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Family of friendly fire victim wants apology

IDNUMBER 200707050146

PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Front

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: DND / Canadian Forces Pte. Robert Costall in Afghanistan. A U.S. army report says friendly fire from behind killed Costall and Sgt. John Thomas Stone of the Vermont National Guard. ;

DATELINE: THUNDER BAY

SOURCE: Canadian Press

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WORD COUNT: 633

The aunt of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in a friendly fire incident says she is disappointed with a recommendation that no charges be filed in the case.

A U.S. army investigator has recommended that the American machine-gunner who killed Pte. Robert Costall, 22, and a U.S soldier during a heated nighttime battle last year in Afghanistan not be charged.

The recommendation is in documents released Tuesday in the deaths of Costall and Vermont National Guard 1st Sgt. John Thomas Stone.

Costall's aunt, Colleen McBain, says it's her understanding that no statements were taken from Canadian witnesses despite the fact it was Canadians who first indicated her nephew's death was the result of friendly fire.

McBain also told Thunder Bay radio station CKPR in an interview that the family is still waiting for an apology from the U.S. military.

"Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members," she said. "We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose."

McBain also said she is anxious to know what steps are being taken to prevent such an incident from happening again.

"It's not going to bring my nephew back, but I want for the other soldiers over there now, how are they reassured that's not going to happen again?" she said.

Costall was a machine-gunner with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was born in Thunder Bay, and grew up in Gibsons, B.C.

Stone, 52, of Tunbridge, Vt., was an embedded tactical trainer.

In the report, an American army investigator said their deaths, "while regrettable, are understandable in the context of this firefight."

The officer said Costall and 37 other Canadian soldiers were sent to reinforce Forward Operating Base Robinson for an expected Taliban attack on March 28, 2006.

They were moved into the field of fire of a machine-gunner, who was at a Special Forces compound inside the base. Both Costall and Stone, who was on a roof, were hit by shots fired from within the Special Forces compound.

The U.S. documents released Monday marked the first official confirmation that friendly fire caused the deaths.

The Department of National Defence in Ottawa released a statement Tuesday saying: "The Canadian Forces acknowledges a recently released U.S. army report in regard to the death of Private Robert Costall killed in Afghanistan."

It notes the Canadian Forces convened an administrative Board of Inquiry and commenced an investigation within weeks of the 2006 incident.

It said the investigations have been completed and authorities are reviewing the findings.

While the U.S. army report recommended that no charges be filed, it also outlined a series of problems with the leadership overseeing the forward operating base, which had been set up about a month before the deaths.

There were serious supply problems, inadequate planning, communication and co-ordination between the different forces as well as the fatigue of the soldiers who had been under near daily attack and working hard to build the base, the report said.

It said the Canadians, who had been brought in after dark to help repel the attack and were fighting from a berm outside the camp gate, never told the Special Forces soldiers inside the compound where they were going to set up.

The Special Forces captain commanding Forward Operating Base Robinson had an "inadequate base defence plan" and there was an inadequate chain of command between the different forces present: the U.S. Special Forces and embedded tactical trainers, Canadian forces, Afghan National Army and Afghan security guards.

It also criticized the headquarters officers who had recently taken over responsibility for the base.

"Many of the base deficiencies noted in this investigation were immediately obvious," the report said.

"Yet their new chain of command never visited in order to get the kind of situational awareness that 'walking the ground' can provide in order to assist with problem resolution and the correction of obvious deficiencies in base defence planning."

The report made a series of recommendations, including better overall command, base defence planning and better training of soldiers in the use of night vision, thermal imaging and laser devices.

Stone's companion Rose Loving says his death was the result of a series of mistakes by military commanders.

"There's a lot of things that led to this incident," Loving said Tuesday. "That fatigued soldier was the last one of the list of problems. To be fair to everyone, it is just a horrendous tragedy."

Canadian death toll

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.07.05

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

WORD COUNT: 323

Since 2002, 66 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

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July 4 – Six soldiers killed by a road side bomb.

June 20 – Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

June 11 –Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, by a roadside bomb.

May 30 – Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down.

May 25 – Cpl. Matthew McCully, 25, killed by an improvised explosive device (IED).

April 18 – Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower died after falling from a communications tower.

April 11 – Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland killed when their vehicle hit an IED.

April 8 – Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, Pte. David R. Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix and Cpl. Brent Poland killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

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Oct. 7 –Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson killed by roadside bomb.

Oct. 3 – Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell killed in series of mortar, rocket attacks.

Sept. 29 – Pte. Josh Klukie killed by explosion in Panjwahi.

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March 2 – Cpl. Paul Davis and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson killed when their vehicle ran off road.

Jan. 15 – Glyn Berry, Canadian diplomat, killed in suicide bombing. 2005

Nov. 24 – Pte. Braun Woodfield killed when his vehicle rolled over. 2004

Jan. 27 – Cpl. Jamie Murphy killed in suicide bombing while on patrol.

2003

Oct. 2 – Sgt. Robert Short and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger killed in roadside bombing.

2002

April 17 – Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green and Pte. Nathan Smith killed when U.S. F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians.

Apology sought in friendly fire death

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.07.05

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A9

SOURCE: Our Wire Services

WORD COUNT: 337

THUNDER BAY, Ont. – The aunt of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in a friendly fire incident says she is disappointed with a recommendation that no charges be filed in the case.

A U.S. army investigator has recommended that the American machine–gunner who killed Pte. Robert Costall, 22, and a U.S. soldier during a heated nighttime battle last year in Afghanistan not be charged.

The recommendation is in documents released Tuesday in the deaths of Costall and Vermont National Guard 1st Sgt. John Thomas Stone.

Costall's aunt, Colleen McBain, says it's her understanding that no statements were taken from Canadian witnesses despite the fact it was Canadians who first indicated her nephew's death was the result of friendly fire.

McBain also told Thunder Bay, Ont., radio station CKPR in an interview that she is still waiting for an apology from the U.S. military.

"Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members," she said. "We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose."

McBain also said she is anxious to know what steps are being taken to prevent such an incident from happening again. "It's not going to bring my nephew back, but I want for the other soldiers over there now, how are they reassured that's not going to happen again?" she said.

Costall was a machine–gunner with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was born in Thunder Bay, Ont., and grew up in Gibsons, B.C.

Stone, 52, of Tunbridge, Vt., was an embedded tactical trainer.

In the report, an American army investigator said their deaths, "while regrettable, are understandable in the context of this firefight."

The officer said Costall and 37 other Canadian soldiers were sent to reinforce Forward Operating Base Robinson for an expected Taliban attack on March 28, 2006.

They were moved into the field of fire of a machine–gunner, who was at a Special Forces compound inside the base.

Both Costall and Stone, who was on a roof, were hit by shots fired from within the Special Forces compound.

The U.S. documents released Monday marked the first official confirmation that friendly fire caused the deaths.

The Department of National Defence in Ottawa released a statement Tuesday saying: "The Canadian Forces acknowledges a recently released U.S. army report in regard to the death of Private Robert Costall killed in Afghanistan."

Canadian death toll in Afghanistan: 66 soldiers, one diplomat

DATE: 2007.07.04

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 480

Since 2002, 66 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

2007

July 4 _ Cpl. Cole Bartsch, Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe and Pte. Lane Watkins, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Edmonton; and Master Cpl. Colin Bason, a reservist from The Royal Westminster Regiment based in New Westminster, B.C., killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city.

June 20 _ Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.

June 11 _ Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar.

May 30 _ Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban in Helmand province.

May 25 _ Cpl. Matthew McCully, 25, killed by an improvised explosive device in Zhari District.

April 18 _ Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhower, who served with elite special forces, died after falling from a communications tower while on duty conducting surveillance in Kandahar City.

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Aunt of Cdn. soldier killed in Afghan friendly fire incident awaits apology

DATE: 2007.07.04

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 342

THUNDER BAY, Ont. (CP) _ The aunt of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in a friendly-fire incident says she is disappointed with a recommendation that no charges be filed in the case.

A U.S. Army investigator has recommended that the American machine-gunner who killed Pte. Robert Costall, 22, and a U.S soldier during a heated nighttime battle last year in Afghanistan not be charged.

The recommendation is in documents released Tuesday in the deaths of Costall and Vermont National Guard 1st Sgt. John Thomas Stone.

Costall's aunt, Colleen McBain, says it's her understanding that no statements were taken from Canadian witnesses despite the fact it was Canadians who first indicated her nephew's death was the result of friendly fire.

Costall also told Thunder Bay, Ont., radio station CKPR in an interview that she is still waiting for an apology from the U.S. military.

“Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members,” she said. “We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose.”

McBain also said she is anxious to know what steps are being taken to prevent this incident from happening again.

“It's not going to bring my nephew back, but I want for the other soldiers over there now, how are they reassured that's not going to happen again?” she said.

One document, written by an American army officer whose name was blacked out, said the deaths, “while regrettable, are understandable in the context of this firefight.”

The officer said Costall and 37 other Canadian soldiers were sent to reinforce Forward Operating Base Robinson for an expected attack on March 28, 2006.

They were moved into the field of fire of a machine-gunner, who was at a Special Forces compound inside the base.

Costall was a machine-gunner with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was born in Thunder Bay, Ont., and grew up in Gibsons, B.C.

The U.S. documents released Monday marked the first official confirmation that friendly fire caused the deaths.

The Department of National Defence in Ottawa released a statement Tuesday saying: “The Canadian Forces acknowledges a recently released U.S. army report in regard to the death of Private Robert Costall killed in

Afghanistan."

It notes the Canadian Forces convened an administrative Board of Inquiry and commenced an investigation within weeks of the 2006 incident.

It said the investigations have been completed and authorities are reviewing the findings.

--Fourteenth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.07.04

KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 286

The number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002 has risen by 10 per cent in one single day.

Six Canadian soldiers and their Afghan interpreter have been killed in a roadside bombing west of Kandahar.

Some of them would have returned home in just a few more weeks.

But Brigadier-General Tim Grant says soldiers know and understand the risks they take, and today's tragedy does not weaken their resolve.

Canada has now lost 66 soldiers in Afghanistan. (14)

(Afghan-Cda-Friendly-Fire)

A woman whose nephew was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan last year is disappointed the U-S military has no plans to charge anyone.

Colleen McBain is also disappointed U-S military investigators did not take statements from any Canadian soldiers.

Private Robert Costall was part of a group sent out to help U-S forces expecting a Taliban attack.

He and an American soldier were shot and killed by U-S special forces. (14)

(Afghan-Cda-Opposition) (Audio:P08)

Opposition Leader Stephane Dion says there's no way the four main political parties can reach a consensus on Canada's future in Afghanistan.

Dion wants Prime Minister Stephen Harper to tell NATO allies Canada will not extend its mission beyond 2009.

He says no other NATO country now in Afghanistan has been hit harder than Canada. (14)

(Veterans-Pension-Lawsuit)

Lawyers acting for up to 30-thousand Canadian veterans of the wars of the last century are considering appealing a ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

It has struck down an award of 4.6 (b) billion dollars to veterans who suffered mental disability.

The court says the government's handling of soldiers' pensions had already been settled by the Supreme Court of Canada back in 2003. (14)

(CRIME–Family–Slain)

A young teenaged girl has testified she was traumatized after her adult boyfriend killed her entire family in their home in Medicine Hat, Alberta last year.

She says that's why she accepted a jailhouse marriage proposal from him.

The 13–year–old is being cross–examined, a day after admitting to stabbing her eight–year–old brother one time.

The Crown is focusing on the fact she did nothing to get help. (14)

(Treaty–Courts)(Audio:157)

Just three weeks before the Tsawwassen First Nation is to vote on the first treaty in the Lower Mainland of B–C, another group is asking a court to block the deal.

The Semiahmoo (sem–ee–am–oo) First Nation says the land under the agreement overlaps its territory.

A lawyer says signing the treaty as it stands could have long–term consequences. (14)

(NewsWatch by Paul Cross)

Death toll

SOURCETAG 0707050793

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

WORD COUNT: 344

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U.S. F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians.

Canadian casualties

SOURCETAG 0707050411

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

WORD COUNT: 373

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Soldier's kin wants apology from U.S.

SOURCETAG 0707050410

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of ROBERT COSTALL Killed in firefight 2. photo by Stephanie Levitz, CP
Brig-Gen. Tim Grant, the commander of the Canadian contingent in Afghanistan, relays the news that six Canadian soldiers were killed in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

BYLINE: AP AND CP

DATELINE: THUNDER BAY

WORD COUNT: 264

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"Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members," she said. "We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose."

McBain also said she is anxious to know what steps are being taken to prevent such an incident from happening again.

"It's not going to bring my nephew back, but I want for the other soldiers over there now, how are they reassured that's not going to happen again?" she said.

Costall was a machine-gunner with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was born in Thunder Bay and grew up in Gibsons, B.C.

Stone, 52, of Tunbridge, Vt., was an embedded tactical trainer.

In the report, an American army investigator said their deaths, "while regrettable, are understandable in the context of this firefight."

The officer said Costall and 37 other Canadian soldiers were sent to reinforce Forward Operating Base Robinson for an expected Taliban attack on March 28, 2006.

They were moved into the field of fire of a machine–gunner, who was at a Special Forces compound inside the base.

Both Costall and Stone, who was on a roof, were hit by shots fired from within the Special Forces compound.

The U.S. documents released Monday marked the first official confirmation that friendly fire caused the deaths. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

No charges over friendly fire 'disappointing'

SOURCETAG 0707050727

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Early

SECTION: News

PAGE: 38

BYLINE: CP AND AP

DATELINE: THUNDER BAY

WORD COUNT: 152

The aunt of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in a friendly fire incident says she is disappointed with a recommendation that no charges be filed in the case.

A U.S. army investigator has recommended that the American machine-gunner who killed Pte. Robert Costall, 22, and a U.S. soldier in a heated nighttime battle last year in Afghanistan not be charged.

The recommendation is in documents released Tuesday in the deaths of Costall and Vermont National Guard 1st Sgt. John Thomas Stone.

Costall's aunt, Colleen McBain, says it's her understanding that no statements were taken from Canadian witnesses, despite the fact it was Canadians who first indicated her nephew's death was the result of friendly fire.

McBain also told a Thunder Bay radio station that she is still waiting for an apology from the U.S. military.

"Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members," she said.

"We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose."

In his report, an American army investigator said the soldiers' deaths, "while regrettable, are understandable in the context of this firefight." KEYWORDS=CANADA

War victims

SOURCETAG 0707050581

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

BYLINE: CP

WORD COUNT: 166

Since 2002, 66 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the victims:

2007

July 4 l. Cole Bartsch, Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe and Pte. Lane Watkins, Master Cpl. Colin Bason

June 20 — Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe

June 11 — Trooper Darryl Caswell

May 30 — Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede

May 25 l. Matthew McCully

April 18 — Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhauer

April 11 — Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland

April 8 — Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, Pte. David R. Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix and Cpl. Brent Poland

March 6 l. Kevin Megeney

2006

Nov. 27 — Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Girouard and Cpl. Albert Stormilled

Oct. 14 — Sgt. Darcy Tedford and Pte. Blake Williamson

Oct. 7 — Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson.

Oct. 3 — Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell

Sept. 29 — Pte. Josh Klukie

Sept. 18 — Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Shane Keating, Cpl. Keith Morley and Cpl. Glen Arnold

Sept. 4 — Pte. Mark Graham

Sept. 3 — Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan

Aug. 22 1. David Braun killed in suicide attack.

Aug. 11 1. Andrew Eykelenboom

Aug. 9 — Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh

Aug. 5 — Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt

Aug. 3 1. Christopher Reid, Sgt. Vaughan Ingram, Cpl. Bryce Keller and Pte. Kevin Dallaire

July 22 1. Francisco Gomez and Cpl. Jason Warren

July 9 1. Anthony Boneca

May 17 — Capt. Nichola Goddard

April 22 1. Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell, Lt. William Turner and Cpl. Randy Payne

March 29 — Pte. Robert Costall

March 2 1. Paul Davis and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson

Jan. 15 — Glyn Berry, British-born Canadian

2005

Nov. 24 — Pte. Braun Woodfield

2004

Jan. 27 1. Jamie Murphy

2003

Oct. 2 — Sgt. Robert Short and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger

2002

April 17 — Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green and Pte. Nathan Smith

KEYWORDS=WORLD

66 Death toll of Canada's military in Afghanistan; Road bomb kills six soldiers returning to base

IDNUMBER 200707050141

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2007.07.05

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / Cpl. Rikk Lewis, right, embraces a soldier upon his arrival at Ma'sum Ghar base in southeastern Afghanistan, yesterday. ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Don Martin

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 712

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The Canadian military casualty count in southern Afghanistan reached 66 yesterday after six soldiers died when their armoured vehicle was demolished by an improvised explosive device planted in a gravel road, killing everyone on board.

"This was a convoy that was returning from a forward operating area to their home base," said Brig.-Gen. Tim Grant, the Canadians' commanding officer, adding the attack occurred about 20 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City.

Four of the dead are: Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Cpl. Cole Bartsch and Pte. Lane Watkins, all of 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, and Master-Cpl. Colin Bason, a reservist from The Royal Westminster Regiment.

The soldiers, who would have finished their deployment in Afghanistan at the end of the month, were travelling in an RG-31 Nyala armoured vehicle, he said.

"Clearly they have managed to kill six great young Canadians today and that is a tragedy. These are not the tactics of anything other than terrorists.

"This part of Afghanistan, the Panjwai area, is one of the safer areas in the province. It is an area we are comfortable in travelling in. We have great relationships with the local elders and the leadership and with the people on the ground," Grant said. "The attacks on us and our Afghan colleagues will not diminish our resolve and determination to bring to Afghanistan a peaceful land for the children of this country."

The identities of the other two Canadians, who are part of the 37-nation International Security Assistance Force, have not been released. An Afghan interpreter also died in the blast.

The incident occurred while the soldiers were returning from joint operations with the Afghan National Army, according to a Defence Department statement.

"This joint operation was dubbed Operation Luger," the statement said and "was completed without incident, and the attack occurred as the patrol returned to a nearby forward operating base."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the deadliest since Easter Sunday when six Canadian soldiers were killed in a similar incident.

Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Cpl. Brent Poland, Pte. Kevin Vincent Kennedy and Pte. David Robert Greenslade, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Gagetown, N.B., were killed in the April 8 blast when the vehicle they were riding in hit an explosive device. Cpl. Christopher Paul Stannix, a reservist from the Princess Louise Fusiliers, based in Halifax, also died. One other soldier was seriously injured.

The insurgents have now claimed a record heavy toll of Canadian lives in the last three months, with five explosions killing a total of 19 soldiers amid the usual summer jump in attack activity. This particularly rotation of soldiers has suffered 22 deaths with four weeks to go before they return to Canada.

Improvised explosive devices or homemade roadside bombs continue to inflict casualties on the NATO mission in Afghanistan and the U.S. military in Iraq. To date, IEDs have been responsible for 27 of the 66 Canadian military fatalities in Afghanistan since 2002, including 19 of the 22 who have died this year.

Yesterday's deaths come just a few days after three Canadians killed in Afghanistan were laid to rest. Funerals were held Saturday for Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe, who died June 20 when their unarmoured Gator transport vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Kandahar.

There are 2,500 Canadian troops deployed in the southern part of Afghanistan.

— — —

Another deadly day

THE FALLEN

2007: 22 DEATHS

— July 4: Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Cpl. Cole Bartsch, Pte. Lane Watkins, Master-Cpl. Colin Bason and two unidentified Canadians

— June 20: Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane, Pte. Joel Wiebe

— June 11: Trooper Darryl Caswel

— May 30: Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede

— May 25: Cpl. Matthew McCully

— April 18: The first death of a special forces

member while on duty

in Afghanistan

— April 11: Master Cpl. Allan Stewart, Trooper Patrick Pentland

— April 8: Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Cpl. Brent Poland, Pte. Kevin Vincent Kennedy, Pte. David Robert Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher Paul Stannix

– March 6: Cpl. Kevin Megeney

2006: 36 DEATHS

– Nov. 27: Cpl. Albert Storm, Chief Warrant

Officer Robert Girouard

– Oct. 14: Sgt. Darcy

Tedford, Pte. Blake Williamson

– Oct. 7: Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson

– Oct. 3: Cpl. Robert Thomas James Mitchell, Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam

– Sept. 29: Pte. Josh Klukie

– Sept. 18: Cpl. Shane Keating, Cpl. Keith

Morley, Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Glen Arnold

– Sept. 4: Pte. Mark Anthony Graham

– Sept. 3: Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish,

Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Pte. William Jonathan James Cushley

– Aug. 22: Cpl. David Braun

– Aug. 11: Cpl. Andrew James Eykelenboom

– Aug. 9: Master Cpl.

Jeffrey Scott Walsh

– Aug. 5: Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt

– Aug. 3: Cpl. Christopher Jonathan Reid,

Sgt. Vaughn Ingram,

Cpl. Bryce Jeffrey Keller, Pte. Kevin Dallaire

– July 22: Cpl. Francisco Gomez, Cpl. Jason

Patrick Warren

– July 9: Cpl. Anthony Joseph Boneca

– May 17: Capt. Nichola Goddard

– April 22: Cpl. Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell,

Lt. William Turner,

Cpl. Randy Payne

– March 28–29: Pte. Robert Costall

– March 5: Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson

– March 2: Cpl. Paul Davis

– Jan. 15: Glyn Berry,

a diplomat

2005: 1 DEATH

– Nov. 24: Pte. Braun Scott Woodfield

2004: 1 DEATH

– Jan. 27: Cpl. Jamie

Murphy

2003: 2 DEATHS

– Oct. 2: Sgt. Robert Alan Short, Cpl. Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger

2002: 4 DEATHS

– April 18: Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green, Pte. Nathan Smith

Taliban attack deadliest since Easter

IDNUMBER 200707050006
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.07.05
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / Cpl. Rikk Lewis(right) embraces a soldier upon his safe arrival at Ma'sum Ghar base in southeastern Afghanistan. ; Colour Photo: SIX CANADIAN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN WEDNESDAY. FOUR OF THEM ARE PICTURED HERE. The other two have not been identified.: Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe ; Colour Photo: Cpl. Cole Bartsch ; Colour Photo: Pte. Lane Watkins ; Colour Photo: Master-Cpl. Colin Bason ;
KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Don Martin
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 1027

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The Canadian military casualty count in southern Afghanistan reached 66 Wednesday after six soldiers died when their armoured vehicle was demolished by an improvised explosive device planted in a gravel road, killing everyone on board.

"This was a convoy that was returning from a forward operating area to their home base," said Brig.-Gen. Tim Grant, the Canadians' commanding officer, adding the attack occurred about 20 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City.

Four of the dead are: Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe, Cpl. Cole Bartsch and Pte. Lane Watkins, all of 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, and Master Cpl. Colin Bason of Abbotsford, a reservist from the Royal Westminster Regiment.

The soldiers, who would have finished their deployment in Afghanistan at the end of the month, were travelling in an RG-31 Nyala armoured vehicle, he said.

"Clearly they have managed to kill six great young Canadians today and that is a tragedy.

"These are not the tactics of anything other than terrorists.

"This part of Afghanistan, the Panjwai area, is one of the safer areas in the province. It is an area we are comfortable in travelling in. We have great relationships with the local elders and the leadership and with the people on the ground," Grant said.

"The attacks on us and our Afghan colleagues will not diminish our resolve and determination to bring to Afghanistan a peaceful land for the children of this country."

The identities of the other two Canadians, who are part of the 37-nation International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), were not immediately released. An Afghan interpreter also died in the blast.

The total number of Canadians killed in the Afghan conflict is raised to 67 when diplomat Glyn Berry is included.

The latest incident occurred while the soldiers were returning from joint operations with the Afghan National Army, according to a Defence Department statement.

"This joint operation was dubbed Operation Luger," the statement said and "was completed without incident, and the attack occurred as the patrol returned to a nearby forward operating base."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the deadliest since Easter Sunday when six Canadian soldiers were killed in a similar incident.

Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Cpl. Brent Poland, Pte. Kevin Vincent Kennedy and Pte. David Robert Greenslade, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Gagetown, N.B., were killed in the April 8 blast when the vehicle they were travelling in hit an explosive device. Cpl. Christopher Paul Stannix, a reservist from the Princess Louise Fusiliers, based in Halifax, also died. One other soldier was seriously injured.

The insurgents have now claimed a record heavy toll of Canadian lives in the last three months, with five explosions killing a total of 19 soldiers amid the usual summer jump in attack activity. This particularly rotation of soldiers has suffered 22 deaths with four weeks to go before they return to Canada.

Improvised explosive devices or homemade roadside bombs continue to inflict casualties on the NATO mission in Afghanistan and the U.S. military in Iraq.

To date, the bombs have been responsible for 27 of the 66 Canadian military fatalities in Afghanistan since 2002, including 19 of the 22 who have died this year.

Wednesday's deaths come just a few days after three Canadians killed in Afghanistan were laid to rest.

Funerals were held Saturday for Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Bouzane and Pte. Joel Wiebe, who died June 20 when their unarmoured Gator transport vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Kandahar.

There are 2,500 Canadian troops deployed in the southern part of Afghanistan. Some 2,000 soldiers from Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment are due to begin a six-month rotation in August, replacing the bulk of the force now there.

A recent poll shows that whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found that only about one in four Canadians believes that either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success.

Even so, soldiers on the ground here argue passionately that Canada must remain firmly engaged in a battle to eliminate the Taliban.

"Every soldier's death makes us more determined to stay, otherwise their sacrifice will be in vain," Sgt. Paul Pay, a member of the Hotel Company platoon that suffered the six Easter Sunday casualties, said recently.

Senior officers with regional command predict this year will exceed the 2,853 "significant activities" of combat against the enemy recorded in Kandahar during 2006. They openly admit Kandahar is one of only two

provinces classified as unstable.

Liberal leader Stephane Dion offered his support to the Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan in the wake of the latest deaths.

"We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women of the Canadian Forces as they risk their lives to create a safer and more secure world for Canadians and people the world over," he said.

CANADA'S OTHER FALLEN

Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, Trooper Darryl Caswell, Master Cpl. Darrell Priede, Cpl. Matthew McCully, Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhouwer, Master Cpl. Allan Stewart, Trooper Patrick James Pentland, Pte. David Robert Greenslade, Pte. Kevin Vincent Kennedy, Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix, Cpl. Brent Poland, Cpl. Kevin Megeney, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard, Cpl. Albert Storm, Sgt. Darcy Tedford, Pte. Blake Williamson, Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson, Sgt. Craig Paul Gillam, Cpl. Robert Thomas James Mitchell, Pte. Josh Klukie, Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Glen Arnold, Cpl. Shane Keating, Cpl. Keith Morley, Pte. Mark Anthony Graham, Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan, Pte. William Jonathan James Cushley, Cpl. David Braun, Cpl. Andrew James Eykelenboom, Master Cpl. Jeffrey Scott Walsh, Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt, Sgt. Vaughn Ingram, Cpl. Bryce Jeffrey Keller, Pte. Kevin Dallaire, Cpl. Christopher Jonathan Reid, Cpl. Francisco Gomez, Cpl. Jason Patrick Warren, Cpl. Anthony Boneca, Capt. Nichola Goddard, Cpl. Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell, Lt. William Turner, Cpl. Randy Payne, Pte. Robert Costall, Cpl. Paul Davis, Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson, Diplomat Glyn Berry, Pte. Braun Scott Woodfield, Cpl. Jamie Brendan Murphy, Sgt. Robert Alan Short, Cpl. Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger, Sgt. Marc D. Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green, Pte. Nathan Smith. (Names are in reverse chronological order in which deaths occurred.)

Canadian death toll in Afghanistan rises to 67 — 66 soldiers and a diplomat

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PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.07.05
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SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A6
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
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WORD COUNT: 430

Since 2002, 66 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan. Here is a list of the deaths:

2007

- * July 4 — Six soldiers killed by a road side bomb in Panjwaii district west of Kandahar city.
- * June 20 — Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane and Pte. Joel Vincent Wiebe, all of 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar.
- * June 11 — Trooper Darryl Caswell, 25, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar.
- * May 30 — Master Cpl. Darrell Jason Priede, killed when a U.S. helicopter was reportedly shot down by the Taliban in Helmand province.
- * May 25 — Cpl. Matthew McCully, 25, killed by an improvised explosive device in Zhari district.
- * April 18 — Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhauer, who served with elite special forces, died after falling from a communications tower while on duty conducting surveillance in Kandahar City.
- * April 11 — Master Cpl. Allan Stewart and Trooper Patrick James Pentland killed when their Coyote vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.
- * April 8 — Sgt. Donald Lucas, Cpl. Aaron E. Williams, Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy, Pte. David R. Greenslade, Cpl. Christopher P. Stannix and Cpl. Brent Poland killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.
- * March 6 — Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, killed in accidental shooting at NATO base in Kandahar.

2006

- * Nov. 27 — Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Girouard and Cpl. Albert Storm killed by suicide car bomber.
- * Oct. 14 — Sgt. Darcy Tedford and Pte. Blake Williamson killed in ambush.
- * Oct. 7 — Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson killed by roadside bomb.

- * Oct. 3 — Sgt. Craig Gillam and Cpl. Robert Mitchell killed in series of mortar, rocket attacks.
- * Sept. 29 — Pte. Josh Klukie killed by explosion in Panjwahi while on foot patrol.
- * Sept. 18 — Pte. David Byers, Cpl. Shane Keating, Cpl. Keith Morley and Cpl. Glen Arnold killed in suicide bicycle bomb attack while on foot patrol in Panjwahi.
- * Sept. 4 — Pte. Mark Graham killed when two NATO planes accidentally strafed Canadian troops in Panjwahi.
- * Sept. 3 — Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan killed in fighting in Panjwahi district.
- * Aug. 22 — Cpl. David Braun killed in suicide attack.
- * Aug. 11 — Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom killed in suicide attack.
- * Aug. 9 — Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh killed by apparent accidental discharge of rifle.
- * Aug. 5 — Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt killed when his G-Wagon patrol vehicle collided with truck.
- * Aug. 3 — Cpl. Christopher Reid killed by roadside bomb. Sgt. Vaughan Ingram, Cpl. Bryce Keller and Pte. Kevin Dallaire killed in rocket-propelled grenade attack.
- * July 22 — Cpl. Francisco Gomez and Cpl. Jason Warren killed when car packed with explosives rammed their armoured vehicle.
- * July 9 — Cpl. Anthony Boneca killed in firefight.
- * May 17 — Capt. Nichola Goddard killed in Taliban ambush. She was first Canadian woman to be killed in action while serving in combat role.
- * April 22 — Cpl. Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell, Lt. William Turner and Cpl. Randy Payne killed when their G-Wagon destroyed by roadside bomb.
- * March 29 — Pte. Robert Costall killed in firefight with Taliban.
- * March 2 — Cpl. Paul Davis and Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson killed when their armoured vehicle ran off road.
- * Jan. 15 — Glyn Berry, British-born Canadian diplomat, killed in suicide bombing.

2005

- * Nov. 24 — Pte. Braun Woodfield killed when his armoured vehicle rolled over.

2004

- * Jan. 27 — Cpl. Jamie Murphy killed in suicide bombing while on patrol.

2003

* Oct. 2 — Sgt. Robert Short and Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger killed in roadside bombing.

2002

* April 17 — Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green and Pte. Nathan Smith killed when U.S. F-16 fighter mistakenly bombed Canadians.

THE AFGHAN MISSION: U.S. ARMY INVESTIGATION

Relative wants apology for friendly-fire death

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IDN: 071860209

DATE: 2007.07.05

PAGE: A12

BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: CP AP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Thunder Bay ONT

WORDS: 376

WORD COUNT: 378

Canadian Press and Associated Press THUNDER BAY The aunt of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in a friendly-fire incident says she is disappointed with a recommendation that no charges be filed in the case.

A U.S. Army investigator made the recommendation in documents released Tuesday in the deaths of Private Robert Costall, 22, and Vermont National Guard Sergeant First Class Thomas Stone.

Pte. Costall's aunt, Colleen McBain, says it's her understanding that no statements were taken from Canadian witnesses despite the fact it was Canadians who first indicated her nephew's death was the result of friendly fire.

Ms. McBain also told the Thunder Bay radio station CKPR in an interview that she is still waiting for an apology from the U.S.

military.

"Apologies for the mistake, to my knowledge, haven't been issued from the U.S. military to the family members," she said. "We're just getting more and more disappointed, I suppose." Ms. McBain also said she is anxious to know what steps are being taken to prevent such an incident from happening again. "It's not going to bring my nephew back, but I want for the other soldiers over there now, how are they reassured that's not going to happen again?" she said.

Pte. Costall was a machine-gunner with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Sgt. Stone, 52, of Tunbridge, Vt., was an embedded tactical trainer.

The Department of National Defence in Ottawa released a statement Tuesday noting that the Canadian Forces convened an administrative Board of Inquiry and began an investigation within weeks of the 2006 incident. It said the investigations have been completed and authorities are reviewing the findings.

The U.S. Army report did outline a series of problems with the leadership overseeing the forward operating base. And it said the Canadians, who had been brought in after dark to help repel the attack and were fighting from a berm outside the camp gate, never told the Special Forces soldiers inside the compound where they were going to set up.

The report made a series of recommendations, including better overall command, base defence planning and better training of soldiers in the use of a variety of equipment, especially night vision, thermal imaging and laser devices.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada; United States

SUBJECT TERM: war deaths; strife; accidents

PERSONAL NAME: Robert Costall; Thomas Stone

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces