

# Table of Contents

<b><u>Tankers explode in bomb attack</u></b> .....	1
<b><u>Ottawa considers 9/11 memorial; Public Safety minister says it's 'important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat'</u></b> .....	2
<b><u>Canada 'not immune from threat' of attack</u></b> .....	3
<b><u>Court martial hearing underway for soldier accused of selling drugs</u></b> .....	4
<b><u>Bin Laden praises hijacker; New video emerges on anniversary of attacks on U.S.</u></b> .....	6
<b><u>Troops in Afghanistan unable to mark 9/11</u></b> .....	8
<b><u>Ottawa considers memorial; Attacks of 9/11 killed 24 Canadians</u></b> .....	10
<b><u>Whither Pakistan?</u></b> .....	12
<b><u>Anniversary heightens tension for troops</u></b> .....	13
<b><u>Day: Memorial for Canadian victims being considered</u></b> .....	14
<b><u>Ottawa considering memorial for Canadians who died on 9/11; Stockwell Day remarks on idea during event marking tragedy six years ago</u></b> .....	15
<b><u>We'll never make Afghanistan free</u></b> .....	16
<b><u>Reservist puts education to work during tour in Afghanistan; Cpl. Matt Duffy of Kinkora designs cargo rack for multi-purpose Nyala vehicles used by Canadian soldiers on duty in wartorn country</u></b> .....	17
<b><u>Ottawa considering national memorial for Canadian victims: Day</u></b> .....	19
<b><u>Canadian troops in Afghanistan too busy to mark Sept. 11 anniversary</u></b> .....	21
<b><u>Canadian troops in Afghanistan too busy to mark 9-11 anniversary</u></b> .....	23
<b><u>NATO protesters lack alternatives</u></b> .....	24
<b><u>Thousands attend commemoration marking sixth anniversary of 9/11; Canadians among those mourning lost relatives at site of shattered World Trade Center towers</u></b> .....	25
<b><u>PM laments focus on Afghan timeline</u></b> .....	27
<b><u>PM's surprise resignation shocks Japan</u></b> .....	28
<b><u>Soldiers who used drugs kept out of Afghanistan</u></b> .....	29

# Table of Contents

<u>Japanese PM resigns.....</u>	30
<u>Drug testing snares 250 Canadian soldiers; Those who test positive not allowed to serve in Afghanistan.....</u>	31
<u>U.S. intelligence chief still fears `sleeper cells' on 6th anniversary Sept. 11.....</u>	33
<u>9-11 anniversary marked in Afghanistan; Harper urges perseverance.....</u>	34
<u>Ottawa considering national memorial for Canadian 9-11 victims: Day.....</u>	36
<u>Sept-11-Roundup.....</u>	38
<u>Sept-11-Pace.....</u>	40
<u>Japan's PM Shinzo Abe set to resign.....</u>	41
<u>Harper eyeing bigger Australian role in Afghanistan; Receives encouraging signals as Howard recognizes 'heavy burden' Canada is carrying in Kandahar.....</u>	42
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION What the increasingly confident Taliban want in exchange for peace.....</u>	44
<u>POLITICS Taliban's key ally is also an everyman.....</u>	47
<u>SEPT. 11 ANNIVERSARY: A day of mourning IN AFGHANISTAN.....</u>	49
<u>On the PM's trip to Oz, spontaneity is as dead as the dodo.....</u>	50
<u>Soldiers test positive for drugs.....</u>	52
<u>Canadian memorial a work in progress.....</u>	53
<u>Black Tuesday Ceremonies across U.S. as Americans mourn victims of 9/11.....</u>	54
<u>Remembering the victims; Tradition of reciting names continues at Ground Zero.....</u>	56
<u>Quit focusing on 2009 timeline, Harper tells critics; Canada's role in Afghanistan dominates speech in Australia.....</u>	58
<u>Soldiers test positive for drug use.....</u>	60
<u>Taliban stooge: Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?.....</u>	61
<u>Focus on policies, not timelines: PM; Afghanistan mission.....</u>	63

# Table of Contents

<u>Liberals find wedge issue in federalism; Harper hopes plan will win support in Quebec.....</u>	65
<u>Harper wants to do right by Afghanistan.....</u>	67
<u>250 soldiers barred from Afghanistan over drugs.....</u>	69
<u>Baby on soldier's mind as 88 troops come home.....</u>	71
<u>Suicide blast hits U.S. security firm.....</u>	72
<u>Major 9/11 memorial proposed.....</u>	73
<u>Soldiers can't pause to mark tragic date.....</u>	74
<u>Aussies urged to keep fighting.....</u>	75
<u>OPP should stop saluting Canada's fallen soldiers.....</u>	76
<u>Afghanistan looking at Taliban offer.....</u>	77
<u>Army keeps soldiers at home after positive drug tests.....</u>	78
<u>City honours Afghan heroes Young, old signbook for troops.....</u>	79
<u>9–11 rite slowing down; Attendance lower at Ground Zero but all are solemn.....</u>	80
<u>Taliban–style bombs spread in Pakistan.....</u>	82
<u>Drug use prevents Afghan duty.....</u>	84
<u>Foiled plots force Europe onto terror alert; U.S. military base in Germany, Turkish business district targeted.....</u>	85
<u>Focus on our goals, not our departure: PM; Harper says arbitrary timeline won't ensure Afghan capabilities.....</u>	87
<u>Bin Laden praises hijacker, urges youth to join the cause.....</u>	89
<u>Tribunal shoots down DND's \$126M jet plans; Trade panel rules contract must be re–evaluated.....</u>	91
<u>Canadians must reclaim values.....</u>	93
<u>Drug tests kept 250 soldiers out of Afghanistan: military.....</u>	95

# Tankers explode in bomb attack

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120102  
**PUBLICATION:** Times & Transcript (Moncton)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C1  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Times & Transcript  
(Moncton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 56

---

A pall of smoke and fire fills the sky yesterday following a suicide car bomb explosion which hit fuel tanker trucks on the main highway of Helmand province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan.

The car bomb exploded near four fuel tankers on the province's main highway, setting the trucks on fire and killing at least two people.

# Ottawa considers 9/11 memorial; Public Safety minister says it's 'important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat'

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120056  
**PUBLICATION:** Times & Transcript (Moncton)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C1  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Times & Transcript  
(Moncton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 297

---

Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said yesterday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9/11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," he said.

"That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Yesterday, hundreds marked the sombre anniversary near the former World Trade Center in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed. A third ceremony honoured the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93, which slammed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa., and U.S. President George W. Bush held a moment of silence outside the White House.

A small group gathered formally in Toronto to mark the occasion.

"Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims," said Maureen Basnicki, her voice trembling slightly.

"I stand here today as the voice of Canadian victims of 9/11 to remember those who were murdered."

Joined by Day as well as those who lost relatives in the 1985 Air India bombing, Basnicki said she supports the creation of a national memorial and official 9/11 ceremony to allow Canadians to remember what was ultimately an attack on democracy and freedom.

# Canada 'not immune from threat' of attack

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120078  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**BYLINE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner  
(Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 310

---

Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said Tuesday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9–11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," he said.

"That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

While Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered comments from Australia, followed soon after by condolences from Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, it was but a small group that gathered formally in Toronto to mark the occasion.

"Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims," said Maureen Basnicki, her voice trembling slightly.

Basnicki struggled at times to maintain her composure during the tiny but dignified ceremony that included a moment of silence and the reading of the 24 names of Canada's victims.

"I stand here today as the voice of Canadian victims of 9–11 to remember those who were murdered."

Joined by Day as well as those who lost relatives in the 1985 Air India bombing, Basnicki said she supports the creation of a national memorial and official 9–11 ceremony to allow Canadians to remember what was ultimately an attack on democracy and freedom.

# Court martial hearing underway for soldier accused of selling drugs

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120064  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** News;News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**BYLINE:** KEVIN BISSETT The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 271

---

A Canadian soldier accused of trafficking marijuana while serving at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown sold a small quantity of pot to an undercover officer last year, a court martial was told Tuesday.

Bombardier Garry Kettle of the 4 Air Defence Regiment at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown was charged in April 2006 during a military investigation into drug activity on the sprawling army base near Fredericton.

Sgt. Cameron Hillier, a member of the military's national drug enforcement team, told the hearing that military police had been receiving information about drug use on the base since May 2005.

He said an undercover operation wasn't launched until March 2006.

Hillier explained that on April 10, 2006, an undercover officer bought 2.3 grams of marijuana — about the size of a couple of postage stamps — from Kettle.

The undercover officer, whose identity is protected by a publication ban, was the only other witness Tuesday.

The officer described visiting Kettle's home in Oromocto, near the base, on the night of April 10, 2006, accompanied by another person.

The officer testified that they later drove to a parking lot, and after Kettle went behind a building, he emerged with the small bag of marijuana and sold it to them for \$20.

The prosecution and defence were to make final submissions when the case resumes Wednesday morning.

A total of five soldiers were charged last year under the National Defence Act with trafficking in cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana.

The charges followed a seven-month undercover investigation called Operation Askari — an African word meaning soldier or police.

The court martial for Cpl. Brian Stevens is to begin today.

Stevens, a 10-year veteran of the Canadian Forces, served in Afghanistan from August 2005 to March 2006.

He claims to suffer from post traumatic stress disorder and says that drove him to alcohol and drugs, including intravenous cocaine, Dilaudid, OxyContin and morphine.

"I never thought I'd stick a needle in my arm, but when I came home I did," Stevens said in a recent interview from Edmonton, where he was living after his release from the military.



# Bin Laden praises hijacker; New video emerges on anniversary of attacks on U.S.

---

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

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B6

**SOURCE:** AP

**BYLINE:** Lee Keath

**PHOTO:** AP

**DATELINE:** CAIRO, Egypt

**ILLUSTRATION:** This frame from a video message carrying the logo of al–Qaida's production house, as–Sahab, shows Osama bin Laden raising his finger while speaking.

**WORD COUNT:** 640

---

Al–Qaida leader Osama bin Laden urged sympathizers to join the "caravan" of martyrs as he praised one of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers in a new video that emerged yesterday to mark the anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Al–Qaida traditionally issues a video every year on the anniversary, with the last testament of one of the 19 hijackers involved in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

This year's video showed hijacker Waleed al–Shehri, addressing the camera and warning the U.S., "We shall come at you from your front and back, your right and left."

The new message came days after the world got its first current look at bin Laden in nearly three years, with the release of a video Saturday in which the terror leader addressed the American people.

The latest videotape, of the hijacker's testament, had not yet been posted on extremist websites. But IntelCenter, a monitoring group in suburban Washington, said it had obtained the 47–minute video and provided it to Associated Press Television News.

It begins with an audiotape introduction by bin Laden. While his voice is heard, the video shows a still image of him, raising his finger. In the image, bin Laden has the same dyed–black beard and the same clothes – a white robe and cap and beige cloak – that he had in Saturday's video.

But it was not known if the audiotape was recently made. In the past, al–Qaida has used footage and audio of bin Laden taped long ago for release later.

In the tape, bin Laden praised al–Shehri, saying he "recognized the truth" that Arab rulers were "vassals" of the West and had "abandoned the balance of [Islamic] revelation."

"It is true that this young man was little in years, but the faith in his heart was big," he said.

"So there is a huge difference between the path of the kings, presidents and hypocritical Ulama [Islamic scholars] and the path of these noble young men," like al–Shehri, bin Laden said. "The formers' lot is to spoil and enjoy themselves whereas the latters' lot is to destroy themselves for Allah's Word to be Supreme."

"It remains for us to do our part. So I tell every young man among the youth of Islam: it is your duty to join the caravan [of martyrs] until the sufficiency is complete and the march to aid the High and Omnipotent continues," he said.

At the end of his speech, bin Laden also mentions the al-Qaida leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed in an U.S. air strike there. Al-Zarqawi followed in the footsteps of al-Shehri and his brothers who "fulfilled their promises to God."

After bin Laden speaks, the video of al-Shehri appears. Al-Shehri – one of the hijackers on American Airlines Flight 11, which hit the World Trade Center – is seen wearing a white robe and headscarf, with a full black beard, speaking in front of a backdrop with images of the burning World Trade Center.

"We shall come at you from your front and back, your right and left," al-Shehri said, asserting that America would suffer the same fate as the Soviet Union.

He also praised the losses the United States suffered in Somalia in 1993.

"As for our own fortune, it is not in this world," he said. "And we are not competing with you for this world, because it does not equal in Allah's eyes the wing of a mosquito."

Suicide attacks for al-Qaida and other militant groups often videotape last testaments before carrying out their attacks. Every Sept. 11 anniversary, al-Qaida has used the tapes in a bid to rally its supporters by glorifying its "martyrs."

Bin Laden's new appearances underline the failure to find the terror leader that U.S. President George W. Bush vowed in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks to take "dead or alive."

On Sunday, Bush's homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend sought to play down bin Laden's importance – and added a taunt, saying he was "virtually impotent."

But terrorism experts say al-Qaida's core leadership is regrouping in the lawless Pakistan-Afghanistan border region. The latest National Intelligence Estimate says the network is growing in strength, intensifying its efforts to put operatives in the United States and plot new attacks.

# Troops in Afghanistan unable to mark 9/11

---

**PUBLICATION:** Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** National/World  
**PAGE:** B1  
**SOURCE:** CP  
**BYLINE:** Dene Moore  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR  
**WORD COUNT:** 381

---

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop yesterday to mark the 6th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A moment of silence in this war–torn land is hard to come by.

Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin.

"Perhaps it means more as far as risk goes," said Pte. Brian Belanger, 23, a soldier from Valcartier, Que.

"Today is a celebration for the Taliban, who might attack a convoy." However, military officials were hopeful the date wouldn't bring any increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

Lt.–Col. Claude Fournier, chief of operations for the Canadian military in Afghanistan, said Sept. 11, 2001, is of greater significance to al–Qaida than the Taliban.

"Afghanistan is more a Taliban country than it is al–Qaida country, so the reality is we don't encounter many al–Qaida fighters," he said.

"Even though for the Taliban it probably means something, it has nothing to do really with the real fight of al–Qaida."

As for Ramadan, Fournier said it has been used in the past to spur extremist Muslims to sacrifice themselves.

"But at the same time, it's also a time for Muslims to think of others, to be close to their families," he said. "Because of that, so far we haven't seen any real indication that it will be more [violent]."

Ramadan is expected to begin tomorrow.

In the abridged version of this war, the Sept. 11 attacks are the reason NATO troops are in Afghanistan.

They are certainly the reason Pte. Gratien David, 35, is here. He rejoined the Canadian Forces following the 2001 attacks.

"We must never forget what happened on Sept. 11, 2001," he said as he hurried across the sunbaked base in Kandahar yesterday.

David said he was working in northern Quebec at the time.

"When I saw what happened, that made me realize that the world is a fragile place," he said.

The Taliban were in control of the government in Afghanistan at the time and they allowed al-Qaida to operate bases in the country. Canada decided to support the U.S.-led coalition to drive the Taliban from power, and David joined up.

"I wanted to serve my country and serve a good cause," he said.

In Kabul, U.S. soldiers marked the anniversary with a moment of silence as their flag was lowered to half mast, but silence never lasts long here.

Two Afghan drivers were killed yesterday in a suicide attack on a NATO convoy of tanker trucks in Helmand province.

In Australia, Prime Minister Stephen Harper used the anniversary to urge the Australian Parliament to continue their country's presence in Afghanistan.

"As 9-11 showed, if we abandon our fellow human beings to lives of poverty, brutality and ignorance in today's global village, their misery will eventually and inevitably become our own," Harper said during a visit to Canberra.

Seventy Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan since the war began.

# Ottawa considers memorial; Attacks of 9/11 killed 24 Canadians

---

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

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Tobi Cohen

**PHOTO:** AP The Canadian Press

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**ILLUSTRATION:** A group of uniformed firefighters pay their respects near the reflecting pool at Ground Zero in New York City yesterday during the ceremony marking the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks.; Ryan Basnicki, 11, pauses for a moment during the Sept. 11 memorial in Toronto yesterday. Ryan's uncle, Ken Basnicki, was one of the 24 Canadians who lost their lives in the events of 9/11.

**WORD COUNT:** 585

---

Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said yesterday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9/11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," he said.

"That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

It's something the Canadian Coalition Against Terror has been pushing for for three years, and spokesman Aaron Blumenfeld suggested Day's Sept. 11 endorsement is a good sign.

"I think Minister Day's public support for the legislation [Tuesday] was quite significant," Blumenfeld said.

"There's no way to know when [the bills will be] passed, but where there's support from the Conservatives and one of the other parties, it can happen quickly."

Yesterday, hundreds marked the sombre anniversary near the former World Trade Center in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed.

A third ceremony honoured the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93, which slammed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa., and U.S. President George W. Bush held a moment of silence outside the White House.

While Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered comments from Australia, followed soon after by condolences from Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, it was but a small group that gathered formally in Toronto to mark the occasion.

"Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims," said Maureen Basnicki, her voice trembling slightly.

Basnicki struggled at times to maintain her composure during the tiny but dignified ceremony that included a moment of silence and the reading of the 24 names of Canada's victims.

"I stand here today as the voice of Canadian victims of 9/11 to remember those who were murdered."

Joined by Day as well as those who lost relatives in the 1985 Air India bombing, Basnicki said she supports the creation of a national memorial and official 9/11 ceremony to allow Canadians to remember what was ultimately an attack on democracy and freedom.

"It didn't just take innocent lives, it was really an attack on everything we believe in," she said.

Seeing bin Laden on television once again this week, threatening more violence, ought to cement the importance of Canada's often contested mission in Afghanistan, she added.

"I think for the most part the people that are questioning our role there are perhaps not fully aware of the wonderful contributions that we're making," Basnicki said.

"Unfortunately the price that we're paying is soldiers coming home in coffins, and I want to say that I thank Canadian mothers and fathers that are sending their children over to Afghanistan."

In the war-torn country, Canadian soldiers had no time to stop and mark the anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Instead they were on high alert, looking for insurgents who might be planning to mark the occasion with even more deadly attacks.

Noting Afghanistan remains a breeding ground for the fundamentalist ideals that gave rise to Sept. 11, Day said the anniversary is a good time to reaffirm Canada's commitment to the mission, which has so far left 67 soldiers dead and drawn widespread criticism for its effectiveness in rebuilding the country.

# Whither Pakistan?

---

**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** Editorial  
**PAGE:** A6  
**WORD COUNT:** 457

---

ALARMINGLY, the future path of the world's sole Islamic state with nukes now leads into a political fog so thick that no one, not even the president and army commander, Pervez Musharraf, can see where events will soon take Pakistan.

For the West's battle against terrorism, and in particular for Canada whose troops are clashing with Taliban insurgents in neighbouring Afghanistan, the outcome of the grave political crisis now gripping Pakistan is of enormous significance.

Simply put, if Pakistan's political course should put more power into the hands of the Islamic fundamentalists – perhaps, ironically, because growing popular demands to limit military control and boost democracy remain unsated – the implications would be, at the very least, unsettling.

President Musharraf lies at the centre of the current crisis. After seizing power in 1999 in a bloodless military coup that toppled what's acknowledged to have been a corrupt civilian government, the army chief has consistently resisted giving up his growing powers and, despite promises, moving the country back onto a purely democratic path.

Mr. Musharraf's once iron grip on power, however, has slipped badly recently. His attempt to force the resignation of the Supreme Court's chief justice earlier this year led to such powerful public protests that he was forced to reverse his decision. Now, as he seeks to run this fall for a second five-year term as president while retaining his title as army commander – Mr. Musharraf's true power base – a revitalized high court is conducting hearings on whether holding both posts is constitutional.

Mr. Musharraf desperately wants presidential elections – held in Pakistan's parliament – to be voted on by the current parliament, where he has a majority of support, by Oct. 15. After that, he would have to wait for national elections and a new parliament, in which he may not enjoy support. The Supreme Court's hearings clearly complicate matters.

The picture gets cloudier when factoring in former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who is now talking to Mr. Musharraf about possibly sharing power, and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, arrested upon his return to the country this week and immediately deported, who has called for Mr. Musharraf to give up power.

Without doubt, Pakistan needs to move towards greater democratic rule. The question is: Can the players navigate a peaceful course for a nation taut with painfully sharp secular and religious fault lines?

If Mr. Musharraf resorts to martial law to retain power, for example, or clashes of opposing interests ramp up political instability, the danger remains that radical Islamic fundamentalists, such as those who back the Taliban, could successfully seize the opportunity to further their own agendas.

# Anniversary heightens tension for troops

---

**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 306

---

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop Tuesday to mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A moment of silence in this war–torn land is hard to come by.

Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin.

"Perhaps it means more as far as risk goes," said Pte. Brian Belanger, 23, a soldier from Valcartier, Que. "Today is a celebration for the Taliban, who might attack a convoy."

However, military officials were hopeful the date wouldn't bring any increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

Lt.–Col. Claude Fournier, chief of operations for the Canadian military in Afghanistan, said Sept. 11, 2001, is of greater significance to al–Qaida than the Taliban.

"Afghanistan is more a Taliban country than it is al–Qaida country, so the reality is we don't encounter many al–Qaida fighters," he said. "Even though for the Taliban it probably means something, it has nothing to do really with the real fight of al–Qaida."

As for Ramadan, Fournier said it has been used in the past to spur extremist Muslims to sacrifice themselves.

"But at the same time, it's also a time for Muslims to think of others, to be close to their families," he said. "Because of that, so far we haven't seen any real indication that it will be more (violent)."

Ramadan is expected to begin Thursday. In the abridged version of this war, the Sept. 11 attacks are the reason NATO troops are in Afghanistan.

They are certainly the reason Pte. Gratien David, 35, is here. He rejoined the Canadian Forces following the 2001 attacks.

"We must never forget what happened on Sept. 11, 2001," he said as he hurried across the sunbaked base in Kandahar on Tuesday.

David, of Miscou Island, N.B., said he has no regrets about rejoining the forces after a 15–year hiatus. He has three brothers who are also in the Canadian Forces, one who has already served in Afghanistan.

In fact, he'll come back, given the opportunity. "This means something," he said.



# Day: Memorial for Canadian victims being considered

---

**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A3  
**WORD COUNT:** 194

---

TORONTO (CP) – Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said Tuesday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9–11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk and seeing the family members of people who were killed . . . it reminds us of that," he said. "That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

# Ottawa considering memorial for Canadians who died on 9/11; Stockwell Day remarks on idea during event marking tragedy six years ago

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A8

**SOURCE:** CP

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**ILLUSTRATION:** Ryan Basnicki, 11, pauses for a moment during Sept. 11 memorial in Toronto Tuesday. Ryan's uncle Ken Basnicki was one of the 24 Canadians who lost their life in the events of 9/11. Canadian Press photo

**WORD COUNT:** 240

---

Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said Tuesday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9/11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk and seeing the family members of people who were killed . . . it reminds us of that," he said.

"That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

On Tuesday, hundreds marked the sombre anniversary at the site of the former World Trade Center in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed.

A third ceremony honoured the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93, which slammed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa., and President George W. Bush and the first lady held a moment of silence outside the White House.

# We'll never make Afghanistan free

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**SECTION:** Editorial  
**PAGE:** A6  
**COLUMN:** Letters to the editor  
**WORD COUNT:** 189

---

Editor:

I would like to respond to Eric Payne's letter 'An early exit wouldn't help' (The Guardian, Sept. 11, 2007).

I believe Mr. Payne is naive in thinking Canada's existence in Afghanistan is an asset to that country or good for Canada. Canada is making itself more vulnerable to terrorist attack by being there than by not. We had a clean slate before but now look at the mess we're in. Some people maintain that our presence there is 'safeguarding our shores', 'freeing Afghanistan of insurgency' and 'upholding democracy'. But this is bunk.

We'll never make Afghanistan free and we cannot win the war. Russia couldn't and it pulled out. And now we find that the U.S. may soon pull from Iraq.

I don't have the answers for Afghanistan's problems but I believe the killing of Canadians over there doesn't make it right. Canada has no business there and the present prime minister will find his ruling in this regard will lead to his demise in the next federal election. I have been a Conservative all my life but next federal election, I do not plan to vote for Mr. Harper.

Ralph MacDonald,

Borden–Carleton

# Reservist puts education to work during tour in Afghanistan; Cpl. Matt Duffy of Kinkora designs cargo rack for multi-purpose Nyala vehicles used by Canadian soldiers on duty in wartorn country

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** Provincial

**PAGE:** A3

**BYLINE:** Jim Day

**ILLUSTRATION:** Island reservist Matt Duffy of Kinkora put some engineering touches on the RG-31 Nyala vehicle used by Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. Duffy's design of a cargo rack for the vehicle was a big hit. Submitted photo; Island reservist Matt Duffy of Kinkora is back at UPEI as a second-year engineering student. Guardian photo

**WORD COUNT:** 319

---

Matt Duffy of Kinkora found the perfect way to combine his reservist training and university schooling during a recent tour in Afghanistan.

Duffy, 22, made his mark both in driving a RG-31 Nyala and in putting some engineering touches to this mine-hardened vehicle while serving as a reservist in this war-torn country from February to August.

One major problem with the Nyala was while it had seating for seven soldiers, the machine had little room for any cargo, he said.

Drawing on his engineering background, the corporal spent a day or two thinking of a design, sketched a cargo rack, then dropped off the template to material technicians.

The design was a hit. Some 50 to 60 Nyalas were fitted with the Duffy-designed cargo rack.

He said the attachment allows soldiers to cart along a great deal more comfort items, like extra clothes, pillows and air mattresses, when heading out on missions that can take them away from base for weeks or more.

Duffy was a member of the five-person psychological operations team that worked to help influence locals to back the legitimate Afghan government and end any support toward the Taliban.

For this group, he designed mounts for the loudspeakers that are used to spread messages.

He described the enthusiastic adoption of his engineering designs as a "personal point of pride."

The feather in his army helmet also made for good conversation when he returned to UPEI in September as a second-year engineering student.

Duffy, who has spent the past four years as a member of the Army Reserve and the Prince Edward Island Regiment, will soldier on as a reservist as long as his university workload will allow.

He doesn't appear, though, to have any designs on a future in the Armed Forces.

Reservist puts education to work during tour in Afghanistan; Cpl. Matt Duffy of Kinkora designs cargo rack for

He is more likely to pursue a civilian career, either in mechanical or chemical engineering.

His fiancée is certainly pushing him in that direction, he added.

Duffy said he has had his taste of war.

"There were a lot of close calls, a lot of rocket attacks," he said of his dangerous tour of duty in Afghanistan.

[jday@theguardian.pe.ca](mailto:jday@theguardian.pe.ca)

road worthy

Here is a look at the RG-31 Nyala, that received a few upgrades from UPEI engineering student Matt Duffy, who served in Afghanistan earlier his year as a reservist:

- The RG-31 is a multi-purpose mine-protected vehicle made in South Africa.
- The vehicle's V-shaped monocoque welded steel hull and high suspension are designed to resist a blast equivalent to two TM-57 anti-tank mines detonating simultaneously.
- The RG-31 has become the multi-purpose vehicle of choice of the UN and other peacekeeping and security forces.
- Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan are equipped with many of these vehicles.

\* Source: Wikipedia

# Ottawa considering national memorial for Canadian victims: Day

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** Provincial/National

**PAGE:** A8

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Tobi Cohen

**DATELINE:** Toronto

**ILLUSTRATION:** Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day (right) greets Gene and Bill Basnicki during a 9–11 memorial in Toronto, Tuesday. The Basnickis are the mother and father of Ken Basnicki, one of the 24 Canadians who lost their lives in the events of 9–11. – Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 474

---

Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said Tuesday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9–11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," he said.

"That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

On Tuesday, hundreds marked the sombre anniversary near the former World Trade Center in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed.

A third ceremony honoured the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93, which slammed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa., and U.S. President George W. Bush held a moment of silence outside the White House.

While Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered comments from Australia, followed soon after by condolences from Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, it was but a small group that gathered formally in Toronto to mark the occasion.

"Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims," said Maureen Basnicki, her voice trembling slightly.

Basnicki struggled at times to maintain her composure during the tiny but dignified ceremony that included a moment of silence and the reading of the 24 names of Canada's victims.

"I stand here today as the voice of Canadian victims of 9–11 to remember those who were murdered."

Joined by Day as well as those who lost relatives in the 1985 Air India bombing, Basnicki said she supports the creation of a national memorial and official 9–11 ceremony to allow Canadians to remember what was ultimately an attack on democracy and freedom.

Seeing bin Laden on television once again this week, threatening more violence, ought to cement the importance of Canada's often contested mission in Afghanistan, she added.

Noting Afghanistan remains a breeding ground for the fundamentalist ideals that gave rise to Sept. 11, Day said the anniversary is a good time to reaffirm Canada's commitment to the mission, which has so far left 67 soldiers dead and drawn widespread criticism of its effectiveness in rebuilding the country.

"We have long-term goals for Afghanistan, especially on the development side," he said.

"We'd like to see the type of society develop in Afghanistan that would in and of itself be resistant to the types of terrorism that seem to be rooted and grow out of there."

# Canadian troops in Afghanistan too busy to mark Sept. 11 anniversary

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** National/World News

**PAGE:** A7

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afganistan

**WORD COUNT:** 310

---

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop Tuesday to mark the 6th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A moment of silence in this wartorn land is hard to come by.

Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin.

"Perhaps it means more as far as risk goes," said Pte. Brian Belanger, 23, a soldier from Valcartier, Que.

"Today is a celebration for the Taliban, who might attack a convoy." However, military officials were hopeful the date wouldn't bring any increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

Lt.-Col. Claude Fournier, chief of operations for the Canadian military in Afghanistan, said Sept. 11, 2001, is of greater significance to al-Qaida than the Taliban.

"Afghanistan is more a Taliban country than it is al-Qaida country, so the reality is we don't encounter many al-Qaida fighters," he said.

"Even though for the Taliban it probably means something, it has nothing to do really with the real fight of al-Qaida."

As for Ramadan, Fournier said it has been used in the past to spur extremist Muslims to sacrifice themselves.

"But at the same time, it's also a time for Muslims to think of others, to be close to their families," he said. "Because of that, so far we haven't seen any real indication that it will be more (violent)."

Ramadan is expected to begin Thursday.

In the abridged version of this war, the Sept. 11 attacks are the reason NATO troops are in Afghanistan.

They are certainly the reason Pte. Gratien David, 35, is here. He rejoined the Canadian Forces following the 2001 attacks.

"We must never forget what happened on Sept. 11, 2001," he said as he hurried across the sunbaked base in Kandahar on Tuesday.



David said he was working in northern Quebec at the time.

"When I saw what happened, that made me realize that the world is a fragile place," he said.

The Taliban were in control of the government in Afghanistan at the time and they allowed al-Qaida to operate bases in the country. Canada decided to support the U.S.-led coalition to drive the Taliban from power, and David joined up.

"I wanted to serve my country and serve a good cause," he said.

In Kabul, U.S. soldiers marked the anniversary with a moment of silence as their flag was lowered to half-mast, but silence never lasts long here.

# Canadian troops in Afghanistan too busy to mark 9-11 anniversary

---

**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**SECTION:** Provincial

**PAGE:** A2

**COLUMN:** International

**WORD COUNT:** 171

---

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop Tuesday to mark the 6th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A moment of silence in this wartorn land is hard to come by.

Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin.

"Perhaps it means more as far as risk goes," said Pte. Brian Belanger, 23, a soldier from Valcartier, Que. "Today is a celebration for the Taliban, who might attack a convoy."

However, military officials were hopeful the date wouldn't bring any increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

Lt.-Col. Claude Fournier, chief of operations for the Canadian military in Afghanistan, said Sept. 11, 2001, is of greater significance to al-Qaida than the Taliban.

"Afghanistan is more a Taliban country than it is al-Qaida country, so the reality is we don't encounter many al-Qaida fighters," he said. "Even though for the Taliban it probably means something, it has nothing to do really with the real fight of al-Qaida."

# NATO protesters lack alternatives

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120055  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Letters  
**PAGE:** A15  
**BYLINE:** Terry Milne  
**SOURCE:** Times Colonist  
**WORD COUNT:** 109

---

Despite relentless pre-event media announcements, the protest against the NATO meetings in Victoria largely fizzled.

Often the majority of protesters at these sort of events are drawn in from the idealistic student community, of which a pool of about 25,000 exists here.

It must have been disappointing to the organizers that less than one-tenth of one per cent of these showed any interest.

What protest there was seem to focus on Afghanistan, and I think most people accept the effort to help that remote, backward country, beset by warlords, drug lords and a militaristic form of medieval religious fanaticism, and set it on the path to peace and prosperity, will involve a long, hard uphill grind.

Terry Milne,

Victoria.

# Thousands attend commemoration marking sixth anniversary of 9/11; Canadians among those mourning lost relatives at site of shattered World Trade Center towers

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120032

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A10

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Justin Lane, Reuters / A woman cries on the shoulder of a New York City firefighter during a ceremony yesterday near the World Trade Center site in New York marking the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. ;

**DATELINE:** NEW YORK

**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 599

---

NEW YORK -- For a variety of reasons, there were fewer people than usual at this year's annual commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York yesterday.

But for Helga and Hans Gerhardt, Toronto residents who lost their son Ralph, 34, in the collapse of the World Trade Center's North Tower, staying away was not an option.

"For my mother, this is the only place to be at this time," said Stephan Gerhardt, the couple's other son, who has always accompanied his parents to the anniversary commemorations.

The widow of Vladimir Tomasevic, a Toronto businessman who just happened to be in the North Tower for work that day, said she felt the same way.

"At the site, you look up at the sky and you just try and imagine how tall those buildings were," said Tanja Tomasevic, 40. "It's hard to explain, but I just feel different when I am down there."

While fewer turned out than attended earlier commemorations, there were still thousands at the solemn service, where the tradition of reciting the names of all those who perished was maintained.

It had been predicted numbers would be down in part because this anniversary followed one organizers treated as an important temporal landmark, thereby raising its profile.

It was also suggested people would be put off because the beginnings of rebuilding at the site meant the bulk of the service would be held in an adjacent park, though families would be led to the actual "footprint" of the towers to lay flowers.

Weather may have even kept some people away. Rain on Tuesday contrasting markedly with the clear blue skies six years ago when two jet planes streaked across New York and slammed, one after the other, into the towers.

Thousands attend commemoration marking sixth anniversary of 9/11; Canadians among those mourning lost

"For us the showers provoked an almost comical scene because at every cloudburst, hundreds of different coloured umbrellas would pop up," said Gerhardt.

The families were offered different coloured roses to lay at two pools — one for each tower — when they were led into the "pit."

"I chose yellow, my favourite, and red, the colour he always gave me," said Tomasevic. "It's very touching because that's the point where you feel most connected and where you think about everything. But it's also overwhelming because everyone's there who are feeling the same pain."

About a dozen relatives of the 22 other Canadians among the 2,750 victims of the twin towers' collapse attended the New York ceremony.

Among them was Cindy Barkway, widow of David, whose young sons Jamie and David were scheduled to throw a ceremonial pitch in the Toronto Blue Jays baseball game Tuesday night against the New York Yankees.

The trio rushed to the airport at the end of the ceremonies to catch a Toronto-bound flight.

Maureen Basnicki, whose husband Ken, 47, was also a victim of the North Tower collapse, attended a private service in Toronto to present an "expression of gratitude" to Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, among others.

For a while the Maple Leaf flag fluttered at the New York ceremony, carried by a contingent of about 100 Canadian police officers attending in support of victims' families and those who were among the first responders to the attack.

"It doesn't matter whether there is 20,000 people in attendance, or five, we'll continue to be there," said Toronto police Sgt. Jose Camacho, who led a \$200,000 fundraising effort in the aftermath of the attacks to benefit families of New York City police officers killed.

Four moments of silence marked the times the planes hit and towers fell.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said 9/11 marked "the day that tore across our history and our hearts."

Rudy Giuliani, mayor at the time of the attack, also spoke, saying 9/11 "was a day with no answers, but with an unending line of people who came forward to help one another."

Some victims' families and the leadership of the city firefighters' union had said Giuliani should stay away from the event, charging his policies before the attack had reduced the city's ability to respond. By contrast, Giuliani evokes his leadership at that time to buttress his campaign for the Republican party's presidential nomination.

## PM laments focus on Afghan timeline

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120031  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 110

---

CANBERRA -- It's time to focus on real policies in Afghanistan instead of arbitrary timelines about the end of Canada's military mission in the country's deadly southern region, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

After wrapping up a week-long trip to Australia with an address to its Parliament, Harper told reporters he was fed up with critics who are focusing on February 2009, when Canada's current commitment in southern Afghanistan expires.

"My hope would be that in the next year and a half, rather than just debating a date, we would talk about what the objectives of policy are," Harper said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

# PM's surprise resignation shocks Japan

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120030  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** TOKYO  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 100

---

TOKYO Reuters) — Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, struggling after a bashing at the polls and suffering low support rates, said today that he will resign.

The hawkish 52-year-old Abe took office just one year ago, promising to boost Japan's global security profile and pursue economic reforms and growth.

Media reports of the surprise decision caused the yen and stocks to slip, on concerns about political uncertainty.

On Sunday, Abe had indicated that he would step down if he failed to extend a Japanese naval mission supporting U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan.

Opposition parties, which won control of parliament's upper house in July, had been preparing to grill him on the topic in parliament this afternoon.

# Soldiers who used drugs kept out of Afghanistan

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120018

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A6

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Ryan Jackson , CanWest News Service / Canadiansoldiers unwrap barbed wire at CFB Wainwright, Alta., for operation Desert Ram, which creates a realistic training environment for operations in Afghanistan. The military has confirmed that soldiers who test positive for drug use will not be sent to Afghanistan. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 223

---

OTTAWA -- About 250 soldiers who tested positive for drug tests, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed yesterday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

"When you want to send our soldiers there, you don't want to send kids who are addicted or who have a drug problem. They have to be clean," said Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre.

As federal sports minister in 2001, Coderre was instrumental in establishing the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency.

Canadian Armed Forces Brig.-Gen. Ian Poulter told CBC News: "It's a particular concern because we are in Afghanistan, they are in a combat situation and they have to make split-second decisions, life or death, and we need them to be able to do that without the influence of illicit drugs."

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny agreed: "It's a reflection of the society we live in," he said. "A lot of young people use drugs. It would surprise me if a lot of people who joined the Canadian Forces didn't as well," said Kenny.



# Japanese PM resigns

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120018  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**COLUMN:** World Digest  
**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS  
**DATELINE:** TOKYO  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 109

---

TOKYO – Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said today he would resign in hopes of making it easier to extend a naval mission in support of U.S.–led operations in Afghanistan, sending shockwaves through Japan.

The hawkish Abe, who took office a year ago promising to boost Japan's global security profile, has suffered low support rates and dwindling clout after his ruling camp suffered an election drubbing in July, but the announcement came as a bolt out of the blue.

"I determined today that I should resign," a weary–looking Abe told a news conference. "We should seek a continued mission to fight terrorism under a new prime minister."

The yen and stocks slipped on concerns about political uncertainty.

# Drug testing snares 250 Canadian soldiers; Those who test positive not allowed to serve in Afghanistan

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120007  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**KEYWORDS:** DRUG TESTING  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 285

---

OTTAWA – Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drug tests were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

"When you want to send our soldiers there, you don't want to send kids who are addicted or who have a drug problem," said Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre.

"They have to be clean."

As federal sports minister in 2001, Coderre was instrumental in establishing the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency, which has long been a proponent of drug testing.

"Drug-free sport ... It's exactly the same thing as DND, those people represent us," he said.

But it's also a safety issue, Coderre told CanWest News Service.

"It's a war mission, there would be an extra problem to take care of — a drug problem on the field."

Canadian Armed Forces Brig.-Gen. Ian Poulter told CBC News: "It's a particular concern because we are in Afghanistan, they are in a combat situation and they have to make split-second decisions, life or death, and we need them to be able to do that without the influence of illicit drugs."

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny agreed: "It's a reflection of the society we live in," he said.

"A lot of young people use drugs. It would surprise me if a lot of people who joined the Canadian Forces

didn't, as well," said Kenny, who told CanWest News Service he would support the idea of across-the-board drug testing in the Forces.

"The difference is the occupation. If you are handling weapons you become a danger to yourself and to your colleagues if you are abusing substances -- if its alcohol or drugs, it doesn't matter."

Right now only soldiers pegged for deployment face mandatory drug testing.

# U.S. intelligence chief still fears 'sleeper cells' on 6th anniversary Sept. 11

---

**DATE:** 2007.09.11  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 310

---

WASHINGTON (AP) \_ National intelligence director Mike McConnell said Tuesday that U.S. authorities are worried about "sleeper cells" of would-be terrorists inside the United States and are remaining vigilant against any new attacks.

On the sixth anniversary of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and in western Pennsylvania, McConnell also said plots against the United States have been thwarted. But he said he can make no safety guarantees.

"We're safer but we're not safe," he said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America."

McConnell said that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network "intends to have an operation in the United States that will result in mass casualties."

"We have stopped some efforts and we must stop all efforts. We're not sure we can stop 100 per cent of them," he said.

McConnell spoke as U.S. intelligence experts continued to assess the latest messages from bin Laden. In a new video released Tuesday, bin Laden urged sympathizers to join the "caravan" of martyrs and he praised one of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers.

The intelligence czar said he could not immediately read anything substantial into bin Laden's tape.

McConnell said that bin Laden remains a prodigious threat to America, but said the "intellectual leader" of al-Qaida is Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The search goes on for bin Laden, believed to be hiding in the mountains of Pakistan near the Afghanistan border, but he remains elusive.

"Finding a single human being in the billions that are on the Earth, that wants to remain hidden ... makes it very, very difficult," said McConnell.

"Even if we did find him and remove him from the scene, he would be seen as a martyr."

Meanwhile, McConnell said: "We worry about sleeper cells in the United States. There are al-Qaida sympathizers ... but so far we have not been able to identify them."

McConnell also urged Americans to maintain their vigilance. "We have stopped many efforts to come into the United States, so we have been successful. But we cannot let our guard down," he said.

McConnell also said that, so far, U.S. authorities have not been able to "identify" any groups which may have gained access to nuclear materials.

# 9–11 anniversary marked in Afghanistan; Harper urges perseverance

---

**DATE:** 2007.09.11  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 512

---

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) \_ U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan marked the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks Tuesday by watching in silence as an American flag was lowered to half–mast at a U.S. base.

Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper used the anniversary to urge his Australian allies not to abandon their role in Afghanistan, saying the shared fight against Afghan militants is “noble and necessary.”

In the Afghan capital, Kabul, Maj. Gen. Robert Cone told some 100 U.S. soldiers that there is “no alternative” to victory over terrorism.

“We are here now six years later, not as a conquering force, not as an invader seeking to vanquish the Afghans, but rather to do what is right \_ to seek out and destroy our common enemy,” Cone said. “As allies, we will train and equip the Afghans. We will help them to provide for their people because we are Americans.”

Earlier in the day, Harper became the first Canadian leader to address Australia's parliament in its 106–year history.

“As 9–11 showed, if we abandon our fellow human beings to lives of poverty, brutality and ignorance in today's global village, their misery will eventually and inevitably become our own,” Harper told a special joint sitting of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Canada, a wartime ally of Australia's since the First World War , has some 2,300 troops in Afghanistan. It has lost 70 soldiers plus a diplomat in the conflict.

Australia has almost 1,000 troops in Afghanistan, with just one killed since the U.S.–led invasion in 2001.

Violence is soaring this year in Afghanistan amid a resurgence by the Taliban, the Islamic militant movement that controlled the country prior to the U.S.–led invasion. More than 4,200 people, mostly militants, have died in insurgency–related violence in 2007, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and western officials.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said he would stake his job on his parliament agreeing to continue the country's effort in Afghanistan, once a safe haven for al–Qaida.

The Japanese navy has been providing fuel for coalition warships in the Indian Ocean since November 2001 under a special anti–terrorism law, which already has been extended three times. The legislation, which expires in November, is a key issue in a special parliament session that opened Monday.

In poll results published Tuesday in Japan's Yomiuri newspaper, 39 per cent of respondents said they opposed the extension, while 29 per cent said they support it. Another 29 per cent said they had no opinion.

Separately, 27 per cent of respondents to a poll by public broadcaster NHK said they supported an extension, and another 27 per cent opposed it, with 38 per cent undecided. Margins of error were not given, as is customary in Japan.

Abe could push the extension through because his ruling Liberal Democratic Party controls the lower house, which has the final say in most legislation. The issue has been shaping up to be a major showdown with opposition parties.

President George W. Bush recently expressed hope that Tokyo would extend the mission. Critics in Japan say such operations violate Japan's pacifist constitution, which strictly limits the country's military activities.

The Yomiuri poll used face-to-face interviews with 1,787 eligible voters nationwide on Saturday and Sunday. NHK interviewed 1,146 people Friday through Sunday.

# Ottawa considering national memorial for Canadian 9–11 victims: Day

---

**DATE:** 2007.09.11  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 664

---

TORONTO (CP) \_ Six years after the infamous Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said Tuesday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9–11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

“It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk and seeing the family members of people who were killed . . . it reminds us of that,” he said.

“That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself.”

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

It's something the Canadian Coalition Against Terror has been pushing for for three years and spokesman Aaron Blumenfeld suggested Day's Sept. 11th endorsement is a good sign.

“I think Minister Day's public support for the legislation (Tuesday) was quite significant,” Blumenfeld said.

“There's no way to know when (the bills will be) passed, but where there's support from the Conservatives and one of the other parties, it can happen quickly.”

On Tuesday, hundreds marked the sombre anniversary at the site of the former World Trade Center in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed.

A third ceremony honoured the 40 passengers aboard Flight 93, which slammed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa., and President George W. Bush and the first lady held a moment of silence outside the White House.

While Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent his condolences from Australia, followed soon after by those of Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, it was but a small group that gathered formally in Toronto to mark the occasion.

“Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims,” said Maureen Basnicki said, her voice trembling slightly.

Basnicki struggled at times to maintain her composure during the tiny but dignified ceremony that included a moment of silence and the reading of the 24 names of Canada's victims.

“I stand here today as the voice of Canadian victims of 9–11 to remember those who were murdered.”

Joined by Day as well as those who lost relatives in the 1985 Air India bombing, Basnicki said she supports the creation of a national memorial and official 9–11 ceremony to allow Canadians to remember what was ultimately an attack on democracy and freedom.

“It didn't just take innocent lives, it was really an attack on everything we believe in,” she said.

Seeing bin Laden on television once again this week, threatening more violence, ought to cement the importance of Canada's often contested mission in Afghanistan, she added.

“I think for the most part the people that are questioning our role there are perhaps not fully aware of the wonderful contributions that we're making,” Basnicki said.

“Unfortunately the price that we're paying is soldiers coming home in coffins and I want to say that I thank Canadian mothers and fathers that are sending their children over to Afghanistan.”

In the war–torn country, Canadian soldiers had no time to stop and mark the anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Instead they were on high alert, looking for insurgents who might be planning to mark the occasion with even more deadly attacks.

Noting Afghanistan remains a breeding ground for the fundamentalist ideals that gave rise to Sept. 11, Day said the anniversary is a good time to reaffirm Canada's commitment to the mission, which has so far left 67 soldiers dead and drawn widespread criticism for its effectiveness in rebuilding the country.

“We have long–term goals for Afghanistan, especially on the development side,” he said.

“We'd like to see the type of society develop in Afghanistan that would in and of itself be resistant to the types of terrorism that seem to be rooted and grow out of there.”

Despite Canada's efforts to boost security and improve intelligence, Day said no country is “100 per cent immune” from terrorism.



# Sept-11-Roundup

---

**DATE:** 2007.09.11

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 306

---

INDEX: International, Defence, Politics, Social

(US-Sept-11-Anniversary)

New York will pause for four minutes of silence today to mark the sixth anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

The anniversary was moved this year because of construction underway at Ground Zero.

Several family members are worried Zuccotti Park, just southeast of Ground Zero, will be too small to accommodate the thousands of people expected for today's ceremony.

Firefighters, first responders and construction workers who helped rescue people from the World Trade Center were chosen this year to read the names of the dead at the park.

(Harper-Sept-11)

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has marked the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with an address to the Australian parliament.

He's the first Canadian prime minister to have been given such an honour.

Harper told legislators today that Canada and Australia are uniquely positioned to help a troubled world.

He says the countries neither have the capacity nor the will to conquer or dominate, yet both are able to make a difference.

And he says both countries need to keep up with the tough military work that's marked their long shared history.

(MacKay-Afghanistan)

Defence Minister Peter MacKay is warning the world not to abandon Afghanistan.

If peace and stability aren't restored there, MacKay says there's a risk of more terror attacks.

MacKay was speaking at a meeting of ambassadors to Canada on the eve of the sixth anniversary of 9-11.

Afghan Ambassador Omar Samad says Canadians should remember what Afghanistan was like when it was forgotten by the world in the 1990s.

It fell under the control of warlords and become a haven for al-Qaida.

MacKay says the "exit strategy" for Canadian troops is to help rebuild the country.

The military mission is set to end in February 2009, but MacKay predicts Canada be involved there for a ``very long time."

(Sept-11-Air-India)

Canadians who lost loved ones in the 9-11 terror attacks and in the 1985 Air India bombing will be holding a memorial service in Toronto today.

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day will be on hand to deliver a tribute to the victims.

Maureen Basnicki, whose husband was one of 24 Canadians on 9-11, will be expressing gratitude for Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

And Sushel Gupta of the Air India Victims Families Association will be speaking as well.

The Air India bombing claimed 329 lives.

(BIZ-Airlines-Sept-11)

It'll be business as usual for Canada's airlines on the sixth anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks.

Air Canada says travellers mostly ignore the infamous date when making their bookings.

WestJet is expecting about the same loads as last year.

Airlines took a big hit in the attacks' immediate aftermath.

On September 11, 2002, Air Canada cancelled about 80 flights -- mostly return trips to the eastern U-S.

LAK

# Sept-11-Pace

---

**DATE:** 2007.09.11  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 94

---

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U-S Joint Chiefs of Staff has assured relatives of those who died at the Pentagon in the September 11th attack that their loved ones will always be remembered.

Speaking at the wall where the plane broke through six years ago, General Peter Pace said he didn't have the right words to show what their ``fellow citizens are thinking today."

But he said he hopes that these observances help lessen their pain.

The attack on the Pentagon killed 184 people.

Pace today also spoke of the military, calling the anniversary ``a day of recommitment."

At the main U-S base at Afghanistan, service members bowed their heads in memory of the victims.

(APB)

PTH

# Japan's PM Shinzo Abe set to resign

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120085  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA01  
**SOURCE:** REUTERS NEWS AGENCY  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 106

---

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has told executives of his ruling coalition he intends to resign, Japanese media reported today.

On Sunday, Abe had indicated that he would step down if he failed to extend a Japanese naval mission supporting U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan, and opposition parties had been preparing to grill him on the topic in parliament this afternoon.

Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party suffered a drubbing in the July election, and his support ratings have floundered amid a row over pensions and a series of financial scandals involving cabinet ministers. Financial market players have been worried about the possibility of political instability and a policy vacuum.

# Harper eyeing bigger Australian role in Afghanistan; Receives encouraging signals as Howard recognizes 'heavy burden' Canada is carrying in Kandahar

---

**IDNUMBER:** 200709120084  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA02  
**BYLINE:** Tonda MacCharles  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 377

---

Canada has received encouraging signals from leaders here on the future of Australia's military commitment in Afghanistan.

The comments came as Prime Minister Stephen Harper ended his visit on a friendly note, and headed home to try to forge a consensus among opposition leaders about extending Canada's military mission beyond February 2009.

In light of that deadline, Australian Prime Minister John Howard was asked by Canadian reporters whether there's a role for Australia – a non-NATO country – in the dangerous southern part of Afghanistan that could help Canada.

"We have a lot of respect for the Canadians, and what they do for us, and it would not surprise that if in the course of discussing things, we looked at the sort of situation that you had in mind," Howard said at a joint news conference with Harper after their hour-long private meeting.

Howard acknowledged the "heavy burden" Canada is carrying in Kandahar province and said Canada and Australia "will continue to talk about our efforts in Afghanistan." He did not rule out some future role, though no "definitive" discussions on a "joint operation or a joint way forward" were held.

Australian Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd, who is surging ahead of Howard in the polls with the country on the brink of a federal election, also pledged support.

Rudd, leader of the Labour party, has said he would re-direct soldiers from Iraq by mid-2008 back into Afghanistan, and left no doubt about his plans to carry through with that if elected.

"Six years on we remain resolute in our commitment to that engagement in Afghanistan and to our common objective of securing the destruction of Osama bin Laden," Rudd told Harper at a luncheon.

Howard's and Rudd's remarks came the same day U.S. Gen. David Petraeus reported that U.S. forces may be able to begin withdrawing some of their numbers, now that Iraqis are shouldering more of the security load.

Harper eyeing bigger Australian role in Afghanistan; Receives encouraging signals as Howard recognizes 'h

The Petraeus report raises the prospect that Australians, too, who also have troops in Iraq, would, in the words of one Canadian official, "have more capacity to send more troops back into Afghanistan."

Australia is the largest non-NATO country among the 37 countries supplying troops in Afghanistan, "and we want them to stay there," said a Canadian official.

Canadian Gen. Ray Henault, in Canberra yesterday on a previously scheduled visit to formally thank Australia for its contribution in Afghanistan, sat in parliament as Harper made his address.

# THE AFGHAN MISSION What the increasingly confident Taliban want in exchange for peace

---

**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072550245  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**PAGE:** A1 (ILLUS)  
**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH  
**SECTION:** International News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 1183  
**WORD COUNT:** 1176

---

GRAEME SMITH KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN The Taliban and their allies say they are ready to accept President Hamid Karzai's invitation to peace talks, but with tough conditions that show the insurgents' rising confidence about bargaining with the embattled Afghan government.

The Taliban's demands include an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops and a rewrite of the Afghan constitution, according to interviews The Globe and Mail has conducted with key figures who would be integral to any political settlement.

Hope for negotiations surfaced after Mr. Karzai said on Sunday that he wants to talk with the insurgents – a statement he has made with increasing frequency as the violence rises. But this time, the Taliban took the unusual step of answering the President, issuing a statement on Monday saying they are prepared to meet with him.

Kabul is investigating the Taliban's invitation, a presidential spokesman said yesterday, adding that insurgents who want to negotiate will not be arrested.

But Kabul will need to make more substantial promises to get talks started, said Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, reached by telephone at an undisclosed location.

"The government hasn't made any serious attempt to talk with us," Mr. Ahmadi said. "If they want to talk, we have two demands: All foreign troops must leave, and we must have an Islamic democracy in Afghanistan." The Taliban spokesman was vague about his definition of Islamic democracy. Afghanistan's constitution already defines it as an Islamic republic, but it also sets aside a quarter of seats in parliament for women and makes other provisions that give the country a more moderate character than it had under the Taliban.

"The United States brought democracy to Afghanistan, but it was un-Islamic," Mr. Ahmadi said. "We need democracy, but under the laws of Islam." Although he did not elaborate, he mentioned that another insurgent group has been thinking along similar lines: Hizb-i-Islami, the largest band of gunmen that fights alongside the Taliban.

That group's leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, recently gave a video response to questions from a researcher for The Globe and Mail, outlining his requirements for a ceasefire.

Like the Taliban, the old warlord listed the removal of foreign troops as his first demand.

But he also offered a more detailed political scheme: "Afghan people must sit together and reach the decision that the foreign troops should leave," he said. "The Americans must accept this, and they must leave. We will never participate in meetings in which they don't discuss this issue." He continued: "Power should be handed over to a temporary government, and they will have a meeting of tribal elders, a new constitution, and work under Islamic rules. We should have real and fair elections, which follow Islamic rules. Under these circumstances, I am ready for negotiations." Both Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Ahmadi remain in hiding; the former has been designated by the United States as a terrorist and supporter of al-Qaeda.

The name Ahmadi is likely a pseudonym, sometimes assumed by different Taliban spokesmen in hopes of avoiding the fate of their predecessors who have been killed or captured.

This points to one of many hurdles for a political settlement: The United Nations has formally designated the Taliban and other insurgent groups in Afghanistan as terrorists, making it politically and legally difficult for the Kabul government to reach a compromise.

"If they're labelled as terrorists, how can they talk?" said Maulana Fazlur Rahman, who heads one of Pakistan's largest religious parties, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, which voices support for the Taliban but disavows any direct link with violence.

"The key lies in the hands of the Americans," Mr. Rahman said during an interview earlier this month in Islamabad.

"They should empower the Afghan government to talk with the Taliban.

But the atmosphere is not yet conducive." The Taliban spokesman agreed that the terrorist designation might hamper talks. During recent negotiations with the government of South Korea for the release of hostages, Mr. Ahmadi said, the Taliban believed that the United States was trying to stop the discussion because it violated the principle of not negotiating with terrorists.

In the end, however, the success of the Korean talks shows pragmatism can overcome such objections, Mr. Ahmadi said.

Canadian military officials in Kandahar have said they do not talk with the Taliban under any circumstances, although their NATO allies have not been as firm. The Dutch military in neighbouring Uruzgan province openly describe talks with insurgents as part of their strategy, and many observers viewed the British military's failed peace deal last year in Musa Qala district as an agreement with the Taliban.

In Ottawa, the Conservative government's Foreign Minister, Maxime Bernier, recently criticized the South Korean government for negotiating with the Taliban for the release of hostages.

"We do not negotiate with terrorists, for any reason," he said.

"Such negotiations, even if unsuccessful, only lead to further acts of terrorism." New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton, however, has long called for negotiating an end to the war, while the Liberals have not been vocal on the issue.

So far, the only publicized method for reaching out to the Taliban has been the Peace Through Strength program, a mediation effort aimed at encouraging defections from the insurgency. The program has suffered a lack of funding, however, and cannot offer the Taliban very much except a written promise of immunity from prosecution.

"Karzai wants us to get letters, and be free to sit at home," Mr. Ahmadi said. "This is silly, it's not acceptable."



Whatever compromise might eventually be accepted by the Taliban would probably be hard for the international community to swallow, Mr. Rahman said.

"The West accepts Islam as a religion, but not as a state system, and this is unfortunate," he said.

\*\*\*\*\* Opinions on Afghan negotiations Qari Yousef Ahmadi Spokesman, on whether the Taliban would accept a government in Kabul that isn't led by Mullah Mohammed Omar .

"We don't care who is leader, as long as he is a good Muslim." Maulana Fazlur Rahman Head of Pakistan's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party, which voices support for the Taliban. "From the first day of this war, I have been saying that a negotiation is the only solution." Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Leader of the largest band of gunmen allied with the Taliban.

"We are talking with all groups that want independence for Afghanistan.

With Taliban and others we already had some meetings, and still we continue our meetings. We want to collect all the independence groups together into one group, to have one aim, one target. We aren't yet successful with this, but we are trying, and I'm sure it will happen." Hamid Karzai President of Afghanistan "For the security and prosperity of the Afghan people, in order to be freed from al-Qaeda and terrorists and their inhuman actions, we are ready for any type of discussion and negotiations." Maxime Bernier Canadian Foreign Minister "We do not negotiate with terrorists, for any reason. Such negotiations, even if unsuccessful, only lead to further acts of terrorism."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; peace; political; government; reform; religion; statements; list

PERSONAL NAME: Hamid Karzai

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

# POLITICS Taliban's key ally is also an everyman

---

**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072550244  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**PAGE:** A21  
**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH  
**SECTION:** International News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Islamabad PAKISTAN  
**WORDS:** 367  
**WORD COUNT:** 371

---

GRAEME SMITH ISLAMABAD When a bus full of South Korean aid workers was captured by the Taliban in the badlands of central Afghanistan this summer, the Korean government sent envoys to a more civilized setting to cut a deal: the heart of Islamabad, with its trim lawns and well-kept flowerbeds.

The Koreans met with Maulana Fazlur Rahman, leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, one of Pakistan's largest religious parties. He was persuaded by their pleas, he says, and issued a public request to the Taliban that they not kill more hostages. In the end, 21 of 23 escaped alive, and the Korean government sent Mr. Rahman a thank-you letter for his assistance.

"I launched an appeal, and they stopped the killings," Mr. Rahman says proudly.

The JUI runs a network of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of religious schools across Pakistan, where students are taught the austere Deobandi school of Islam – and, allegedly, some are recruited by the Taliban.

A spokesman for the insurgents described Mr. Rahman yesterday as somebody "with good ideas." For his part, Mr. Rahman denies any operational links with the Taliban, saying he only supports their cause with his words, not actions. But it's clear that any effort to find a negotiated solution to the Afghan insurgency will require the blessing of this man, who has emerged as the Taliban's most prominent political ally.

For somebody with such power over the Taliban, though, Mr. Rahman hardly fits the image of an extremist. Paunchy but nimble, he steps quickly into the living room of his apartment and drops onto the couch beside his foreign guest, offering a greeting with a pat on the shoulder in the manner of a favourite uncle.

The guard in the hallway with a rifle is the only clue in the apartment to Mr. Rahman's stature. Otherwise, the place feels comfortably cluttered, with newspapers and empty pop bottles scattered on the dressers and floor, fake greenery standing in a vase, and kitschy wall hangings made of plastic fruit and wooden trellis.

Mr. Rahman answers all of his guest's questions with unfailing politeness, then scurries off to meet a television crew, winking on his way out the door.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Pakistan; South Korea

SUBJECT TERM: strife; hostages; religion; political; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Maulana Fazlur Rahman

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam

# SEPT. 11 ANNIVERSARY: A day of mourning IN AFGHANISTAN

---

**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072550242

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**PAGE:** A18

**BYLINE:**

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** CP, AP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 128

**WORD COUNT:** 163

---

CP, AP The main U.S. base in Afghanistan fell silent yesterday at the moment the first hijacked jetliner struck the World Trade Center, and soldiers bowed their heads in prayer. But a moment of silence was hard to come by on the Canadian base in Kandahar, where Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop to mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin. However, the day didn't bring any measured increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; United States

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; anniversaries; memorials; world trade center

# On the PM's trip to Oz, spontaneity is as dead as the dodo

---

**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 072550180  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**PAGE:** A23  
**BYLINE:** JEFFREY SIMPSON  
**SECTION:** Comment Column  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** Canberra AUSTRALIA  
**WORDS:** 682  
**WORD COUNT:** 663

---

JEFFREY SIMPSON CANBERRA Thank goodness for the schoolchildren.

As Prime Minister Stephen Harper descended the steps from the Australian War Memorial, about a hundred of them on a visit appeared to his left. Since no politician, however programmed, ever misses such a chance, Mr. Harper strode over, shook a few hands and gathered some of them around him for a photograph. The deviation from script took a minute. It was the only one during six days in Australia.

What you saw back home about this trip, and what you read, was the product of a meticulously planned, minute-by-minute control of image and content by the Prime Minister and his team. A scribe who wasn't born yesterday and has covered seven prime ministers has never seen anything this scripted. Australian officials were equally amazed; some said they had never seen anything quite so controlled.

Every camera angle, every photo op and every visual had been planned (except for the schoolchildren), although the venue shifted once to accommodate an even better backdrop. Instead of having a "media availability" in the Prime Minister's hotel, the site changed to the top floor of another one that afforded a brilliant view of Sydney's Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

Perhaps the Prime Minister's folks had seen that backdrop used for a meeting by Australian Prime Minister John Howard, U.S. President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and decided they wanted the same visual. Renting the room could not have been cheap. Television, however, ate it up.

That event featured microcosmic evidence of the ongoing battle between the Prime Minister's Office and the press.

Despite nothing being on the official agenda that evening, one of Mr. Harper's press aides said the Prime Minister was "pressed for time." Therefore, the aide would draw up a short list of potential questioners, but not all could be guaranteed a question.

And so continued the tussle with the news media that began at the start of the Harper government over control of questions to the Prime Minister. In the view of The Globe and Mail, CBC Television and the Toronto Star, if the Prime Minister's aides control the list, they can play favourites. So, as a protest, these organizations' journalists are instructed not to ask questions.

This is a sturdy position of principle, but it also suits the Prime Minister just fine, since three of the country's

leading English–language news outlets, with some of the most experienced journalists, ask no questions. Other variations on the "list" issue abound; suffice it to say that this Prime Minister's frosty attitude toward the press continues apparently unabated, abroad as at home.

The press, after all, cannot as easily be controlled as other elements of modern governance, and this government is all about maximizing centralized control over decision–making and communication.

What counts in communication for this government, as evidenced by this trip, is less information than image. Spontaneity is kept to an absolute minimum. Like all modern governments, an enormous effort is constantly made to provide televisually attractive settings for the Prime Minister.

There is nothing new about this preoccupation. It's just that this government has taken it to a new level such that every step of the trip was programmed. An observer could only admire the discipline, even if the control, when carried to such extremes, becomes counterproductive.

Nor is the spinning of news anything that began yesterday. It was hardly surprising to hear Mr. Harper's aides saying things "off the record" to "clarify" what had been said, even though their "clarifications" stretched the actual words almost out of recognition.

So it was with the story about the Prime Minister trying to flush out the Liberals' position on Afghanistan, or his statement to the Australian Parliament that Canada's Senate should be abolished if it could not be reformed. This bold declaration, of course, was pure sabre–rattling, since abolition would require a constitutional amendment with widespread (and thus unattainable) provincial consent.

It did make headlines, though.

jsimpson@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Australia

SUBJECT TERM: visits; foreign policy; political; media

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Conservative Party of Canada

# Soldiers test positive for drugs

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120043  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B6  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 310

---

OTTAWA — Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drug tests, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

"When you want to send our soldiers there, you don't want to send kids who are addicted or who have a drug problem. They have to be clean," said Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre.

As federal sports minister in 2001, Coderre was instrumental in establishing the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency, which has long been a proponent of drug testing.

"Drug-free sport ... It's exactly the same thing as DND, those people represent us," he said.

But it's also a safety issue, Coderre told CanWest News Service.

"It's a war mission, there would be an extra problem to take care of — a drug problem on the field."

Canadian Armed Forces Brig.-Gen. Ian Poulter told CBC News: "It's a particular concern because we are in Afghanistan, they are in a combat situation and they have to make split-second decisions, life or death, and we need them to be able to do that without the influence of illicit drugs."

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny agreed: "It's a reflection of the society we live in," he said. "A lot of young people use drugs. It would surprise me if a lot of people who joined the Canadian Forces didn't, as well," said Kenny, who told CanWest News Service he would support the idea of across-the-board drug testing in the Forces.

"The difference is the occupation. If you are handling weapons you become a danger to yourself and to your colleagues if you are abusing substances — if its alcohol or drugs, it doesn't matter."

Right now only soldiers pegged for deployment face mandatory drug testing.

# Canadian memorial a work in progress

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120505  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 8  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of STOCKWELL DAY "Not immune"  
**BYLINE:** TOBI COHEN, CP  
**WORD COUNT:** 194

---

Six years after 9/11, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said yesterday.

Though Canada remains embroiled in the ongoing war against the network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strikes on U.S. soil, Canada has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who died.

"It's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," Day said yesterday as a small group gathered in Toronto to mark the occasion.

## SMALL CEREMONY

"Today is the sixth anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 people by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. My husband Ken was one of those victims," said Maureen Basnicki at the tiny, dignified ceremony that included the reading of the 24 names of Canada's victims.

Seeing bin Laden on television once again threatening more violence, ought to cement the importance of Canada's often contested mission in Afghanistan, she said.

"Unfortunately, the price that we're paying is soldiers coming home in coffins, and I want to say that I thank Canadian mothers and fathers that are sending their children over to Afghanistan." **KEYWORDS=CANADA**



# Black Tuesday Ceremonies across U.S. as Americans mourn victims of 9/11

---

**SOURCETAG:** 0709120082

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Mike Segar, Reuters Families and friends of victims embrace next to the reflecting pool at the base of the World Trade Center site in New York City yesterday, the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

**BYLINE:** EDITH HONAN, REUTERS

**DATELINE:** NEW YORK

**WORD COUNT:** 427

---

Americans stood in silence to remember the nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks yesterday as Osama bin Laden resurfaced to praise the suicide hijackers who carried them out six years ago to the day.

New Yorkers observed silent moments at the very times jets crashed into the World Trade Center towers and when each tower collapsed. Ceremonies took place also at the Pentagon and at a Pennsylvania field where the third and fourth planes crashed.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates vowed revenge on anyone who might attack the United States.

"The enemies of America, the enemies of our values and our liberty, will never again rest easy for we will hunt them down relentlessly and without reservation," he said in Washington outside the section of the Pentagon that was struck.

Bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader behind the attacks, defied the U.S. with a new audiotape. On it, he praised "the 19 champions" who hijacked the U.S. planes and crashed them.

## CHURCH BELLS PEAL

In New York, bagpipes played, accompanied by a steady drum beat, in a park neighbouring the former disaster site known as Ground Zero, which is now a busy construction zone. Church bells pealed to mark the moment.

"Six years have passed, and our place is still by your side," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the gathered family and friends of those who died.

Rain fell on the somber ceremony, where many wore funereal black to remember the 2,750 killed when the towers fell. Their names were read aloud, taking hours, in what has become an annual tradition.

In all, 2,993 people died, including the 19 hijackers.

President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and their wives led a moment of silence on the White House lawn at 8:46 a.m., when the first plane struck in New York.

About 200 Republican and Democratic lawmakers gathered, as they did on the night of the attacks, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, and sang God Bless America Monday night.

"Six years ago, Republicans and Democrats stood united on these steps, and we stand united again today," House of Representatives Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio said.

Near Shanksville, Penn., hundreds gathered in the field where United Flight 93 crashed after passengers fought al-Qaida hijackers.

Sept. 11 fell on a Tuesday for the first time since 2001, adding to the meaning of the day for many.

"There's a lot of symbolism about what happened, and the whole country is drawn into it," Elizabeth Boyer, whose cousin Edward Calderon was killed, said at the World Trade Center. "This is the place. We don't have a cemetery to go to."

#### CONVERT TO ISLAM

Last week bin Laden urged Americans to convert to Islam in his first new video for nearly three years, following al-Qaida's pattern of issuing statements to mark Sept. 11.

"Certainly the capture of bin Laden would be of enormous symbolic importance, but the fact is that the war against terror is not a war against one guy," White House spokesman Tony Snow said.

The attacks jolted Bush's presidency and led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan to root out al-Qaida plotters protected there by the former Taliban government. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Remembering the victims; Tradition of reciting names continues at Ground Zero

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120105  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Getty Images / A young girl holds a rose next to a reflecting pool filled with flowers during a ceremony commemorating the 9–11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center ;  
**DATELINE:** NEW YORK  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 574

---

NEW YORK -- For a variety of reasons, there were fewer people than usual at this year's annual commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York on Tuesday.

But for Helga and Hans Gerhardt, Toronto residents who lost their son Ralph, 34, in the collapse of the World Trade Center's North Tower, staying away was not an option.

"For my mother, this is the only place to be at this time," said Stephan Gerhardt, the couple's other son, who has always accompanied his parents to the anniversary commemorations.

The widow of Vladimir Tomasevic, a Toronto businessperson who just happened to be in the North Tower for work that day, said she felt the same way.

"At the site, you look up at the sky and you just try and imagine how tall those buildings were," said Tanja Tomasevic, 40. "It's hard to explain, but I just feel different when I am down there."

While fewer turned out than attended earlier commemorations, there were still thousands at the solemn service, where the tradition of reciting the names of all those who perished was maintained.

It had been predicted numbers would be down in part because this anniversary followed one organizers treated as an important temporal landmark, thereby raising its profile.

It was also suggested people would be put off because the beginnings of rebuilding at the site meant the bulk of the service would be held in an adjacent park, though families would be led to the actual "footprint" of the towers to lay flowers.

Weather may have even kept some people away. Rain on Tuesday contrasting markedly with the clear blue skies six years ago when two jet planes streaked across New York and slammed, one after the other, into the towers.

"For us the showers provoked an almost comical scene because at every cloud burst, hundreds of different coloured umbrellas would pop up," said Gerhardt.

The families were offered different coloured roses to lay at two pools — one for each tower — when they were led into the "pit."

"I chose yellow, my favourite, and red, the colour he always gave me," said Tomasevic. "It's very touching because that's the point where you feel most connected and where you think about everything. But it's also overwhelming because everyone's there who are feeling the same pain."

About a dozen relatives of the 22 other Canadians among the 2,750 victims of the twin towers' collapse attended the New York ceremony.

Among them was Cindy Barkway, widow of David, whose young sons Jamie and David were scheduled to throw a ceremonial pitch in the Toronto Blue Jays baseball game Tuesday night against the New York Yankees.

The trio rushed to the airport at the end of the ceremonies to catch a Toronto-bound flight.

Maureen Basnicki, whose husband Ken, 47, was also a victim of the North Tower collapse, attended a private service in Toronto to present an "expression of gratitude" to Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, among others.

For a while the Maple Leaf flag fluttered at the New York ceremony, carried by a contingent of about 100 Canadian police officers attending in support of victims' families and those who were among the first responders to the attack.

"It doesn't matter whether there is 20,000 people in attendance, or five, we'll continue to be there," said Toronto police Sgt. Jose Camacho, who led a \$200,000 fundraising effort in the aftermath of the attacks to benefit families of New York City police officers killed.

Four moments of silence marked the times the planes hit and towers fell.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said 9–11 marked "the day that tore across our history and our hearts."

Rudy Giuliani, mayor at the time of the attack, also spoke, saying 9–11 "was a day with no answers, but with an unending line of people who came forward to help one another."

Memorial services in Washington and Pennsylvania also honoured victims of planes that struck there and brought the total number of casualties that day to 2,974, not including 19 hijackers.

# Quit focusing on 2009 timeline, Harper tells critics; Canada's role in Afghanistan dominates speech in Australia

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120083  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** C4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper addresses a joint sitting of Australia's House and Senate ;  
**DATELINE:** CANBERRA, Australia  
**BYLINE:** Mike De Souza  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 562

---

CANBERRA, Australia -- It's time to focus on real policies in Afghanistan instead of arbitrary timelines about the end of Canada's military mission in the country's deadly southern region, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday.

After wrapping up a week-long trip to Australia with an address to its parliament, Harper told reporters he was fed up with critics who are focusing on February 2009, when Canada's current commitment in Southern Afghanistan expires.

"My hope would be that in the next year and a half, rather than just debating a date, we would talk about what the objectives of policy are," Harper said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "Canada went into Afghanistan because of very real reasons of national security and international security, and I believe that since we've been there, particularly in Kandahar, we've undertaken obligations."

Seventy Canadian soldiers have been killed since the armed forces moved into Afghanistan to drive out the Taliban regime and the terrorists it was protecting. But Harper explained that no one expects the mission to succeed before 2009 at eliminating all the havens for the terrorists who planned the Sept. 11 attacks on America six years ago.

"I don't see the United Nations telling Canada to leave on a certain date, or the Canadian military urging me to pull out on certain date, or the military families to do that," he said. "I don't see our allies urging us to do that. In fact I see allies like Australia that are increasing their commitment."

Meantime, Howard refused to say whether he wanted Canadian troops to continue their current combat role in Afghanistan.

"I am full of admiration for what Canada has done," Howard said. "Canada is carrying a very heavy burden in Afghanistan."

Harper also noted in his speech that Canadian troops appreciated the solidarity among Australia's political parties in their support for the mission, taking an indirect shot at his rivals in Canada who have questioned the mission. Afterwards, he added that he preferred to see a discussion in search of the right thing to do for the

Afghan people instead of a decision to simply abandon them.

"I understand that Canadians want to see us eventually leave," Harper said. "The Afghans should eventually take care of their own security and I think that's what we should work towards. We should work towards that objective rather than a particular arbitrary timeline."

Harper's speech, the first address by a Canadian prime minister to Australian MPs and senators in their parliament, touched on a wide variety of topics, drawing laughter from his audience as he spoke of his "Senate Envy" because of their elected and accountable upper chamber. But the laughter turned into a deafening silence in the room when he mused about the possibility of abolishing Canada's Senate.

Harper, who arrived in Australia last week for a summit of 21 Pacific Rim countries, announced four new agreements with Australia as he wrapped up his trip: An expansion of a student working vacation program; new co-operative efforts for reconstruction in Afghanistan; a new partnership to exchange ideas and knowledge about the public service; and a joint statement on climate change, committing affordable supplies of energy to support economic growth.

The last statement also calls for the creation of a new program covering research in advanced nuclear technologies for the two countries which export a majority of the world's uranium supply.

# Soldiers test positive for drug use

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120063  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** National  
**PAGE:** B8  
**COLUMN:** Canada in Brief  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 88

---

OTTAWA (CNS) — Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drugs, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana.

The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

# Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120172  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Issues & Ideas  
**PAGE:** A18  
**COLUMN:** Barbara Kay  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: Richard Arless Jr., CanWest News Service /Yvonne Ridley at a Canadian Islamic Congress fundraiser in Montreal last week. ;  
**BYLINE:** Barbara Kay  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 843

---

Muslim Turkey doesn't allow it. Neither does Muslim Jordan. Nor Muslim Iran. Veils in the voting booth, that is. Moreover, no Muslim organization in Canada is asking for faceless voting, and some are downright opposed to it. There seems to be only one Muslim in Canada at the moment making an issue out of it.

Visiting globetrotter Yvonne Ridley, a British journalist who catapulted to celebrity after 11 days of captivity by the Taliban in 2001 turned her into an Islamist apologist, and who later converted to Islam, has accused Canadian politicians of Islamophobia, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of racism for voicing opposition to face-concealed voting.

At a fundraising dinner for the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) in Montreal I attended last Friday, keynote speaker Ridley challenged the women in the audience to "put on a niqab" (i.e., face veil) on voting day -- an exhortation that drew a round of applause.

Ridley's agenda in stirring up grievance around such a trifle is doubtless what has become her stock in trade: Nurturing Muslim revanchism and fomenting tension between Muslims and their fellow citizens.

Take a closer look at the woman the CIC saw fit to honour:

Like many other adult converts, Ridley went from Islamic zero to zealotry after she became a Muslim in 2003. She adopted colourful Middle Eastern garb and the hijab, issued savage denunciations of the United States, Israel and Tony Blair, and became a strident apologist for the worst of the worst of Islamist terrorists.

Apart from the Islamist fringe and the far left, Ridley has lost whatever personal and professional credibility she once enjoyed. She was even fired by al-Jazeera after a brief stint for her "overly-vocal and argumentative style." She joined disgraced MP George Galloway's pro-Islamist RESPECT party in Britain, and subsequently lost three elections in a row with ever-diminishing support (6.4% in the 2005 general election). She is now reduced to shilling for Iran's oppressive regime on PRESS TV, a 24-hour news channel, and peddling endless reprisals of her Taliban adventure to the curious and uncritical.

Controversy dogs her. In 2006 she outlined her viewpoint in a debate at Imperial College London as "pretty much in line with Hamas." She defended the utility of British Muslims watching videos of Iraqi insurgents

Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Cana



beheading hostages as a necessary counterpoint to Western media propaganda. When Chechen terrorist leader Shamil Basayev, the mastermind of both the Moscow theatre hostage crisis and Beslan school massacre, was killed, Ridley opined that he had become a shaheed (i.e., martyr) whose place in paradise was now assured.

Most problematic for Canadians, who appreciate that our security depends on Muslim co-operation in identifying jihadist elements amongst them, Ridley is on record counselling British Muslims "to boycott the police and refuse to co-operate with them in any way, shape or form." For this pernicious advice alone, the CIC must realize that her views are more than incompatible with Canadian values: They run dangerously counter to Canadians' national security.

In addition to her obsessive Islamocentrism, Ridley's Friday night speech revealed a narcissism that has her bizarrely detached from objective reality. Particularly surreal was the sitcom-storyboard pitch of her Afghanistan adventure: Set in rubble-strewn Kabul instead of verdant Sherwood Forest, nevertheless the nostalgically backlit narrative of her sojourn with the Taliban evoked a latter day Maid Marian kidnapped by a turbaned version of Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men.

In Ridley's weirdly jolly, revisionist account, the Taliban come off as roguish and unsophisticated, but well-meaning idealists who accepted her rudeness, cursing and spitting with bemused tolerance: "The harder I pushed them, the nicer they were to me!" (By the Prophet's beard, what zany prank will this English spitfire Ridley think of next?!). Not a word about the Taliban's notoriously ruthless oppression of Afghans, especially women. On the contrary. "Thank God," Ridley twinkled mockingly, "I was captured by the (air quotes) 'most evil regime in the world' and not by the Americans." She spoke more respectfully of her Taliban warders than of the "happy clappy" Evangelical Christian prisoners with whom she was briefly incarcerated, whose daily prayer sessions "tortured me."

Ridley closed her remarks with a wistful recollection of a previous fundraiser where she had raised thousands of pounds by waving a Hezbollah flag: "I wish I had that flag tonight."

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and officially recognized as such in Canada. And whether one approves or not, Canada is at war against the Taliban. Ridley's laundering of the latter and support for the former are, or should be, offensive to all Canadians.

The CIC erred in lending its name to the odious views of this Islamist dupe. I hope its leadership will not compound the mistake by reflexively adopting the Ridley strategy of labelling legitimate opinion as Islamophobia. From now on Yvonne Ridley should be persona non grata amongst all Canadian Muslims.

bkay@videotron.ca

# Focus on policies, not timelines: PM; Afghanistan mission

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120121

**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: / (See hardcopy for Photo Description); Black & White Photo: Corporal Simon Duchesne, Pao / Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday that he is tired of critics who are focusing on February, 2009, when Canada's current commitment in Southern Afghanistan expires. Seventy Canadian soldiers have been killed since the armed forces moved into Afghanistan to drive out the Taliban regime and the terrorists it is protecting. ;

**DATELINE:** CANBERRA, Australia

**BYLINE:** Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 500

---

CANBERRA, Australia – It's time to focus on real policies in Afghanistan instead of arbitrary timelines about the end of Canada's military mission in the country's deadly southern region, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

After wrapping up a week-long trip to Australia with an address to its parliament, Mr. Harper told reporters he was fed up with critics who are focusing on February, 2009, when Canada's current commitment in Southern Afghanistan expires.

"My hope would be that in the next year and a half, rather than just debating a date, we would talk about what the objectives of policy are," Mr. Harper said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "Canada went into Afghanistan because of very real reasons of national security and international security, and I believe that since we've been there, particularly in Kandahar, we've undertaken obligations."

Seventy Canadian soldiers have been killed since the armed forces moved into Afghanistan to drive out the Taliban regime and the terrorists it was protecting.

But Mr. Harper explained that no one expects the mission to succeed before 2009 at eliminating all the havens for the terrorists who planned the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States six years ago.

"I don't see the United Nations telling Canada to leave on a certain date, or the Canadian military urging me to pull out on certain date, or the military families to do that," he said. "I don't see our allies urging us to do that. In fact I see allies like Australia that are increasing their commitment."

Mr. Howard refused to wade into the issue, but offered praise for the Canadian contribution to date. "I am full of admiration for what Canada has done," Mr. Howard said. "Canada is carrying a very heavy burden in Afghanistan."

Mr. Harper also noted in his speech that Canadian troops appreciated the solidarity among Australia's political parties in their support for the mission, taking an indirect shot at his rivals in Canada who have questioned the mission. Afterwards, Mr. Harper repeated his desire for a discussion focussed on the right thing to do for the Afghan people instead of a decision to simply abandon them.

"I understand that Canadians want to see us eventually leave," Mr. Harper said. "The Afghans should eventually take care of their own security and I think that's what we should work towards. We should work towards that objective rather than a particular arbitrary timeline."

Mr. Harper, who arrived in Australia last week for a summit of 21 Pacific Rim countries, announced four new agreements with Australia as he wrapped up his trip: An expansion of a student working vacation program; new co-operative efforts for reconstruction in Afghanistan; a new partnership to exchange ideas and knowledge about the public service; and a joint statement on climate change, committing affordable supplies of energy to support economic growth.

The last statement also calls for the creation of a new program covering research in advanced nuclear technologies for the two countries which export a majority of the world's uranium supply.

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; CANDIDATES; OPPOSITION; POLITICAL PARTIES; POLITICS

# Liberals find wedge issue in federalism; Harper hopes plan will win support in Quebec

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120120  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A4  
**COLUMN:** John Ivison  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** John Ivison  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 692

---

When Stephen Harper first unveiled his vision of "open federalism," he cited Belgium as an example of a federation from which Canada could learn.

Three years on, Belgian federalism isn't looking quite so robust. Nearly three months after a general election, the country is still without a government and this week's Economist asserted: Belgium -- time to call it a day.

Still, Mr. Harper remains wedded to open federalism -- which he describes as a strong central government that focuses on national priorities, while recognizing the exclusive jurisdictions of the provinces -- and now seems ready to take the next step down the road toward a more "balanced" relationship between the two.

The Prime Minister has made much of the fact that he solved the "fiscal imbalance" in the last budget and now it is suggested he plans to formally limit federal spending powers in areas of provincial jurisdiction.

In the last election platform, the Conservatives promised to give provinces the right to opt out of federal programs, with full compensation, provided the provinces offered similar programs.

Speculation in Ottawa suggests that Mr. Harper may act on this promise in next month's Throne Speech -- partly to secure support for the speech in the House of Commons from Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois; but mainly because he believes that there should be formal limits on the federal government's spending powers.

The Liberals under Paul Martin went some ways down this road with their plan for "asymmetrical federalism" at the time of the 2004 Health Accord, which offered Quebec the chance to opt out of national programs in such areas as wait time reductions.

But that flirtation appears to have come to an end under new leader Stephane Dion. Mr. Dion is shopping around for "wedge" issues to take on the government, now that it looks like the combat mission in Afghanistan may come to an end in February, 2009.

He thinks he may have found his wedge in Mr. Harper's plans for open federalism.

Mr. Harper is banking that his plans to enshrine federal spending powers will win him support in Quebec, where almost all voters believe that social policy should be determined by the provincial government.

OTTAWA –Mr. Dion is hoping that many voters in English Canada support the right of the federal government to initiate national programs it sees as being in the national interest.

Crucially, he is said to be prepared to take the electoral hit in Quebec that opposing limitations on federal spending powers would bring, in the hope he catches fire in Ontario and other parts of English Canada.

The Liberals suspect that patience is running out for any further accommodation of Quebec in English Canada, where any move to limit federal spending powers would inevitably be viewed as yet another sop to Quebecers, just months after the Conservatives handed the province "nation" status and \$700-million in additional equalization payments, only to see the money used to fund tax cuts instead of services.

Mr. Dion argued against the existence of a fiscal imbalance and has a reputation as being a strong advocate of central government, even though in reality his position is much more nuanced (he supported both Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords and has long opposed federal intrusion into provincial jurisdictions).

However, in the next federal election campaign, Mr. Dion is likely to play the Trudeau centralist card, and argue that Mr. Harper is leading the country toward another disastrous round of constitutional talks that will take Quebec to the brink of separation.

The devil of any plan will be in the detail. Would it mean that the federal government no longer initiates national social projects such as the Mental Health Commission of Canada, a new national agency launched by the Prime Minister just last month?

Would such a plan need a constitutional amendment that would require the consent of a majority of the provinces? (Some academics suggest that federal spending powers could be limited without an amendment by using a little-used provision of the 1867 Constitution, section 94, which was originally meant to allow greater integration among English-speaking provinces.)

Among all the unknowns, there are two racing certainties: One, we can expect to hear much more about open federalism in the months to come; and, two, don't expect the Prime Minister to extol the virtues of certain countries whose national products are beer, chocolate and Tintin.

[jivison@nationalpost.com](mailto:jivison@nationalpost.com)

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

# Harper wants to do right by Afghanistan

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120033  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Greg Wood, Agence France–Presse, Getty Images/ Prime Minister Stephen Harper gets a ceremonial welcome at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on Tuesday. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** PRIME MINISTERS; POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA  
**BYLINE:** Mike de Souza  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 478

---

It's time to focus on real policies in Afghanistan instead of arbitrary timelines about the end of Canada's military mission in the country's deadly southern region, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday.

After wrapping up a weeklong trip to Australia with an address to Parliament, Harper told reporters he was fed up with critics focusing on February 2009, when Canada's commitment in Afghanistan expires.

"My hope would be that in the next year—and-a-half, rather than just debating a date, we would talk about what the objectives of policy are," Harper said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "Canada went into Afghanistan because of very real reasons of national security and international security, and I believe that since we've been there, particularly in Kandahar, we've undertaken obligations."

Seventy Canadian soldiers have been killed since the Armed Forces moved into Afghanistan to drive out the Taliban and the terrorists it was protecting. But Harper explained no one expects the mission to succeed before 2009 at eliminating all the havens for the terrorists who planned the Sept. 11 attacks on America six years ago.

"I don't see the United Nations telling Canada to leave on a certain date, or the Canadian military urging me to pull out on certain date, or the military families to do that," he said.

"I don't see our allies urging us to do that. In fact, I see allies like Australia that are increasing their commitment."

Howard refused to say whether he wanted Canadian troops to continue.

"I am full of admiration for what Canada has done," Howard said. "Canada is carrying a very heavy burden in Afghanistan."

Harper noted in his speech that Canadian troops appreciated the solidarity among Australia's political parties in their support for the mission, taking an indirect shot at his rivals in Canada who have questioned the mission.

Afterward, he added that he preferred to see a discussion in search of the right thing to do for the Afghan people instead of a decision to simply abandon them.

"I understand that Canadians want to see us eventually leave," Harper said. "The Afghans should eventually take care of their own security and I think that's what we should work towards. We should work towards that objective, rather than a particular arbitrary timeline."

Harper's speech, the first address by a Canadian prime minister to Australian MPs and senators in their parliament, touched on a wide variety of topics, drawing laughter from his audience as he spoke of his "senate envy" because of their elected upper chamber.

But the laughter turned into a deafening silence in the room when he mused about the possibility of abolishing Canada's Senate.

Harper, who arrived in Australia last week for a summit of 21 Pacific Rim countries, announced four new agreements with Australia as he wrapped up his trip: an expansion of a student working vacation program; new co-operative efforts for reconstruction in Afghanistan; a new partnership to exchange ideas and knowledge about the public service; and a joint statement on climate change, committing affordable supplies of energy to support economic growth.

# 250 soldiers barred from Afghanistan over drugs

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120023  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**KEYWORDS:** MEDICAL DRUGS; DRUG TESTING  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 300

---

Some 250 soldiers who tested positive in drug tests, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period of September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

"When you want to send our soldiers there, you don't want to send kids who are addicted or who have a drug problem. They have to be clean," said Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre.

As federal sports minister in 2001, Coderre was instrumental in establishing the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency, which has long been a proponent of drug testing.

"Drug-free sport . . . It's exactly the same thing as DND, those people represent us," he said.

But it's also a safety issue, Coderre told CanWest News Service.

"It's a war mission, there would be an extra problem to take care of -- a drug problem on the field."

Canadian Armed Forces Brig.-Gen. Ian Poulter told CBC News: "It's a particular concern because we are in Afghanistan, they are in a combat situation and they have to make split-second decisions, life or death, and we need them to be able to do that without the influence of illicit drugs."

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny agreed.

"It's a reflection of the society we live in. A lot of young people use drugs. It would surprise me if a lot of people who joined the Canadian Forces didn't, as well," said Kenny, who told CanWest News Service he would support the idea of across-the-board drug testing in the Forces.

"The difference is the occupation. If you are handling weapons you become a danger to yourself and to your colleagues if you are abusing substances -- if its alcohol or drugs, it doesn't matter."



Right now, only soldiers pegged for deployment face mandatory drug testing.

# Baby on soldier's mind as 88 troops come home

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120806  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 21  
**BYLINE:** RENATO GANDIA, SUN MEDIA  
**WORD COUNT:** 156

---

Despite the sombre anniversary, the only thing on Capt. Craig Volstad's mind when he arrived at the Edmonton International Airport last night was seeing his toddler daughter.

In all, 88 Edmonton-based soldiers came home on the sixth anniversary of 9-11, but all Volstad was thinking about was being reunited with 18-month-old Alexandra.

"We've been gone almost seven months now," he said after a warm reception from the Legion members who served as a welcoming party for the troops at the airport. "There's no better feeling than to be home."

The vast majority of the soldiers were with the Lord Strathcona's Horse armoured regiment.

Volstad told Sun Media that even though the 9-11 attacks were the catalyst that led to the invasion of Afghanistan, Sept. 11 is more significant to him as his grandmother's birthday. Most people, he said, have moved past the initial dread and terror of that day.

"We're moving past that era," he said. "We're definitely making progress in Afghanistan. We still have challenges ahead of us, but as a whole we're making a difference." **KEYWORDS=EDMONTON**

# Suicide blast hits U.S. security firm

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120718  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 34  
**BYLINE:** REUTERS  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 138

---

A suicide bomber rammed a U.S. security firm convoy in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand yesterday and the blast wounded three local staff and two civilians, a police official said.

The attack targeted a convoy carrying Afghan employees of the firm in Girishk district of the province, where 26 people, many of them civilians, were killed in twin suicide attacks Monday, said Helmand's police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal.

Abdul Manaf Khan, district chief of Girishk, said the bomber rammed a vehicle into the convoy and that several vehicles and a fuel tanker blew up.

Violence has escalated in the past 19 months in Afghanistan, the bloodiest period since U.S.-led troops overthrew the Taliban in 2001.

Militants carried out 103 suicide attacks between January and the end of August this year, compared to 123 attacks during the whole of 2006, the UN said in a new report on suicide bombings in Afghanistan published Sunday. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Major 9/11 memorial proposed

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120710  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 31  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of STOCKWELL DAY 'Not immune'  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**WORD COUNT:** 250

---

Six years after the infamous 9/11 terrorist attacks, Canada's commemoration of the horrific event remains a piecemeal affair, but that could soon change, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said yesterday.

While Canada remains embroiled in the war against Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Afghanistan, which began after the 2001 strike on U.S. soil, the country has yet to adopt an official memorial for 24 citizens who were among the dead.

Day said plaques commemorating the 9/11 attacks have already been erected on Parliament Hill and at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, but that the Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing a request for something more.

"It's very important to remember and it's important to remind people that Canada is not immune from threat and from risk, and seeing the family members of people who were killed ... it reminds us of that," he said. "That's the purpose, the benefit, not just of a service like this, but a memorial itself."

Day said the government is also working to enact legislation that will allow Canadian victims to sue foreign governments and groups that support terrorism.

It's something the Canadian Coalition Against Terror has been pushing for three years, and spokesman Aaron Blumenfeld suggested Day's 9/11 endorsement is a good sign.

"I think Minister Day's public support for the legislation was quite significant," Blumenfeld said.

"There's no way to know when (the bills will be) passed, but where there's support from the Conservatives and one of the other parties, it can happen quickly."

Yesterday, people gathered in New York, while others gathered at the Pentagon where another hijacked airliner crashed. A third ceremony honoured the passengers of Flight 93, which crashed into a field.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Soldiers can't pause to mark tragic date

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120708  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 31  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 130

---

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan did not stop yesterday to mark the 6th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A moment of silence in this war-torn land is hard to come by.

Rather, some of Canada's troops were concerned about insurgents bent on celebrating the devastating attack with a deadly mission of their own, just as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was about to begin.

"Perhaps it means more as far as risk goes," said Pte. Brian Belanger, 23, a soldier from Valcartier, Que.

"Today is a celebration for the Taliban, who might attack a convoy."

However, military officials were hopeful the date wouldn't bring any increase in violence in what has already been one of the most violent years since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

Lt.-Col. Claude Fournier, chief of operations for the Canadian military in Afghanistan, said Sept. 11, 2001, is of greater significance to al-Qaida than the Taliban.

"Afghanistan is more a Taliban country than it is al-Qaida country, so the reality is we don't encounter many al-Qaida fighters," he said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Aussies urged to keep fighting

---

**SOURCETAG** 0709120674  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 8  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 128

---

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan marked the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks yesterday by watching in silence as an American flag was lowered to half-staff.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper used the anniversary to urge his Australian allies not to abandon their role in Afghanistan.

He said the shared fight against Afghan militants is "noble and necessary."

In the Afghan capital, Kabul, Maj.-Gen. Robert Cone told some 100 U.S. soldiers that there is "no alternative" to victory over terrorism.

Earlier in the day, Harper became the first Canadian leader to address Australia's parliament in its 106-year history. "As 9/11 showed, if we abandon our fellow-human beings to lives of poverty, brutality and ignorance in today's global village, their misery will eventually and inevitably become our own," Harper told a special joint sitting of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Canada has 2,300 troops in Afghanistan -- the Australians have 1,000. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# OPP should stop saluting Canada's fallen soldiers

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120053  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A16  
**BYLINE:** Douglas L. Martin, Hamilton  
**SOURCE:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 83

---

Re: "Natives warn OPP of local 'repercussions'" (Sept. 7), and "OPP on Greenpeace watch 'a costly police farce'" (Letters, Sept. 7)

It's galling how the OPP find the resolve to tackle Greenpeace, yet indulges native protests despite court injunctions.

Has native activist Janie Jamison usurped the authority of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino? If that's the case, then the OPP should stop saluting the fallen soldiers returning from Afghanistan, since clearly this police force has lost its sense of what the war in Afghanistan is about.

# Afghanistan looking at Taliban offer

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120012  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** The Associated Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 124

---

The Afghan government is investigating a reported Taliban offer to hold peace talks, a spokesman for President Hamid Karzai said yesterday.

On Sunday, Karzai repeated the government's stance that it was willing to hold talks with Taliban insurgents.

On Monday, the Taliban, through spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said the rebels would consider negotiations if a formal offer were made.

The Karzai government responded in the same vein. Karzai spokesman Humayun Hamidzada said the government had not received a formal offer from the Taliban and that if one were made, "we will decide about it at that time."

But he noted that "the Afghan government, especially the president himself, has announced several times that the reconciliation doors are open."

Taliban fighters sincerely interested in talks to find a "solution for peace" would not be arrested if they came forward, Hamidzada said.



# Army keeps soldiers at home after positive drug tests

---

**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**PAGE:** A8

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 93

---

CNS OTTAWA -- Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drug tests, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana.

The report also said some personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine in their systems.

-- CanWest News Service {Ottawa ONT}

# City honours Afghan heroes Young, old signbook for troops

---

**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**PAGE:** B1

**SECTION:** City

**WORD COUNT:** 315

---

Michelle Melanson Michelle Melanson Winnipeggers had the chance Tuesday to send personal wishes to soldiers serving in Afghanistan in a massive book of encouragement and support.

So far, over 30,000 Canadians have written in Notes from Home.

Master Cpl. Renay Groves, who began compiling the book from her home in Ottawa, has been travelling across the country since May.

During her stop Tuesday at the Military Family Resource Centre at 17 Wing (CFB Winnipeg), a steady stream of people came in to sign the big, red book, including a group of preschoolers from the MFRC Childcare Centre.

Groves traced each child's hand in the book herself.

"I think it's a very important cause," said Cathy McCullough, assistant director of the day care. "I'm just amazed at the dedication they have." One of the most meaningful pages to Groves is the one with Ry Logan Secours-Francis's handprint, along with the message, "To Daddy: Love you and miss you." Ry put his hand on the book on May 25.

His father, Capt. Jeff Francis, was killed in Afghanistan on July 4. He was a member of the 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Shilo, Man.

Flipping to another page, Groves pointed out an entry from an Armed Forces officer who wrote: "They are heroes. They paid with their lives, but not in vain." "The soldiers over there believe in the mission," said Groves, who will start her first tour in Afghanistan next year. "People think we have to go, but we don't have to go. We can say no." Smaller books were also sent out across Canada. The pages from those books will be added to Notes from Home before Groves presents it to soldiers in Afghanistan at the end of the month.

The book will stay in Afghanistan as long as Canadian soldiers are serving there. When the troops come home the book will become a permanent part of the Canadian War Museum's collection.

Groves will make her last stop with the book in Shilo.

michelle.melanson@freepress.mb.ca

# 9-11 rite slowing down; Attendance lower at Ground Zero but all are solemn

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120105  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C12

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: David Handschuh, Bloomberg / REMEMBERING:Families and friends of victims attend the annual commemorative ceremony in Zuccotti Park near the site of the World Trade Center in New York Tuesday. Former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Senator Hillary Clinton were among those honouring the almost 3,000 people killed in terrorist attacks six years ago. ;

**DATELINE:** NEW YORK  
**BYLINE:** Steven Edwards  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 460

---

NEW YORK – Attendance slipped at the annual commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York on Tuesday.

But for Helga and Hans Gerhardt, Toronto residents who lost their son Ralph, 34, in the collapse of the World Trade Center's North Tower, staying away was not an option.

"For my mother, this is the only place to be at this time," said Stephan Gerhardt, the couple's other son, who always accompanies his parents to the anniversary commemorations.

The widow of Vladimir Tomasevic, a Toronto businessman who just happened to be in the North Tower for work that day, said she felt the same way.

"At the site, you look up at the sky and you just try and imagine how tall those buildings were," said Tanja Tomasevic, 40. "It's hard to explain, but I just feel different when I am down there."

While fewer turned out than in previous years, there were still thousands at the service, where the tradition of reciting the names of all those who perished was maintained.

It had been predicted numbers would be down following the attention laid on the fifth anniversary last year.

It was also suggested people would be put off because rebuilding has started, moving most of the service to an adjacent park. Families were led to the actual "footprint" of the towers to lay flowers.

Weather may have even kept some people away. Rain on Tuesday contrasted with the clear blue skies six years ago when two jet planes streaked across New York and slammed, one after the other, into the towers.

"For us the showers provoked an almost comical scene because at every cloud burst, hundreds of different coloured umbrellas would pop up," said Gerhardt.

The families were offered roses to lay at two pools — one for each tower — when they were led into the "pit."

"I chose yellow, my favourite, and red, the colour he always gave me," said Tomasevic. "It's very touching because that's the point where you feel most connected and where you think about everything."

"But it's also overwhelming because everyone's there who are feeling the same pain."

About a dozen relatives of the 22 other Canadians among the 2,750 victims of the attack on the towers attended the ceremony.

Among them was Cindy Barkway, widow of David, and her young sons Jamie and David. They rushed to the airport to fly back to Toronto so the boys could participate in a first-pitch ceremony as the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team played the New York Yankees.

Maureen Basnicki, whose husband Ken, 47, was also a victim of the North Tower collapse, attended a private service in Toronto to present an "expression of gratitude" to Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, among others.

For a while the Maple Leaf flag fluttered at the New York ceremony, carried by a contingent of about 100 Canadian police officers attending in support of victims' families and those who were among the first responders to the attack.

"It doesn't matter whether there is 20,000 people in attendance, or five, we'll continue to be there," said Toronto police Sgt. Jose Camacho, who led a \$200,000 fundraising effort in the aftermath of the attacks to benefit families of New York City police officers killed.

Four moments of silence marked the times the planes hit and towers fell.

# Taliban-style bombs spread in Pakistan

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120100  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: S.H. Khan, AFP/Getty Images / TEEN KILLER:Pakistani officials examine a damaged vehicle Tuesday at the site of a suicide attack that went wrong but still caused 17 deaths. ;  
**DATELINE:** PESHAWAR, Pakistan  
**BYLINE:** S.H. Khan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 371

---

PESHAWAR, Pakistan – A suicide bomber killed 17 people in northwest Pakistan as police tried to arrest him Tuesday.

The attacker blew himself up inside a minibus in Dera Ismail Khan, a remote town close to Pakistan's troubled tribal areas, where the U.S. says al-Qaida and the Taliban have been regrouping since the 9-11 attacks exactly six years ago.

Pakistan has suffered a string of bombings since security forces raided the Al-Qaeda-linked Red Mosque in Islamabad in July, adding to the woes facing Musharraf, a key U.S. ally, as he clings to power ahead of upcoming elections.

"It was a suicide attack. Police started chasing him because he was acting suspiciously and he jumped into a minibus before blowing himself up," police Chief Mohammad Khaliq told AFP.

"The policemen following him said he looked to be about 15 or 16 years old."

The 17 dead included a policeman, a paramilitary soldier and 15 civilians, one of whom was a woman, he said. Another 16 were injured including four police officials.

Body parts were scattered around the area and the minibus was completely destroyed by the blast, police officer Abdul Hai said from the scene of the attack.

Police said they believed the bomber was trying to target government or security force officials in the town but blew himself up when he was detected.

The attack came hours after a bomb detonated by pro-Taliban militants damaged a rock engraved with images of Buddha in another part of northwest Pakistan that attracts thousands of tourists yearly, police said.

The incident recalled the internationally condemned destruction of the huge Bamiyan Buddhas in neighbouring Afghanistan by the hardline Taliban regime in 2001 before they were ousted by U.S.-led forces.

Shrapnel from the blast in the town of Malam Jabba in Pakistan's Swat district hit the rock but did not damage the Buddhist images.

In a separate incident, also in Swat, suspected militants late Tuesday shot dead the chief police officer of a local station as he sat inside his car, police said.

Swat is a stronghold of a radical Islamic group with links to Afghanistan's Taliban, and has seen several deadly attacks in recent weeks.

Nearly 250 people have died in extremist attacks since July's Red Mosque crisis, most of which have been suicide bombings. A further 250 militants have been killed in clashes since the mosque standoff, the army says.

Around 30 people were killed a week ago when two suicide bombers blew themselves up in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, ripping through a military bus and a market near the Pakistani army's headquarters.

# Drug use prevents Afghan duty

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120081  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C1 / FRONT  
**COLUMN:** National Briefs  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** Star News Services  
**WORD COUNT:** 96

---

OTTAWA – Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drugs, were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed Tuesday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

# Foiled plots force Europe onto terror alert; U.S. military base in Germany, Turkish business district targeted

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120036  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**DATELINE:** LONDON  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 425

---

LONDON – European authorities were on alert on the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks yesterday as Turkish police defused a powerful bomb and German authorities mounted a major security operation at a U.S. military base.

Meanwhile, more than 150 people were arrested in Brussels for taking part in a banned demonstration against "the Islamization of Europe," and Denmark's prime minister called on Muslim religious leaders to help ensure that young people do not turn to extremism.

As the United States commemorated the nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks on New York City and Washington, the German interior ministry blamed a little-known group from Uzbekistan — the Islamic Jihad Union, which has links to al-Qaeda — for a recent plot to attack a major U.S. base in the country.

In addition to targeting the base in Ramstein, the group was also going to attack "U.S. and Uzbek consulates in Germany," a statement from the ministry said.

It was the first official confirmation that the Ramstein base near Frankfurt, the headquarters for U.S. air forces in Europe and a key staging post for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, was a target of the alleged plot, uncovered last week.

In Ankara, police defused a powerful bomb after sniffer dogs detected it under a mini-bus with false licence plates sitting in a multi-storey car park in a densely populated district.

"The meticulous work of the police averted a possible catastrophe. ... I do not even want to think about what would have happened if the attack had succeeded," Ankara governor Kemal Onal told journalists.

He said police had found a "large quantity of explosives" in the vehicle, but did not specify the amount, and officials have refused to say who could be behind the foiled attack.

Belgian police, meanwhile, arrested 154 people for taking part in the banned Brussels protest, amid fears that the demonstration could enrage the capital's immigrant community.

Among those arrested were two leaders of Belgium's far-right Vlaams Belang party, Frank Vanhecke — a member of the European Parliament — and Filip Dewinter, who will be charged on allegations they attacked the driver of the armoured car in which they were transported.

Foiled plots force Europe onto terror alert; U.S. military base in Germany, Turkish business district targeted



In Copenhagen, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen called on "Muslim religious chiefs ... to clearly and in a loud voice distance themselves from extremism and to condemn terrorism by co-operating with the authorities and taking care of young people before they stray too far."

Writing on his blog, Mr. Rasmussen added, "we cannot accept that these fundamentalists preach intolerance and extremism among our youth."

His appeal came a week after an anti-terrorist sting in Denmark, the third since 2005, which foiled terrorist actions, according to Danish police intelligence.

# Focus on our goals, not our departure: PM; Harper says arbitrary timeline won't ensure Afghan capabilities

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120018

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.09.12

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Cpl. Simon Duchesne, DND / Master Cpl. Anouk Beauvais, left, and Sgt. Dan Frenette of the Provincial Reconstruction Team talk to an Afghan about a project to improve conditions in his village, located south of Kandahar City. ;

**DATELINE:** CANBERRA, Australia

**BYLINE:** Mike De Souza

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen

**WORD COUNT:** 407

---

CANBERRA, Australia – It's time to focus on real policies in Afghanistan instead of arbitrary timelines about the end of Canada's military mission in the country's deadly southern region, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

After wrapping up a week-long trip to Australia with an address to its Parliament, Mr. Harper told reporters he was fed up with critics who are focusing on February 2009, when Canada's commitment in southern Afghanistan expires.

"My hope would be that in the next year and a half, rather than just debating a date, we would talk about what the objectives of policy are," Mr. Harper said at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "Canada went into Afghanistan because of very real reasons of national security and international security, and I believe that since we've been there, particularly in Kandahar, we've undertaken obligations."

Seventy Canadian soldiers have been killed since the armed forces moved into Afghanistan to drive out the Taliban regime and the terrorists it was protecting. But, Mr. Harper explained that no one expects the mission to succeed before 2009 in eliminating all the havens for the terrorists who planned the 9/11 attacks six years ago.

"I don't see the United Nations telling Canada to leave on a certain date, or the Canadian military urging me to pull out on certain date, or the military families to do that," he said. "I don't see our allies urging us to do that. In fact I see allies like Australia that are increasing their commitment."

Meantime, Mr. Howard refused to say whether he wanted Canadian troops to continue their current combat role. "I am full of admiration for what Canada has done," Mr. Howard said. "Canada is carrying a very heavy burden in Afghanistan."

Mr. Harper also noted in his speech that Canadian troops appreciated the solidarity among Australia's political parties in their support for the mission, taking an indirect shot at his rivals in Canada who have questioned the mission. Afterward, he added he preferred to see a discussion in search of the right thing to do for the Afghan people instead of a decision to simply abandon them.

Focus on our goals, not our departure: PM; Harper says arbitrary timeline won't ensure Afghan capabilities 87

"I understand that Canadians want to see us eventually leave," Mr. Harper said. "The Afghans should eventually take care of their own security and I think that's what we should work towards. We should work towards that objective rather than a particular arbitrary timeline."

# Bin Laden praises hijacker, urges youth to join the cause

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120015  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Osama bin Laden new video released yesterday;  
**DATELINE:** DUBAI  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 403

---

DUBAI – Al–Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden praised as a "champion" one of the Sept. 11 hijackers in a new video released yesterday.

He also called on Muslim youths to join a "caravan" of martyrs, in the second al–Qaeda video in just five days featuring the western world's most wanted man, who had not previously been seen for almost three years.

Mr. bin Laden hailed the hijacker, identified as Walid al–Shehri, as a "young man who personally penetrated the most extreme degrees of danger and is a rarity among men: one of the 19 champions (may Allah have mercy on them all)," according to the video released by IntelCenter, a U.S.–based organization that monitors Islamist militant websites.

Mr. Shehri, a Saudi, was aboard American Airlines Flight 11 which crashed into the World Trade Center, and was one of the 19 hijackers involved in the 2001 attacks.

In the video, Mr. Shehri was shown warning the United States, "We shall come at you from your front and back, your right and left. How could we desire anything other than your (Americans) killing, when our lord has ordered us thus?"

The 47–minute video was the sixth such "last will and testament" issued by a Sept. 11 hijacker, 15 of whom hailed from Saudi Arabia, Mr. bin Laden's birthplace.

"I tell every young man among the youth of Islam: it is your duty to join the caravan until the sufficiency is complete and the march to aid the High and Omnipotent continues," said Mr. bin Laden.

"So go forth and disperse the darkness of kufr (disbelief)," added the Saudi terror chief, who was shown in a still photograph wearing a white robe topped by a beige cloak, and with his beard trimmed and dyed in black.

The White House vowed yesterday that Mr. bin Laden would be captured.

U.S. President George W. Bush has pledged "he'd like to find him. He said all along: we are going to find him," spokesman Tony Snow said.

But he added, "The fact is that the war against terror is not a war against one guy, Osama bin Laden. It is

against a network that uses all sorts of ways of trying to recruit new terrorists."

Despite a massive manhunt and a \$25-million U.S. bounty on his head, Mr. bin Laden has evaded capture and has regularly taunted the U.S. and its allies through warnings issued on video and audio cassettes.

"Bin Laden is somebody who is the symbolic leader of al-Qaeda," Mr. Snow said. "Certainly, the capture of bin Laden would be of enormous symbolic importance."

Online Video

'Six years demonstrate that we have a determined enemy.'

From Afghanistan to Iraq, from the personal at Ground Zero in New York to the political in Washington, watch it all in an extensive video report at [ottawacitizen.com](http://ottawacitizen.com)

# Tribunal shoots down DND's \$126M jet plans; Trade panel rules contract must be re-evaluated

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120009  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**BYLINE:** David Pugliese  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 634

---

A newly released trade tribunal ruling has thrown a \$126-million program to outfit CF-18 fighter jets with new targeting systems into doubt and has opened the possibility the military may have to halt the program. Industry officials say the ruling by the Canadian International Trade Tribunal will likely force the Defence Department to select a new supplier for the state-of-the-art targeting pods even though deliveries by U.S. firm Lockheed Martin are already under way.

The project involves the purchase of specialized targeting pods that allow the CF-18s not only to track enemy aircraft and ground targets, but to make use of advanced smart bombs.

The air force is also looking at the pods to improve how it conducts surveillance of enemy formations on the ground.

Defence Department officials said they are still examining the tribunal ruling.

"Work to date on the project has not halted as a result of this determination," said spokeswoman Krista Hannivan. Ms. Hannivan said that the Defence Department is still working with Public Works and Government Services Canada to determine if the

Advanced Multi-Role Infrared Sensor program will be affected by the ruling.

She said two of the pods have already been delivered and are undergoing testing and evaluation in Cold Lake, Alta. The project does not involve physical modification of the aircraft since the pods are attached to the aircraft, she added.

The government announced in March that Lockheed Martin had won the contract with its pod, known as Sniper. At the time, Public Works Minister Michael Fortier said the deal was an example of the government acting as quickly and efficiently as possible to support Canadian troops and promote Canadian interests.

But after the award was announced, one of the losing bidders, U.S. aerospace firm Northrop Grumman, filed a complaint with the tribunal about how the winning bid was evaluated.

Northrop Grumman and another bidder, U.S. firm Raytheon, have pods that are currently being used on F-18 fighter jets. Representatives from both those firms note that the Lockheed Martin Sniper pod was not in use on F-18s at the time the company won the Canadian contract.

The tribunal determined that the Northrop Grumman complaint was valid "in part" and it has recommended that Public Works re-evaluate the proposals of all three bidders by the end of this month

"If the re-evaluation results in the identification of a different winning bidder for the contract, the existing contract should be cancelled and awarded to that bidder," the ruling determined.

The total contract included \$101 million for the purchase of the pods and \$25 million for in-service support through to 2020. Lockheed Martin was handling both aspects of the deal. The Lockheed Martin pod is used by militaries on different aircraft in Norway, Poland, Oman, Belgium and Britain.

Currently, the CF-18s use targeting pods, but those were purchased in the late 1990s and are considered outdated.

Chief of Defence Gen. Rick Hillier has said he wants the CF-18 to play more of a role in supporting ground forces and the pods would have allowed the aircraft to do that.

Lockheed Martin officials have cited the high-resolution imagery that its pod can collect, pointing out, for instance, that it can be used to do reconnaissance of a convoy route to gather details about enemy forces.

The system, in use in Iraq and Afghanistan, is also equipped with a laser marker that can be seen with night vision goggles used by ground troops. Lockheed Martin officials have cited a mission in Iraq where a U.S. F-15 fighter jet crew was able to watch a commando raid on a building unfold using the pod and then use the system's laser marker to guide ground forces to insurgents.

"The Sniper was selected due to its technical ability to meet the Canadian Forces' mission needs, and Sniper's proven capability to deliver the high-resolution imagery sought after for non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions," Rich Lovette, director of International Programs at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control said in a press statement at the time of the award this spring.

# Canadians must reclaim values

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120057  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial / Op-Ed  
**PAGE:** A20  
**KEYWORDS:** INQUIRIES; DEPORTATION; CANADA  
**SOURCE:** The Gazette  
**WORD COUNT:** 564

---

Six years have passed since a handful of Arab terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Centre in New York and another into the Pentagon in Washington, killing more than 3,000 people and changing all our lives seemingly forever – and not for the better.

It's becoming increasingly clear that we'll probably never recapture the innocence of the days before Sept. 11, 2001, when airline employees checked photo identification only to make sure no one was bootlegging their low-fare tickets. Osama bin Laden is still at large, Al-Qa'ida remains a force to be reckoned with and the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan grind on remorselessly. The war on terror is clearly far from over.

In fact, it seems that whenever we're tempted to relax, something happens somewhere – bomb attacks in Spain or London or arrests in Toronto or Germany – to remind us that vigilance and all the irritants that go with it are the enduring legacy of 9/11. In the West, at least, a permanent state of low-intensity jitters appears to have become the psychological norm.

And with good reason, according to a survey conducted by Foreign Policy magazine of more than 100 U.S. experts drawn from government, military and intelligence circles. More than 80 per cent of those Americans polled – including both Democrats and Republicans – said they expected another 9/11-scale attack within the next decade, and a similar number said they did not believe the United States was winning the war on terror.

But more disturbing than the doubts of experts or the inconveniences of border lineups and passport delays, or even the air of menace that seems to hang over us like a fog is what's happening here, at home, to us. These are not good days to be a Muslim in the U.S. or Canada, as any hijab-wearing soccer-player or veiled voter can tell you. Distrust of the "other" – even those "others" who have been here for generations – has become almost respectable.

And these are not good days for civil rights, either. That a Canadian police force could have played a role in sending one of our citizens to be tortured in a Syrian jail, and that a Canadian government could have left him there to rot for more than a year with barely a peep of protest, is a testament to how far we've deviated from the ideals that this country is supposed to represent.

And Maher Arar's ordeal is just the most egregious injustice to have blackened our record. Canadian jails hold prisoners who are there on the word of anonymous witnesses heard at secret judicial proceedings, a fact that should shock far more than it seems to. And our Conservative government, which should be a defender of individual liberties against the obtrusive power of the state, appears to be in no hurry to give up the extraordinary measures its Liberal predecessors adopted in the wake of 9/11. It's ironic that we're so insistent that immigrants adopt our values at the very moment we appear to be abandoning them.



Making the world safe again will be difficult, but there's much we can do right now to make our corner of it freer and more just.

# Drug tests kept 250 soldiers out of Afghanistan: military

---

**IDNUMBER** 200709120032  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13  
**KEYWORDS:** DRUG TESTING  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 239

---

Some 250 soldiers who tested positive for drug tests were not allowed to serve in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces confirmed yesterday.

According to documents obtained by CBC News, the military has tested almost 7,000 soldiers since mandatory drug testing of personnel headed to Afghanistan began in 2006.

The results were for the period from September 2006 to last May, which show that most of the soldiers who failed tested positive for marijuana. The report also said some military personnel were found to have traces of harder drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and amphetamines in their systems.

"When you want to send our soldiers there, you don't want to send kids who are addicted or who have a drug problem. They have to be clean," Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre said.

As federal sports minister in 2001, Coderre was instrumental in establishing the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency, which has long been a proponent of drug testing.

It's also a safety issue, Coderre told CanWest News. "It's a war mission; there would be an extra problem to take care of – a drug problem on the field."

Brig.-Gen. Ian Poulter told CBC News: "It's a particular concern because we are in Afghanistan, they are in a combat situation and they have to make split-second decisions, life or death, and we need them to be able to do that without the influence of illicit drugs."

Liberal Senator Colin Kenny agreed: "It's a reflection of the society we live in." Kenny said he would support across-the-board drug testing in the military.

Right now, only soldiers pegged for deployment face mandatory drug testing.