

# Table of Contents

<u>General decries lack of NATO equipment; Afghanistan Mission.....</u>	1
<u>Canada eyes nuclear alliance; Apec Summit; Agenda Must Be Line With Our Priorities; Bernier.....</u>	3
<u>Warriors Day events start tonight at legion.....</u>	5
<u>Canada shouldn't send troops everywhere.....</u>	6
<u>NATO generals map Afghan plans.....</u>	7
<u>Troops gaining against Taliban: military.....</u>	9
<u>Letters.....</u>	11
<u>NATO generals meet in Canada.....</u>	15
<u>[KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)– Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest...]</u>	16
<u>NATO mulls Afghan roles; Netherlands may be pulling out.....</u>	18
<u>It's finally true – Canada is punching above its weight.....</u>	20
<u>Taliban fighting strength sapped, general says.....</u>	22
<u>Price of freedom.....</u>	24
<u>Blasts claim two NATO troops in Afghanistan; Fighting heats up as Taliban attack coalition forces....</u>	25
<u>Thief returns painting of fallen Canadian soldier.....</u>	27
<u>Allies put Canadian troops at risk; Lack of support, restrictions make mission tougher.....</u>	29
<u>Top NATO generals meet in Canada to map Afghanistan strategy.....</u>	31
<u>Afghan, coalition troops kill more than 40 insurgents in latest clashes.....</u>	34
<u>bc-CCN-ON-GOV-PLT.....</u>	35
<u>NATO's top generals meet in Canada to map Afghanistan strategy.....</u>	38
<u>INDEX:Defence, International, Politics.....</u>	39
<u>Two NATO soldiers, 40 insurgents killed in southern Afghanistan.....</u>	40
<u>General says troop shortage is hindering Afghanistan gains; Top NATO officer, a Canadian, says 'gaps' are being debated as alliance meets in Ottawa.....</u>	41

# Table of Contents

<u>Guilty thief mails back painting of slain soldier.....</u>	43
<u>Afghan war on drugs still makes sense.....</u>	45
<u>NATO allies shirking duty, Canadian general charges; Senior alliance official says some members not doing enough in Afghanistan war.....</u>	46
<u>Doc presses for 9/11 truth.....</u>	48
<u>Good works.....</u>	49
<u>Apologetic thief returns portrait of fallen soldier; Painting returned to gallery with note.....</u>	51
<u>NATO praises Canadian effort; Alliance will respect Canada's decision on length of Afghan mission, top general says.....</u>	53
<u>Canada urged to soldier on in Afghanistan Bin Laden video on way.....</u>	55
<u>NATO committed until job is done.....</u>	57
<u>Afghan progress a reality, official says.....</u>	58
<u>Bomb blasts kill two NATO soldiers.....</u>	60
<u>NATO urges Canada to help finish the job The organization's military adviser hopes our troops stay in Afghanistan past February 2009.....</u>	62
<u>Mercer touches down COMIC COMES TO TOWN TO HELP A FRIEND: PAUL FRANKLIN.....</u>	63
<u>Gaining ground: top general.....</u>	65
<u>Two NATO soldiers killed in attacks.....</u>	66
<u>'Stay the course,' Canada told.....</u>	67
<u>NATO soldiers among dead in Afghanistan.....</u>	68
<u>Calgary flies military flag.....</u>	69
<u>Three allies look haphazard in dealing with North Korea.....</u>	70
<u>More rigorous controls needed for Canada's aid to Afghanistan.....</u>	72
<u>Lack of NATO support puts Canadian troops at risk; official; Troop restrictions make it tough for Canadians and their allies on front lines, says Gen. Ray Henault, head of the alliance's military committee.....</u>	74

# Table of Contents

<u>Picking a new top soldier; How long will our troops stay in Afghanistan and who will lead them?.....</u>	76
<u>Battles kill 60 Taliban.....</u>	78
<u>'Je m'excuse': Stolen portrait mysteriously returns.....</u>	79
<u>NATO must equalize duties: Henault; Urges other nations to lift caveat. Canada, Netherlands, Britain and U.S. left in areas facing heaviest casualties.....</u>	81
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION: A PARALLEL DEBATE RAGES IN EUROPE Berlin begs Ottawa to stay past 2009 With its public increasingly unnerved about terrorism and war, Germany implores Canada to stay the course for the greater good.....</u>	83
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION Stay the course, NATO urges Canada Top military officer hopeful Ottawa will extend commitment beyond February, 2009.....</u>	86
<u>Those who fight oppression are heroes.....</u>	88
<u>Hamilton soldier will receive full military funeral; Major Raymond Ruckpaul died in Afghanistan in August.....</u>	89
<u>NATO soldiers killed in blast.....</u>	91
<u>In the line of fire Part 1.....</u>	92
<u>NATO countries failing to live up to obligations in Afghanistan: Henault.....</u>	95
<u>NATO backup urged; Former Canadian brass repeats call for support.....</u>	96
<u>Aid can do more harm than good.....</u>	98
<u>Tent city to house war-crimes trials at Guantanamo Bay; Case against Canadian Khadr to be decided in issue of 'unlawful enemy combatants'.....</u>	100
<u>Timid allies endanger Canadian troops, NATO military chief Henault says; Fewer restrictions make our forces more effective.....</u>	102
<u>Painting thief writes 'I'm sorry' in mailing piece back to gallery.....</u>	105
<u>General decries lackof NATO troops, supplies; Afghanistan Mission.....</u>	107
<u>THE FACES OF WAR.....</u>	109
<u>Painting of fallen soldier returned with apology.....</u>	110

# General decries lack of NATO equipment; Afghanistan Mission

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Wayne Cuddington, CanWest News Service/ NATO's military committee arrives in Ottawa yesterday. General Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, said some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment to the Afghanistan theatre. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 580

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OTTAWA – Canadian soldiers and their allies in southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said yesterday.

General Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Gen. Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements [through] what we call 'caveats.' "

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region or particular area to maintain those gains, to consolidate them," Gen. Henault said.

Gen. Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and bureaucrat, a diffuser of controversy. He is every bit the opposite of the outspoken General Rick Hillier, who succeeded him as Canada's defence chief and who is hosting his counterparts here.

But, shortly after his plane touched down from Brussels, Gen. Henault bluntly confronted both the caveats controversy and a second major headache that has dogged NATO since it began sending troops to Afghanistan five years ago: that some member countries are not living up to their original promises of equipment and personnel.

The Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February, 2009. Gen. Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

"We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan, again because of what Canada represents to the international community," he said.

"We're certainly focused on what the Dutch decision will be ... we're hopeful that they will also find ways of continuing to operate in Afghanistan, if that's possible."

The Dutch parliament must vote to extend its military commitment, which will otherwise end in August, 2008.

The Harper government has said Canada's 2,500 troops won't continue combat operations in Afghanistan beyond a February, 2009, commitment unless there is a consensus in Parliament to extend the mission.

**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN RELATIONS; ORGANIZATIONS; DEFENCE; WAR; ARMED FORCES; CANADA

# Canada eyes nuclear alliance; Apec Summit; Agenda Must Be Line With Our Priorities: Bernier

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**DATELINE:** SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
**BYLINE:** Mike De Souza  
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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – Canada wants to keep an eye on a U.S.–led international nuclear partnership, and will decide within days whether to join the new energy group, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier says.

Wrapping up a series of meetings with his foreign counterparts at the Asia Pacific Economic Co–operation summit, Mr. Bernier hinted that Canada would likely attend a meeting of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership later this month.

"We have a considerable interest in whatever the United States and the international community have in mind in terms of future uranium development production and marketing," Mr. Bernier said at a news conference late Wednesday night with International Trade Minister David Emerson. "It's a question of days, but before going there, we want to be sure that the agenda is in line with our priorities as a country."

Mr. Bernier's comments followed an announcement by Australian Prime Minister John Howard that his country would join the partnership. Trade Minister Warren Truss also suggested in an interview that together, Canada and Australia could use their position as major suppliers of uranium to set the rules for the industry to ensure that the technology is used for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Bernier also said Canada would try to beef up an APEC leaders' declaration on climate change so that it would call for global greenhouse gas emissions to be slashed by 50% by 2050.

But Mr. Emerson said reforms to trade within APEC and the World Trade Organization were also important topics on the table at the summit. He said Canada had a particular focus on Asia.

He also joked that Mr. Bernier was doing very well in his first major trip as foreign affairs minister, including having "lots of fun" after a dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Mr. Bernier said he and his American counterpart discussed numerous issues, including Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

"We had a very frank discussion on our participation in Afghanistan," Mr. Bernier said. "I can assure you that like the other meetings I had with other counterparts, she's very happy with what we're doing right now in Afghanistan and very proud of the work of our people there, our soldiers, our humanitarian workers, our diplomats and our work on the reconstruction of the Afghan government and democracy."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who arrived yesterday, will deliver an address to business leaders about climate change and energy security.

**KEYWORDS:** PIPELINES

# Warriors Day events start tonight at legion

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Veterans of wars past and present will march through downtown tomorrow to honour fallen comrades.

Opening ceremonies for the annual Warriors Day events start tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Galt branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on Veterans Way, along Ainslie Street South.

Tomorrow's events start with an 8 a.m. breakfast at the legion. At 10 a.m., a memorial service is planned at the Galt cenotaph at Queen's Square.

At 11 a.m., hundreds of soldiers and members of local legion branches will form ranks on Shade Street, along with eight marching bands, cadet corps and military vehicles.

The parade heads out onto Main Street at noon, turns south along Ainslie Street and ends at the legion, where lunch will be served.

Warriors Day co-ordinator Derek Mills, president of the Galt legion, said six local soldiers who have served in Afghanistan are expected to march in the parade. Another group of local soldiers preparing to serve a tour in the country are also invited to join the parade, he said.

Events end Sunday with breakfast at the legion from 8 to 10 a.m.



# Canada shouldn't send troops everywhere

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**COLUMN:** LETTER OF THE DAY  
**BYLINE:** Paul Morell  
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I would like to comment on William Christian's Sept. 1 column, Canada Has Always Tried To Get By With Too-Small Military.

There are several misleading statements in the column. The writer seems to group the war in Afghanistan and peacekeeping operations as one in the same. They are not.

The war in Afghanistan began with bombing and continues with bombing. This bombing has so far killed twice as many innocent civilians as the Taliban has this year alone.

I agree that this war has placed a great toll on our ability to participate in legitimate peacekeeping operations. These operations do not require the military hardware that Christian alludes to us lacking.

It is disturbing that a professor of political science seems to place the troops and part of the elected opposition as equals. NDP Leader Jack Layton is well within his rights, as an elected member of Parliament, to advocate for bringing the troops home now.

It is not relevant if the troops want to stay or go; they are there to serve the Canadian government.

Canada will never have a military capable of defending our borders from aggression by a super power. Canadian sovereignty and security would be better served by holding the superpower to our south accountable to the rules of international law rather than supposing that we have to have troops somewhere.

Paul Morell

Waterloo

# NATO generals map Afghan plans

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**PAGE:** A4  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
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NATO's top generals have arrived in Canada for a meeting to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan.

The protracted battle to put down the Taliban insurgency has Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

Gen. Ray Henault, chair of NATO's military committee and former chief of Canada's defence staff, said the alliance has not received formal notice from Ottawa that it intends to end its combat commitment as scheduled in February 2009.

He said the alliance anticipates there will be changes but has not begun the formal process of scouting out replacement nations.

"A lot of things happen in 18 months," he told a news conference in Ottawa.

"We're certainly hopeful Canada will find a way to continue to operate in Afghanistan."

The opposition Liberals and Bloc Qu b cois want Canadian troops pulled out of Kandahar when the mandate of the mission expires in 2009. The NDP have long demanded an immediate withdrawal.

Henault said he hopes Canada will stay because progress is being made, but added the final decision rests with the government.

He said there's no way to say when NATO will achieve its objectives in Afghanistan.

"There isn't a date you can set on that. It's an end state."

The more immediate concern for NATO is the bellwether decision expected within weeks by the Netherlands, which has combat troops, helicopters and aircraft operating in Uruzgan province, north of Kandahar.

The Dutch are expected to say whether their forces will remain in southern Afghanistan -- a decision that could trigger a domino effect and, some fear, the collapse of NATO's effort.

The Australians, who are not members of NATO but have nonetheless contributed almost 1,000 support troops and combat engineers for reconstruction, have said they will not stay if the Dutch decide to leave.

Such an exodus combined with the reluctance of some NATO members — notably Germany, Italy and France — to commit their combat forces already in Afghanistan to fighting the Taliban could make a tenuous situation dangerous.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks," said Henault.

But he quickly added NATO planners are always spinning different troop rotation scenarios and the alliance's resolve is strong.

The Netherlands this week formally requested that Norway and Germany commit troops to bolster their mission in Uruzgan in summer 2008. That would allow the Dutch to partly draw down some of their troops, giving the soldiers and an anxious public a rest.

The plea has put the Norwegians and the Germans on the spot, said Allain Pellerin, the executive director of the Conference of Defence Associations.

"This signals that (the Dutch) want to stay, but the message they're sending is that there should be more burden-sharing."

Even though Canada has complained — sometimes loudly — about the reluctance of its allies to join the battle in the south, Pellerin says it has never put forward a formal request to other alliance partners for help.

"I'm not sure the government has decided whether it wants to stay in Kandahar," he said.

Last week, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Canada's current mission in its current "configuration" will be over in 2009.

Pellerin said that could mean simply pulling out the infantry battle group, but leaving behind support elements such as artillery and logistics.

"I guess we'll hear more in the throne speech, but pulling out of Kandahar with the excuse that we've taken our casualties, done the heavy lifting, it's now time for somebody else, to me is not a very mature option."

# Troops gaining against Taliban: military

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More than five years after international forces rolled into Afghanistan, there is much debate about whether or not they're losing ground to a resurgent Taliban.

For Brig-Gen. Guy Laroche, Canada's top commander in Afghanistan, the answer is a firm No.

As his military convoy bumps over a road where Canada lost its first soldier to a roadside bomb, Laroche sweeps his arm toward the far-off mountains.

"There used to be 300 Taliban in this area," he said.

"Now, they don't have the numbers for a face-to-face fight."

As his crew keeps a close watch on every bump in the road and every person they pass, Laroche suggests the deadly bombing campaign of the Taliban is their last gasp. "We'll never completely get rid of the Taliban," he said. "This is their home."

But he said the insurgent force has been severely damaged and left unable to mount an effective fighting force.

He suggested that's why the Taliban have resorted to the improvised explosive devices — including suicide bombings — that have taken the lives of 38 Canadian soldiers.

Despite the bombs, stability is being restored.

"Now you see families and children who've come back," Laroche said as a group of waving small children ran alongside the convoy. "A year ago, you didn't see that."

A year ago, Canadians took a lead in NATO's largest offensive to date in Afghanistan, Operation Medusa.

The mission was to drive the Taliban out of the Zhari and Panjwaii districts of Kandahar province — the extremist movement's ideological heartland.

But the insurgents have returned, and so have the Canadians.

At Patrol Base Wilson, a sparse checkpoint along the highway west of Kandahar city, a patrol convoy rolled out as night fell Wednesday.

This once–sparsely staffed outpost in one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan has seen major reinforcement since the Van Doos regiment arrived last month.

Chief Warrant Officer Pete Marchand says the highway is a key trade route through the region — and one the Canadians are determined to secure.

"It's a really important route and we want to make sure that security and development can continue in Afghanistan, so we have to secure this route," Marchand said.

"The Taliban is trying to terrorize everybody. They're trying to terrorize us with IEDs but they will not achieve that," Marchand said. "We're going to make sure the Afghan people can live safely."

The patrol base is a joint operation between the Canadians and the Afghan National Police, a ragtag group that is largely underpaid, understaffed and undertrained.

The youngest of the machine–gun–wielding police appears to be about 15. He jokingly points his gun at an out–of–place visitor.

"There's a lot of work to do and it's going bit by bit," said Marchand.

Laroche is more blunt.

"We know we can't leave them alone right now," he said.

# Letters

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Be happy with bridge to P.E.I.!

To The Editor:

I noticed an editorial in your paper a few days ago complaining because it appears the federal Conservative government does not care about Moncton because they haven't jumped in with federal funds to help build you a convention centre.

Perhaps you should ask yourself why they should.

I live in a city of 105,000 persons in British Columbia and the feds have not built a convention centre here, nor should they. That is a project for private enterprise and if it doesn't interest private investors, then it shouldn't be built.

Canadians need to quit asking government to spend our tax money on things we do not need for our existence and save it for rebuilding our decaying infrastructure. You got the big bridge to P.E.I., that's your share for a few more years!

Bryan St. George,

Kelowna, B.C.

(Via e-mail)

Dieppe posts are not needed

To The Editor:

I recently read an article about the Town of Dieppe planning to install antennas on the water tower because the regular communication towers were too ugly to install at ground level, in full sight. Imagine that!

Well, speaking of ugly, have you seen Amirault Street, from the Fox Creek Bridge to the Dover Road? It looks like a landing strip with the newly installed bicycle posts.

These posts, for a mere \$20,000-plus (installation cost not included) provide extra safety for the on average five cyclists per day (this is a generous estimate) who actually use the bicycle lanes, for a distance of approximately two kilometres.

Just the other day, a young cyclist and later a skate boarder were using these posts as an obstacle course, weaving in and out of the bicycle lane and into the car lane. How safe is that?

Meanwhile these posts interfere with our mail service, garbage pick up, paper delivery, bus service and, heaven forbid, if ever someone has to pull out of the way of an ambulance, rescue truck, fire truck and/or police cruiser. I don't know how they are going to avoid hitting one of these posts.

They are also supposed to slow down motorists. Wouldn't it have been less expensive to put up a few signs reducing the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h?

I believe the \$20,000 plus could have been put to better use. Some streets in Dieppe are in dire need of repair (like the Dover Road, just to name one).

We have waited a very long time for a decent road in this area and now it feels like we're driving along the old Gunningsville Bridge. We don't know if we're going to clip a post or the on-coming dump truck. Well thank you very much!

Never have so many been inconvenienced to benefit so few.

I could probably see the usefulness of these posts on a four lane highway without a decent bicycle lane (like Acadie Avenue, along the Chartersville Marsh), but not in a residential area. Talk about ugly!

Everyone who agrees with me is encouraged to complain about them to the Engineering Department of the City of Dieppe, to their members of council and to the mayor. This is a pilot project and if no one disagrees, these posts will be popping up on your street next year. Look out St.-Anselme area; you might be targeted for next year.

I'm starting a petition to have these posts immediately and permanently removed; anyone willing to help out is welcome.

Gisele Christie,

Dieppe

(Via e-mail)

Move ahead, not backwards

To The Editor:

Having read the pamphlet entitled "The Establishment of the Communion Church (New Moncton Diocese)" and been advised of James Ouellet's ongoing submissions to the Times & Transcript and Etoile, it would seem the intent of the author is to drag the church back to the "Good Old Days" of the Latin mass, non-participation of women in assisting in liturgical matters and absolute subservience to the omnipotence of Rome.

It seems Mr. Ouellet is surprised that the Archbishop of the Moncton Diocese refused to schedule a meeting with the Catholics United to Peter (the group to which Mr. Ouellet belongs). This refusal reflects the good sense of the Archbishop. In an age of declining membership, it is not a good idea to discuss the proposal to "advance the Church backwards." More effort should be given to the problem of the shortage of priests and how lay persons (male and female) can assist in minimizing the impact of that shortage.

The call by the group for the withholding of funds from the diocese will contribute nothing to this serious problem.

The saving grace is that the pamphlet and letters to the editor are written in a manner that will put most readers to sleep.

J.E. Wood,

Riverview

(Via e-mail)

School reunion a real success

To The Editor:

The Georgetown Reunion was held, Aug. 4. The Georgetown School was located on the Corner of Mountain Road and Winnipeg Street, currently the home of Scotia Bank and Lawton's Drug Store.

The reunion was a dream of two or three who had attended the school and felt there were others who would love to get together and talk over their times at the school. So began the search for students and teachers who had at one time or another been part of the "Georgetown School" era.

Little did the planners realize the scope of past attendees when they began the search. With the school no longer on that spot they chose a location close to it, where all would have no trouble feeling like they were back in their old area. The committee picked the Moncton Dart Club, a stone's throw away from the location of the school.

In the beginning the committee weren't sure how many they could locate and how many would be interested in attending. Little did they know that former students from as far away as British Columbia and Alberta would be coming home for this event.

As time drew closer the committee realized that they were going to have more than anticipated at the reunion.

On Reunion Day, 197 people arrived to celebrate. The committee had the history of the school, old pictures, old maps of the area and all sorts of interesting artifacts for all to see, plus a teacher who started her career at the Georgetown School.

This committee is to be commended for the superb job they did in bringing everyone together and pulling off a successful day.

The dedicated committee members were: Margaret Fullerton, Neil Wortman, Rhoda Lane, Doris Esty, Daisy Bone, Gloria Fenton, Claudia Tracy Richards, Jake Tracy, Annie Tracy.

I personally want to thank these people on behalf of all who attended the reunion.

Thank you all, it was an awesome day and one we will remember forever.

Mary Brownell Tower,

Moncton



(Via e-mail)

White isn't the issue!

To The Editor:

To the lady who added "white" to "red", you missed the point. "White" is not at issue.

"Red" to me means the precious blood of our Canadian soldiers is being spilled needlessly and shamelessly by our own government and by those of us who either support the mission or, by ignoring the facts, blindly support our troops.

One question: Would we be there at all if the Americans had not, illegally, invaded Afghanistan and goaded us to follow them? The answer is an unequivocal "No."

Whom do our troops really support over there? The government of Karzai? It exists, but on paper.

Those who are really in charge now are the former warlords who were ousted by the Taliban and are now members of parliament and governors of the provinces. Most of them are renowned criminals and are much worse than the Taliban.

Who else do our troops support? They free up American troops who are really there to chase Al-Qaeda and build a pipeline to have access to the oil reserves of the Caspian sea. Tell me now, is all that worth a Canadian soldier's life? Is it even worth standing up tall and proud in red (even with white) on a Friday morning or afternoon?

Want to support our troops?

Wear whatever it takes to bring them home! How about black?

(For references, read the book "Bleeding Afghanistan" by Sonali Kolhatcar; go to Google and find out about Malalai Joya).

Louis Boudreau,

St-Louis

(Via e-mail)

# NATO generals meet in Canada

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**COLUMN:** In brief

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NATO's top generals have arrived in Canada for a meeting to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan. The protracted battle to put down the Taliban insurgency has Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

Gen. Ray Henault, chairman of NATO's military committee and former chief of Canada's defence staff, said the alliance has not received formal notice from Ottawa that it intends to end its combat commitment as scheduled in February 2009.

He said the alliance anticipates there will be changes but has not begun the formal process of scouting out replacement nations.

# [KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)– Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest...]

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest level since the 2001 U.S.–led invasion.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement that the soldiers were killed and wounded in two separate attacks today in restive southern Afghanistan.

The attack follows several days of bloody combat in the south, where Canada has about 2,500 soldiers.

On Wednesday, a joint Afghan and coalition force on combat patrol in restive Sha Wali Kot district in southern Kandahar province came under attack from insurgent small–arms fire and rocket propelled grenades.

According to the statement, soldiers repelled the attack before calling in coalition aircraft which "destroyed the positively identified enemy firing positions with precision guided munitions." MONCTON, N.B. (CP) – A man accused of playing a role in a killing in New Brunswick last fall will never have the opportunity to fight the allegations.

Derrick Phillip Urwin, 36, of River Glade was found dead in his Moncton jail cell Thursday, apparently of natural causes.

Urwin was awaiting trial on charges of manslaughter and accessory to murder.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death. OTTAWA (CP) – Muslim women wearing niqabs or burkas covering their faces won't have to remove them to vote in three federal byelections in Quebec on Sept. 17.

An Elections Canada spokesman says the women won't have to show their faces to vote.

Spokesman John Enright said Thursday women wearing niqabs or burkas can bring a piece of identification with a photo and another document proving their identity when they vote.

However, Enright says in cases where women wearing niqabs or burkas don't have any documents, they would have to show their faces to allow their identity to be confirmed or they would have to be vouched for by a qualified voter in the same electoral division.

TORONTO (CP) – Health Canada is warning that some cellphone charms and zipper pulls from China contain high levels of lead and should be kept out of the reach of young children.

[KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)– Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afgh

The department says children could be exposed to lead if they chew, suck on or accidentally swallow the zipper pulls or cellphone charms.

It is estimated that more than 83,000 of the zipper pulls and nearly 54,000 of the cellphone charms were sold at Dollarama stores in Canada between July 2006 and August 2007.

OTTAWA (CP) – Federal New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton wants a full Parliamentary debate to deal with poor quality foreign imports.

Layton says, at the very least, there should be increased inspections and tougher standards for imported goods from countries such as China.

He says Canadians are losing local manufacturing jobs as companies move production to off-shore factories with lower standards and cheaper pay.

REGINA (CP) – Bingo, a 300-kilogram lawn ornament, was stolen from Laverne Verbrugge's yard in June.

It was spotted in several areas around Regina, and on Monday it made an appearance at the CFL game between the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

One of Verbrugge's neighbours found the cow, and brought it home.

The cow is in need of some repair and a paint job – it's covered in a bright green paint with "Go Riders Go" in white letters.

The cow also had a few beer labels stuck on its rump.

[KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)– Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afg

# NATO mulls Afghan roles; Netherlands may be pulling out

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A4  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 370

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OTTAWA – NATO's top generals have arrived in Canada for a meeting to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan.

The protracted battle to put down the Taliban insurgency has Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

Gen. Ray Henault, chairman of NATO's military committee and former chief of Canada's defence staff, said the alliance has not received formal notice from Ottawa that it intends to end its combat commitment as scheduled in February 2009.

He said the alliance anticipates there will be changes but has not begun the formal process of scouting out replacement nations.

"A lot of things happen in 18 months," he said in Ottawa. We're certainly hopeful Canada will find a way to continue to operate in Afghanistan."

The opposition Liberals and Bloc Quebecois want Canadian troops pulled out of Kandahar when the mandate of the mission expires in 2009. The NDP have long demanded an immediate withdrawal.

Henault said he hopes Canada will stay because progress is being made, but added that the final decision rests with the government. He said there's no way to say when NATO will achieve its objectives in Afghanistan.

"There isn't a date you can set on that. It's an end state."

The more immediate concern for NATO is the bellwether decision expected within weeks by the Netherlands, which has combat troops, helicopters and aircraft operating in Uruzgan province, north of Kandahar.

The Dutch are expected to say whether their forces will remain in southern Afghanistan – a decision that could trigger a domino effect among and some fear the collapse of NATO's effort.

The Australians, who are not members of NATO but have nonetheless contributed almost 1,000 support troops and combat engineers for reconstruction, have said they will not stay if the Dutch decide to leave.

Such an exodus combined with the reluctance of some NATO members – notably Germany, Italy and France – to commit their combat forces already in Afghanistan to fighting the Taliban could make a tenuous situation dangerous.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks," said Henault.

But he added NATO planners are always spinning different troop rotation scenarios and the alliance's resolve is strong.

The Netherlands this week formally requested that Norway and Germany commit troops to bolster their mission in Uruzgan in the summer of 2008. That would allow the Dutch to partially draw down some of their troops, giving the soldiers and an anxiously public a rest.

The plea has put both the Norwegians and the Germans on the spot, said Allain Pellerin, a Canadian military analyst.

# It's finally true – Canada is punching above its weight

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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A7  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald editorial  
**WORD COUNT:** 533

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Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier did a remarkable thing in appointing a panel of three former deputy CDS's to report on how his changes to the Canadian Forces command structure are working.

It would be as if the newly appointed CEO of a major corporation sought the judgment of a panel of former CEOs on his performance: It doesn't happen often.

Demanding a no-holds-barred assessment from a qualified source is typical of Hillier. It is also typical of the qualities that keep him in favour with the government, after more than two and a half difficult years as Chief of Defence Staff.

This, even though the report identifies what at first blush seem important deficiencies. It blames the Afghan mission for soaking up resources at the expense of one element of Hillier's reorganized structure – Canada Command, that is tasked to deal with the defence of Canada, and aid to the civil power in the event of natural disaster, or terrorist attack.

And, even in main-event Afghanistan, operations are said to be hampered because Canadian Expeditionary Force Command has difficulty providing up-to-date intelligence.

This doesn't mean things aren't working. For one thing, the report was presented eight months ago, and may not describe the present situation. More to the point, what could be more natural than putting scarce resources where Canadian soldiers face the most risk? Training and equipping personnel for a shooting war must surely take priority over everything else.

Arguably, therefore, the report validates government allocations. Only had resources been unlimited could one argue that not enough had been done.

The intelligence question is more vexing, as for want of information, soldiers get killed.

Here, the report correctly articulates the need to integrate Canada's intelligence silos. That as recently as this January the expeditionary command lacked around-the-clock backup in Ottawa even though Canadian troops were first deployed to Afghanistan in 2002, is a shocking omission.

The committee's proposal for a common operations centre for three of the commands, so that intelligence be more efficiently relayed to the field seems like an obvious remedy.

It is worth noting two other things. Granted, it would be hard to exaggerate the difficulties of human intelligence-gathering in Afghanistan, when all interrogation is through interpreters, but NATO forces do share what they get.

That means the Canadian Forces almost certainly know things they cannot admit knowing, even to a committee of retired generals. To the extent that they do, the latter's assessment may be unduly pessimistic.

Second, the problems with Canadian military intelligence are of a type with every other difficulty the forces experienced, as a result of Ottawa claiming a so-called peace dividend at the end of the Cold War. The need for spies and analysts was thought to be much reduced, if not anachronistic.

Yet, it takes 10 years to make a good analyst: The lesson here must be that once the skill is rebuilt, it should not be allowed to atrophy once more.

The good news about the Canadian army was beyond the committee's mandate to comment upon, but it is this: As a result of its Afghan experience, Canada now has the best trained, best equipped and best-led combat-ready army for a country its size in the world.

There is plenty of catching up yet to do, but the cliché of Canada punching above its weight, often offered as an excuse for inaction, is true at last.



# Taliban fighting strength sapped, general says

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A9  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press; Patrol Base Wilson  
**BYLINE:** Dene Moore  
**DATELINE:** Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 409

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More than five years after international forces rolled into Afghanistan, there is much debate about whether or not they're losing ground to a resurgent Taliban.

For Brig–Gen. Guy Laroche, Canada's top commander in Afghanistan, the answer is a firm No.

As his military convoy bumps over a road where Canada lost its first soldier to a roadside bomb, Laroche sweeps his arm toward the far–off mountains.

"There used to be 300 Taliban in this area," he said. "Now, they don't have the numbers for a face–to–face fight."

As his crew keeps a close watch on every bump in the road and every person they pass, Laroche suggests the deadly bombing campaign of the Taliban is their last gasp.

"We'll never completely get rid of the Taliban," he said. "This is their home."

But, he said, the insurgent force has been severely damaged and unable to mount an effective fighting force. He suggested that's why the Taliban has resorted to the improvised explosive devices – including suicide bombings – that have taken the lives of 38 Canadian soldiers.

Despite the bombs, stability is being restored.

"Now you see families and children who've come back," Laroche said as a group of waving small children ran alongside the convoy. "A year ago, you didn't see that."

Meanwhile in Kandahar City, Afghan authorities paraded four suspected Taliban detainees for the media Thursday, claiming the Pakistani natives were would–be suicide bombers.

Although the four deny any plan to blow themselves up, they admitted they easily crossed the border into Afghanistan with jihad – holy war – on their mind. "When Americans captured Afghanistan, we saw they were beating people, killing people, and from that time we had this idea of jihad," one of the young men, 24–year–old Mohammed Shohaib, said through an interpreter.

Shohaib said they received 12 days of training in Pakistan, including suicide bombing. Despite the urging of an Afghan official, however, Shohaib said they had no plans to carry out suicide missions.

"We came here to fight with guns, with weapons, not to blow ourselves up," he said.

Afghan authorities have long maintained that Pakistan is a source of many of the insurgents wreaking havoc in their country.

In this case, the four young men said they were arrested by Afghan intelligence officers within hours of arriving in Kandahar City, but many others like them aren't caught.

A year ago, Canadians took a lead in NATO's largest offensive to date in Afghanistan, Operation Medusa.

The mission was to drive the Taliban out of the Zhari and Panjwai districts of Kandahar province – the extremist movement's ideological heartland.

But the insurgents have returned, and so have the Canadians.

At Patrol Base Wilson, a sparse checkpoint along the highway west of Kandahar city, a patrol convoy rolled out as night fell Wednesday.

This once–sparsely staffed outpost in one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan has seen major reinforcement since the Van Doos regiment arrived last month.

Chief Warrant Officer Pete Marchand says the highway is a key trade route through the region and one the Canadians are determined to secure.

# Price of freedom

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070067  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Q: Queries – Quibbles – Quirks  
**PAGE:** A27  
**COLUMN:** Inbox: Your Space – Your Time  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** Sue Tersmette  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 131

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Afghanistan – Re: "Inside info," Letter, Sept. 3

In Canada, most of us enjoy access to health care (though with long wait times), education (perhaps in leaky schools), democracy (and the right to criticize the leaders we elect), and many other freedoms, such as writing letters to the editor.

But people like Martin Van Ieperen and others who question our role in Afghanistan need only read *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini, an author born and raised in Afghanistan, to get a different perspective on why the Canadian military feels it has a role in the conflict there.

Perhaps Van Ieperen could then picture what life might be like for his wife, daughters, nieces, or granddaughters if they were Afghani and wonder if they, too, could benefit from the military assistance of a democratic country.

Sue Tersmette,

Calgary

# Blasts claim two NATO troops in Afghanistan; Fighting heats up as Taliban attack coalition forces

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070036  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A20  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; BOMBINGS; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 373

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Two NATO soldiers were killed in bomb blasts in Afghanistan Thursday, while scores of insurgents died in new battles as heavy fighting intensified in the country, military officials said.

Several soldiers were also wounded in the two explosions in the south of the country, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

It did not give the nationalities of its casualties, leaving such announcements for the home nations of the soldiers.

The latest deaths came a day after two British soldiers were killed in the southern province of Helmand, where international soldiers are confronting hardcore Taliban and drug traffickers who are wreaking havoc in the area.

Also Thursday, more than 20 insurgents were killed in an eight-hour battle in the southern province of Kandahar that erupted after dozens of militants attacked a patrol, a coalition headed by the United States said separately.

The coalition reported earlier Thursday that more than 40 Taliban fighters were killed in a 12-hour battle Wednesday in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district, where rebels have launched several major ambushes in the past few days.

A small group of insurgents ambushed foreign forces and was later reinforced by about 150 rebels who fired rocket-propelled grenades and used heavy machine-guns, the coalition said in a statement.

Most of the rebels were killed by coalition warplanes that pounded their positions in several compounds, it said.

Afghanistan's defence ministry said meanwhile that dozens of Taliban were killed or wounded in fighting with local and foreign forces in the neighbouring province of Helmand, also on Wednesday.

The ministry did not give an exact figure for the rebel casualties, but said the fighting erupted after Taliban militants attacked the soldiers with heavy weapons.

"Responding to the enemy attack, Afghan and coalition troops chased the enemy and called in air support.

Dozens of enemy were killed and wounded," it said in a statement.

The fighting took place in Helmand's Sangin district, where 25 rebels were killed earlier the same day, an Afghan army general said on Wednesday.

The latest bloodshed in the insurgency-hit southern desert provinces of Kandahar and Helmand took the rebel toll in recent days to close to 400.

Meanwhile, NATO leaders began a meeting in Ottawa Thursday to explore the alliance's long-term strategic objectives and operations in the country.

Officials said that among the issues to be discussed was the military mission in Afghanistan, where three-quarters of the 50,000 troops deployed hail from NATO member countries.

The Taliban were ousted from power in Afghanistan in late 2001 by a U.S.-led offensive, but have regrouped to mount an increasingly bloody insurgency against the U.S.-backed government in Kabul.

# Thief returns painting of fallen Canadian soldier

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070022  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jean Levac, CanWest News Service / The stolen painting of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, who was killed in Afghanistan, was mailed back to an Ottawa gallery. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ART GALLERIES; ART; WORLD WAR II; NAZISM  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Paul Gessell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 265

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Someone seems to have had a guilty conscience. A painting of a dead Canadian soldier stolen a month ago from an Ottawa gallery has been mailed back with an apology, a handwritten "Je m'excuse" — French for "I'm sorry."

The painting by Ottawa artist Heidi Conrod was a portrait of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, killed June 20 in Afghanistan. The painting was purchased this summer by a family friend as a gift to the soldier's girlfriend in Kingston, Ont. But before the portrait could be picked up, it was stolen right off the wall at Dale Smith Gallery.

"I'm just glad it's back," gallery owner Dale Smith said Thursday.

The painting was placed in a box and mailed to the gallery. The parcel arrived Wednesday afternoon by Express Post.

A return address was on the package, but Smith has done some detective work and expects that address is not likely that of the thief. The handwriting looked rather shaky, as if it were deliberately done with the wrong hand.

The painting arrived slightly chipped, "but it's nothing that Heidi can't easily fix," Smith said.

The Ottawa Citizen ran a front-page story on the theft on Aug. 29.

That meant, said Smith, an image of the painting was staring out accusingly at the thief all that day from newspaper vending machines on most every corner and from stacks of newspapers at corner stores.

Most of Ottawa suddenly knew what that painting looked like. Who would then dare to hang it on a wall of their home?

The painting of Karigiannis was one of three portraits painted by Conrod of Canadian soldiers from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed June 20 in Afghanistan.

The paintings were part of a show called Fever at the gallery. The portraits were inspired by newspaper photographs of the soldiers and were meant to capture the spirit of them as youths.

Police continue to investigate.

# Allies put Canadian troops at risk; Lack of support, restrictions make mission tougher

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070019  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Herald Archive, Reuters / Canadian soldiers face increased risks because some nations aren't sending enough help to Afghanistan. ; Colour Photo: Ray Henault ;  
**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN RELATIONS; WAR; ORGANIZATIONS; ARMED FORCES; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 348

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Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said Thursday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate.

With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements (through) what we call 'caveats.'"

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said.

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.



"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region or particular area to maintain those gains, to consolidate them," Henault said.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands is considering a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February 2009.

Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

"We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan," Henault said.

# Top NATO generals meet in Canada to map Afghanistan strategy

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**DATE:** 2007.09.06

**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 942

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ NATO's top generals have arrived in Canada for a meeting to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan.

The protracted battle to put down the Taliban insurgency has Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

Gen. Ray Henault, chairman of NATO's military committee and former chief of Canada's defence staff, said the alliance has not received formal notice from Ottawa that it intends to end its combat commitment as scheduled in February 2009.

He said the alliance anticipates there will be changes but has not begun the formal process of scouting out replacement nations.

“A lot of things happen in 18 months,” he told a news conference in Ottawa. We're certainly hopeful Canada will find a way to continue to operate in Afghanistan.”

The opposition Liberals and Bloc Quebecois want Canadian troops pulled out of Kandahar when the mandate of the mission expires in 2009. The NDP have long demanded an immediate withdrawal.

Henault said he hopes Canada will stay because progress is being made, but added that the final decision rests with the government.

Liberals defend Trudeau from attack by `sad' embittered Mulroney

OTTAWA (CP) \_ Liberals are jumping to the defence of Pierre Trudeau, dismissing Brian Mulroney's scathing attack on the late prime minister as the pathetic rantings of an embittered former rival.

Mulroney set off the partisan storm with promotional interviews and leaked excerpts of Memoirs, a 1,100–page tome on his term as Tory prime minister from 1984–93.

In one excerpt, Mulroney excoriates Trudeau for scuttling his cherished Meech Lake accord, aimed at gaining Quebec's signature on the Constitution.

He goes on to question the Liberal icon's fitness to provide moral leadership, dwelling at length on the young Trudeau's his refusal to fight against Nazis, who systematically exterminated millions of Jews, during the Second World War.

Mulroney also regurgitates the findings of two recent biographies, recounting the youthful Trudeau's apparent admiration for fascist dictators, including Adolf Hitler, his anti–Semitic and anti–immigration views, and his initial belief in the virtue of an independent Quebec populated strictly by francophones.

“Pierre Trudeau, Captain Canada? I think not,” Mulroney concludes.

But Liberals said the attack does more damage to Mulroney's reputation than it does to Trudeau's.

"I wasn't angry when I read it; I was just kind of sorry for him," said Tom Axworthy, Trudeau's one-time principal secretary.

Muslim women won't have to show their faces to vote in federal byelections

OTTAWA (CP) \_ Despite heavy controversy over face coverings at the polls for the last Quebec provincial election, federal election officials say Muslim women will not have to remove their niqabs or burkas to cast their ballots in three federal byelections in Quebec on Sept. 17.

Revised electoral laws received royal assent in June and require that all voters prove their identity and residential address.

However, Elections Canada has introduced rules that allow women to vote without having to show their faces.

Spokesman John Enright said Thursday women wearing niqabs or burkas can bring a piece of identification with a photo and another document proving their identity when they vote. If they don't have the documents, they would have to be vouched for by a qualified voter in the same electoral division.

However, Enright says in cases where women wearing niqabs or burkas don't have any documents or someone to vouch for them, they would have to show their faces to allow their identity to be confirmed.

It's a similar approach adopted by Elections Quebec prior to the provincial election last March. Quebec's chief returning officer Marcel Blanchet was forced to backtrack after receiving threatening phone calls and e-mails as well as pressure from Quebec's three main political parties asking him to reverse the decision.

UN set to adopt native rights declaration, no thanks to Canada: critics

OTTAWA (CP) \_ Canada was cast Thursday as a bad actor that aggressively campaigned alongside countries with tarnished human-rights records in its failed bid to derail the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The non-binding declaration is expected to be adopted Sept. 13 by the UN General Assembly.

Its success would thwart what critics say was a well-financed campaign under Canada's new Conservative government to undermine a process supported by the Liberals.

The Conservatives say the declaration is flawed, vague and open to broad interpretation. Provisions on lands and resources could be used "to support claims to broad ownership rights over traditional territories, even where rights ... were lawfully ceded through treaty," says a synopsis of Canada's position on the Indian Affairs website.

"The fact is that no previous Canadian government has ever supported the document in its current form," said Ted Yeomans, spokesman for Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl.

"The wording is inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, our Constitution Act, previous Supreme Court decisions, the National Defence Act and policies under which we negotiate treaties."

Dizzying array of people frequented the property belonging to Robert Pickton

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) \_ An almost dizzying parade of people \_ friends, workers, strangers and

thieves \_ frequented the pig farm property where the Crown alleges Robert Pickton murdered and dismembered women, a longtime friend and business associate of the Pickton brothers testified Thursday.

Bill Malone told jurors people came and went throughout the day and night and it was a nightmarish security problem to deal with rampant theft on the property at 953 Dominion Ave. in Port Coquitlam, a 45-minute drive east of Vancouver.

He said he had warning signs built, including one that read: Pit Bull With Aids. No Trespassing. As well, several dogs were kept on the property, he said.

Malone said many people had virtually unlimited access to the trailer residence where Pickton lived.

The locks to the trailer were broken so often that efforts to secure it were abandoned, he said.

Malone said ``stuff" \_ mostly tools \_ constantly went missing.

``So many people were coming and going on the property day and night," he told the jury of seven men and five women who have been hearing evidence since Jan. 22.

Defence lawyer Adrian Brooks asked Malone to describe the ``traffic" on the property from the late 1990s to the time of Pickton's arrest in February 2002.

He said there was a ``continual stream" of people and estimated there might be as many as 200 vehicles on the property in a given day, including trucks for the topsoil business operated by Pickton's brother Dave and the cars belonging to the workers.

# Afghan, coalition troops kill more than 40 insurgents in latest clashes

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**DATE:** 2007.09.06  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 252

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) \_ Afghan and U.S.-led coalition troops killed more than 40 suspected Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan, the latest in a wave of strikes that have claimed the lives of hundreds of insurgents, the coalition said Thursday.

A joint Afghan and coalition force was on a combat patrol Wednesday in restive Sha Wali Kot district in southern Kandahar province when came it under attack from insurgent small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the coalition said in a statement.

Soldiers repelled the attack before calling in coalition aircraft which ``destroyed the positively identified enemy firing positions with precision guided munitions," it said.

The coalition said ``more than 40 insurgents" were killed, while Afghan and foreign forces suffered no losses.

Taliban spokesmen were not immediately available for comment and it was not possible to independently confirm the death toll.

Afghan and coalition forces claim to have killed several hundred Taliban insurgents in central and southern Afghanistan in recent weeks. The Taliban have admitted some losses, but say many of the dead are civilians \_ a charge denied by the coalition.

Militants have also launched scores of attacks, mostly roadside or suicide bombs, that have killed several dozen local and foreign soldiers as well as many civilians.

The Taliban ruled most of Afghanistan from the mid-1990s until 2001, imposing an extreme version of Islam and providing refuge for al-Qaida leaders and thousands of other Muslim militants from around the world. They were ousted by a U.S.-led coalition following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but are now leading an increasingly bloody campaign against the country's Western-backed government.

**DATE:** 2007.09.06

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 604

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^Statement by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaklle Jean on t@<

September 06, 2007

The commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces encourages NATO member countries in Afghanistan to make a strong and clear multilateral commitment

MONTREAL, QUEBEC--(Marketwire - Sept. 6, 2007) -

As governor general and commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces, I would like to welcome you to Rideau Hall, which has been the official residence of every governor general since Confederation in 1867.

I am very proud to have held this position and lived here at Rideau Hall for nearly two years now.

In these trying times for our military and for the Canadian people, who are following their efforts with admiration, I feel it is important to highlight the exemplary work of the Canadian Forces and to recognize the role that they play both here and abroad.

And so, we are proud to welcome this prestigious Military Committee of national representatives to NATO to Canada for the first time since 1997.

I am thrilled that you will have the opportunity to experience the richness of Canada's people and geography, as you will be travelling to the West Coast to attend your meetings in Victoria after this brief stay in our nation's capital.

I am certain that you will appreciate the beautiful setting of Canada's western-most city and of the province that is the ancestral land of a number of Aboriginal nations, as well as the point of arrival for immigrants from all over the world.

The issues that you will be discussing over the next few days are of critical importance to Canadians.

Canada wholeheartedly supports NATO's objectives in terms of international security and countering the strategy of terror that unfortunately plagues some of the world's trouble spots.

I believe that solidarity is vital to the success of NATO's partners.

Our actions must reflect our common desire to work in the name of an ideal of justice and freedom, and to restore security and prosperity where oppression and misery afflict children, women and men.

This is particularly true in Afghanistan, where Canadians are currently focusing their attention.

On March 8, International Women's Day, I took my first trip to Afghanistan to pay tribute to the courage of Afghan women.

I wanted to draw attention to the vital role they are playing, and that they must continue to play, in civil society's reconstruction efforts.

And wherever I went—during a private meeting with President Karzai and members of his Cabinet, at a training centre for Afghan women, at the Kandahar camp, during a meeting with the reconstruction team in Kandahar Province—I saw how important it was to restore a human dimension to the day-to-day efforts made by so many women and men, both civilian and military, in Afghanistan.

I saw members of the Canadian Forces, civilian police, government officials, diplomats and humanitarian workers working closely on the ground with their Afghan partners to help create a secure environment and to put favourable development conditions in place for the Afghan people.

There is no development without security, and no stability without education, infrastructure, improved living conditions or economic recovery.

That was the clear message I heard from the military and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, and I told the Defence ministers of NATO member countries as much when I spoke to them in April.

And I repeat it here in Canada as often as I can.

The unwavering conviction of the women and men who are committed to establishing promising partnerships with a people emerging from years of distress and despair is perhaps our best assurance of the future.

Let us not lose sight of the reason for our commitment to the Afghan people.

It is a simple one: to restore hope and stability, justice and prosperity, where for too long there has been only chaos, iniquity and ruin.

It is about giving them the means to take back their destiny with dignity and assurance, and enabling them to build a democracy from their own perspective.

We can only achieve this objective if our multilateral commitment is clear and strong.

I know you will keep this objective in mind during your deliberations here in Canada, a country that embodies the hope of a better world.

I hope you enjoy your visit to Canada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Rideau Hall Press Office

Marie-Paule Thorn

613-993-2569

INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,

Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,

homeland etc), Government – State

SUBJECT: PLT

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire



# NATO's top generals meet in Canada to map Afghanistan strategy

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**DATE:** 2007.09.06

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 152

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ NATO's top generals are to meet in Canada over the next few days to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan.

The protracted battle to put down the Taliban insurgency has Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

Gen. Ray Henault, the chairman of NATO's military committee and a former Canadian chief of defence staff, says the alliance has not received formal notice from Canada that it intends to end its combat commitment.

The opposition Liberals and Bloc Quebecois want Canadian troops pulled out of Kandahar when the mandate of the mission expires in February 2009.

Henault says he hopes Canada will stay because progress is being made, but added that the final decision rests with the government.

The Dutch are expected to say within a few weeks whether their combat forces will remain in southern Afghanistan \_ a decision that will major implications for NATO's mission in the war-torn country.

# INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.09.06  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 149

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WINNIPEG -- Defence Minister Peter MacKay arrived in Winnipeg yesterday to speak to troops and meet with Canadian Forces and Norad commanders based in the city.

MacKay is touring bases across the country to familiarize himself with military operations, said a spokesman with 17 Wing Winnipeg, based at Richardson International Airport.

In Winnipeg, he was to meet with Major-General Marcel Duval, commander of 1 Canadian Air Division, Canadian headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defence Command.

MacKay was also scheduled to meet with Colonel Scott Howden, wing commander of 17 Wing.

He made news last weekend when he admitted Canada's NATO allies understood this country's military mission in Afghanistan would not continue past February 2009, though aid and diplomatic efforts would be extended.

Opposition parties have demanded Canadian troops be withdrawn by that date. MacKay also said discussion about Canada's role in Afghanistan, an issue that continues to divide this country, will continue in the House of Commons.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

IT

# Two NATO soldiers, 40 insurgents killed in southern Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.09.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 135

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KABUL, Afghanistan – Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement that the soldiers were killed and wounded in two separate attacks today in restive southern Afghanistan.

The attack follows several days of bloody combat in the south of the country, where Canada has about 2,500 soldiers.

On Wednesday, a joint Afghan and coalition force on combat patrol in restive Sha Wali Kot district in southern Kandahar province came under attack from insurgent small-arms fire and rocket propelled grenades.

According to the statement, soldiers repelled the attack before calling in coalition aircraft which `destroyed the positively identified enemy firing positions with precision guided munitions.'

The coalition said `more than 40 insurgents' were killed, while Afghan and foreign forces suffered no losses.

(AP)

# General says troop shortage is hindering Afghanistan gains; Top NATO officer, a Canadian, says 'gaps' are being debated as alliance meets in Ottawa

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070120  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A19

**ILLUSTRATION:** FRED CHARTRAND cp Gen. Ray Henault, centre, chair of NATO's military committee, inspects the Canadian Forces honour guard, along with Canada's chief of defence staff, Gen. Rick Hillier, in Victoria, B.C., yesterday before a meeting of NATO brass. ;

**BYLINE:** Bruce Champion-Smith  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 438

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A shortage of NATO and Afghan forces on the ground in Afghanistan is hampering efforts to win and hold ground from insurgents, NATO's top military commander says.

Gen. Ray Henault, a Canadian who heads the alliance's military committee, acknowledged the troubles Canadians have faced recently in Kandahar region, where troops are fighting and dying to capture terrain they fought over just a year ago.

"There is every interest in our case to make sure that we consolidate our gains," Henault said.

"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region ... to maintain those gains."

But as top military commanders from the 26 NATO nations prepare to meet in Ottawa and Victoria this week, Henault hinted at the ongoing backroom tensions – and the charge by countries like Canada that they are bearing a disproportionate share of the danger in Kandahar.

While the alliance is always looking "to fill gaps that might come in capabilities ... the gaps are nonetheless very keenly debated," he said.

He said both NATO military brass and its political leadership are constantly reminding nations of their responsibility "to provide the capabilities that are needed by the commander to do his job on the ground.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault told a news conference yesterday after arriving for the military meeting.

Henault sidestepped the ongoing domestic debate about the future of Canada's Afghan mission.

But he made his preference clear, noting that stabilizing Afghanistan is a "long-term" effort and expressing hope Ottawa would remain active in the country even after its current military commitment expires in 2009.

General says troop shortage is hindering Afghanistan gains; Top NATO officer, a Canadian, says 'gaps' are

"The mission in Afghanistan is a long-term mission. ... We don't know how long the mission will last," he said.

"We have a mission, we have a requirement to ultimately help the Afghans to develop those security forces and security mechanisms that will allow them to take their security matters into their own hands," Henault said.

"There isn't a date you can set on that."

He said Canada has shown "enormous leadership" in Afghanistan and hoped it would continue.

"It will be a Canadian issue. But we're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan," he said.

But the alliance faces trouble in southern Afghanistan. Of the 26 NATO nations, only a few offered to deploy to the dangerous southern region and now two of those nations – Canada and the Netherlands – could pull out.

"We are seeing very good progress in all parts of Afghanistan, despite some of the tragic losses. But nonetheless we are making a difference ... and we hope that all nations that are making that happen, and contributing, continue to do so," Henault said.

The meeting's participants include Gen. Rick Hillier, the Canadian chief of defence staff.

The military dignitaries were greeted by a 50-person honour guard, a Canadian Forces band and a demonstration by the Snowbirds aerobatic team. The group meets three times a year – twice in Brussels and once in a NATO member nation.

# Guilty thief mails back painting of slain soldier

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070084  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** D14

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Jean Levac, CanWest News Service / "Je m'excuse" words on the parcel with the stolen painting of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, a Canadian soldier who was killed in Afghanistan. The painting was mailed back to the art gallery from where it was stolen. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Paul Gessell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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OTTAWA — Someone seems to have had a guilty conscience. A painting of a dead Canadian soldier stolen a month ago from an Ottawa gallery has been mailed back with an apology, a handwritten "Je m'excuse" — French for "I'm sorry."

The painting by Ottawa artist Heidi Conrod was a portrait of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, killed June 20 in Afghanistan. The painting was purchased this summer by a family friend as a gift to the soldier's girlfriend in Kingston, Ont. But before the portrait could be picked up, it was stolen right off the wall at Dale Smith Gallery.

"I'm just glad it's back," gallery owner Dale Smith said Thursday.

The painting was placed in a box and mailed to the gallery. The parcel arrived Wednesday afternoon by Express Post.

A return address was on the package but Smith has done some detective work and expects that address is not likely that of the thief. The handwriting looked rather shaky, as if it were deliberately done with the wrong hand.

The painting arrived slightly chipped. "But it's nothing that Heidi can't easily fix," Smith said.

The Ottawa Citizen ran a front-page story on the theft on Aug. 29.

That meant, says Smith, an image of the painting was staring out accusingly at the thief all that day from newspaper vending machines on most every corner and from stacks of newspapers at corner stores.

Most of Ottawa suddenly knew what that painting looked like. Who would then dare to hang it on a wall of their home?

The painting of Karigiannis was one of three portraits painted by Conrod of Canadian soldiers from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed June 20 in Afghanistan.

The paintings were part of a show called Fever at the gallery. The portraits were inspired by newspaper photographs of the men and were meant to capture the spirit of the soldiers as boys.

Police continue to investigate.

Ottawa Citizen

# Afghan war on drugs still makes sense

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070055  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Comment  
**PAGE:** A19  
**BYLINE:** Connor Whelan  
**SOURCE:** Times Colonist  
**WORD COUNT:** 145

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Re: "War on drugs should be waged here," opinion, Sept. 1.

It is specious reasoning to imply that interdiction of the opium trade is not an important strategic target for NATO troops.

Cutting off the flow of narco-dollars that is used to purchase weapons, ammunition and bombs being used to kill our soldiers is clearly an objective worth pursuing.

That the likely result of such a strategy will be significantly less heroin on North American streets translates into a huge benefit to the war on drugs at home, not to mention the invaluable narco-intelligence that is being gained through the presence of our military at the very heart of the opium trade.

It makes much more sense to intercept a truckload of heroin in Afghanistan or some point in between there and North America before the load is split and transferred through various levels of traffickers making interception of the entire shipment virtually impossible.

Connor Whelan,

Ladysmith.



# NATO allies shirking duty, Canadian general charges; Senior alliance official says some members not doing enough in Afghanistan war

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070013  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Wayne Cuddington, CanWest News Service / TheSnowbirds aerobatic team puts on a display for members of NATO's military committee, who arrived in Ottawa yesterday for a four-day visit to Canada. After an overnight stop in Ottawa, the committee will fly to Victoria today for a series of meetings. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 535

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OTTAWA — Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said yesterday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements [through] what we call 'caveats.'"

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region or particular area to maintain those gains, to consolidate them," Henault said.

Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and bureaucrat, a defuser of controversy. He is every bit the opposite of the outspoken Gen. Rick Hillier, who succeeded him as Canada's defence chief and who is hosting his counterparts here.

But, shortly after his plane touched down from Brussels, Henault bluntly confronted both the caveats controversy and a second major headache that has dogged NATO since it began sending troops to Afghanistan five years ago: that some member countries are not living up to their original promises of equipment and personnel.

Meantime, the Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February 2009. Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

"We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan, again because of what Canada represents to the international community," he said.

Henault said NATO has received no official word on Canada's withdrawal plans, and would not say how the alliance would plug the void created by a Canadian pullout.

# Doc presses for 9/11 truth

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070179  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** What's On  
**PAGE:** H6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters, File / The Twin Towers on the morning of 9/11 ;  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**BYLINE:** Mari Sasano  
**SOURCE:** Freelance  
**WORD COUNT:** 218

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9/11 PRESS FOR TRUTH,

Metro Cinema,

Tuesday, 7 p.m.

tix/info: 424-0194

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It has now been six years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Since then, wars have been waged in Afghanistan and Iraq, and terrorists have retaliated in Spain, Bali and England.

But what have we really learned about the events in New York? Aside from major media generalities and blogging conspiracy theories, not much. 9/11 Press For Truth is less a polemical argument than Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11, but it still points to the failure of the American government to properly disclose what it really knew of that day.

Following the surviving relatives — widows, mothers, fathers — of loved ones lost in the WTC, the questions they ask are posed and remain unanswered. What really happened? Who really knew what, and why were those facts concealed? Could it have been prevented?

What is apparent is that, whether through incompetence or mere apathy, the situation has not been investigated as thoroughly as it could. And there are still secrets that are being kept, for whatever reason. But there are no conspiracies: all the information exists, having been printed in the mainstream media over the years. This film connects those dots, and gives a human face to the fallout of the failure of the government and the media.

## Good works

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070123  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Primetime  
**PAGE:** D3  
**KEYWORDS:** 0  
**SOURCE:** The Edmonton Journal  
**WORD COUNT:** 642

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Ten Thousand Villages, 10432 82nd Ave., is co-ordinating the collection of school supplies for children in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in the developing world. Visit the store to pick up a list, or call 439-8349.

Honouring Our Grandparents Banquet and Silent Auction Sept. 8, 6 to 10 p.m. at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, 10010 107A Ave., in support of the Bernadette N. Swan Social Care Foundation. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$20 for children under 12. Call Bernadette at 994-0669 or Gbanga at 964-1925.

Cornfest and Family Fun Day Sept. 8, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Marketplace at Callingwood, corner of 69th Ave. and 178th St. in support of the Firefighters Burn Treatment Society. Fire truck tours, live entertainment, petting zoo, games, face painting and balloon animals, hot rods, prizes and more.

Fall Fair and Social Sept. 8, 1 to 3 p.m. at Al Shamal Shrine Centre, 14510 142nd St., in support of Shriners Hospitals and local charities. Enjoy tea and goodies and shop for crafts and treasures; cost \$5 at the door. Call Pat at 467-0552.

Good Words for Africa Day Scrabble Tournament Sept. 9 (Grandparents Day) at the OLPH Church in Sherwood Park, to support African grandmothers raising AIDS orphans. Contact Louise Barr at 417-2754, Orleen Pearson at 467-8000 or Rotary Club of Sherwood Park at 464-3663.

Elizabeth Fry Society Book Sale Sept. 12 and 13, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 10523 100th Ave. Call 421-1175 and ask for Vanessa, or visit [www.elizabethfry.ab.ca](http://www.elizabethfry.ab.ca).

Great Canadian Head Shave Sept. 14, 12:15 to 1 p.m. at City Hall, Main Floor, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square, as part of National Terry Fox at Work Day. Call the Terry Fox Foundation at 1-888-836-9786 or e-mail: [abnt@terryfoxrun.org](mailto:abnt@terryfoxrun.org).

Terry Fox Run, 2, 5 or 10 km, Sept. 16 at Telford House in Leduc. Free registration at 9:30 a.m.; run begins 10 a.m. Call 1-888-836-9786 or register online at [www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org).

Bling and Swing Golf Classic Sept. 19 at Blackhawk Golf Club, in support of CASA Foundation. Contact Kim Hill at 940-0572.

Champagne in the Showroom Sept. 20, at David Morris Fine Cars Ltd., 17407 111th Ave., in support of the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities. Cocktails at 5:45 p.m., fashion show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$75. Call Don at ACCD, 488-9088, or visit [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net).

Luncheon Fashion Show and Silent Auction Sept. 20, 11 a.m. at Santa Maria Goretti Community Centre, 11050 90th St., in support of the Alberta Caregivers Association. Tickets are \$25. Visit the office at 9808 148th St. or call 453-5088.

No Food For Thought Gala at City Hall, Sept. 21, 6 to 10 p.m. in support of the Bissell Centre. A free evening featuring a silent auction, professional fashion photographs and a preview designer showcase of cutting-edge outfits. Bring a non-perishable food item for the food bin; no food will be served at the event.

Light The Night Walk Sept. 21 in Rundle Park, Edmonton, in support of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada. Call 780-297-5433 or visit [www.lightthenight.org/freegas](http://www.lightthenight.org/freegas).

SuperWalk for Parkinson's Sept. 22 at Rundle Park, Edmonton. Registration 8:30 a.m.; run/walk starts at 10:30 a.m. Pledge forms available at the Running Room, call 482-8993, or visit [www.superwalk.com](http://www.superwalk.com).

Occupational Therapy Fun Run, Walk and Wheel Sept. 29 at Corbett Hall, University of Alberta, 8205 114th St., registration 10 a.m., in support of the Canadian Paraplegic Association. Fees are \$33 before Sept. 8, \$38 after. Contact Graham Ciciarelli at 915-5829, Erin Dubyk at 887-2191 or Amy MacKinnon at 424-6312.

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Terry Fox Run, Sept. 16 in Leduc, needs volunteers to set up the site, distribute refreshments and cheer on the runners. Call Susanne at 986-5983 or e-mail: [gsritchie@shaw.ca](mailto:gsritchie@shaw.ca).

Canadian Red Cross seeks volunteer prevention educators for its RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention Program. Interested individuals will receive an intensive 10-day training session this fall. Contact Fiona Amundson at 423-2680 or

e-mail: [fiona.amundson@redcross.ca](mailto:fiona.amundson@redcross.ca).

#### BAZAARS AND GARAGE SALES

Garage and Bake Sale Sept. 14, 4-8 p.m.; Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Albert Senior Citizens' Club, 7 Tache St.,

St. Albert. Call 459-0433.

To include your fundraising event, send us the date and time, nature of activity and phone number for public contact by Monday before publication date. Events can be publicized for two weeks.

Send to: [goodworks@thejournal.canwest.com](mailto:goodworks@thejournal.canwest.com), fax 429-5500 or mail to Good Works, The Journal, Box 2421., Edmonton, T5J 2S6.

# Apologetic thief returns portrait of fallen soldier; Painting returned to gallery with note

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070030  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service / A soldier's portrait was returned with an apology scrawled on the shipping box. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ART GALLERIES; ART; WORLD WAR II; NAZISM; THEFT; CRIME  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Paul Gessell  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 261

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OTTAWA – Someone seems to have had a guilty conscience. A painting of a dead Canadian soldier stolen a month ago from an Ottawa gallery has been mailed back with an apology, a handwritten "Je m'excuse" -- French for "I'm sorry."

The painting by Ottawa artist Heidi Conrod was a portrait of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, killed June 20 in Afghanistan. The painting was purchased this summer by a family friend as a gift to the soldier's girlfriend in Kingston, Ont. But before the portrait could be picked up, it was stolen right off the wall at Dale Smith Gallery.

"I'm just glad it's back," gallery owner Dale Smith said Thursday.

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A return address was on the package but Smith has done some detective work and expects that address is not likely that of the thief. The handwriting looked rather shaky, as if it were deliberately done with the wrong hand.

The painting arrived slightly chipped. "But it's nothing that Heidi can't easily fix," Smith said.

The Ottawa Citizen ran a front-page story on the theft on Aug. 29.

That meant, says Smith, an image of the painting was staring out accusingly at the thief all that day from newspaper vending machines on most every corner and from stacks of newspapers at corner stores.

Most of Ottawa suddenly knew what that painting looked like. Who would then dare to hang it on a wall of their home?

The painting of Karigiannis was one of three portraits painted by Conrod of Canadian soldiers from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed June 20 in Afghanistan.

The paintings were part of a show called Fever at the gallery. The portraits were inspired by newspaper photographs of the men and were meant to capture the spirit of the soldiers as boys.

Police continue to investigate.

# NATO praises Canadian effort; Alliance will respect Canada's decision on length of Afghan mission, top general says

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070024  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service / Top NATO general Ray Henault reviews Canadian troops after his arrival in Ottawa on Thursday. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ORGANIZATIONS; FOREIGN RELATIONS; DEFENCE; WAR; ARMED FORCES; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Meagan Fitzpatrick  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 526

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OTTAWA – NATO's top general encouraged Canada to continue playing a role in Afghanistan, but said the alliance will not interfere in Canada's decision about whether to extend its combat mission beyond February 2009.

Speaking to reporters after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday for NATO meetings, Gen. Ray Henault praised Canada's troops and acknowledged the political debate that is swirling in Canada.

"For us in NATO, it's important to remember that all our partners, and all the NATO member states, have an important role in that mission in Afghanistan. Canada has shown tremendous leadership in Afghanistan and is well respected in terms of the capabilities of its soldiers and all the other members of the Canadian Forces that are working there," Henault said in French. "They have tremendous courage and commitment in a number of difficult operations."

Henault, who is Canadian, said NATO understands that the decision to participate in the Afghan mission is a national one, but added: "We're encouraging all countries, including Canada, to continue to provide assistance and operational capabilities in Afghanistan as long as possible and as long as the country requires them."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservative party have been under pressure to tell NATO whether Canada plans to end its combat mission in Kandahar in February 2009.

Henault said the deadline is still a long time off and a lot can happen in the meantime. He maintained, however, that it is up to Canada to decide how long it wants its troops in Afghanistan.

"We are aware ... that Canada is in that debate at the moment. We are not going to get involved in that debate. It will be a Canadian issue obviously."

Henault and NATO's top military chiefs are in Canada for a four-day visit that will involve intensive talks about the alliance's future.

NATO praises Canadian effort; Alliance will respect Canada's decision on length of Afghan mission, top general says



The 26 visiting generals will dine Thursday evening with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean. On Friday, they will fly to Victoria, B.C., for a series of meetings and seminars. The sessions will focus on four topics: operational planning, resources and capabilities, training, and how operations are carried out.

NATO officials have said the meetings will not be about day-to-day operations, but will focus instead on long-range planning to ensure the right amounts and types of equipment and personnel are available for future military deployments.

Canadian Col. Brett Boudreau, a senior adviser to NATO's military committee, said in an interview last week that the generals will not preoccupy themselves with the political questions around the future of the Afghanistan mission.

Over the past year, some NATO nations have been at odds over the levels of involvement in combat by alliance members in Afghanistan.

Henault said NATO doesn't know how long the mission in Afghanistan will last, but the end goal is to have Afghans in control of their own security.

"We're very focused on that part of our responsibilities in Afghanistan -- to stay the course with the alliance members and their partners as well as the international community and the many civilian agencies that are supporting us, not the least of which are provincial reconstruction teams, which Canada has provided as well, to go as long as possible to satisfy the requirements of what we have signed up to do," said Henault, a former chief of defence staff in Canada.

Henault said that despite the "tragic" losses of troops in Afghanistan, progress is being made there.

# Canada urged to soldier on in Afghanistan Bin Laden video on way

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709070396

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 12

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Fred Chartrand, CP Gen. Ray Henault, chairman of NATO military committee, salutes as he inspects the Honour Guard in Ottawa yesterday, along with Canada's chief of defence staff, Gen. Rick Hillier.

**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU

**WORD COUNT:** 348

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Canada should "stay the course" in Afghanistan to help to finish the job it signed up for with NATO allies, says the organization's military adviser.

Gen. Ray Henault, NATO's military committee chairman, said NATO won't wade into Canada's heated political debate over an exit date from combat but he stressed the Afghan mission is a long-term commitment and urged Canada to stay put for as long as possible.

"We understand that the decision to continue operations in Afghanistan is a national one, but we're encouraging all countries, including Canada, to continue to provide assistance and operational capabilities in Afghanistan as long as possible and as long as the country requires that," he said.

## 'TREMENDOUS COURAGE'

Arriving yesterday for a four-day meeting with NATO's top generals, the former Canadian chief of defence staff said Canada is regarded internationally as a valiant and "valuable" partner. Other countries are anxious to work with Canadian troops, he said.

"Canada has shown tremendous leadership and is well-respected in terms of the capabilities of its soldiers and other Canadian Forces working there," he said. "They have shown tremendous courage and commitment in a number of difficult situations, and many countries are interested in operating with Canada."

Henault's comments come as Opposition pressure mounts on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to formally advise NATO that Canadian troops will withdraw after the current mission expires in February 2009. The Dutch are also expected to announce within a few weeks if their troops will remain in the country's turbulent southern region.

## REPLENISH TROOPS

Henault said NATO is discussing a "force generation" strategy to replenish and rotate troops, but it can't make operational plans for replacements until there's official notification from member countries.

Conceding that setbacks have been seen in some regions due to shortage of NATO troops, Henault stressed that progress is being made in Afghanistan and NATO must remain until the job is done.

"We have a mission, we have a requirement to ultimately help the Afghans to develop those security forces and security mechanisms that will allow them to take their security matters into their own hands and there isn't really a date you can set on that. It's an end state," he said. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# NATO committed until job is done

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070395  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 12  
**BYLINE:** REUTERS  
**DATELINE:** DUBAI  
**WORD COUNT:** 98

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An Islamist website said today it would soon carry a new video of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden to mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S.

The website carried a still photograph apparently from the video which showed bin Laden seemingly aged compared to available pictures.

The site did not say when the video would be issued.

Bin Laden, believed to be hiding in the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan, was last seen in a video statement aired to coincide with the November 2004 U.S. presidential election.

Since then, he has issued several audio messages, the last one in July 2006 in which he vowed al-Qaida would fight the U.S. anywhere in the world. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Afghan progress a reality, official says

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070539  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** PATROL BASE WILSON,  
Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 257

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More than five years after international forces rolled into Afghanistan, there is much debate about whether or not they're losing ground to a resurgent Taliban.

For Brig-Gen. Guy Laroche, Canada's top commander in Afghanistan, the answer is a firm no.

As his military convoy bumps over a road where Canada lost its first soldier to a roadside bomb, Laroche sweeps his arm toward the far-off mountains.

"There used to be 300 Taliban in this area," he said. "Now, they don't have the numbers for a face-to-face fight."

As his crew keeps a close watch on every bump in the road and every person they pass, Laroche suggests the deadly bombing campaign of the Taliban is their last gasp.

"We'll never completely get rid of the Taliban," he said. "This is their home."

But he said the insurgent force has been severely damaged and left unable to mount an effective fighting force.

He suggested that's why the Taliban have resorted to the improvised explosive devices — including suicide bombings — that have taken the lives of 38 Canadian soldiers.

Despite the bombs, stability is being restored.

"Now you see families and children who've come back," Laroche said as a group of waving children ran alongside the convoy.

Meanwhile, in Kandahar City, Afghan authorities paraded four suspected Taliban detainees for the media yesterday, claiming the Pakistani natives were would-be suicide bombers.

While the four deny any plan to blow themselves up, they admitted they easily crossed the border into Afghanistan with jihad — holy war — on their minds.

"When Americans captured Afghanistan, we saw they were beating people, killing people and from that time we had this idea of jihad," one of the men, 24-year-old Mohammed Shohaib, said through an interpreter.

Shohaib said they received 12 days of training in Pakistan, including suicide bombing.

"We came here to fight with guns, with weapons, not to blow ourselves up," he said.

Afghan authorities have long said Pakistan is a source of many of the insurgents wreaking havoc in their country.

In this case, the four men were arrested by Afghan intelligence officers within hours of arriving in Kandahar city, but many others like them aren't caught. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Bomb blasts kill two NATO soldiers

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070538  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** SUN MEDIA NEWS SERVICES  
**WORD COUNT:** 308

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Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement that the soldiers were killed and wounded in two separate attacks today in restive southern Afghanistan.

The attack follows several days of bloody combat in the south of the country, where Canada has about 2,500 soldiers.

More than five years after international forces rolled into Afghanistan, there is much debate about whether or not they're losing ground to a resurgent Taliban.

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In this case, the four men were arrested by Afghan intelligence officers within hours of arriving in Kandahar city, but many others like them aren't caught. KEYWORDS=WORLD



# NATO urges Canada to help finish the job The organization's military adviser hopes our troops stay in Afghanistan past February 2009.

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**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Fred Chartrand, CP ON GUARD: Gen. Ray Henault, chairperson of the NATO military committee, chats with a soldier as he inspects an honour guard with Canadian Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier, background. Henault and other NATO chiefs of defence had an overnight stop in Ottawa yesterday before heading to Victoria, B.C., for a four-day meeting.

**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, SUN MEDIA NATIONAL BUREAU

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 200

---

Canada should "stay the course" in Afghanistan to help to finish the job it signed up for with NATO allies, says the organization's military adviser.

Gen. Ray Henault, NATO's military committee chair-person, said NATO won't wade into Canada's heated debate over an exit date from combat, but stressed the Afghan mission is a long-term commitment.

Arriving yesterday for a four-day meeting with NATO's top generals, the former Canadian chief of defence staff said Canada is regarded internationally as a valiant and "valuable" partner.

"Canada has shown tremendous leadership and is well-respected in terms of the capabilities of its soldiers and other Canadian Forces working there," he said.

Henault's comments come as Opposition pressure mounts on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to formally advise NATO that Canadian troops will withdraw after the mission expires in February 2009. The Dutch are also expected to announce soon if their troops will stay in the turbulent southern region.

Henault said NATO is discussing a "force generation" strategy to replenish and rotate troops. But it can't make plans for replacements until there's official notification from member countries.

Conceding some setbacks due to NATO troop shortages, he said there's been progress.

"We have a mission . . . to ultimately help the Afghans to develop those security forces and security mechanisms that will allow them to take their security matters into their own hands."

**KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

# Mercer touches down COMIC COMES TO TOWN TO HELP A FRIEND: PAUL FRANKLIN

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709070845  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Entertainment  
**PAGE:** E6  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 2 photos 1. file photo Rick Mercer comes to town to headline a show for the Northern Alberta Amputee Program. 2. photo of PAUL FRANKLIN Helping others  
**BYLINE:** JENNY FENIAK, SUN MEDIA  
**WORD COUNT:** 396

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Rick Mercer, the Newfoundland–born comedian, author, entertainer and icon, is coming to Edmonton this weekend.

Known for his travels through the country and his portrayals of Canadian life, which he broadcasts on his weekly television program, the Rick Mercer Report, Mercer's appearance at the Winspear Centre Sunday night has a more personal and profound purpose.

An Evening with Rick Mercer is supporting the Northern Alberta Amputee Program and was organized by Mercer's friend, Paul Franklin, who he met while visiting the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan.

"I met (Franklin) about a year before he blew up and then I guess he blew up about two years ago," Mercer says with his usual blatant humour during a quick stop in Ottawa this week.

The Master Cpl. was a medical technician out on patrol in the war–ravaged country and was badly injured, losing both his legs, in a suicide bombing in January 2006.

Mercer recalls replying to an e–mail Franklin sent shortly before the accident and the horrible news later that afternoon. Luckily enough, Franklin was treated by the medical team he trained.

Since then, Franklin has written *The Long Walk Home* as a part of his healing process, and has found a renewed passion in helping other amputees.

He finally called on his old friend for some fun support.

"Like any entertainer, it's difficult because you're asked to do a lot ... But Paul is a friend of mine.

"I knew him before he had his accident and you know, I'd be a pretty lousy friend if a buddy of mine got his legs blown off, started a charity and I didn't go do a show," Mercer says.

"I always said, if I can do anything, I'd be happy to do it. I don't have a lot of skills, but one of them is standing up, entertaining people for an hour or so, and I'm happy to do it for that reason."

Mercer will be back on televisions across the country when the new season of the Rick Mercer Report kicks off Oct. 2, hopefully bringing him back to Edmonton for some good–hearted commentary about the rednecks of Alberta.

"Every season, I try to hit every province and every territory and most times we've done that. I get to talk to farmers and people who harvest oysters for a living and also prime ministers and political leaders and basic Canadians.

"I have a wide spectrum of people I hang out with and talk to, lots of university campuses, so I get to do everything I want to do – cover the country, get up north, cover politics," says Mercer, who admits at age 10, politics was already his sport of choice.

Not only is the new season of Mercer's show only weeks away, he also has a book coming out called Rick Mercer Report: The Book, which will include some of his best rants from over the years, political blogs and some new writing to keep it fresh. KEYWORDS=SHOWBIZ

# Gaining ground: top general

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070833  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 42  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** PATROL BASE WILSON,  
Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 225

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More than five years after international forces rolled into Afghanistan, there is much debate about whether or not they're losing ground to a resurgent Taliban.

For Brig-Gen. Guy Laroche, Canada's top commander in Afghanistan, the answer is a firm "No."

As his military convoy bumps over a road where Canada lost its first soldier to a roadside bomb, Laroche sweeps his arm toward the far-off mountains. "There used to be 300 Taliban in this area," he said. "Now, they don't have the numbers for a face-to-face fight."

As his crew keeps a close watch on every bump in the road and every person they pass, Laroche suggests the deadly bombing campaign of the Taliban is their last gasp.

"We'll never completely get rid of the Taliban," he said. "This is their home."

But he said the insurgent force has been severely damaged and left unable to mount an effective fighting force. He suggested that's why the Taliban have resorted to the improvised explosive devices – including suicide bombings – that have taken the lives of 38 Canadian soldiers.

Despite the bombs, stability is being restored. "Now you see families and children who've come back," Laroche said as a group of waving small children ran alongside the convoy. "A year ago you didn't see that."

Meanwhile in Kandahar City, Afghan authorities paraded four suspected Taliban detainees for the media yesterday, claiming the Pakistani natives were would-be suicide bombers.

Although the four deny any plan to blow themselves up, they admitted they easily crossed the border into Afghanistan with jihad – holy war – on their minds. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Two NATO soldiers killed in attacks

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070832  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 42  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 66

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Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement that the soldiers were killed and wounded in two separate attacks today in restive southern Afghanistan.

This follows days of bloody combat in the south of the country, where Canada has 2,500 soldiers.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# 'Stay the course,' Canada told

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709070827  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 28  
**BYLINE:** KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**WORD COUNT:** 307

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Canada should "stay the course" in Afghanistan to help finish the job it signed up for with NATO allies, says the organization's military adviser.

Gen. Ray Henault, NATO's military committee chairman, said NATO won't wade into Canada's heated political debate over an exit date from combat, but he stressed the Afghan mission is a long-term commitment and urged Canada to stay put for as long as possible.

"We understand that the decision to continue operations in Afghanistan is a national one, but we're encouraging all countries, including Canada, to continue to provide assistance and operational capabilities in Afghanistan as long as possible and as long as the country requires that," he said.

Arriving yesterday for a four-day meeting with NATO's top generals, the former Canadian chief of defence staff said Canada is regarded internationally as a valiant and "valuable" partner.

Other countries are anxious to work with Canadian troops in-theatre, he said.

"Canada has shown tremendous leadership and is well-respected in terms of the capabilities of its soldiers and other Canadian Forces working there," he said. "They have shown tremendous courage and commitment in a number of difficult situations, and many countries are interested in operating with Canada."

Henault's comments come as Opposition pressure mounts on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to formally advise NATO that Canadian troops will withdraw after the current mission expires in February 2009.

The Dutch are also expected to announce within a few weeks if their troops will remain in the country's turbulent southern region.

Henault said NATO is discussing a "force generation" strategy to replenish and rotate troops.

But it can't make operational plans for replacements until there's official notification from member countries.

Conceding setbacks in some regions due to shortages of NATO troops, Henault stressed that progress is being made in Afghanistan and NATO must remain until the job is done.

"We have a mission, we have a requirement to ultimately help the Afghans to develop those security forces and security mechanisms that will allow them to take their security matters into their own hands and there isn't really a date you can set on that. It's an end state," he said. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# NATO soldiers among dead in Afghanistan

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**SOURCETAG** 0709070685  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 22  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 157

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Police were on the hunt this morning for 13 mine-clearing workers kidnapped in a restive part Afghanistan, a day after two NATO soldiers and more than 20 insurgents were killed in fierce fighting.

The de-miners, all Afghans working for a UN-funded land mine-clearance agency, were kidnapped Wednesday in eastern Paktia province on the border with Pakistan, said provincial deputy police chief Ghulam Dastager.

"We have nothing to do with politicians, the people of the area asked us to come," said Kefayatullah Eblagh, the head of Afghan Technical Consultants, the de-mining agency.

Dastager and Ebalgh said police and villagers were hunting for the crew, which were travelling in two vehicles.

The two NATO soldiers were killed in two separate bomb blasts yesterday in southern Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force said in a statement. It gave no more details, including nationalities of the troops.

Also yesterday, Afghan and U.S.-led coalition forces killed "more than 20" insurgents in an eight-hour battle that saw coalition aircraft bombing and strafing enemy positions in Kandahar province, the coalition said in a statement. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Calgary flies military flag

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070056  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Westcoast News  
**PAGE:** B2  
**KEYWORDS:** PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL FINANCES; INFRASTRUCTURE; MUNICIPAL TAXES; MAYORS; POLITICIANS  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 132

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CALGARY -- For the first time, the Canadian Forces flag will fly in front of city hall for a month.

The Canadian Forces Ensign, which includes both the Maple Leaf and military's crest, was raised in a ceremony in front of historic city hall on Macleod Trail.

It marked the official start of what was declared Yellow Ribbon Month by the City of Calgary.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier, who read the proclamation, asked that Calgarians take time to learn more about the organizations that support the troops and their families.

"The intent is not only to recognize those who serve," he said, "but to support the families."

Bronconnier and 10 of his council colleagues have come under fire since July, when they decided not to mandate putting Support Our Troops decals on city vehicles.

Military families in attendance said they'd still like to see council reverse its decision on the decals.

"Absolutely," said Julie Gow, "but I appreciate any support they give us."

Her husband, Cpl. Matthew Gow, left for Afghanistan in August for six months.



# Three allies look haphazard in dealing with North Korea

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070041  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial  
**PAGE:** A13  
**COLUMN:** Jonathan Manthorpe  
**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN RELATIONS; NUCLEAR WEAPONS; ARMAMENTS;  
NUCLEARREACTORS; FAMILY REUNIONS; SUMMIT CONFERENCES;  
NUCLEAR POWER; TREATIES  
**BYLINE:** Jonathan Manthorpe  
**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun  
**WORD COUNT:** 652

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The quest to strip North Korea of its nuclear weapons program risks going off the rails as three of the main players, the United States, Japan and South Korea, pursue different objectives and agendas driven by domestic politics.

It is ironic that this danger has surfaced when, for the first time in more than a decade, the Stalinist hermit kingdom of "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il seems serious about negotiating the dismantling of its nuclear weapons program in return for relief and development aid for its collapsed economy.

Voices are being raised in Washington, Tokyo and Seoul questioning the over-enthusiasm or narrow objectives of negotiators from all three countries in apparently uncoordinated, separate discussions with North Korean emissaries.

The seemingly haphazard approaches to Pyongyang are more marked because of the long history of linked and agreed approaches to Asian strategy in the three capitals.

As his presidency splutters out, George W. Bush is looking for a legacy to set against his failures in Iraq and Afghanistan. A North Korean commitment to dismantle its nuclear weapons program would be just the ticket.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is clinging on to the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic party despite recent losses in Upper House elections and shrinking public regard. A breakthrough on the emotional issue of the abduction of Japanese by North Korean agents to serve as tutors for Pyongyang's spies could revive Abe's political fortunes.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun is due to retire after December elections, when his Uri party is likely to be trounced by the opposition Grand National party. One of Roh's few hopes of keeping his party in power is to forge greater economic, cultural and tourist links with the North.

With these divergent interests on display, Kim might well believe that with a bit of luck he can get support for his collapsed economy as well as some restored political credibility and still avoid fulfilling his promise to "disable" -- whatever that means -- all his nuclear programs by the end of the year.

Concern that enthusiasm for dealing with Pyongyang is getting out of hand, voiced by such people as Bush's former United Nations ambassador John Bolton, has even penetrated the White House.

According to copious leaks, the meeting between Bush and Roh on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Australia this week was dominated by the American president urging his South Korean counterpart to slow down on the promises of economic aid to the North.

Roh is due to hold a "Korean Summit" with Kim in a few weeks when many economic incentives will be offered in the hope of cracking the military and ideological wall that has separated the two states for 60 years.

But Bush is not innocent of charges of over exuberance on the North Korean file either. In his first term he refused to hold bilateral talks with North Korea and would not to contemplate aid until confirmed destruction of the nuclear program, which the Central Intelligence Agency believes may have produced a handful of atomic bombs.

That has been overtaken by pragmatism and many would say this is a blessing.

U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill had face-to-face talks with his counterpart Kim Kye-gwan in Geneva this week and won a pledge that, following on from the closure of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor in July, it will account for and disable all nuclear facilities by year's end.

U.S. critics from the political right worry that Bush has gone soft and will offer rewards before the disarming is fully verified.

As for Japan, which had inconclusive talks with North Korea this week in Mongolia, while the politicians worry about Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities, the public is mainly concerned about the abductees.

North Korea has acknowledged kidnapping 13 Japanese in the 1970s and '80s to act as spy trainers. Five victims have been freed to Japan and Pyongyang says the other eight died. But Japanese public opinion is not convinced.

Meanwhile, the Abe government is beginning to worry that its interests and the abductees issue will be abandoned by Washington in its determination to do a deal with Pyongyang.

Sun International Affairs Columnist

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# More rigorous controls needed for Canada's aid to Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial  
**PAGE:** A13  
**COLUMN:** Barbara Yaffe  
**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA  
**BYLINE:** Barbara Yaffe  
**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun  
**WORD COUNT:** 600

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There's many a slip twixt cup and lip. That appears to be what's happening in terms of Canada's humanitarian spending in Afghanistan.

This country is making some fairly serious donations over yonder — \$1.2 billion committed between 2001 and 2011, all but a whisker of it administered by the Canadian International Development Agency.

And who could argue with the establishment of a rural microcredit program? Or a polio eradication initiative? Or an emergency food assistance plan for vulnerable families in Kandahar?

It is this type of effort that polls show Canadian public opinion supports with greater enthusiasm than interventions on the military side.

The problem with spending hundreds of millions of dollars in aid money in Afghanistan is that a lot of it inevitably is going to go astray and possibly wind up in warlord-type pockets.

CIDA's own website warns:

"There are always uncertainties and risks. CIDA and other donors must take into account the reality of Afghanistan's currently weak institutional capacity, both governmental and non-governmental, to plan and implement development and reconstruction projects as well as the country's ongoing internal conflict and instability.

"These realities pose financial, operational and developmental challenges for CIDA's Afghanistan program."

Rough translation: Give us a break. There's a war going on and Afghanistan is rife with systemic corruption.

Senator Colin Kenny, in an interview last week, was more direct. The Liberal chair of the Senate committee on Canadian defence says Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai should be given the following message:

"Canadians aren't prepared to send a billion dollars in foreign aid to Afghanistan if he's just going to line his pockets or the pockets of his friends.

"We know it's the most corrupt damn government in the world. Canadian tax dollars shouldn't be going into Swiss bank accounts. We need a transparent system to show Canadian aid dollars are going where they're meant to go."

A hint of money going missing came the other week with release of a report by the respected Senlis Council, headed by Vancouver lawyer Noreen MacDonald, who these days spends most of her time in Afghanistan.

The report, titled CIDA in Kandahar: Unanswered Questions, states: "The work of CIDA was not visible in Kandahar."

The report found evidence of only \$5 million of \$18.5 million in infrastructure development money that was to have been spent.

And help directed to Kandahar's destitute Mirwais Hospital — where doctors regularly spend their personal funds for medicines — did not in fact get to the maternity program it was intended to sponsor.

Federal Liberals are now calling for an investigation into the situation by both the auditor-general and the Commons foreign affairs committee.

But it's not clear that bureaucratic probes are necessary to explore further what we already know. Afghanistan is a difficult place to ensure value for money. And Canada has never instituted the checks and balances needed to monitor its foreign aid to Afghanistan.

CIDA Minister Bev Oda, not the strongest Harper minister, needs to get proactive in a hurry.

Initially, she might suggest a temporary reduction in spending to an amount that can be reasonably monitored.

And there's a question of staffing. CIDA is upping its Afghanistan contingent this fall to eight from a scant three, which is a start. Surely it's false economy not to deploy sufficient Canadians there to watchdog aid programs.

Finally, more responsibility for disbursing aid should be assigned to the military, as the Senate's defence committee has been urging for some time.

Not only would this result in more dollars being spent as intended. It could well provide a public relations payoff to the military. Direct largesse from soldiers would boost their standing, possibly resulting in receipt of more intelligence from the locals.

The humanitarian work is about winning hearts and minds of Afghans who happen desperately to need the projects that CIDA is offering. These projects, arguably, are as crucial for the country's recovery as the military mission.

Unfortunately, Stephen Harper now runs a risk of losing public support for Canada's \$1.2-billion assistance effort unless more accountability surrounds the spending.

Dedicating dollars for Afghanistan carries political benefit for the Conservatives but not unless those dollars get to the right places.

byaffe@png.canwest.com

# Lack of NATO support puts Canadian troops at risk: official; Troop restrictions make it tough for Canadians and their allies on front lines, says Gen. Ray Henault, head of the alliance's military committee

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070013

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A5

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Wayne Cuddington, CanWest News Service / Gen. Ray Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and a defuser of controversy. ;

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; ORGANIZATIONS; ARMED FORCES; WAR; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 545

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OTTAWA — Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said Thursday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements (through) what we call 'caveats.'"

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwahi district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to

Lack of NATO support puts Canadian troops at risk: official; Troop restrictions make it tough for Canadians and

Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region or particular area to maintain those gains, to consolidate them," Henault said.

Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and bureaucrat, a defuser of controversy. He is every bit the opposite of the outspoken Gen. Rick Hillier, who succeeded him as Canada's defence chief and who is hosting his counterparts here.

But, shortly after his plane touched down from Brussels, Henault bluntly confronted both the caveats controversy and a second major headache that has dogged NATO since it began sending troops to Afghanistan five years ago: that some member countries are not living up to their original promises of equipment and personnel.

Meantime, the Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February 2009. Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

"We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan, again because of what Canada represents to the international community," he said. "We're certainly focused on what the Dutch decision will be ... we're hopeful that they will also find ways of continuing to operate in Afghanistan, if that's possible."

# Picking a new top soldier; How long will our troops stay in Afghanistan and who will lead them?

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070053  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
**PAGE:** A17  
**COLUMN:** L. Ian MacDonald  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: CNS PHOTOS / General Rick Hillier talks to soldiers in Kandahar. His term will be up before the mission in Afghanistan ends. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
**BYLINE:** L. IAN MACDONALD  
**SOURCE:** Freelance  
**WORD COUNT:** 791

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Words are always important in Throne Speeches, and they will be of crucial importance in how the future of Canada's Afghan mission is worded in the Throne Speech on Oct. 16.

If the Throne Speech says Canada's military presence in Afghanistan will end in February 2009, that will be one thing. If it says Canada's role in Kandahar province will end then, that will be quite another.

If the former, Canada would be meeting its commitments until then, but then packing up and going home, leaving our NATO allies in the lurch and abandoning the Karzai government in Kabul.

If the latter, Canada would be fulfilling its obligations in Kandahar, but then rotating out to another assignment elsewhere in Afghanistan. In this scenario, Canada could say it is staying on in the country, but asking another country to step up and do the hard and dangerous work in the south, home ground of the Taliban. This is the burden-sharing scenario.

The latter scenario is much more likely, since cutting and running on NATO is not in our traditions. Moreover, there are 3Ds in Canada's foreign and defence policy – defence, diplomacy and development and Afghanistan is clearly in need of all three.

Since the 3Ds were adopted by the Martin government, of which Stéphane Dion was a member, he would be ill-placed, on behalf of the Liberals, to demand a complete withdrawal of Canadian forces. As for Jack Layton, his policy as NDP leader is that he would "support the troops by bringing them home."

The question, and it's a good one, is whether a deployment from Kandahar to another part of Afghanistan is acceptable to the Bloc Québécois, which reluctantly supports the military mission but strongly supports the humanitarian side of it.

Stephen Harper will need wording for the Throne Speech that is acceptable to Gilles Duceppe.

There's a related issue of command looming on the horizon, and that's the question of whether Rick Hillier's tenure as chief of defence staff will be extended beyond the usual three-year term.

In the normal course of events, Hillier would be retiring next February, exactly a year before the mission to Kandahar is scheduled to end.

So there are two questions, of equal importance, around this. On the one hand, is Hillier essential to the mission? On the other, if he is extended for another year, would that be an admission he is indispensable? One man bigger than the mission? That's not a good story line.

And further, what would be the implications of that for the normal path of succession, and promotions among general officers, who don't exactly come a dime a dozen? There is only one "four-star" general in the Canadian Forces, and only about a dozen "three-stars," lieutenant-generals, beneath him and only so many "two-stars," major-generals, below that, all them waiting to move up.

In particular, there are two three-stars waiting in line behind Hillier, Lt.-Gen. Walter Natynczyk, the vice-chief of staff, and Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, the head of the army. Like Hillier, both are experienced field commanders. They are considered the two front-runners for the job, but Hillier is regarded as being in no hurry to retire, and hopeful of being extended.

That's entirely up to the prime minister. The chief of defence staff is appointed by the PM from the general staff, and serves at his pleasure. While a three-year tenure is normal, it is not a fixed term. However, only two generals in the modern era have served beyond a normal term, General Jacques Dextraze from 1972-77, and John de Chastelain from 1989-93, who in fact served a subsequent stint as chief when he was recalled from Washington, where he had been appointed ambassador by Brian Mulroney.

So extending Hillier's term would be exceptional, though not unprecedented. Other than Harper, that might also depend on how Hillier is getting along with his new boss, Defence Minister Peter MacKay, who while learning the ropes might be very reliant on Hillier's advice.

Afghanistan is the key, and Hillier is intimately familiar with all details of the mission. He commanded the NATO International Security Assistance Force there in 2004, and as chief lobbied hard for the redeployment from Kabul to Kandahar in 2005. He is heavily invested in the success of the mission, perhaps too heavily invested in it.

Nor is he the only general officer with experience on the ground in Afghanistan. Leslie has been a deputy ISAF commander and, like Hillier also is very good with the media – highly quotable, maybe too quotable. In 2005, he called Afghanistan a "a 20-year venture." Natynczyk served twice in UN commands in the former Yugoslavia, in such inhospitable places as Bosnia and Kosovo.

So Harper is on the verge of two important decisions: What to do about Afghanistan after February 2009, and whether Hillier is the man to lead the Canadian Forces until then.

[www.lianmacdonald.ca](http://www.lianmacdonald.ca)



# Battles kill 60 Taliban

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070032  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A14  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; BOMBINGS  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 195

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Afghan and U.S.-led coalition forces killed more than 60 Taliban in battles in restive southern Afghanistan, taking the guerrilla death toll to more than 200 in a fortnight, the U.S. military said yesterday.

In separate incidents, two NATO soldiers were killed by roadside bombs in the south while an armed group kidnapped 12 Afghan nationals working for a local demining group in the eastern province of Paktia yesterday, their employer said.

Insurgents ambushed a coalition patrol in villages in Kandahar province's Shah Wali Kot district with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, and more than 40 Taliban were killed in the ensuing battle, the U.S. military said.

Hours later, Afghan and coalition troops backed by air strikes killed another 20 guerrillas in another district of Kandahar, the site of repeated clashes in recent months, it added.

"As the insurgents continued to reinforce their positions with additional fighters, the ground commander requested coalition close air support. Coalition aircraft destroyed multiple enemy positions with precision-guided munitions," the U.S. military said in a statement.

There was no independent account of how many people were killed or what had happened.

The two NATO soldiers killed by roadside bombs at undisclosed locations in the south were not identified, in line with policy.

# 'Je m'excuse': Stolen portrait mysteriously returns

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070023  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: JEAN LEVAC, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / Ottawaartist Heidi Conrod's portrait of Laval native Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, one of a series intended to capture the spirit of soldiers as boys, was returned yesterday after the Ottawa Citizen published a front–page story about the theft. The portrait has been bought from Ottawa's Dale Smith Gallery by family friends as a gift to Karigiannis's girlfriend. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** ART GALLERIES; ART; WORLD WAR II; NAZISM; THEFT; CRIME  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** PAUL GESSELL  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 228

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Someone seems to have had a guilty conscience. A painting of a dead Canadian soldier stolen a month ago from an Ottawa gallery has been mailed back with an apology, a handwritten "Je m'excuse."

The painting by Ottawa artist Heidi Conrod was a portrait of Sgt. Christos Karigiannis from Laval, who was killed June 20 in Afghanistan.

The painting was purchased this summer by a family friend as a gift to the soldier's girlfriend in Kingston, Ont.

But before the portrait could be picked up, it was stolen right off the wall at Dale Smith Gallery.

"I'm just glad it's back," gallery owner Dale Smith said yesterday.

The painting was placed in a box and mailed to the gallery. The parcel arrived Wednesday afternoon by Express Post.

A return address was on the package but Smith has done some detective work and expects that address is not likely that of the thief. The handwriting looked shaky, as if it were deliberately done with the wrong hand.

The painting arrived slightly chipped. "But it's nothing that Heidi can't easily fix," Smith said.

The Ottawa Citizen ran a front–page story on the theft on Aug. 29.

That meant, Smith said, an image of the painting was staring out accusingly at the thief all that day from newspaper vending machines on most every corner and from stacks of newspapers at corner stores.

Most of Ottawa suddenly knew what that painting looked like.

Who would then dare to hang it on a wall of their home?

The painting of Karigiannis was one of three portraits painted by Conrod of Canadian soldiers from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed June 20 in Afghanistan.

The paintings were part of a show called Fever at the gallery. The portraits were inspired by newspaper photographs of the men and were meant to capture the spirit of the soldiers as boys.

Police continue to investigate.

Ottawa citizen

# NATO must equalize duties: Henault; Urges other nations to lift caveat. Canada, Netherlands, Britain and U.S. left in areas facing heaviest casualties

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070022

**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A13

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: WAYNE CUDDINGTON, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / RayHenault (left) is considered a consummate diplomat, as opposed to his outspoken successor, Rick Hillier (right). Henault called on NATO to provide more troops to southern Afghanistan. ;

**KEYWORDS:** ORGANIZATIONS; DEFENCE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** MIKE BLANCHFIELD

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 341

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Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said yesterday.

General Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings in Ottawa and Victoria.

"We also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements (through) what we call 'caveats.'

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out – France, Germany, Spain and Italy – counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar – previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story – have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and bureaucrat, a defuser of controversy. He is every bit the opposite of the outspoken General Rick Hillier, who succeeded him as Canada's defence chief.

# THE AFGHAN MISSION: A PARALLEL DEBATE RAGES IN EUROPE Berlin begs Ottawa to stay past 2009 With its public increasingly unnerved about terrorism and war, Germany implores Canada to stay the course for the greater good

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072500195  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**PAGE:** A1 (ILLUS)  
**BYLINE:** DOUG SAUNDERS  
**SECTION:** International News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Berlin GERMANY  
**WORDS:** 1375  
**WORD COUNT:** 1388

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DOUG SAUNDERS BERLIN Stung by a thwarted terrorist attack and facing their own ugly parliamentary debate over the war, German leaders are begging Canada to avoid withdrawing troops from Afghanistan in early 2009 as scheduled.

"I want to say how much we appreciate what Canada is doing. We know that, for instance, about 100,000 Canadian soldiers lie in the European soil, [soldiers] that fought in two world wars begun by Germany.

And it was never a question for Canada to defend our common values where it was needed," Eckart von Klaeden, Chancellor Angela Merkel's foreign-policy spokesman, said in an interview yesterday.

"Canada is a really important country as a role model for others.

It would have consequences for the whole alliance and for the whole Western world if Canada would leave Afghanistan." In both Canada and Germany, the Afghan mission faces intense pressure from the public and from opposition parties supporting shaky governments.

Germany, like Canada, is in the midst of a debate over the nature of its commitment. But both parties in the German coalition government, the left-wing Social Democrats and the conservative Christian Democrats, have declared that troops should stay for at least 10 years, and the Social Democrats are arguing that the number of troops should be increased.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said recently that Canada's 2,500 troops would not stay beyond the current February, 2009, deadline unless there is a parliamentary mandate, which would probably be impossible in the current minority government.

NATO leaders, meeting in Ottawa yesterday and facing withdrawals from the 37-nation Afghanistan mission by Canada, the Netherlands and several other nations, urged Canada to "stay the course." In the war-plagued south, the loss of Canada and the Netherlands would leave only Britain and the United States, and NATO would be forced to press other nations, which have so far refused to enter this more intense battle, to send

their troops into the line of fire.

This has created an air of crisis in Germany, whose 3,500 troops are mostly engaged in non-combat work securing the relatively peaceful north of Afghanistan.

Christian Schmidt, the German secretary of state for defence, said in an interview that Germany would not consider sending its troops south, beyond 100 special-forces soldiers and a fleet of Tornado aircraft that are supporting the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom mission there, and suggested that Canada is damaging the solidarity of the NATO mission.

"The ideal should be, you go in together, you go out together, mission accomplished and we're leaving. . . . I think it would be the best to go out together, but I appreciate very much and I estimate very highly the commitment of Canada as it is today." Germany on Wednesday arrested three men and is seeking about a dozen other suspects after breaking up an alleged Islamist terrorist plot that sought to explode huge bombs outside U.S.-linked military installations near Frankfurt. Such strikes could become prevalent if the NATO coalition was seen to be weak and divided, German officials said.

"I think we are only successful if we stand together, and if the terrorists would identify Germany as the weakest link in NATO's chain, I think this would increase the probability of such attacks.

So standing together is really very, very important," Mr. von Klueden said.

The German parliament will vote during the next three months on a series of bills that would extend the country's military commitment in Afghanistan, which expires before the end of this year. While both the conservative and left-wing parties in the coalition government are likely to support an extension of the NATO mission in northern Afghanistan, they are deeply divided over the country's other commitments and the details of the arrangement.

The debate in Berlin is strikingly similar to the one unfolding in Ottawa. The German public is generally opposed to the mission, with 65 per cent of voters supporting an immediate withdrawal.

And the left-leaning Social Democrats may be poised to vote against Germany's contribution to the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom mission, which is largely indistinguishable from the NATO operation but is more active in the south. They will hold a party convention later this month to decide their position. The party has been losing voters to the Left Party, made of former East German Communists and far-left former Social Democrats, because it is the only party backing a complete withdrawal.

Rainer Arnold, the Social Democrat defence spokesman, said in an interview yesterday that his party would back a troop increase if the generals wanted it, and that they are largely supporting the German non-combat role in the north, but that it may need to be examined.

"I think our main responsibility is to find a better understanding of why it is that Germany has decided to maintain its strong position in the north," he said. "It's the same question I was confronted with recently in Kabul from the Canadian generals, asking why we can't send a strong army to the south." Mr. Arnold said that Germany would likely be considering an immediate withdrawal if it were facing the number of deaths that Canada has been enduring. Since the war's outset in 2001, 21 German soldiers and three policemen have died, compared with 70 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat.

"It's a very difficult position the Canadians are in, especially given the smallness of their army and the very difficult situation in the south and the high number of victims," Mr. Arnold said. "If we had these kind of figures in Germany, I don't know if the German population and politicians would support the mandate." The military's role The role of the German military has been severely restricted since the adoption of a new

constitution in 1949 after its Second World War defeat.

\* Under Germany's constitution, known as its Basic Law, the military's role is strictly defensive. Constitutional court rulings in the 1990s, however, expanded the definition of "defensive" beyond protecting Germany's borders to include guarding the security of Germany anywhere in the world. Before that change, the German military mostly helped out in times of natural disaster.

\* Around the same time that the military role was changed, the courts also made it clear that a specific resolution of parliament, which describes the details of the mission and limits its term, is required to send German troops outside the territory of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Staff What was said Terror arrests in Germany sparked a range of opinions in the newspapers.

Frankfurter Allgemeine New York. Madrid. London. Then Frankfurt? Hanau? Heidelberg? German cities were supposed to become part of the barrage of attacks by Islamic terrorists that would shake the West to its foundations.

... Experience shows that one cannot give them any quarter, not in Afghanistan, not in German mosques and backrooms, and not in the depths of the Internet. The next attack is possibly already being planned.

Green Party Chair Claudia Roth, in an interview with Sueddeutsche Zeitung Along with many other experts, I see a need for a radical change of strategy [in Afghanistan]. This doesn't mean that we should just deploy more troops, as Foreign Minister [Frank-Walter] Steinmeier demands, but that we finally push forward with all our strength on civilian reconstruction. At the same time, along with ISAF [International Security Force to Afghanistan], a military component remains necessary to secure reconstruction efforts.

Die Zeit In year five of the reconstruction efforts on the Hindu Kush, the German army has learned a painful lesson: It is wrong to think that you won't make enemies in Afghanistan as long as you do only good. Whoever changes or modernizes things here, is practising politics, be it in the building of schools or of roads.

Reader of Die Welt responds to question, Are our current laws enough to fight against terror? [Interior Minister] Wolfgang Schaueble wants to turn our country into a surveillance state. Besides, we ourselves are responsible for possible terrorist attacks because we participate in useless oil wars with the U.S.A. in the name of freedom, which for me are crimes.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan; Germany

SUBJECT TERM:political; foreign policy; defence; strife; media; terrorism; statements; list

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces



# THE AFGHAN MISSION Stay the course, NATO urges Canada Top military officer hopeful Ottawa will extend commitment beyond February, 2009

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072500147

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**PAGE:** A17 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** ALAN FREEMAN

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 554

**WORD COUNT:** 563

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ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA NATO's top military officer says that it's up to Canada to decide whether it wishes to maintain combat troops in Afghanistan, but he added that he hopes the Canadian government will continue its involvement in NATO's Afghan mission beyond February, 2009.

General Ray Henault, the Canadian who chairs NATO's military committee, said it is important to "stay the course" in Afghanistan, calling it "a long-term mission" with no way to predict its length.

The general was speaking at the start of a four-day visit to Canada by the top soldiers from the 26 members of the alliance who make up the NATO Military Committee.

"We're very conscious of the fact that several members of the alliance are discussing their participation in the Afghanistan mission," Gen. Henault said at a news conference after arriving aboard a Canadian Forces Airbus from Brussels, accompanied by the defence chiefs.

"We try to adapt as well as possible to the changing circumstances of different nations." Asked about the scheduled end of Canada's combat role in Kandahar in February, 2009, Gen. Henault said it was still 1 1/2 years away and "a lot of things can happen in 18 months." The general, formerly Canada's chief of the defence staff, said that NATO would not get involved in the debate in Canada or other NATO countries over the future of their commitments. But he added, "We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue to co-operate in Afghanistan because of what Canada represents in the international community." The general and his colleagues – who were greeted at Ottawa International Airport by General Rick Hillier, Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, a military band and a demonstration by the Snowbirds acrobatic airplane team – are meeting in Canada for the first time in a decade. This week's session is one of a series of three such gatherings that take place annually.

After a state dinner with Governor-General Michaëlle Jean in Ottawa, they move to Victoria for formal meetings, where they are due to discuss issues including training, resources and operational planning as well as NATO missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Darfur.

Gen. Henault was peppered with questions about how NATO will react to the withdrawal of Canada's 2,500 combat troops from the volatile Kandahar region. The government has said repeatedly that this particular mission will end unless Parliament approves an extension, which seems unlikely, although a mission to a safer part of the country would be more palatable politically to the opposition Liberals.

THE AFGHAN MISSION Stay the course, NATO urges Canada Top military officer hopeful Ottawa will extend

The general was careful to say that the decision on troop deployment belongs to Canada alone, and he wouldn't be drawn into a discussion of who would replace the Canadians. The NATO force has 33,000 troops from 26 NATO countries and 11 partner nations operating in Afghanistan.

Asked about the Dutch government's review of its participation in the Afghan force, the general responded that "we're hopeful that they too will find ways of continuing to operate in Afghanistan." He said that NATO was constantly assessing "force generation" issues, which involve matching available troops with needs in the field, but he would not say how much formal notice NATO needs before replacing the Canadians in Kandahar.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:foreign policy; defence; strife

PERSONAL NAME: Ray Henault

ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

# Those who fight oppression are heroes

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070031  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A12  
**BYLINE:** Paul Spoelstra, Ancaster  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 183

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Re: 'Hey, that's no way to say goodbye' (Letters, Sept. 4)

David McInnis writes that we err in referring to fallen soldiers as heroes, an opinion he is entitled to. However, I think he misreads history in other areas of his letter.

First, he writes that, "we are involved (in Afghanistan) more as a means of protecting our economic relationship with the U.S. than in protecting the world from oppressors."

He sells Canada short. The independence of our foreign policy is a matter of record, most recently demonstrated by our refusal to follow the U.S. into Iraq.

Soldiers on the ground in Afghanistan are there to protect the interests of the free Afghani people on a broad, international mandate.

Second, he describes the Taliban as "principally a threat to their own people . . . meant to have been dealt with locally."

In the 1930s it was hoped the ambitions of the Nazis could be contained as well. To hope the same for Taliban-style fascism is naive, at best.

Finally, he acknowledges that we indeed produced heroes in the Second World War, but none since. Not in Korea? Not in Cyprus? Not in the Balkans or Afghanistan?

Whether citizen or professional armies (the distinction is slight), anyone who helps lift the boot of tyranny from the neck of the oppressed is a hero to me.

# Hamilton soldier will receive full military funeral; Major Raymond Ruckpaul died in Afghanistan in August

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070025  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Local  
**PAGE:** A10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / Major Raymond Ruckpaul;  
**BYLINE:** John Burman  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 338

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A rifle salute will punctuate the silence outside a downtown Hamilton church tomorrow morning as Major Raymond Ruckpaul is honoured with a full military funeral.

The 42-year-old Hamilton native was found shot in his barracks in Kabul on Aug. 29 and died shortly after.

No information on the circumstances surrounding the major's death has been released, Major Jim Hardwick said yesterday.

Hardwick, a padre with the Canadian Forces Support Unit Europe in Germany, is detailed to assist the Ruckpaul family at this time.

Ruckpaul, who began his military career with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI) and was serving with the Royal Canadian Dragoons had been based in Heidelberg, Germany, for the past few years where he lived with his wife and two young children.

His funeral will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Church of the Ascension, 64 Forest Ave.

Nearby St. Joseph's Hospital will provide free parking at all its lots between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. for those attending the funeral and a reception afterward.

Hardwick, who served with Ruckpaul in Afghanistan 18 months ago, said there won't be a parade as such, but a delegation and honour guard of Royal Canadian Dragoons will meet Ruckpaul's flag-draped casket when it arrives at the church door.

The actual funeral service, conducted by Rev. Christine Swires, will include the RHLI band and traditional military honours, Hardwick said.

At the conclusion of the service, Ralph Spence, Bishop of the Anglican diocese of Hamilton, will provide the blessing.

Ruckpaul's casket will be carried outside and the flag folded and presented to his family and a firing party will offer a salute.

Hamilton soldier will receive full military funeral; Major Raymond Ruckpaul died in Afghanistan in August

A private, family burial of Ruckpaul's ashes will be done at a later date, he said.

"He was an amazing soldier," Hardwick said yesterday. "Afghanistan was pretty dull until he got there.

"He had a great sense of humour and he could brighten up the room as soon as he walked in ... he was an amazing, solid soldier."

Swires, who will soon become padre of the RHLI, said St. Joseph's offer of free parking "is the most amazing and gracious gift to (Ruckpaul's) family and a sensitive tribute.

"It was so decent (of St. Joseph's CEO Kevin Smith to do this.) The gesture has taken us all aback."

Military investigators have only said Ruckpaul did not die under enemy fire but have not publicly ruled out homicide, accident or suicide.

Ruckpaul grew up in Hamilton where he attended Barton Secondary School and later McMaster University where he studied sciences.

Visitation will be today, 2–4 and 7–9 p.m. at M.A. Clark and Sons Funeral Home 567 Upper Wellington St.

[jburman@thespec.com](mailto:jburman@thespec.com)

905–526–2469

# NATO soldiers killed in blast

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Hamilton Spectator wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 197

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Bomb blasts have killed two NATO soldiers and wounded several others in Afghanistan, where insurgent violence is running at its highest level since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

The casualties — sustained in two separate attacks — follow several days of bloody combat in the south of the country, where Canada has 2,500 soldiers with NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

As the fighting rages on, NATO's top generals have arrived in Canada for a meeting to map out strategy amid growing strain in the alliance over the increasingly bloody war.

The protracted battle has both Canada and the Netherlands questioning their deployment of combat troops in the region.

The opposition Liberals and Bloc Qu b cois want Canadian troops pulled out when the mandate of the mission expires in 2009. The NDP have long demanded an immediate withdrawal. Last week, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Canada's current mission in its current "configuration" will be over in 2009.

The more immediate concern for NATO is the decision expected within weeks by the Netherlands, which has combat troops, helicopters and aircraft operating north of Kandahar.

The Dutch are expected to say whether their forces will remain in southern Afghanistan — a decision that could trigger a domino effect among allies and some fear the collapse of NATO's effort.

# In the line of fire Part 1

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**IDNUMBER** 200709010125  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.01  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Discover  
**PAGE:** D1

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: The Hamilton Spectator / Mark Graham; Photo: Department of National Defence / Private Mark Graham, right, was killed around dawn last Labour Day by a U.S. air force fighter plane, an A-10A Thunderbolt, nicknamed the Warthog. Graham's task was to drive a light-armoured vehicle, or LAV-3. As he made an entry in his diary while awaiting orders in his LAV, the Taliban attacked without warning. ; Photo: Toronto Star File Photo / Corporal Chad Linden, left, and Master Corporal Allan Johnson were with Charlie Company of the Royal Canadian Regiment a year ago at Ma'Sum Ghar, Afghanistan, where a battle with the Taliban left dozens of Canadians injured and five dead, including Private Mark Graham of Hamilton. ; Photo: Spectator File Photos / Private Mark Graham was killed around dawn last Labour Day by a U.S. air force fighter plane, an A-10A Thunderbolt, nicknamed the Warthog. ; Photo: Graham's task was to drive a light-armoured vehicle, or LAV-3. As he made an entry in his diary while awaiting orders in his LAV, the Taliban attacked without warning. ; Photo: Private Mark Graham ;

**BYLINE:** STEVE BUIST  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 847

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Three seconds.

Actually, 3.3 seconds, to be precise.

That's just about the same amount of time it takes to read this sentence.

Still, with the unimaginable fury that's been built into today's military weaponry, that's enough time for a fighter plane's machine-gun to spit out 211 rounds of high-explosive, armour-piercing ammunition – brutal, nasty stuff designed specifically to fragment and then rip apart whatever it touches.

On the manufacturer's website, there are pictures of the ammo slicing through layers of inch-thick metal plates lined in a row. Sometimes, the deadly

17-centimetre-long bullet contains uranium, heavier than the usual tungsten alloy, just to give it a little added kick.

Three seconds. That's all.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

So many lives affected because of a tragic mistake that lasted three short seconds just before dawn on Sept. 4, 2006.

## One bloody weekend Part 1

Canadians who lived through the carnage tell the tale of two deadly days at Ma'Sum Ghar

Steve Buist

The dozens of Canadian soldiers left dazed and bleeding in the faint, gathering light before the sun cracked the horizon. Their families in Canada who'd soon learn the news by telephone.

The American pilot, never publicly identified, who ignored the information on his cockpit display and now carries the weight of that fateful mistake with him each day.

And one dead Canadian soldier, a 33-year-old former Olympic track star from Hamilton's west Mountain named Mark Graham, killed not by the enemy but by his allies.

Tuesday marks the first anniversary of the friendly fire incident in southern Afghanistan that killed Graham and wounded 35 other Canadian soldiers.

A long-awaited report released by the Canadian government recently concluded the American fighter pilot was solely responsible for Graham's death and the other injuries because he neglected to confirm his cockpit display, which showed he was strafing the wrong target.

The friendly fire incident was the final, bitter insult of a bloody Labour Day weekend in southern Afghanistan for the Royal Canadian Regiment's Charlie Company.

A day earlier, four members of Charlie Company were killed and another six were injured when they were ambushed in a field by the Taliban.

In less than 24 hours, C Company's 8 Platoon had been horribly shredded. When the dust cleared Labour Day morning, only eight of the platoon's 37 soldiers were left unscathed.

This is the story of that deadly weekend in Afghanistan, told from the ground and from the air, from those who witnessed the carnage firsthand. Some are telling their stories for the first time.

The soldiers of RCR's Charlie Company left CFB Petawawa and began arriving at Kandahar Airfield during the first week of August 2006.

"The heat, the smell," said Captain Jeremy Hiltz, recalling his first thoughts when he reached the main Canadian base in Afghanistan.

"Bullets constantly going off because there's always people shooting on ranges and stuff, helicopters and jets coming and going."

Just 25 at the time, Hiltz was commanding officer of Charlie Company's 8 Platoon, Graham's assigned unit.

Charlie Company's mission was to help lead Operation Medusa, named for the Greek mythological being who had snakes for her hair and a gaze that could turn others to stone.

Operation Medusa was a NATO coalition offensive centred on the Panjwahi district of southern Afghanistan, about 30 kilometres southwest of Kandahar.

The objective was to secure the Taliban-controlled Highway 1, the area's major transportation route.



Even a cursory glance at a history book suggests it would be a difficult mission.

With its mountainous passes and its location in the heart of central Asia, Afghanistan was described by one historian as the "roundabout of the ancient world."

It's a country woven together over time from many rival tribes and languages, notoriously difficult to rule, but even more difficult to conquer for those through history who have been brave enough — or perhaps foolish enough — to invade. The British learned that lesson twice in the 19th century. The Soviet army would discover the same after suffering heavy losses over 10 years following their 1979 invasion.

Canada's decision to send ground troops to Afghanistan shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has come under increasingly harsh scrutiny here at home.

The casualties continue to mount — 70 Canadian soldiers dead, to date. And there's growing criticism that no end to the war is in sight while Canada's reason for being there has become blurry.

That rankles the soldiers on the ground.

Major Matthew Sprague of Kenora was Charlie Company's commanding officer during the launch of Operation Medusa.

Sprague is stationed in Kingston now, but he'd go back to Afghanistan in a second because he's proud of what Canadian forces have helped accomplish there.

"When we first got there (Panjwaii district) at the start of September, there was maybe 100 people living there because they were too poor to leave or had nowhere to go," said Sprague.

"By the time we left in February, there were 15,000 people who lived in the area, because we'd gone in and made it secure for them.

"They're not sexy stories, so nobody picks up on them, but for all intents and purposes that's the reason we're there."

Mark Graham was also aware of the role that Canadians were playing in lives of Afghans.

In his phone calls home, he would tell his parents, Albert and Linda, about how it affected him to see the living conditions faced by young girls who were the same age as his eight-year-old daughter, Shae-Lynn.

"Mark was clear that he was there for democracy," said Linda Graham. "He knew why he was there.

"He knew it was about democracy and making a safer world."

"In the long run, all that matters to me are my set of values and morals. I believe that those of my leaders and country still remain congruent with mine. These people need help. We, who are the fortunate, must extend a hand to help so as to provide a stable environment for thousands of children to grow and contribute to the final globalization of our planet and destroy those who would oppose such vision and desire with threats of terror.

"Our planet sits on the edge of destruction and only through unity will my daughter and her children have a future of peace and prosperity."

— From Mark Graham's diary, May 2006

# NATO countries failing to live up to obligations in Afghanistan: Henault

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**PAGE:** A13

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 266

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CNS Mike Blanchfield OTTAWA — Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said Thursday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements (through) what we call 'caveats.'" "Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better." Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

— CanWest News Service

# NATO backup urged; Former Canadian brass repeats call for support

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070049  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Ray Henault;  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 364

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OTTAWA – Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said Thursday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said joining 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings in Ottawa and Victoria.

"We also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements (through) what we call 'caveats.'"

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

## DANGEROUS INFILTRATION

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

Meantime, the Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February 2009. Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not

before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

# Aid can do more harm than good

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070061  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**BYLINE:** Tom Quiggin  
**SOURCE:** Citizen Special  
**WORD COUNT:** 683

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Canada's mission in Afghanistan is ultimately dependent on whether a new government can establish a minimal degree of peace and security. This is not something the military by itself can do. Developmental progress is every bit as important as the security mission.

At this point, however, it is now clear that the foreign aid that has flowed into Afghanistan is doing more harm than good. The citizens of Afghanistan are not getting value for the money spent. Nor is the government becoming more stable or able to exercise its influence in the provincial areas beyond the capital city of Kabul.

Three primary problems exist. First, the foreign aid distorts the government and the economy. Second, the aid is not going into the conflict areas where it is needed most. And third, inefficiencies and corruption suck most of the value out of the aid.

The various foreign aid agencies operating in Afghanistan are crippling the nascent Afghan government by taking most of its good potential employees. The Afghan government can barely afford to pay its front-line employees. These wages are often less than \$100 per month.

At the same time, aid agencies that are flush with cash are paying locally hired employees multiple times the government wages. The Afghan government cannot afford to compete in its own labour market to hire the good people it so desperately needs to establish a functioning government. As long as aid agencies persist in this practice, they are undermining an already weak government.

Reports from cities such as Kabul and Kandahar suggest that the local economies there are recovering, if not vibrant. This is positive news. Unfortunately, the foreign aid does not now need to go to these areas. It needs to go where there is conflict and deprivation.

Some foreign aid agencies are willing to carry out their operations in high-risk zones. However, most agencies cite security concerns and withdraw from difficult areas. It is, of course, these areas that are of the greatest concern and need the greatest intervention. If the aid cannot get to these areas, then it is not contributing to the overall goal of stability and development.

On top of all the other problems, foreign aid operations in Afghanistan (and other countries) tend to be subjected to high degrees of inefficiency and outright corruption. Anyone who has spent time in a conflict zone where foreign aid operations are in effect is familiar with the problems.

Most aid agencies travel in Land Rovers or other high end SUVs. They often live in expensive accommodations and have office space in desirable neighbourhoods. Corruption is, unfortunately, a necessary part of doing business in conflict areas. Aid agencies need to sometimes pay extortionist rates for "road tolls"

and other considerations.

Worse still, aid money, including that from Canada, has at times been redirected to supporting militant groups and their fighters. Egyptian–Canadian Ahmed Said Khadr, for example, used Canadian government aid funds to further his own ends of working with al–Qaeda.

Estimates vary, but well informed sources in Afghanistan suggest that maybe 20 per cent of the money moving into Afghanistan is being used effectively. Canada and a few other countries have put large amounts of "blood and treasure" into the conflict area of Afghanistan. At this point, however, there are few reasons to believe that we are any closer to an end state in Afghanistan where foreign troops can leave and turn the security situation over to the local government.

The current means of delivering foreign aid is ineffective and needs to be addressed in a significant way before any real progress can be made. Should we be looking at military engineering units being used to further developmental projects?

The recent report by the Senlis Council questioning CIDA's accomplishments in Afghanistan appears to understate the problems which have been known for years.

If there are no effective changes in foreign aid, then we are in a mission with no end.

Tom Quiggin spent time in Croatia and Bosnia in 1994 as a peacekeeper and as an election supervisor in 1998. He is a senior fellow at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. E–mail: [istquiggin@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:istquiggin@ntu.edu.sg)

# Tent city to house war-crimes trials at Guantanamo Bay; Case against Canadian Khadr to be decided in issue of 'unlawful enemy combatants'

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070023

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A8

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Joe Skipper, Reuters / The U.S. military is building a mobile courtroom complex on an unused runway at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in order to carry out its first war-crimes trials since the Second World War. ;

**DATELINE:** MIAMI

**BYLINE:** Carol Rosenberg

**SOURCE:** The Miami Herald

**WORD COUNT:** 415

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MIAMI – The Pentagon is building a \$10-million U.S. military tent city on an abandoned airfield at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to hold its first war-crimes trials since the Second World War, a senior U.S. military official says.

The plan has been dramatically scaled back from an earlier blueprint that envisioned a huge legal compound at the remote naval base in southeast Cuba -- housing for 1,200, dining facilities for 800, a 100-car motor pool and conference centre with projected costs of up to \$125 million. That plan was abandoned amid controversy about the costs.

The new blueprints feature hurricane-resistant, air-conditioned tents that look like small aircraft hangars to accommodate service members and civilians working on the trials -- including media and legal observers.

"It's quite an undertaking to try these cases on a rock out in the Caribbean," said the official, who spoke to the Herald on the condition he not be named and the reasons for shielding his identity not be explained.

The expeditionary-style war-court compound will array about 60 tents around McCalla Field, an abandoned airstrip overlooking Guantanamo Bay where an experimental blimp station once stood.

In the 1990s, the Pentagon likewise transformed McCalla Field into a tent city. Then, it was a "family camp" housing tens of thousands of Cuban rafters while Clinton administration diplomats negotiated an interdiction and repatriation policy with Havana.

The tent city, scheduled to be ready in March, is close to the current Military Commission headquarters, a once abandoned, but now retrofitted, office building and control tower where the Pentagon has held the war-crimes trials in fits and starts since 2004.

No commission trials are being held at the moment. In June, military judges dismissed charges against Canadian captive Omar Khadr, 20, and Yemeni Salim Ahmed Hamdan, 36, saying their charge sheets did not comply with Congress' 2007 Military Commissions Act.

At issue: The law requires that only "unlawful enemy combatants" be charged with war crimes. Pentagon panels currently classify Guantanamo captives either as "enemy combatants" or "no-longer enemy combatants," but do not distinguish lawful from unlawful combatants.

The Pentagon's chief prosecutor, Air Force Col. Morris Davis, has said he expects to charge up to 80 of the 355 war-on-terror captives at Guantanamo with war crimes, some of which can be punishable by death.

Bush administration lawyers have asked a Pentagon appeals panel to instruct the Khadr case judge, Army Col. Peter E. Brownback III, to decide for himself whether the Canadian accused in the July 2002 grenade killing of a soldier in Afghanistan is an "unlawful enemy combatant."



# Timid allies endanger Canadian troops, NATO military chief Henault says; Fewer restrictions make our forces more effective

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070011

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Wayne Cuddington, The Ottawa Citizen / Gen. RayHenault, followed by Gen. Rick Hillier, inspect the troops yesterday. NATO's military committee, led by Gen. Henault, arrived in Ottawa yesterday for meetings that will be conducted here and in Victoria. ;

**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 828

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Canadian soldiers and their allies in volatile southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said yesterday.

Gen. Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members were making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops could operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

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"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

"We are aware of instances where we have not had sufficient troops in a particular region or particular area to maintain those gains, to consolidate them," Gen Henault said.

Gen. Henault has cultivated a reputation as a consummate diplomat and bureaucrat, a defuser of controversy. He is every bit the opposite of the outspoken Gen. Rick Hillier, who succeeded him as Canada's defence chief and is the host for his counterparts here.

However, shortly after his plane touched down from Brussels, Gen. Henault bluntly confronted both the caveats controversy and a second major headache that has dogged NATO since it began sending troops to Afghanistan five years ago: that some member countries are not living up to their original promises of equipment and personnel.

Meantime, the Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February 2009. Gen. Henault said the generals wouldn't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hoped the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

"We're certainly hopeful that Canada will find a way to continue operating in Afghanistan, again because of what Canada represents to the international community," he said. "We're certainly focused on what the Dutch decision will be.... We're hopeful that they will also find ways of continuing to operate in Afghanistan, if that's possible."

The Dutch parliament must vote to extend its military commitment, which will otherwise end in August 2008. The Harper government has said Canada's 2,500 troops won't continue combat operations in Afghanistan beyond a February 2009 commitment unless there is a consensus in Parliament to extend the mission. The Liberals have accused the government of essentially leading

NATO along by not formally giving notice of its intention to leave by the previously announced withdrawal deadline.

Gen. Henault said NATO had received no official word on Canada's withdrawal plans, and would not say how the alliance would plug any void created by a Canadian pullout.

"A lot of things can happen in 18 months," he said.

Gen. Henault issued a pointed reminder that political deadlines imposed in member countries were utterly divorced from the imperatives within Afghanistan. Training enough indigenous army and police personnel to provide security must be a long-term commitment, he said.

"There isn't a date you can set on that. It's an end state."

Gen. Henault and NATO officials stressed that the Canadian meetings was one of three yearly gatherings by the alliance's full military committee, which simply couldn't concern itself with the domestic politics of member countries. The main focus will be long-term planning on how to deliver the military resources necessary to live up to the commitments made by the political leaders of NATO states.

NATO generals, including Gen. Hillier, who commanded the alliance's mission in Afghanistan three years ago, have complained of a shortage of equipment, especially helicopters.

Planning efforts to ensure NATO has enough soldiers and equipment is an ongoing task for the organization's officials in Mons, Belgium, Gen. Henault said. It is a topic that is "very, very keenly debated" by his committee and the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's governing body to which the generals report.

Timid allies endanger Canadian troops, NATO military chief Henault says; Fewer restrictions make our force

To view a video report on the NATO mission, go to Today's Videos at [ottawacitizen.com](http://ottawacitizen.com)

Timid allies endanger Canadian troops, NATO military chief Henault says; Fewer restrictions make our force

# Painting thief writes 'I'm sorry' in mailing piece back to gallery

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070003

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Heidi Conrod's portrait of Canadian soldier Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, who was killed in Afghanistan, was stolen, but returned Wednesday. The painting was mailed back to the Dale Smith Gallery with 'je m'excuse' written on the package, presumably indicating remorse on the part of the art thief. ; Colour Photo: Heidi Conrod's portrait of Canadian soldier Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, who was killed in Afghanistan, was stolen, but returned Wednesday. The painting was mailed back to the Dale Smith Gallery with 'je m'excuse' written on the package, presumably indicating remorse on the part of the art thief. ;

**BYLINE:** Paul Gessell

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 372

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Someone seems to have had a guilty conscience.

A painting of a fallen Canadian soldier stolen a month ago from the Dale Smith Gallery has been mailed back with an apology, a handwritten "Je m'excuse" -- that's French for "I'm sorry."

The painting by Ottawa artist Heidi Conrod was a portrait of a Canadian soldier, Sgt. Christos Karigiannis, who was killed June 20 in Afghanistan. The painting was purchased this summer by a family friend as a gift to the soldier's girlfriend in Kingston but, before the portrait could be picked up, it was stolen off the wall at the Dale Smith Gallery on Beechwood Avenue.

"I'm just glad it's back," Dale Smith, the gallery owner, said yesterday in an interview.

The painting was placed in a box and mailed to the gallery. The parcel arrived Wednesday afternoon by express post. A return address was on the package, but Ms. Smith has done some detective work and expects that address is not likely that of the thief.

The handwriting looked rather shaky, like it was deliberately done with the wrong hand.

The painting arrived slightly chipped. "But it's nothing that Heidi can't easily fix," Ms. Smith said.

The Citizen ran a front page story, with a large photograph of the portrait, on Aug. 29. That meant, says Ms. Smith, an image of the painting was staring out accusingly at the thief all that day from the Citizen's yellow newspaper vending machines on almost every street corner, and from stacks of newspapers at corner stores.

Most of Ottawa suddenly knew what that painting looked like. Who would then dare to hang it on their wall?

Ms. Smith's gallery was closed last week for holidays and only reopened on Tuesday. She expects the thief

waited until then to mail the painting.

Ms. Smith left a telephone message with the purchaser of the painting to inform her it has been recovered. At their request, Ms. Smith has not revealed the name of the purchaser nor the soldier's girlfriend.

The painting of Sgt. Karigiannis was one of three portraits painted by Ms. Conrod of Canadian soldiers from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, killed June 20 in Afghanistan. The paintings were part of a group show at Dale Smith Gallery called Fever. The three soldiers' portraits were all sold.

The portraits were inspired by newspaper photographs of the men and were meant to capture the spirit of the soldiers as boys. Ms. Conrod is best known for her haunting portraits of children.

Meanwhile, police continue to investigate the theft.

# General decries lackof NATO troops, supplies; Afghanistan Mission

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070151

**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.09.07

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A6

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Wayne Cuddington, CanWest News Service/ NATO's military committee arrives in Ottawa yesterday. General Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, said some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment to the Afghanistan theatre. "Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Henault said. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** Mike Blanchfield

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 543

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OTTAWA – Canadian soldiers and their allies in southern Afghanistan face added risks because some NATO countries are not supplying enough troops and equipment, the head of the alliance's military committee said yesterday.

General Ray Henault, formerly Canada's defence chief, also said some NATO members are making it tougher on their comrades in the south by restricting where their troops can operate. With other countries not deploying soldiers to the front lines in Kandahar and its neighbouring southern provinces, Canada and its Dutch, British and U.S. allies are left to face the toughest fighting and heaviest casualties alone.

"Shortfalls do create additional risks and we try to reduce those as much as possible," Gen. Henault said shortly after he arrived with the 26 chiefs of defence of the alliance for three days of meetings here and in Victoria, "and we also encourage nations to reduce their limitations on troop movements [through] what we call 'caveats.' "

"Canada has no caveats, and so that's very commendable, quite frankly," he said, adding that the "reduction of caveats, especially in the geographic sense, are what we consider to be a force multiplier and help our commanders on the ground to do their jobs that much better."

Canada has repeatedly lobbied NATO allies to lift their caveats, complaining that nations with such restrictions are not shouldering their fair share of the fighting in the south.

The countries usually singled out — France, Germany, Spain and Italy — counter that they can't simply abandon other parts of Afghanistan when the going gets tough in the south because their areas of responsibility would become vulnerable to insurgents.

However, it has become evident in recent months that areas such as the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar — previously secured by Canadian-led NATO forces and touted as a success story — have fallen vulnerable to Taliban infiltrators, who managed to kill Canadian troops with roadside bombs.

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But, shortly after his plane touched down from Brussels, Gen. Henault bluntly confronted both the caveats controversy and a second major headache that has dogged NATO since it began sending troops to Afghanistan five years ago: that some member countries are not living up to their original promises of equipment and personnel.

The Netherlands is mulling over a pullout of its 1,500 troops next year, while Canada could end its combat commitment by February, 2009. Gen. Henault said the generals won't meddle in internal politics, but not before adding that he hopes the two countries, which between them have 4,000 troops deployed in southern Afghanistan, would stay the course.

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"We're certainly focused on what the Dutch decision will be ... we're hopeful that they will also find ways of continuing to operate in Afghanistan, if that's possible."

**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN RELATIONS; ORGANIZATIONS; DEFENCE; WAR; ARMED FORCES; CANADA

# THE FACES OF WAR

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070143  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A2  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Richard Johnson, National Post / (Seehardcopy for Photo Description) ;  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 191

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MASTER BOMBARDIER BRIAN GARDINER 46, FREDERICTON, N.B.

(Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, FOB Ma'Sum Ghar)

"I met my wife in Germany when I was based there ... I was playing pool next door to a restaurant that had some type of a promotion giving away free yo-yos ... I was drunk ... But when I was a kid I was really good at walking the dog, sleeping the baby, etc. ... She was mine."

"This is my second tour in Afghanistan ... It is hard to see results here in Kandahar ... In Kabul it was easy to see results."

"It just seems that there are a hell of a lot of Taliban out there, and you didn't have that in Kabul ... There are a lot of bad guys out there."

"The first month we were here ... We had close contact with the interpreters and the ANP [Afghan National Police] ... I think, they like the fact that we are here, but they are getting paid by us."

Brian missed his wife Ulricke, his daughter and the dog.

The National Post's Richard Johnson spent six weeks this summer chronicling the daily lives of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan in a very old-fashioned way: with pencil and sketch pad. Throughout the month of September, one of his portraits of a soldier will appear every weekday on Page A2.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM



# Painting of fallen soldier returned with apology

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**IDNUMBER** 200709070142  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A2  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Paul Gessell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 273

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**KEYWORDS:** ART; ART GALLERIES; AUCTIONS; NAZISM; WORLD WAR II