

## Adventure, duty and other reasons for being here

KATHERINE O'NEILL, TODAY AT 8:23 AM EDT

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Whenever I met a Canadian soldier, I'm almost always asked the same two questions.

The first being, do I receive danger pay?

The second, did I volunteer for this assignment?

I'm fascinated about why they are here. Despite the extraordinary personal sacrifice, some soldiers have voluntarily been deployed to Afghanistan more than once.

When I ask soldiers why they raised their hand to do a tour, I've heard lots of different answers. Some come for the adventure, others because they believe deeply in the international military mission and are proud to represent Canada.

For Warrant Officer Patty Forest, a Shilo, Man.-based soldier, it's all about his platoon.

This is his 18th year as a soldier, and WO Forest came mainly so that his experience and training could be used to make sure his 38 guys, mostly soldiers in their 20s, come home alive and in one piece.

He's a member of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, C-Company, 7 Platoon. Their tour ends this September.

"If I bring 38 guys home safely to their families, then I will have done my job," he said.

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