim of the patrol was to show Canada's presence, "interact with the local population and discuss the development needs of the community."

Two soldiers were injured in the assault, and both were airlifted by helicopter to the Kandahar Airfield, but Starker was pronounced dead on arrival.

# A city says farewell; Thousands honour the Calgary EMS worker and soldier

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve; Lorraine Hjalte ; Jenelle Schneider ; Ted Rhodes  
Calgary Herald / Members of the funeral procession paying respects to fallen Canadian soldier Cpl. Michael Starker await their cue to march from the Roundup Centre to downtown and City Hall. ; Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve ; Lorraine Hjalte ; Jenelle Schneider ; Ted Rhodes ; Calgary Herald / Nicole Starker, widow of Cpl. Michael Starker, marches among military and family. Close to 2,000 mourners attended Friday's funeral for the Calgary EMS paramedic who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. ;

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve ; Lorraine Hjalte ; Jenelle Schneider ; Ted Rhodes ; Calgary Herald / The soldier's casket is placed in an ambulance at the Roundup Centre. ; Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve ; Lorraine Hjalte ; Jenelle Schneider ; Ted Rhodes ; Calgary Herald / Calgary EMS members comfort each other while mourning the death of their colleague, a reservist who served with the 15 Field Ambulance reserve unit. ; Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve ; Lorraine Hjalte ; Jenelle Schneider ; Ted Rhodes ; Calgary Herald / As the procession moves through downtown, Calgarian Blaine Coutu pays his respects. ;

**KEYWORDS:** 0

**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald

**WORD COUNT:** 4

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NO TEXT

# Strangers come together after losing a 'brother'

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170009  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**COLUMN:** Robin Summerfield  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald / Hundreds of cityworkers formed a recessional, following the body of fallen soldier Cpl. Michael Starker after his funeral. ; Photo: Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald / Paramedic Mike Darnforth, part of the honour guard, wipes a tear while waiting for Michael Starker's funeral to begin. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** PARAMEDICS; AMBULANCE SERVICES  
**BYLINE:** Robin Summerfield  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 555

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They came from points near. They came from points far.

They came to honour a man many had likely never met.

But, as these things go, when you're in public service — working as a paramedic, firefighter, police officer, or soldier — you're all brothers and sisters. You're all in it together.

So on Friday, Cpl. Michael Starker's comrades came together to say farewell and thank you.

The 36-year-old Calgary paramedic and reservist with the 15 Field Ambulance unit died May 6 in Afghanistan during an ambush by the Taliban. He was caught in the line of fire while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region of the country's Zhari district, 35 kilometres from Kandahar.

He is the fourth Calgarian and 83rd Canadian soldier to die while serving in Afghanistan.

His funeral Friday afternoon at the Roundup Centre attracted paramedics, firefighters, police officers, soldiers, mounties, cadets, correction services officers, bylaw officers, St. John Ambulance EMTs, and even security guards — many dressed in freshly pressed uniforms, crisp white gloves, newly shined black shoes and boots, and with caps and berets in hand.

His Calgary EMS colleagues, including the honour guard, were also there in full force.

But so too were paramedics and EMS workers from across the province and across the country. Their shoulder patches marked their home turf, but geography has nothing to do with allegiance when it comes to this group.

They came from Red Deer, Cochrane, Edmonton, Niagara, British Columbia, Regina, Yorkton, Crowsnest Pass, Airdrie, Municipal District of Foothills, Nakoda, Siksika, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Canmore, Peace Country, Prince Edward Island, Windsor, Fort McMurray and Kananaskis, to name a few.

They're used to saving lives, not mourning the loss of one of their own.

Strangers come together after losing a 'brother'

It's a rare thing when a paramedic dies. It's the police officers and firefighters who are typically in the most immediate danger on the job.

Starker's death — working as both a paramedic and a soldier — brought them all together.

And they were all there to offer their respects, most with emotions in check and measured solemnity.

They greeted old friends and former co-workers, shaking hands, offering hugs, and pats on the back.

"This is not the circumstances I would have liked to meet you again but you're here," one Calgary paramedic said to another mourner in uniform.

"Of course, I'm here," his colleague from Edmonton EMS replied.

Others, eyes bloodshot from fallen tears, faces cracking with grief, couldn't contain their sadness.

And there was Lorna Mastin, a paramedic from Middleton, N.S.

"This is a whole different ball of wax," said Mastin, of the death of one of her own.

But Starker was more than just a fellow paramedic to Mastin, he was also a close friend.

Mastin, a former Calgary paramedic, worked closely with Starker and knew him for about three years. She and her husband became fast friends with Starker and his wife Nicole during Mastin's time in Calgary.

"Everything revolved around food or coffee," Mastin said of their times off the job together.

The friendship ran deep.

"To be a friend of his was an honour," said Mastin, with a smile, moments before taking her place as one of 11 honorary pallbearers at the funeral.

"It's so tragic. He was so level-headed. He was just so considerate and respectful. He was an awesome soldier and an amazing paramedic," she said.

Starker was also godfather to Mastin's son James, 11, who stood beside his mom before the two-hour-long traditional Roman Catholic service started.

For James's part, he remembered his godfather for his sense of humour, his mischievousness, and his mean welding skills.

Starker made James a "beautiful sword, blunt but heavy," as a gift for the youngster, Mastin said.

Starker — a confirmed prankster who also loved to tease — one time jokingly threatened the youngster with scissors, "because my hair was too long," said the freckle-faced youngster, who still sports what can best be described as a bit of a mop top.

For her part, Mastin considered delaying her trip to Calgary after she heard the news of her friend's death, wanting to let all the craziness settle down before visiting Nicole.

But the Calgary paramedics union sent her two free airline passes so she and James could make the trip to Calgary to say goodbye.

The passes sealed the deal and mom and son flew to Calgary a few days ago.

"It's amazing," Mastin said of the gift from her former colleagues in Calgary.

But that's how they roll.

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# Huge crowd mourns soldier; 'Thank you for the ultimate gift'

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170001

**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald / Hundreds of uniformed military personnel, paramedics and other emergency services workers march in a funeral march downtown Friday in honour of fallen soldier Cpl. Michael Starker. ; Photo: Herald Archive / Cpl. Michael Starker was honoured for his sacrifice at Friday's public funeral. ; Photo: Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald / A woman holds the program for fallen soldier Cpl. Michael Starker's funeral at the Roundup Centre on Friday. ;

**KEYWORDS:** PARAMEDICS; AMBULANCE SERVICES

**BYLINE:** Sarah McGinnis

**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald

**WORD COUNT:** 761

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The hall was a sea of colour as about 2,000 mostly uniformed mourners gathered at the Roundup Centre to pay their respects to a fallen soldier, paramedic and friend.

Hundreds more had lined the streets as the funeral procession made its way through Calgary into the downtown, the soldier's body carried in an ambulance before sombre mourners.

"We haven't walked this road before," said Calgary paramedic Peter Genereux.

Marching in unison, their spit-polished boots echoing like a single footstep on the concrete floor, a military honour guard ushered Cpl. Michael Starker into his public funeral on Friday.

Tears flowed from usually stoic paramedics long before Starker's flag-draped casket appeared.

While casualties in the line of duty have become a grim reality for soldiers, firefighters or police — this is the first time Calgary paramedics have had to cope with such grief.

Starker was killed May 6 in a Taliban ambush that also injured another soldier.

He was a reservist with the 15 Field Ambulance after having retired from an extensive career in the military, including a stint with the elite Canadian Airborne Regiment and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

He spent the last two years volunteering to serve in Afghanistan and put his personal life on hold when he was called to service. He was deployed in February and was almost halfway through his tour when he was killed.

Retired soldier and Michael's "second father," Bob McGonigal Sr., read from a biblical passage that he believed captured Starker's need to go to war to save lives.

"It is not easy to die, even for a good man," McGonigal read. "For someone really worthy, a man might be willing to die."

Now it is Starker's family, especially his parents, sister Carolyn and widow Nicole, who must soldier on without him.

Father Robert Rocheleau witnessed Starker marry Nicole in 1997, the groom sporting a white cowboy hat with his tuxedo to meet his graceful bride.

During the homily, Rocheleau described Starker as a prankster, a man full of joy and exuberance, who was determined to get the most out of life.

"Michael was a good guy. He was a person of love. He would want us to recognize the things he did were because of his desire to love," said Rocheleau, who is also Nicole's cousin.

Starker would have shied away from the public ceremonies and media attention surrounding his death, said family friend Kim Lawton.

But as she looked on at the column of soldiers and paramedics forming outside the Roundup Centre to begin a funeral march, Lawton said he deserved all the pomp and ceremony.

"Michael shared his goodness with us, not for fame, not for status, but because that was the call placed in his heart," echoed Rocheleau.

The death of this passionate paramedic and soldier has become so much more to Calgarians than the loss of a single man.

Many Calgarians took the streets sporting red 'support our troops' T-shirts or waving flags.

Paramedics from Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia and dozens of Alberta cities and small towns sent delegates to pay tribute to a man they'd never met.

"I just wanted to do my part and to show my part for the profession," said Mark Hamilton, a paramedic at the Siksika reserve.

Calgary firefighters hoisted a 20-metre Canadian flag from their trucks while ambulances and fire trucks parked throughout the march, marking Starker's "route of valour."

Calgary police and firefighters sported yellow ribbons on their dark dress uniforms as they marched in the recession under the hot sun.

"We work right along with them. I knew the man. Worked in the same fire hall. (It's like) he was one of us," said firefighter Chris Wart.

The most touching aspect of the slow march that weaved its way toward City Hall were the countless personal tributes from ordinary Calgarians.

"Thank you for the ultimate gift," read a handmade sign held by five young children, two of whom were pulled out of school by their mom to participate in the public farewell.

"We decided to do it because one of his nieces is in my class," said nine-year-old Natasha Van Veen. "We wanted to come here and show our respect and support the family."



Any man who dies in service to this country is a hero, said retired blue beret Bill Tramble.

"It's unbelievable how you feel when people stand up for the flag. Their feelings are going to be broken forever and there is no closure. But I'm sure this helps immensely to know their son did something not in vain and was needed for the price of freedom," said Tramble, who served overseas in Germany and Cypress in the 1950s and 1960s.

Starker's death hit close to home, said Laura Russell, a paramedic's wife who stood in the sun with her 13-year-old daughter, Milena.

"They were there to provide them with some freedoms. It cost him his life," she said.

As the funeral march arrived on in front of City Hall, spectators raised their flags in silence as police officers, military police and soldiers went by.

An ambulance wrapped in a swath of black fabric and carrying the body of Cpl. Starker stopped in front of Olympic Plaza for a moment of silence that ended in applause from those gathered as the march disbanded and the family carried on to the cemetery for a private interment.

Several of the Calgary paramedics shook hands with the public before they left the area, the need to say thanks coming full circle as they welcomed the show of support from strangers.

"It's so sad this happened but I think it's a wonderful way to honour him," said Calgarian Phil Reynolds.

With files from Colette Derworiz and Terence Leung, Calgary Herald

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# 2,000 mourn soldier; Widow from Windsor finds much support

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170001  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald / **SOMBRE:**Windsor widow Nicole Starker, centre, leads members of her family into the funeral of her husband Cpl. Michael Starker at the Roundup Centre on Friday. Close to 2,000 attended the funeral for the Calgary EMS paramedic who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. ; Colour Photo: Cpl. Michael Starker ; Colour Photo: Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald / **PROCESSION:** Pall bearers helped escort the casket of Cpl. Michael Starker into the Round Up Centre Friday for the funeral of Canada's latest military casualty. ;

**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** Canwest News Service; with files from the Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 390

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CALGARY – Two thousand people crowded a city auditorium Friday afternoon to pay their respects to a man who saved lives on the streets of Calgary before losing his own in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, a reservist and medic with 15 Field Ambulance, was killed May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in the Zhari district of Kandahar province.

A military escort carried the Calgary paramedic's casket, draped in white fabric, into the Roundup Centre on the Calgary Stampede grounds. Soldiers saluted the casket as his family members and many friends in the crowd brushed away tears.

## SHARED GOODNESS

"Michael shared his goodness with us, not for fame, not for status, but because that was the call placed in his heart," Rev. Robert Rocheleau told the crowd.

"Michael was a good guy. He was a person of love. He would want to us to recognize the things he did was because of this desire to love."

Starker's widow Nicole, who is from Windsor, occasionally smiled or let out a brief laugh as Rocheleau — her cousin — talked about Starker's wild sense of humour and fierce love of life.

"I don't think Michael would enjoy such solemnity," he said. "Those of you that knew him would know he was full of life, full of pranks, full of joy."

Rocheleau thanked the community, Starker's military and Emergency Medical Service colleagues, family members and the entire country for honouring the fallen reservist.

Starker, who worked for Calgary EMS and was a member of the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment, was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He is the fourth Calgary to die while serving in the war-torn country. A total of 83 Canadian soldiers have died during the Afghanistan mission.

The funeral comes on the same day a suicide blast in southern Afghanistan wounded two Canadian soldiers and killed one of their Afghan comrades.

On Friday, Afghan and Canadian troops were conducting a foot patrol in the same area where Starker was killed, just west of Kandahar City, when they were hit by a suicide attack, which also wounded a second Afghan soldier.

All four soldiers were taken to the Kandahar Airfield military base for treatment.

At the time of the incident that led to Starker's death, soldiers were conducting a civil-military co-operation patrol in the area, when they came under attack, said Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche, last week.

Laroche, who is the commanding general of Task Force Afghanistan, said the aim of the patrol was to show Canada's presence, "interact with the local population and discuss the development needs of the community."

Two soldiers were injured in the assault, and both were airlifted by helicopter to the Kandahar Airfield, but Starker was pronounced dead on arrival.

# Cpl. Starker wanted to make world better; Calgarians bid farewell to soldier killed in Afghanistan ambush

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170017  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 208

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CALGARY – Funeral services for the latest Canadian killed in Afghanistan, Cpl. Michael Starker took place yesterday in Calgary.

Cpl. Starker, 36, was killed May 6 when his foot patrol was ambushed in the Zhari district of Kandahar province.

A military escort brought his casket to the Roundup Centre, a large auditorium on the Calgary Stampede grounds. As the ceremony began, a choir sang from a stage decorated with bouquets of white flowers and a procession of soldiers carried Cpl. Starker's coffin, draped in white, past hundreds of onlookers.

Soldiers saluted the slain medic's remains as they passed by, while others in the crowd wiped away tears.

As a priest presided over the Catholic service, Cpl. Starker's wife, Nicole, sat listening, surrounded by family members.

Wearing a black dress, the widow occasionally smiled or let out a brief laugh as the priest — who witnessed her marriage to the reservist in 1997 — recalled the time the soldier was first brought home to meet her family.

"Michael was a good guy ... he was a person of love, and he would want us to recognize that the things he did were because of his desire to love," the priest said. "Michael enjoyed the opportunity to share and to make our world a better place."

Cpl. Starker, who worked for Calgary EMS and was a member of the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment, was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

A total of 83 Canadian soldiers have died during the Afghanistan mission.

# Boy used as human bomb Walked up to patrol; 4 troops hurt

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170392  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 11  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

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A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 km from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokeswoman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch-attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote-control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al-Qaida in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in yesterday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

DISGUISED AS WOMAN

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Thousands see off Calgary medic

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170391  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Jeff McIntosh, the Canadian Press The casket of Cpl. Starker is carried from service yesterday.  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**WORD COUNT:** 140

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Thousands turned out yesterday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life -- quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

"I think he would be laughing his ass off right now saying, 'I don't know why you guys are making such a big deal of this,' " chuckled Straub.

"He'd be uncomfortable," Nicole Starker agreed. "But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention they're getting."

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City in Afghanistan, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Quiet, dignified farewell to hero Calgary medic 'person of love'

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**SOURCETAG:** 0805170474

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 9

**ILLUSTRATION:** 3 photos 1. photo by Jeff McIntosh, The Canadian Press Cpl. Travis Lanoway salutes as the casket of Cpl. Michael Starker is carried during funeral services in Calgary yesterday. 2. photo by Jim Wells, Sun Media Calgary EMS member Mike Danforth wipes his face during the service for Cpl. Michael Starker, killed in Afghanistan. 3. photo of MICHAEL STARKER Killed May 6

**BYLINE:** BILL GRAVELAND, THE CANADIAN PRESS

**DATELINE:** CALGARY

**WORD COUNT:** 346

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Thousands turned out yesterday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored Cpl. Michael Starker's life — quiet and dignified.

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"He'd be uncomfortable," Nicole Starker agreed. "But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention they're getting."

Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from EMS, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre to make sure Starker received the attention he deserved.

There were no eulogies in the 90-minute Catholic service, as the family decided to read the eulogies at a private service Thursday evening.

Pictures of Starker, as a member of the Canadian Forces and a paramedic, were placed in the hallway leading into the salon, which had a seating capacity of 3,000.

The entire event was simple — there was no table of favourite photos or trophies. A screen near the altar flipped through stories on his death from local newspapers.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City in Afghanistan, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002.

Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, their heads held high and eyes straight ahead, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service. An insignia bearer carried Starker's



headgear.

"Michael was a good guy," said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily. "He was a person of love.

"We can only imagine how many people's lives Michael has touched. ... Each day he shared the gift of life."

Rocheleau said "We must also remember all of Michael's colleagues in Afghanistan today who grieve with us. We offer them our support as they continue to do the work that has been entrusted to them."

Starker's remains were transported from the funeral in a Calgary ambulance, accompanied by a parade of police motorcycles, a military escort and a pipe band playing a lament. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Thousands turn out to mourn paramedic

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170299  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of Michael STARKER Laid to rest  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**WORD COUNT:** 222

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Thousands turned out yesterday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life — quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Cpl. Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

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The entire event was simple — there was no table of favourite photos or trophies.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City in Afghanistan, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Medic remembered as 'good guy' AFGHANISTAN: Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, the 83rd Canadian soldier killed in the war since 2002, was buried yesterday in Calgary

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**SOURCETAG:** 0805170204

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** B5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by CP Calgary paramedics embrace at the funeral of colleague Cpl. Michael Starker, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan on May 6. His funeral was held yesterday in Calgary.

**BYLINE:** BILL GRAVELAND, CP

**DATELINE:** CALGARY

**WORD COUNT:** 354

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Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, their heads held high and eyes straight ahead, carried his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service. An insignia bearer carried Starker's headgear.

Medic remembered as 'good guy' AFGHANISTAN: Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, the 83rd Canadian soldier killed

"Michael was a good guy," said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily. "He was a person of love. He would want us to recognize that the things that he did was because of his desire, because of the gifts that God had shared with him.

"We can only imagine how many people's lives Michael has touched. Reaching out for them, caring for him. Each day he shared the gift of life."

Rocheleau said he was fortunate to attend the wedding of Michael and Nicole back in 1997. He remembered when Nicole first brought her home to meet the family in Windsor on Boxing Day.

"He was shy, he was afraid, and rightly so because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without making sure he was the right guy," he said. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Wild Art

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170190  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B1  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Jeff Mcintosh, CP AFGHANISTAN: Thousands mourn the death of Cpl. Michael Starker Nicole Starker, centre, wife of Cpl. Michael Starker, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan on May 6, attends his funeral in Calgary yesterday.  
**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# Suicide bomber, age 10

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170165  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Region  
**PAGE:** A1  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORD COUNT:** 328

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A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as about 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol. "He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokesperson for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar. She described it as a "last ditch-attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote-control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al-Qaida in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in yesterday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday.

Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Boy bomber wounds two Canadians

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170593  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 14  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER, CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 349

---

A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 km from Kandahar city, the military said.

## 10 YEARS OLD

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt. Amber Bineau, a spokesman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last-ditch attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings, which has been going on for more than two years.

Earlier this year in Iraq, it's believed two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote-control explosives were used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in yesterday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families. The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul



region outside Kandahar City.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday.

Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

#### SECOND THIS WEEK

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others. Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Calgary soldier and paramedic mourned

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**SOURCETAG:** 0805170592

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 14

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Larry Macdougall, CP Elaine Simon, right, and Lecia Bourne were among hundreds of Calgarians lining downtown streets yesterday to honour the body of Cpl. Michael Starker, a soldier and paramedic killed in Afghanistan last week. His casket was draped in the Canadian flag and transported to the cemetery by an EMS ambulance.

**BYLINE:** TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

**DATELINE:** CALGARY

**WORD COUNT:** 271

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Co-officiating the funeral of his cousin's husband yesterday, a Catholic priest fondly remembered the Christmas visit years ago when his family first met Cpl. Michael Starker.

Starker, killed last Tuesday by Taliban in Afghanistan's Zhari district, was grilled during the Windsor, Ont., visit by the many aunts, uncles and cousins of Nicole, whom he later married in 1997, said Fr. Robert Rocheleau.

"We were rather protective. He was shy, he was afraid, he was uncertain – and rightly so," Rocheleau told the crowd of more than 2,000 mourners who attended the afternoon public funeral service held at the Round-up Centre. "Because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without knowing for sure he was the right guy."

Nicole's family soon came to know and respect Starker, 36, as an upstanding and generous man who served his community in the military and as a city paramedic.

"Michael was a good guy ... always wanting to be a better person," said Rocheleau. "He enjoyed the opportunity to share and make our world a better place."

Starker was shot while on foot patrol not far from a Canadian military base, becoming the 83rd Canadian to die in Afghanistan.

Yesterday afternoon's Roman Catholic mass was packed with men and women in uniform – members of the military, paramedics, police and RCMP.

Some paramedics travelled from as far as Ontario to pay their respects.

Seven men and one woman from Starker's paramedic unit, the 15th Field Ambulance, wheeled his casket into the service draped with the Canadian flag.

Rocheleau thanked the massive congregation for their outpouring of support during this difficult time for the family.

"As we gather here today ... it is an opportunity for all of us to draw close to each other and experience the gift of peace."

Rocheleau humorously remembered Starker as a prankster who enthusiastically embraced life.

"I don't think Michael would enjoy such solemnity," he said about the sadness among the mourners.

Rocheleau also paid tribute to Starker's comrades who are mourning his death in Afghanistan.

Following the one-and-a-half hour mass, Calgary EMS staged a formal public recessional march along a "Route of Valour" to city hall to honour Starker. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# Wild Art

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170578

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Al Charest, Sun Media FINAL SALUTE Thousands of mourners turned out yesterday in Calgary to say farewell to Cpl. Michael Starker, a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan. Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from EMS, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre for Starker's funeral.

**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# Wild Art

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170749  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 24

**ILLUSTRATION:** 8 photos SALUTE TO FALLEN CITY HERO 1. photo by Al Charest, Sun Media Cpl. Travis Lanoway salutes as the casket of Cpl. Michael Starker passes by him yesterday during the funeral procession for the Calgary paramedic who was killed in Afghanistan May 6. 2. 2 photos by Mike Drew, Sun Media A Canadian flag-waver and a woman displaying a two-page Calgary Sun memorial tribute pay respects while the procession makes its way along downtown streets. 3. Hundreds of Calgarians lined streets downtown to pay their respects to Starker 4. 2 photos by Darren Makowichuk, Sun Media 5. The funeral procession makes it way towards City Hall during the funeral cortege 6. 3 photos by Jim Wells, Sun Media Military medals are presented in the recessional following the funeral for Cpl. Michael Starker 7. Calgary EMS member Mike Danforth wipes his face during the funeral 8. Father Robert Rocheleau, cousin of Michael's wife Nicole, makes remarks during the funeral.

**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# Sea of red flags salute dead Canuck soldier

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170722  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 5  
**BYLINE:** TARINA WHITE  
**WORD COUNT:** 224

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Proudly waving Canadian flags, Calgarians turned out to bid farewell yesterday to Canada's latest death on the battlefield.

Following a 90-minute Catholic mass at the Roundup Centre, Calgary EMS staged a formal recessional march along a "Route of Valour" to honour Cpl. Michael Starker, a military reservist who was also a city paramedic.

Starker, 36, was shot and killed last Tuesday on foot patrol near a Canadian military base, the 83rd Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

Josee Vanderstoop, 42, teared up as she watched Starker's casket being loaded into an EMS van to begin the route from the Stampede grounds to City Hall.

She held her Canadian flag high as the procession marched past her, receiving a warm "thank you" mouthed by a member of the military.

"It's really a way of honouring somebody who has given the ultimate sacrifice for trying to achieve peace," she said. "It's really important for us as Calgarians to be able to share in this today and honour Michael Starker."

Phil Reynolds, who lived through the Second World War, also endured the scorching heat to pay her respects.

"Thank God we have people like that go and help," she said about Starker's efforts in Afghanistan. "He must have been a wonderful person."

About two dozen people lined the route that wound along 3 St. S.E. and Macleod Tr. to city hall, where hundreds converged waving flags.

Regardless of the numbers, Cpl. Ryan Mullens, 26, said seeing the sea of red flags and supporters at the end of the march was touching.

"We're looking straight (ahead) but you can see out of the corner of your eyes all the Canadian flags," said Mullens, a reservist with the 33rd Field Engineering Squadron.

"It was really comforting to know that people are here and do care." **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

# Children teach us the lesson of what it is to honour a hero

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**SOURCETAG:** 0805170721

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 5

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Darren Makowichuk, Sun Media Supporters line the street heading into City Hall yesterday during the funeral procession for Cpl. Michael Starker, who was killed last Tuesday in Afghanistan.

**BYLINE:** RICK BELL, CALGARY SUN

**COLUMN:** Page Five

**WORD COUNT:** 661

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You can see the five children.

They stand along the Route of Valour near City Hall and their sign made of black construction paper with the hand-painted message stands out.

Thank You for the Ultimate Gift.

This is what the words on the homemade sign read and, along with the words, are designs painted on the black paper — flowers, a globe, a peace sign in the corner and lots of little Canadian flag stickers all over.

Natasha is nine and she is in the same class as Sara, the niece of Cpl. Michael Starker, the Calgary paramedic who served with the Canadian Force's 15 Field Ambulance and was killed earlier this month by the Taliban while on patrol in Afghanistan.

In school, Natasha and her classmates made cards for Cpl. Starker's family and learned of how he died and of all the good being done by those serving their country.

"We thought it would be good to show respect," says Natasha.

Susanna just turned seven and a man came up to her on the route. He was in tears and gave Susanna a yellow ribbon pin to wear. She points to it.

"It was very emotional," says Susanna's mom, Sandra Van Veen.

Britney, 8, and Austin, 6, and Braden, 4, and their mom Christina Dingman are also with the sign. The kids are among hundreds of individuals in this city who made it to the Route of Valour late yesterday afternoon, on this long weekend marking Victoria Day, once a patriotic holiday and now just another day off.

Many carry full-size flags, others hold the smaller versions aloft. Some stand at attention in silence. Several people along the route weep. Not tears in the eyes. Weep.

An old Calgarian takes off his cowboy hat and places it over his heart, an old soldier salutes as crisply as the

day he put on this nation's uniform as a young man.

There are all ages, all types. Canadians. Sharon Dyer is on Centre St., north of the bridge before you go up the hill. Sharon works at the airport and recently learned how to play the bagpipes.

Yesterday, Sharon plays Amazing Grace as the city ambulance draped in black passes, the ambulance carrying Cpl. Starker to his final resting place at Queen's Park Cemetery's Field of Honour. A hardy group of stalwarts wait three hours to pay tribute to the soldier.

"I was a little disappointed," says Sharon, hoping for more people but proud of those who wanted to mark the sacrifice of this man.

Earlier, at the Roundup Centre, a reading in Cpl. Starker's funeral mass says "it is not easy to die, even for a good man."

And good men do die.

Fr. Rob Rocheleau, cousin of Cpl. Starker's wife Nicole, tells everyone "Michael was a good guy." The priest says the soldier embraced life, wanted to take everything life had to offer and always wanted to be a better person and make the world a better place. He was a lot of fun and loved people.

"Michael shared his goodness with us, not for fame, not for status, but because that was the call placed in his heart."

It is tough, it may even be close to incomprehensible, to understand what this particular call means. Cpl. Starker once served as a full-time soldier, including with the Canadian Airborne Regiment, but was working as a paramedic in Calgary and did not have to be in the 15 Field Ambulance and did not have to place himself in harm's way in a faraway land some folks can't find on a map, knowing, really understanding, he might not come home alive.

How can most of us living in the comforts of Canada really fathom this call?

There is no war effort at home. No Victory Bonds to buy, no scrap metal to collect, no rationing. We hear about the war on the news but most Canadians know no one serving there. No, most of us can't truly wrap our minds or hearts around this call, but we can honour it. And so, yesterday, the mourners and the mourned arrive at City Hall.

Someone on this Route of Valour starts to applaud and others join the clapping. The march is over. Paramedics shake hands with those lining the streets offering their gratitude for those who showed up. The grieving family and friends who have walked behind the ambulance proceed to the burial.

In the distance, a train engine marked Canadian Pacific blows its whistle loud and long and the man at the controls waves. And five children with a sign, the black construction paper now a little worse for wear, head inside City Hall to sign the book of condolence. "Can I sign my full name?" asks one of the kids. You bet you can. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA



# CALGARY'S FALLEN

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170720  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 3 photos 1. photo of NATHAN HORNBURG Reservist 2. photo of KEVIN DALLAIRE PPCLI private 3. photo of NICHOLA GODDARD Combat casualty  
**WORD COUNT:** 160

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– May 6, 2008: Cpl. Michael Starker, 36, is killed in an ambush while on foot patrol Afghanistan's Zhari district. A medic with 15 Field Ambulance and a full-time EMS paramedic, Starker previously served as a paratrooper with the Airborne Regiment. He grew up in the community of Oakridge in the city's southwest.

– Sept. 24, 2007: Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, 24, is killed by an anti-tank round while trying to rescue a disabled tank. A reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, Hornburg was the first Canadian casualty of the Aghanistan mission to officially travel the Highway of Heroes.

– Aug. 3, 2006: Pte. Kevin Dallaire, 22, a member of the 1st Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is killed west of Kandahar by a rocket-propelled grenade. Dallaire attended high school in Calgary.

– May 17, 2006: Capt. Nichola Goddard, 26, dies after a long battle near Kandahar with Taliban insurgents. Born in Papua New Guinea, the young artillery captain was Canada's first female combat casualty.

KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# Giving us peace biggest victory Starker called shy but generous

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**SOURCETAG:** 0805170718

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** 2 photos 1. photo by Darren Makowichuk, Sun Media Nicole Starker, the widow of Cpl. Michael Starker, is seen yesterday during the funeral cortege for her husband. The couple was married in 1997. Starker was killed in action in Afghanistan. 2. photo of MICHAEL STARKER Killed in action

**BYLINE:** TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 262

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Cpl. Michael Starker was fondly remembered for a Christmas visit and first encounter with his wife's family by a Catholic priest co-officiating the slain soldier's funeral yesterday.

Starker, killed last Tuesday in a gunfight with Taliban in Afghanistan's Zhari district, was grilled years ago during the Windsor, Ont., visit by the many aunts, uncles and other relatives of Nicole, whom he later married in 1997, said Fr. Robert Rocheleau, one of the woman's cousins.

"We were rather protective. He was shy, he was afraid, he was uncertain — and rightly so," Rocheleau told the crowd of more than 2,000 mourners who attended the afternoon public funeral service held at the Roundup Centre.

"Because we weren't going to let him take our Nicole without knowing for sure he was the right guy."

Nicole's family soon came to know and respect Starker, 36, as an upstanding and generous man who served his community in the military and as a city paramedic.

"Michael was a good guy... always wanting to be a better person," said Rocheleau.

"He enjoyed the opportunity to share and make our world a better place."

Starker was shot while on foot patrol not far from a Canadian military base, becoming the 83rd Canadian to die in Afghanistan.

Yesterday afternoon's Roman Catholic mass was packed with men and women in uniform — members of the military, paramedics, police and RCMP.

Seven men and one woman from Starker's paramedic unit, the 15th Field Ambulance, wheeled his casket, draped with the Canadian flag, into the service.

Rocheleau thanked the massive congregation for their outpouring of support during this difficult time for the family.

"I know they appreciate all the love, the prayers, the support you have given to them," he said.

"As we gather here today ... it is an opportunity for all of us to draw close to each other and experience the gift of peace.

"We pray for Michael's family the gift of peace and strength."

Rocheleau humorously remembered Starker as prankster who enthusiastically embraced life.

"I don't think Michael would enjoy such solemnity," he said about the sadness among the mourners.

Following the 90-minute mass, Calgary EMS staged a formal public recessional march along a "Route of Valour" to City Hall to honour Starker. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# FRONTPAGE WE MOURN Grief pours into city streets for fallen soldier

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**SOURCETAG** 0805170711  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 1  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 3 photos 1. photo by Al Charest, Sun Media A procession of ambulances along the 'Route of Valour' gave a city the chance to honour Cpl. Michael Starker, whose funeral was yesterday. The reservist and city paramedic was killed in Afghanistan. 2. photo of CPL. MICHAEL STARKER 3. photo Going for gold  
**WORD COUNT:** 0

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# THE AFGHAN MISSION Suicide bomber as young as 10 hits Canadians Two soldiers injured near Kandahar

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 081380276  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**PAGE:** A1  
**BYLINE:** MURRAY BREWSTER  
**SECTION:** International News  
**SOURCE:** CP STAFF  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 431  
**WORD COUNT:** 429

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MURRAY BREWSTER The Canadian Press, with a report from Unnati Gandhi, The Globe and Mail  
KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN A boy, possibly as young as 10, was used in a suicide–bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

Military sources told CTV the boy was about 10, and that he approached the soldiers with his hands in the air, alluding to the possibility the bomb was possibly detonated from a distance by remote control.

"The suicide bomber was a boy wearing a vest," a military spokesman told The Globe and Mail last night.

Earlier, Captain Amber Bineau, a Canadian Forces spokeswoman in Kandahar, condemned the attack as a "last ditch–attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," she said in a statement.

The Forces released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials also speculated the bomb carried by the child was remotely triggered.

If true, it would represent a disturbing turn in the Taliban's campaign of suicide bombings that has been going on for more than two years.

"It would be of deep concern, but it's not that surprising," said Seth Jones, an analyst at RAND Corporation, who was at the airport on his way to Kandahar yesterday. "Children have been involved in fighting for decades, picking up AK–47s and shooting at coalition forces. If this became a pattern, it would be a deadly pattern of what you see in the West Bank, where there actually are younger kids that are suicide attackers." Mr. Jones said if the suicide bomber was, in fact, as young as 10, this would show the depth of the Taliban's recruiting ability.

"It would actually show the opposite, not that they're desperate, but that they've been able to reach across so many different age groups." In recent years, most suicide bombers have been teenagers or men in their 20s, Mr. Jones said. The attack came just more than a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Corporal Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; bombs; children; deaths

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# Suicide bomber around age 10

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170037  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Murray Brewster  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 449

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A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide–bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan yesterday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Captain Amber Bineau, a spokesperson for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch–attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

The Canadian military released no further information on the nature of the attack, but Afghan police officials speculated that the bomb carried by the child might have been remotely activated.

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Earlier this year in Iraq, two mentally handicapped women strapped with remote–control explosives were believed used as unwitting suicide bombers. The blasts, 20 minutes apart, killed 73 people in Baghdad in February. U.S. officials said it was the work of the extremist group, al–Qaeda in Iraq.

Bineau said the two Canadians wounded in yesterday's attack were evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield and able to "walk into the medical facility on their own."

The names of wounded Canadians are normally not released, but Bineau said the two soldiers would notify their families.

The four soldiers were on patrol around 10 a.m. local time in the village of Nalgham, in Zhari district, when the bomber struck.

The attack came just over a week after a Canadian soldier was killed while on foot patrol in the Pashmul region outside Kandahar City.

Corporal Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary yesterday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Yesterday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Governor Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

The explosion occurred in Dialaram, a small town on the main road running through the west and south of the country.

Amin said five police officers, including a district police chief, and seven civilians were among the dead. He said the wounded included at least 11 policemen.

The bomber reportedly approached on foot and detonated the explosives on the busy street where police were inspecting vehicles.

Insurgents launched an estimated 140 suicide bombings last year, when more than 8,000 people, mostly militants, died in insurgency-related violence. At least 1,200 people have died so far this year.



# Final farewells to medic

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**IDNUMBER** 200805170026  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2008.05.17  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A9  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Todd Korol , Reuters / The casket of Corporal Michael Starker is loaded into an ambulance after his funeral yesterday in Calgary. ;  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2008 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 209

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Thousands turned out yesterday to say farewell to a paramedic and reservist killed in Afghanistan with a service that mirrored his life -- quiet and dignified.

His wife, Nicole Starker, and sister Carolyn Straub had joked with reporters earlier in the week that Corporal Michael Starker would be embarrassed by all of the attention his death had generated.

"He'd be uncomfortable," Nicole Starker said. "But on the other hand, had this been one of his buddies instead of him, he would have said they absolutely deserve it, every bit of attention."

Hundreds of uniformed friends and colleagues from EMS, the Canadian Forces and police departments across Alberta turned out at the Calgary Roundup Centre to make sure Starker received the attention he deserved.

Starker, 36, was a reservist medic with Edmonton's 15th Field Ambulance unit and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

He was killed May 6 during an ambush west of Kandahar City in Afghanistan, becoming the 83rd soldier and 84th Canadian killed there since 2002.

Members of the 15th Field Ambulance acted as pallbearers, their heads held high and eyes straight ahead, carrying his coffin draped with the Canadian flag into the service. An insignia bearer carried Starker's headgear.

"Michael was a good guy," said Father Robert Rocheleau, Nicole Starker's cousin, who delivered the homily.

Rocheleau said Starker spent his life working to help others and acknowledged he was not one to look for the spotlight.

# Boy used in Afghan suicide attack

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2008.05.17

**PAGE:** A15

**SECTION:** World Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 383

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CP Wire Murray Brewster KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- A boy possibly as young as 10 was used in a suicide-bomb attack against a joint Canadian and Afghan army patrol in Afghanistan on Friday.

Two Canadian soldiers and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the attack about 40 kilometres from Kandahar city, the military said.

The boy, described by witnesses as around 10 years old, walked up to the army patrol.

"He is believed to have been wearing a suicide vest," said Capt.

Amber Bineau, a spokeswoman for the Canadian army battle group in Kandahar.

She condemned the attack and described it as a "last ditch-attempt" by militants to disrupt the progress of Afghan and NATO forces in establishing security in the country.

"These types of attacks demonstrate a weakness in the insurgency and do not impede the resolve of those who work to make Kandahar province a safe and stable environment," Bineau said in a statement.

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Cpl. Michael Starker, a Calgary paramedic, was shot and killed May 6. His funeral was in Calgary on Friday. Another Canadian was injured in the incident but is expected to recover.

Friday's blast was the second suicide bombing this week in Afghanistan.

An attacker, disguised as a woman and wearing a burka, blew himself up Wednesday outside a police station in the small southwestern province of Farah. That blast killed 12 people and wounded 27 others.

Provincial Gov. Rohul Amin said the bomber was a woman. But the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, identified the attacker as a man named Mullah Khalid who was wearing the burka as a disguise.

-- The Canadian Press