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Netherlands sends more troops to Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.09.29

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B5

SOURCE: The Associated Press

DATELINE: AMSTERDAM, Netherlands

WORD COUNT: 267

The Netherlands announced yesterday it will send 80 more troops to support its own mission in Afghanistan after NATO allies failed to respond to its request for reinforcement.

The additional troops will bring the Dutch military presence in Afghanistan to 1,745.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister who made the announcement after a weekly cabinet meeting, said the deployment is being made on a temporary basis.

"They will be going in order to assist our troops," said Bos, filling in for Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende who was travelling home after addressing the United Nations in New York on Thursday.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcements in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, but was forced to fill the gap itself when no other allies were willing to come forward with more troops. Canada, too, has been calling on allies to contribute more troops to the NATO mission to help the Kabul government establish its authority across Afghanistan.

Insurgents have been battling coalition and government forces in many parts of the country, especially in the southern provinces where the extremist Taliban movement has its roots.

Bos said the troop increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission in Afghanistan past its scheduled end next summer. The Dutch government is expected to make a decision next month on whether to extend the mission.

"Strictly speaking, this will have no influence on the possible decision to extend," Bos said.

"But, it is the case that our ... decision ... will be based in part on a safety analysis, and the question of what actual difference the presence of Dutch troops can make in Uruzgan, including for the safety of the local population," he said.

Sombre return

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.09.29

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

PHOTO: The Canadian Press

ILLUSTRATION: A military police officer salutes as a hearse carrying the body of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg leaves CFB Trenton yesterday. The 24–year–old reservist from Alberta was killed in Afghanistan on Monday.

Election fever on the rise, while political optimism down

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A15
BYLINE: Ralph Surette
WORD COUNT: 729

ONCE again, election fever is up at the federal level. Once again it's a fractious, confused and largely pointless affair that raises the question: are we ever going to see a majority government in Canada again, one that gathers up a national consensus capable of moving the country forward?

The chances of anything really changing as a result of a fall election are minimal. What's driving the agitation, which was given an extra boost by the recent byelection results in Quebec, is the sudden devil–may–care desperation of the Bloc Québécois, the real hope for some gains by the NDP, the disarray of the Liberals and the long–shot hope by the minority Conservative government that some unforeseen political twist or fluke in the electoral math could give them a majority.

There are a couple of big trends to note in all this. One is that since serious politics in Canada always seems to come down to the constitutional, the recent events in Quebec are as significant as they are startling.

The byelections in which the Tories stole one seat from the Bloc and the NDP took one from the Liberals (with the Bloc barely holding on to a third), plus polls both before and since the byelections, show the Tories and the NDP on the rise in Quebec and both the Bloc and the Liberals dropping hard.

Meanwhile, with both the federal and provincial separatist parties back on their heels, hard–core separatism in Quebec seems dead for the next while, and maybe for good.

The action has shifted to what some would call soft–core separatism – the business of extracting as much out of Ottawa as possible.

The verdict of the byelections is that the Bloc has become useless for this and is bringing home no bacon.

The Tories, on the other hand, are handing out plenty of bacon: Quebec has been recognized as a "nation" and the Harper government has promised to limit the federal spending power in areas claimed by the provinces, a long–standing demand of Quebec nationalists.

For Quebec nationalists, the Harper Tories – perceived as ready to do pretty well anything for votes – are now a better bet than the Bloc.

Commentators in Quebec are pointing out that this effect has overcome French–speaking Quebecers' objections to Harper's policies on Afghanistan and the environment.

Could the Tories re–assemble the old Mulroney coalition and make a surge in Quebec, outside of Montreal, the cornerstone for a new majority?

It's still a long shot. But even if the Tories are set to make major gains in rural Quebec, that brings us to our second big trend: the suspicion in the rest of Canada, notably in the large urban belts around Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, that Stephen Harper, a politically-driven convert from right-wing fundamentalism, can't be trusted with a majority.

At the very core of his being, Harper is a creature of the right-wing economics of the past quarter century: cut taxes, cut social programs and strip government of as much legitimacy as possible and hand it over to private corporations.

Founded by economist Milton Friedman and the Chicago School of free enterprise purists, it has carried such names as Thatcherism, Reaganism, and in its meltdown form is associated with George W. Bush.

In Latin America, Indonesia and a few other places, it was the guiding plan of brutal dictatorships and their torture chambers – so much so that Latin America is now surging left in counter-reaction. It is, in short, an idea whose time has passed.

Can Stephen Harper overcome the odour of all that by rubbing himself up with the ointments of moderation? He was in the U.S. recently, saying that Canada represents a "middle way" between the extremes of capitalism and socialism. Does he mean it?

Here in Atlantic Canada, long before the Atlantic accords furor, we had our own version of the Harper worldview.

His characterization of Atlantic Canada as having a "culture of defeat" was no slip of the tongue – it was the expression of a deeply rooted and well-thought-out philosophy, which held that the way to shock Atlantic Canadians and their ilk out of their economic torpor was to slash everything that smacked of government and make them hit the road.

Of course, at a couple of other levels, Harper has the edge.

The operatives of his political machine have perfected all the moves learned from their masters, the U.S. Republicans' dirty tricks squad. And at the purely superficial level, there's the fact that Harper is the only one who looks prime ministerial.

He's got that down pat.

All of that, plus luck with the electoral numbers, could theoretically add up to a majority. But it wouldn't likely be the kind of majority that would move the country forward.

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Ralph Surette is a veteran freelance journalist living in Yarmouth County.

Voice of the people

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
SECTION: Letters
PAGE: A14
WORD COUNT: 1462

I want to thank The Chronicle Herald for running the story of my little girl, Gabrielle, "Raising money for Mummy" (Sept. 25). It amazes me that she, at the tender age of six, can raise so much money and awareness for breast cancer. She does not have the contacts that many of the individuals have to raise hundreds of dollars online. She has done hers through hard work, and for this I am proud.

I am hoping there will not come the day when I have to explain to her that her chances of developing breast cancer are extremely high. Her mother was only 30 years old when she first developed breast cancer. That means that Gabrielle and her sister could experience it in their early 20s, if not sooner. A scary proposition.

I'd like to thank all who donated, not only through Gabrielle's efforts, but through the other participants of the CIBC Run for the Cure. Hopefully, Gabrielle and many others won't have to face this horrible disease.

Gerry Gaudet, Dartmouth

There are some unsung heroes at Central Kings Rural High. How about the 75 guys who donned pink shirts? After all, when they started out for school that day, they had no way to know this wild scheme would work!

But it did – because so many guys and gals were heroes. Remember, in the end, it is the troops who win the battles, not the generals. So how about a picture of the whole gang in their pinks? That would be something to see! Hats off to all you folks.

Joe Foy, Hantsport

The Sept. 22 article "Think Pink" was very inspiring. I was happy, but also very surprised to see it on the front page.

It is really refreshing to know some people are still making the effort to make a difference. Publishing this story on the front page put the spotlight on something positive for a change. The newspaper is an excellent venue for broadcasting positive issues as well as negative.

The campaign that David Shepherd and Travis Price created is great because they are giving average young people like themselves the opportunity to become involved. I only wish that someone, or even myself, had thought to do such a thing when I was in high school.

The response to their campaign was incredible and it is so important that they are recognized. It is about time people are given attention when it is due, so we can shift our focus away from all the crime we are faced with.

Sarah Porter, Halifax

Friday's Chronicle–Herald had an interesting contrast in its front–page stories. One was the 400 students and teachers arrayed in pink in an attempt to stop bullying, and just below it was the horrific story of a young

woman beaten and tortured.

Inner pages revealed even more stories of youth gone wrong. Throughout, I saw a common theme. Because of their age, the perpetrators get to hide behind the Youth Criminal Justice Act. No more anonymity for them. These violent youth have had brushes with the law and have been treated with kid gloves, given deferred custody sentences, house arrest, etc. When is it going to stop?

These aren't "little" kids; some of them are as tall as or taller than the officers escorting them to their court appearances. They are without conscience, without respect for others, without empathy, and I would like to see the courts hand out stiffer sentences. Severe consequences must be meted out to them, or will that only happen when some loved-one of a person in government suffers death or maiming at their hands?

Bob MacLaughlin, South Ohio

I read the account of the horrific beating and prolonged torture which took place behind the school in Dartmouth and was struck by a caveat which seems to be a feature of every report of crime in the last few years.

In all cases, almost casually, it says that the accused "failed to comply with an undertaking" or "was in breach of a court order." On the face of it, this does not appear to be too serious, but when it becomes six, eight, 10 undertakings and court orders, it approaches the realm of fantasy. If my memory serves me correctly, the man who killed the teacher on Connaught Ave. was in breach of two dozen.

Apart from the logistics of monitoring all these people, do the judges who make these decrees really believe that they are going to be obeyed? To the accused, the whole system must be some monstrous joke.

We seem to have become so politically correct that we refuse to believe that there is a culture out there that approaches a criminal life in the same way other people approach business or law, etc. It is a career choice. With role models like this, and a justice system which seems intent on burying its head in the sand, the future is looking grimmer and grimmer.

It was interesting to listen to the comments of some of the people who live in the area. The courts should listen to them.

Terence O'Driscoll, Dartmouth

Ed Doucet ("D for disconcerting," Sept. 26 letter) expresses surprise that the U.S. Treasury Secretary would confuse the terms deficit and debt. This should come as a surprise to no one, considering that Vice President Dick Cheney has declared that "deficits don't matter." If they don't matter, then obviously massive debt doesn't, either. So why bother to keep them straight?

In a similar vein, prior to the start of the Iraq war, then-Senate Majority leader Trent Lott stated that "Nothing is more important in the face of a war than cutting taxes." Let's see: war equals massive spending increases; cutting taxes equals less money to pay the bills; ergo, enormous deficits and staggering increases to the national debt. Ah, but of course – that doesn't matter.

And after 9/11, Chief Economic Genius George W. Bush told the American people to defy al-Qaida by going shopping. Get out those credit cards. Go further into debt. Take that, you pesky terrorists! If this is what passes for sound economic thinking at the highest levels of the U.S. government, why should the Treasury Secretary be any less of an economic illiterate?

Ben Robertson, Windsor

Re: Linda Riley's Sept. 26 letter in reaction to my Sept. 22 letter about students walking to school. Ms. Riley accuses the Active & Safe Routes to School program of promoting unsafe routes to school. This accusation is unfounded.

Clearly, if she had fully read my letter, she would have noticed I promote walking to school "over reasonable distances, and along safe routes." I also used the phrase "ensuring walking routes to school are safe."

The simple title of the program, Active & Safe Routes to School, is enough to indicate it considers the safety of our children as the highest priority in walking to school. In case you missed it, "safe" is featured prominently in the title.

At no point does this program promote students walking more than 3.6 km, nor does it promote walking along highways or other unsafe routes. Obviously, this would not be safe. In such cases, Active & Safe Routes to School fully supports busing.

You say the good old days of walking are gone? I disagree. I think the 130 schools (and thousands of students) participating in Walk to School Week (Oct. 1–5) would disagree, too.

Janet Barlow, Active & Safe Routes to School co-ordinator, Ecology Action Centre

This week, I was embarrassed by NDP MP Dawn Black, who had the impudence to accuse Afghan President Hamid Karzai of being part of an elaborately staged political stunt.

How humiliating is that accusation to all Canadians who know that Afghanistan's intelligent, courageous, articulate, and dedicated president would never act as a puppet for anyone?

When President Karzai delivered the speech in question, I'm sure that he fully approved its content, and meant every word of it because he is without doubt a man of great integrity. To have an MP in the NDP caucus, who is obviously devoid of a single diplomatic bone in her entire body, imply that the speech was given as part of a political stunt is embarrassing in the extreme.

I consider this unwarranted accusation in itself to be a political stunt, and I would urge all Canadians to ignore it, back our troops, and advise the government to carry on with the support of Afghanistan that Hamid Karzai so desperately needs.

John Wesson, Dartmouth

Thank you to the editors of The Chronicle Herald for publishing an article describing the efforts of two exceptional human beings who are trying to bring to light the atrocities done to man's best friend by mankind itself.

Big cheers to Ontario MP Mark Holland in his brave attempt to amend the laws respecting stiffer fines/imprisonment for those perverse individuals who relish in inflicting pain, torture, dismemberment and death upon those creatures that cannot speak for themselves.

It would be nice to know some Nova Scotian MPs had the same type of courage as Mr. Holland has shown, and that the average Joe held the same passion, drive and empathy as Jen Hatcher and Linda Hardy. Thank you to everyone who is trying to make a difference, on behalf of those that are unable to thank you.

Angela MacDonald, Bedford

Soldier's body arrives back at CFB Trenton

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle-Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A5
WORD COUNT: 128

CFB TRENTON, Ont. (CP) – A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta killed in Afghanistan made his final journey home to Canadian soil Friday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries who gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

Netherlands commits more troops

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.09.29

SECTION: International

PAGE: B15

COLUMN: Brief

SOURCE: AP

DATELINE: Amsterdam, Netherlands

WORD COUNT: 121

The Netherlands is sending 80 more soldiers to support its own mission in Afghanistan after getting no help from other countries.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister, says the additional troops will be deployed on a temporary basis. This will bring the Dutch contingent in Afghanistan to 1,745 troops, who are operating in the southern province of Uruzgan. The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcement. But when no other allies came forward, the Dutch decided to send the 80 additional troops themselves. Bos says the increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission in Afghanistan, due to expire next summer.

Body of Canadian soldier returns to CFB Trenton

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.09.29

SECTION: National

PAGE: A9

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

DATELINE: CFB Trenton, Ont.

ILLUSTRATION: Pallbearers carry the coffin of Canadian Cpl. Nathan Hornburg during a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton, Ont., Friday. Photo by The Canadian Press

WORD COUNT: 191

A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta killed in Afghanistan made his final journey home to Canadian soil Friday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

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Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go."

Netherlands gets no help from allies, sends 80 more troops to Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.09.28
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 417

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands _ The Netherlands announced Friday it will send 80 more troops to support its own mission in Afghanistan after NATO allies failed to respond to its request for reinforcement.

The additional troops will bring the Dutch military presence in Afghanistan to 1,745.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister who made the announcement after a weekly cabinet meeting, said the deployment is being made on a temporary basis.

“They will be going in order to assist our troops,” said Bos, filling in for Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende who was travelling home after addressing the United Nations in New York on Thursday.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcements in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, but was forced to fill the gap itself when no other allies were willing to come forward with more troops.

Canada, too, has been calling on allies to contribute more troops to the NATO mission to help the Kabul government establish its authority across Afghanistan.

Insurgents have been battling coalition and government forces in many parts of the country, especially in the southern provinces where the extremist Taliban movement has its roots.

Bos said the troop increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission in Afghanistan past its scheduled end next summer. The Dutch government is expected to make a decision next month on whether to extend the mission.

“Strictly speaking, this will have no influence on the possible decision to extend,” Bos said.

“But, it is the case that our ... decision ... will be based in part on a safety analysis, and the question of what actual difference the presence of Dutch troops can make in Uruzgan, including for the safety of the local population,” he said.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement the troops have already been mobilized and would be sent “within a few days.”

The troops were needed in the Deh Rawod district, where a Dutch soldier was killed in combat last week. The soldier, whose body was flown home Monday, was the 11th fatality since the Netherlands dispatched troops to the area in August 2006.

The Canadian Forces have been in Afghanistan since 2002, and 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in the country.

While the Dutch are in Uruzgan, Canada has about 2,300 troops in Kandahar province as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

The current Canadian mission in Afghanistan is due to expire in February 2009. A heated debate is underway in Canada on whether it should be extended. The Canadian government has indicated it wants to wait until April before announcing a decision.

Gen. Dick Berlijn told reporters in The Hague earlier this week that the security situation in southern Afghanistan had worsened. The Taliban is better trained and has grown more professional, he said.

Foreign fighters have joined their ranks, but Berlijn declined to say from which countries.

With files from The Canadian Press.

Body of Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan returns to CFB Trenton

DATE: 2007.09.28
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 223

CFB TRENTON, Ont. _ A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta killed in Afghanistan returned home to Canadian soil Friday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries who gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

Hornburg's family was to stop outside the fence around the base to speak with those gathered to watch the repatriation ceremony, but a sudden downpour of rain kept them from doing so.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go."

(CJBQ, Belleville Intelligencer)

Judge in Minneapolis delays easing conditions of Canadian's confinement

DATE: 2007.09.28
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 171

MINNEAPOLIS _ A Canadian being held on terror charges here must wait behind bars a while longer after a judge postponed an earlier order that would have eased the conditions of his confinement.

Mohamed Warsame, a Canadian citizen of Somali descent, reportedly has been held in solitary confinement at the Oak Park Heights prison since 2003.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge John Tunheim ruled that his Aug. 31 order to transfer Warsame to a more normal detention facility should be postponed while the court considers the prosecution's arguments to keep holding Warsame under special circumstances.

Warsame was attending college in Minneapolis in 2003 when FBI agents questioned him about time he allegedly spent in two terrorist training camps in Afghanistan three years earlier.

Federal agents arrested Warsame in December 2003 as a material witness. Warsame was indicted about six weeks later in Minneapolis on charges of conspiring to provide material support to the Al-Qaida terrorist organization and of lying to federal agents about travelling to Afghanistan and sending \$2,000 to an associate there.

Warsame is still awaiting trial.

List of politicians as possible attack targets surfaces in Austria

DATE: 2007.09.28

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 261

VIENNA, Austria _ Austrian authorities have found a list of politicians circulated online as potential targets for attacks, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Friday. But, while they notified the people on the list, they said there were no indications any of them were ever in danger.

Authorities found the list during an investigation of a video posted online in March threatening Austria and Germany with attacks if they did not withdraw military personnel from Afghanistan, said Rudolf Gollia, the Interior Ministry spokesman.

On Sept. 12, Austrian police arrested three people, all Austrian citizens of Arab origin in their 20s, in connection with the video. One was released several days later for lack of evidence.

Canadian authorities have arrested a fourth suspect believed to have links to the video threat.

Gollia said the prime suspect in the case, officially identified only as a 22-year-old male, is believed to have compiled the list of targets and discussed it in Arabic in online chat rooms.

Gollia declined to say whose names were on the list. But he confirmed that Heinz-Christian Strache, the head of Austria's rightist Freedom party, was listed.

Earlier Friday, the Freedom party said Strache had been named, along with "other well-known European politicians."

Gollia also declined to say how many politicians were named or where they were from, saying only there were foreigners among them.

"At no point were there indications of any concrete danger," Gollia said, adding that the individuals concerned had been notified.

On Wednesday, a Vienna judge ruled that the two suspects still in detention _ the prime suspect and his 20-year-old wife _ will remain behind bars for at least another month.

Interior Minister Guenther Platter has said authorities found no evidence suggesting the suspects were plotting to carry out an attack in Austria.

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.09.28

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 100

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands – The Netherlands is sending 80 more soldiers to support its own mission in Afghanistan after getting no help from other countries.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister, says the additional troops will be deployed on a temporary basis.

This will bring the Dutch contingent in Afghanistan to 1,745 troops, who are operating in the southern province of Uruzgan.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcement. But when no other allies came forward, the Dutch decided to send the 80 additional troops themselves.

Bos says the increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission in Afghanistan, due to expire next summer.

A decision on whether to extend the mission is expected next month.

(The Associated Press)

Terror-Suspect-Cda

DATE: 2007.09.28
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 137

MINNEAPOLIS -- A Canadian being held on terror charges in Minneapolis must wait behind bars a while longer.

A judge has postponed an earlier order that would have eased the conditions of his confinement.

Mohamed Warsame, a Canadian citizen of Somali descent, reportedly has been held in solitary confinement since 2003.

The judge ruled today that his August 31st order to transfer Warsame to a more normal detention facility should be postponed while the court considers the prosecution's arguments to keep holding Warsame under special circumstances.

Warsame was attending college in Minneapolis in 2003 when F-B-I agents questioned him about time he allegedly spent in two terrorist training camps in Afghanistan three years earlier.

He was indicted in 2004 on charges of conspiring to provide material support to the Al-Qaida terrorist organization and of lying to federal agents about travelling to Afghanistan and sending two-thousand dollars to an associate there.

Warsame is still awaiting trial.

(The Associated Press)

bjk

INDEX:Defence

DATE: 2007.09.28

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 118

CFB TRENTON, Ont. – The body of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan has returned to CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario for a repatriation ceremony.

A mechanical problem delayed the aircraft that was supposed to have brought back the remains of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg on Thursday.

Hornburg, 24, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

A reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, he is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

After arriving at CFB Trenton, a convoy will transport Hornburg's body to Toronto, where an autopsy will be performed.

Hornburg will be the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

(The Canadian Press)

Afghan protests spark fears; Security officials worry about influence on young people in Canada

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PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A25
BYLINE: Michelle Shephard
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 316

What happens in Afghanistan could fuel the problem of homegrown terrorism in Canada, says the country's top spy.

A protest in Afghanistan has the potential to turn a teenager in Toronto against Canada.

"You could actually overemphasize the impact of our presence in Afghanistan on the threat, but you wouldn't want to underestimate it," Luc Portelance, deputy director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, said yesterday. "It's part of the things that people are looking for to feed their thinking."

On Thursday, as many as 400 residents in a small Afghan community west of Kandahar took to the streets shouting: "Death to Canada." Tensions had been running high since Tuesday, when villagers say foreign soldiers killed two men during house raids and forcibly searched their homes.

Military officials say the two men were Taliban insurgents and that Canadian forces were not involved in their deaths. Despite efforts to convince the villagers that it was not a Canadian operation, the family of the dead men demanded amends be made.

Portelance, who became the most senior agent at CSIS this spring following the retirement of Jack Hooper, made his remarks yesterday at a conference organized by the Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies (CASIS).

He spoke with RCMP assistant commissioner Mike McDonnell and a senior national security official from the FBI on a panel entitled: "What keeps us awake at night?"

The influence of the Internet in recruiting and training disenfranchised youths is one that keeps him tossing and turning, Portelance said.

"Anything that happens such as this would have an impact. The people that we worry about aren't spending an hour a day. They're spending 15 hours a day on the Internet, reading this stuff, monitoring it, feeding off of it.

"You can't ignore it, but it's part of a much larger puzzle."

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told the conference that the protests were noted, but would not affect

the government's commitment to keep troops in Afghanistan.

Day said the fact that a protest could take place in Afghanistan should be seen as a "sign of a robust democracy."

But he argued that the anti-Canadian sentiment is not indicative of how the majority of Afghans view Canada's involvement.

Guts, paranoia, keen eye the best defence; 'You can never let anything disrupt you or let your guard down,' says soldier in convoy

IDNUMBER 200709290193
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA05
ILLUSTRATION: BRUCE CAMPION–SMITH TORONTO STAR "As infantry men, you'd rather beshooting than worrying about bombs and mines," says Sgt. Dustin Dorken. ;
BYLINE: Bruce Campion–Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 522

The Canadian convoy comes to a sudden halt in the middle of the main street. It's the last place troops want to be, an easy target in a dangerous town.

But sharp-eyed Warrant Officer Michel Thibodeau, riding in the LAV III armoured vehicle leading this convoy has spotted something on the road ahead – a wheelbarrow.

Paranoia saves lives here.

So Thibodeau dispatches a soldier to check it out. He clammers off the LAV III and warily approaches the wheelbarrow and gives it a good look. He turns, gives a thumbs-up and the convoy is on its way again.

"That wheelbarrow that we stopped for, as stupid as it can sound, it was used before to set off (roadside bombs) in Kandahar," Thibodeau said.

"They just wait for a convoy to pass and blew him up. We had to stop, investigate, make sure that everything was clear," he said after the convoy had returned safely to its base at the Kandahar Airfield.

"As soon as you pass the (base's) gate, the game is on and you can never let anything disrupt you or let your guard down," he said.

It takes guts – and a fatalistic attitude – to climb into an armoured vehicle and venture off the base these days, knowing that the favourite, and deadly, tactic of insurgents is a bomb buried in the road.

Thibodeau and a cadre of soldiers recently took Col. Christian Juneau, deputy commander of the Canadian task force in Afghanistan, on a tour of bases and checkpoints in Panjwaii and Zhari districts.

In a security briefing before leaving the airfield, Thibodeau gathered the soldiers and reviewed threats they could face and where the attacks would likely to come – suicide bombers on the run into Kandahar and through the city.

Past that, roadside bombs are the big threat.

Guts, paranoia, keen eye the best defence; 'You can never let anything disrupt you or let your guard down,'

Troops here are trained to be paranoid, looking for anything that might mark the spot of a buried bomb – a pile of rocks or dirt on the shoulder, fresh digging in the road.

But beyond staying vigilant, the bombs don't give the soldiers much of a fighting chance, a frustration felt by those on the frontlines.

"As infantry men, you'd rather be shooting than worrying about bombs and mines," said Sgt. Dustin Dorken, a 36-year-old soldier from Pembroke who serves with the close protection unit attached to the national command element.

"When you're going out on these patrols, everybody is out of the same mindset. If it's your turn, there's not much you can do about it."

Getting caught in traffic makes the Canadians an easy target for suicide bombers so they don't brook any hold-ups. They drive down the middle of the highway, horns blaring, forcing cars in both directions to pull onto the shoulders.

The gun turrets on the LAVs are constantly on the move, tracking each oncoming car, ready to blast away should it veer into path of the convoy.

West of the Canadian base at Ma'sum Ghar, the convoy passes the hulks of two burned-out civilian tankers, both caught in roadside bombs. A patch of cracked pavement shows the spot of one explosion. The wrecks mark the spot of one close call for the Canadians, Dorken said.

A convoy he was on recently took a detour through the desert at night to avoid a section of road.

"The next day we went back out again. Where we had turned, just ahead of there, a (bomb) had gone off and blew up a tanker," he said.

"That makes you think. The warrant (officer) called it to turn into the desert, so it was a good call. It was dark out and we wouldn't have seen anything," he said.

Taliban's deadliest weapons lie in wait; 31 of Canada's 71 fallen soldiers in Afghanistan killed by buried bombs

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EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA01
BYLINE: Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 733

Canadian troops are winning the war on the battlefield but risk losing their way on the roads, as the Taliban use buried bombs as their weapon of choice against Canadian convoys.

Surprisingly simple to make, easily buried in the dirt roads and deadly effective, one chilling estimate suggests there are hundreds of these bombs lying in wait for soldiers in Kandahar region.

"It is the major threat here in theatre," said Maj. Max Messier, of the 5th Combat Engineers Regiment, based in Valcartier, Que.

"That's the biggest challenge. We don't know where and how we're going to face it. On a daily basis, we are facing that threat."

Roadside bombs have been the biggest killer of Canadians here – of the 71 soldiers who have died in Afghanistan since 2002, 31 have been killed by buried bombs. And 22 of those deaths have occurred this year.

Perhaps most chilling for the Canadians is just how easy it is to make one of these weapons.

To prove that point, Messier reaches into a cardboard box and pulls out the components of a bomb, some of it taken from devices the Canadians have discovered and defused.

"This they can find everywhere, this is easily made," he said.

It starts with the explosive, typically a few mines or artillery shells, easily found in this war-ravaged land.

"This country has been at war for 20, 30 years. There's a lot of ammunition lying around. If there's a bit of explosive, they can make a (bomb) out of it," Messier said, cradling a disarmed artillery shell.

He shows off the trigger, in this case a "pressure plate," that will set off the detonation, usually fashioned from scrap metal and wood. This is one is made from two old saw blades.

When a vehicle rolls over it or a soldier steps it on, the two pieces of metal are squeezed together to make contact, completing the circuit that sparks the detonation.

But insurgents have also been setting off their bombs by radio signal, either with a cellphone, walkie-talkie, even garage door openers. Doing it this way lets an insurgent pick his target. Watching from a safe distance, he can use the radio signal to trigger the bomb just as a military vehicle rolls over it.

Finally, there's the household battery that powers the circuit – oddly enough, it's the one component of the bomb that is the toughest for the insurgents to acquire.

Messier said the Canadians have seen the "whole spectrum" of roadside bombs, from the low-tech to sophisticated devices.

But now they're girding themselves for something even more deadly – roadside bombs that use shaped charges to blast through armoured plating.

"That's something that's being used in Iraq and we might believe it could be used here. The soldiers are trained to face that kind of threat as well. But it's not one of the biggest threats we've seen here in Afghanistan," Messier said.

"The threat is moving from one theatre to another."

Another trend that Canadians are watching for is insurgents videotaping an attack to be used later for propaganda. That, too, has been done in Iraq with the footage easily found on the Internet.

Messier said he's seen no video showing Canadians under attack. But he tells the troops to always assume they're being watched if they hit a mine.

Troops in Afghanistan have already seen a worrisome trend to bigger bombs. With each fatal attack, Canadians have responded with new tactics – and heavier vehicles – and insurgents have responded in kind.

"The insurgents are doing the same thing as we're doing. They're adapting to the threat. If it means they have to make the biggest bomb to make what they want, they will do it," Messier said.

Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger and Sgt. Robert Short were the first Canadians killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan when their unarmoured Iltis jeep was hit in 2003 in Kabul.

But now insurgents have blown apart the most heavily armoured vehicles in the Canadian fleet – the LAV III, a transport trusted by the troops, and the RG-31 Nyala armoured vehicle.

The Nyala is a brute of a truck and is built to withstand mine attacks with a V-shaped hull meant to deflect a blast from below.

But even that design wasn't enough to save troops in early July when their RG-31 hit buried explosives, killing the six Canadian soldiers and one Afghan interpreter onboard.

Still, the vehicle remains prized by troops in the field for the protection it does offer.

Messier refused to say how often Canadians are hitting roadside bombs. One report says at least once a week; within the last three weeks, there have been three strikes, injuring five soldiers.

And in July, defence officials released some disturbing statistics – vehicles travelling in Kandahar province had been hit by 150 bombs in a 12-month period, while another 150 of the devices had been detected and disarmed.

Taliban's deadliest weapons lie in wait; 31 of Canada's 71 fallen soldiers in Afghanistan killed by buried bombs

Canadian soldiers remain dangerously exposed to roadside bombs compared with their allies here. Unlike the United States, Britain and the Netherlands, Canada does not have helicopters and is forced to move personnel and equipment by road.

But progress is being made, Messier said. Canadians are finding three out of five buried bombs, thanks to their vigilance and tips from the local community.

Alberta soldier killed in action in Afghanistan returns to Canadian soil

IDNUMBER 200709290149
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EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A25

ILLUSTRATION: JONATHAN HAYWARD the canadian press Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, 24, returned home yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton. Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died on Monday trying to repair a tank track while under fire. ;

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WORD COUNT: 51

JONATHAN HAYWARD the canadian press Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, 24, returned home yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton. Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died on Monday trying to repair a tank track while under fire.

West challenged by one of its own; Outspoken convert to Islam says she's still a feminist, but critics can't see past the hijab

IDNUMBER 200709290041
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Met
SECTION: Life
PAGE: L17
ILLUSTRATION: ron csillag photo Former Anglican Yvonne Ridley says she's found inIslam "the biggest and best family in the world." ;
BYLINE: RON CSILLAG
SOURCE: special to the star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 704

Once a hard-nosed, hard-drinking Fleet Street reporter, Yvonne Ridley today is a proud, pious and unapologetic Muslim. Islam is "the biggest and best family in the world," she says, but deeply misunderstood.

The 48-year-old London-based journalist and political activist brought her campaign against the West and its war on terror to Canada this month, visiting Toronto, Waterloo and Montreal to speak at fundraising dinners for the Canadian Islamic Congress.

"I've always been a fighter for women's rights. I still am. I'm still a feminist, except now I would say I'm an Islamic feminist. I have been supporting the Palestinian cause for three decades now. That hasn't changed. What has changed are people's perceptions of me.

"As soon as I put on a hijab, it was like, 'Oh my God, she's a radical. She an extremist.' And suddenly, I moved from being a journalist to a Muslim activist."

But her visit here inflamed critics. B'nai Brith Canada, protesting she's a "terrorist sympathizer" whose views are "extremist and dangerous," called for her talks to be monitored by police.

Ridley has been called an Islamist dupe and an apologist for terrorism. Remarks attributed to her include a reference to Jewish critics as "those nauseating little Zionists who accuse me of being an anti-Semite" and a characterization of London cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri, who is serving a seven-year prison sentence for soliciting murder and inciting racial hatred, as "quite sweet, really."

Asked prior to her Toronto talk to comment, she denies nothing. Those reported remarks "are regurgitated by people who have an agenda against me," she tells the Star.

Yes, she called al-Masri sweet, but "that was part of a one-hour, 20-minute talk in which he was featured for about 30 seconds."

She was quoted "totally out of context," she says.

"It would be like you looking at Hitler and saying, 'Apparently, he was a very gifted artist and I looked at his work and it moved me.' The next thing you know, you pick up the paper and somebody is saying, 'Oh God, that man said Hitler was gifted and he was moved by him.'"

Ridley blames journalists, always out for a juicy sound bite.

"This is the trouble with the media. I'm not having a go at you," she says, "but you do try and simplify issues....If you tell me what story you've been told to get and what headline you need, then I'll try and help you."

Would she characterize a Muslim who calls for violence as un-Islamic or radical? "Historically," Ridley points out, "violence has worked."

The Irish Republican Army "bombed their way to the negotiating table."

And the 1946 bombing of the King David Hotel by the Irgun, pre-state Israel's Jewish militia, was "a defining moment in the British army's desire to get the hell out of Jerusalem."

There's no difference, Ridley says, "between a suicide bomber and a Stealth bomber because they both kill innocent people. And the death of innocent people is always to be condemned."

Ridley's extraordinary journey to her present activism began just after the 9/11 attacks when, as a reporter for Britain's Daily Express (which calls itself "The World's Greatest Newspaper"), she donned a burqa and sneaked into Afghanistan to cover the war on terror.

At the time, she was an Anglican who attended church about twice a month, "which in Britain, is regarded as fanatical." She had a knowledge of Islam "you could probably write on the back of a postage stamp, and it was incorrect."

Her assignment finished, she was making her way out of Afghanistan when the Taliban discovered she had camera tucked beneath her robes. Held and interrogated for 10 days in Jalalabad and Kabul, she was released after promising her captors that she would read the

Qur'an. She kept her word and read the Qur'an. In 2003, she converted to Islam.

Ridley, who wears a black hijab and jilbab, or floor-length cloak, prays fives daily, eschews alcohol, and bristles at suggestions she represents a textbook case of Stockholm Syndrome, a psychological condition in which the captive empathizes with her captor.

"That comes from people who cannot accept that a Western woman has rejected what they see as Western values (in order) to embrace Islam," she says.

The Taliban have been "demonized beyond recognition, because you can't drop bombs on nice people."

But "I did not bond with my captors," she says. "I spat at them. I swore at them. I threw things at them. I was aggressive. I was rude (and) obnoxious. I was the prisoner from hell."

But what about her conversion? Has she compromised her journalistic objectivity by embracing the philosophy of her captors?

"I didn't embrace the philosophy of my captors," is the crisp reply. "My captors were the Taliban, and (they) have a very specific type of doctrine. And I didn't embrace that."

West challenged by one of its own; Outspoken convert to Islam says she's still a feminist, but critics can't see

"I embraced Islam. I embraced what I consider to be pure Islam."

Ron Csillag is a freelance writer. Email:

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Afghanistan needs Blair-sized envoy, Bernier tells UN; Says conflict deserves more attention from world body

IDNUMBER 200709290151
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
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EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: F11
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Journal Stock / Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier;
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 434

UNITED NATIONS – Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East peace process has named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States, also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair, who's doing a very good job," Bernier said in an interview. "We believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The UN mission has a staff of more than 1,000 that helps the Afghan government implement the so-called Afghan Compact — a deal that aims to promote stability and development in Afghanistan in return for economic and military support.

But a report commissioned by the UN Development Program said this week that, despite progress in a number of key areas, the country is "not progressing fast enough."

Problems include increased poverty, widespread corruption, a breakdown in the rule of law and a paralyzed judiciary, according to the report, authored by the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University.

"We want to improve the life of the Afghan people," said Bernier. "We want to find a more effective way to do that, and in the fastest possible time."

Afghanistan needs Blair-sized envoy, Bernier tells UN; Says conflict deserves more attention from world body

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan, as well as massive reconstruction commitments, make it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council, where permanent members with forces in Afghanistan are the United States, Britain and France.

Bernier will also have brought up Canada's ideas in a private meeting Friday at the UN with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

That get-together was one of 30 bilateral meetings he had throughout the week on the sidelines of the UN summit — a reflection, said his aides, of the push by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make Canada a "must-listen-to" middle power.

He also used a meeting he had Friday with Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, to press for the release from a Dubai jail of Bert Tatham, a Canadian anti-narcotics officer who had worked in Afghanistan.

U.S. firm helps train Canadian soldiers

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DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
KEYWORDS: WAR
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 291

OTTAWA – The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills.

Other soldiers have taken counter–terrorism evasive–driving courses with the private military company now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas, which range from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

But Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on innocent civilians, saying instead that its convoy had been attacked by insurgents.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also had counterterrorism driving training, a military official said.

The counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, also has ongoing training links to the company.

Dawn Black, the NDP's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be training Canadian troops.

"My understanding is we have some of the best–trained armed forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our armed forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?" she said.

Body of Calgary soldier returns to Canada

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EDITION: Final
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PAGE: A5
COLUMN: Canada Digest
KEYWORDS: WORLD WAR I
DATELINE: TRENTON, Ont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 98

TRENTON, Ont. – The body of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg of Calgary, who was Canada's most recently fallen soldier in Afghanistan, , arrived in Friday at CFB Trenton, Ont.

As the plane carrying the 24-year-old's body touched down just after 3 p.m., his parents Linda and Michael, were there to greet it along with dignitaries including Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of the defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony.

Hornburg was killed Monday by mortar fire while repairing the tread on a Leopard tank, which had come off in rough terrain.

Making choice to fight Young men and women aware of dangers soldier faces

SOURCETAG: 0709290271
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
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SECTION: News
PAGE: 8
ILLUSTRATION: photo by Ain Macalpine, Sun Media A Royal Military College cadet comes out of a obstacle during the annual RMC obstacle course on Friday afternoon. Over 300 first year cadets must go through, over or under 13 obstacles scattered around the Royal Military College campus. After completion of the course they're considered officer cadets.
BYLINE: MIKE STROBEL
DATELINE: KINGSTON, Ont.
WORD COUNT: 413

A rainbow hangs low over Fort Henry across Navy Bay.

At the same time, somewhere in the steel sky, a CC-150 Polaris lumbers toward Trenton, Ont., and the Highway of Heroes. It carries Cpl. Nathan Hornburg to his grave.

At the same time, Officer Cadet Jae Hong Lee, 21, is close to passing out on the Monkey Bars of the famous Royal Military College obstacle course.

The Monkey Bars, 19 rungs of pure hell. You carry a jerry can and navigate through hanging tires.

Then it rains.

Lee falls halfway. He does not move. He is done, surely.

"Lee, Lee, Lee," his cohorts in Alpha Flight, 1 Squadron, scream.

Son of a gun drags himself up and starts again. Each rung is agony, for Lee and for all of us watching. Inches from the end, he tumbles again. We all groan.

But his dad applauds. Proud as punch. Can't blame him.

And Alpha Flight dashes off to the Rope Bridge. After that, the Low Crawl, the Log Sit-ups, the Crawl Maze, The Wall, 13 horrors in all, scattered over the storied campus.

These 265 first-year cadets have spent September generally being miserable, when not stealing each others squadron colours or decorating Brucie, the parade square statue.

They have marched nonstop, worked out thrice daily, been wakened by loudspeakers before dawn. They've had to holler Billy Joel's Goodnight Saigon before bed.

It's called FYOP, first year orientation program.

Cathy Kovacs, 41, of Wasaga Beach, has not seen eldest son Matt, 18, since the Arch Parade Sept. 3, the kickoff to FYOP.

That's him in a gas mask doing laps in the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Defence obstacle.

Matt joined up in January.

"He was only 17, so I had to sign him away," Cathy tells me, wearing a fluffy lime-green hat, the colour of Matt's Whisky Flight, 8 Squadron.

Afghanistan on your mind, Cathy?

"At first I was terrified.

"I told him, 'You realize we're in a war.' "

Matt looked her in the eye, said he knew that and he knew he wanted to be a military pilot.

"Something could happen to my son," says Cathy, "but we're going to support him in what he wants to do.

"I can't believe how much he's grown in the past month.

"You know what? I'm proud of him. I couldn't be prouder."

Thunder rolls over Navy Bay, chasing the rainbow away.

Officer Cadet Lee has a second wind, wading grimly through the coyly named Water Splash. This is a 200-metre stroll through that murky, smelly bay.

Up front is Hilarie Stam, 18. You can no longer read "Stammer" stencilled on the back of her Alpha Flight shirt. Everyone has ripped off their sleeves.

DEAD WEIGHT

"They're dead weight. Slows 'em down," says Robin Dawes, 19, a neighbour of mine who's among the senior 1 Squadron cadets urging on Alpha Flight.

Hilarie is the sole woman on Alpha's team of 20.

"When she was 16," says mom Johanna, 53, of Gananoque, "she asked me how I'd feel if she went to a place like Afghanistan and was killed.

"I said, 'Honey, I will be very, very upset, but we will be proud of what you've done and you will return a hero.

"She's OK with it. So I'm OK with it."

Gasps Hilarie, before dashing to the next obstacle: "I want to serve my country, and this is how I'm preparing for it."

They all say that, or something like it, these kids.

"Truly remarkable kids," says chief instructor Maj. Anne Reiffenstein. "They can do anything they choose. They choose this."

Maj. Reiffenstein knew Capt. Nichola Goddard, class of '02, killed near Kandahar last spring. Capt. Matthew Dawe was another. Sad truth is, there likely will be more.

But these kids charge ahead. Officer Cadet Lee makes it through on sheer guts. Hilarie and Matt, too.

"Cadets are more mindful of what's going on outside the college, and what kinds of roles they may have," Cmdr. Darren Rich tells me after briefing families about the race.

"Sure, we're getting questions from parents."

It's the rest of us who are most jumpy.

I have written about my son's plans to join the army, go to RMC. I have written about how I'm not crazy about the idea.

Jackson, 17, watches the obstacle race with me.

Think you could handle that, Jackson?

"Hell, yeah," he says.

Ah, the valour of youth. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Latest casualty of Afghan war is brought home

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PAGE: B13

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill / Reuters / Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier greets family members of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. Hornburg was killed in Afghanistan on Monday. ; Photo: CanWest News Service / Cpl. Nathan Hornburg is seen with girlfriend Lourdes Juan in this family photo taken three days before the reservist left for Afghanistan. ;

BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick

SOURCE: CanWest News Service; --- With files from the Calgary Herald

WORD COUNT: 600

The body of Canada's most recently fallen soldier in Afghanistan, Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, arrived home yesterday afternoon at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario.

"The skies were certainly grey as we brought home our latest fallen soldier from the war in Afghanistan," said Capt. Nicole Meszaros, a public affairs officer with the base.

The plane carrying the 24-year-old's body touched down just after 3 p.m. and his parents, Linda and Michael, were there to greet it. They approached the coffin before it was loaded into the hearse, said Meszaros.

"That seems to be a moment where it becomes very real, I think, for the families that they've lost a loved one and here he is. It's a very poignant moment," she said.

It also became real for friends who stayed home in Calgary.

Michael Pederson gathered with a group of Hornburg's friends yesterday afternoon to grieve, share stories and watch media coverage of the repatriation ceremony on television.

They were glad he was home after a one-day delay and were preparing for next week's funeral.

"It's really nice that he's back on Canadian soil, where he wants to be," said Pederson, 22.

Dignitaries including Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of the defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony.

Hornburg was killed Monday when he was hit by mortar fire while repairing the tread on a Canadian Leopard tank, which had come off in rough terrain.

A piper played a lament as the flag-draped coffin was carried across the tarmac to a waiting hearse. About 100 military members from CFB Trenton and other nearby bases were there to show their support.

Lined up along the surrounding fence were about 100 civilians who also came to pay their respects, said Meszaros.

"That's always a heartening experience," she said of the public display of support for the troops.

Following the ceremony, a military cavalcade was to take Hornburg's remains to Toronto, where an autopsy will be performed. The procession travels along Highway 401, a portion of which has been officially renamed the Highway of Heroes.

The young soldier was a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment. Before he left for Afghanistan, he told his mother that no matter what happened during his tour, he would have no regrets.

Fellow soldiers in Calgary say the shock of Hornburg's death is still sinking in.

But with his body safely back in Canada, members of his Calgary regiment were looking forward to the opportunity to honour the young man in his hometown.

"When he arrives back in Calgary, that will be more of a milestone for us as a regiment," said Warrant Officer Bruce Moore, of the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

"Our task is to focus on the duty of what needs to be done. Later, there is going to be time for that personal grief to set in.

"The shock of his loss is going to come after the funeral service we do." Friends of Hornburg's family said funeral arrangements have not been finalized.

Hornburg was the 71st Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002, with more than half of those deaths occurring the Panjwai and nearby Zhari regions. One diplomat has also been killed.

Hornburg's death, however, was the first since October 2006 to come as the result of ground conflict. Most of the more recent deaths of Canadians soldiers have been caused by improvised roadside bombs or suicide attacks.

Another soldier, a reservist from the Edmonton-based Lord Strathcona's Horse regiment, was wounded during the attack that killed Hornburg.

Three other Quebec-based soldiers were also wounded when they engaged the insurgents who had fired at Hornburg as they tried to carry him away from the fighting. The injuries, which were from rocket-propelled grenades, were not life-threatening.

Another Canadian soldier was seriously wounded in a Taliban attack Tuesday. The soldier was part of a joint patrol of Canadian military and Afghan police. That attack, which occurred about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar City, also involved rocket-propelled grenades.

The week continued to get worse for Canadian troops on Thursday as two more soldiers were hit by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire while on patrol as part of Operation Sadiq Sarbaaz.

The injured soldiers were evacuated from the scene by helicopter and taken to the hospital on the Kandahar base where they were treated and were in stable condition.

Bloc leaflet attacks government war stance

IDNUMBER 200709290013
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
COLUMN: Canada Briefing
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CNS / Thousands of Quebecers received this BlocQuébécois pamphlet. ;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 146

OTTAWA – The dark silhouette image of a rifle-toting soldier crouched in an attack position was deliberately included for strategic reasons in a new Bloc Québécois leaflet that makes a threat to bring down Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government over its foreign policy in Afghanistan, a representative of the sovereigntist party said yesterday.

The leaflet, which was mailed to thousands of Quebecers last week as a part of the \$6-million printing budget funded by taxpayers for members of Parliament, warns that Harper's government may fall within weeks if the prime minister doesn't announce a withdrawal of Canada's troops from the combat zones of Afghanistan by February 2009.

"If Stephen Harper persists with his war mentality, he will not be able to count on the support of the Bloc Québécois for the throne speech," reads the harshly worded leaflet.

Controversial U.S. security firm is training some Canadian troops

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PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 327

OTTAWA --- The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counterterrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas, which range from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

But Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on innocent civilians, saying instead that its convoy had been attacked by insurgents.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year in support of coalition special forces. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also underwent counterterrorism driving training, according to a military official.

The Ottawa-based counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, has also maintained ongoing training links to the company.

Dawn Black, the NDP's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be involved in training Canadian troops in the first place.

"My understanding is we have some of the best-trained forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our Armed Forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?"

Military spokesman Maj. Norbert Cyr said there are no concerns in the Canadian Forces about Blackwater's

alleged involvement in the Iraqi incidents.

Canada pushes for UN diplomat in Afghanistan; Special appointee would play role similar to the one handled by Blair in Mideast

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DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
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BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 511

UNITED NATIONS — Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East Peace Process has named former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States, also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair, who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Bernier said in an interview.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The Middle East Quartet — which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia — has been more active since the appointment of Blair as special envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said Secretary General Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as special envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created UNAMA to help rebuild the country after the 2001-2002 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now, everything is at the discussion stage after being aired by Bernier and others at a closed-door, high-level meeting on Afghanistan Sept. 23 at the UN, attended also by Ban and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the [countries'] various ideas all mesh up, so we have to wait and see."

Canada pushes for UN diplomat in Afghanistan; Special appointee would play role similar to the one handled

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan, as well as massive reconstruction commitments, make it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council, where permanent members with forces in Afghanistan are the United States, Britain and France.

Bernier was bringing up Canada's ideas in a private meeting yesterday at the UN with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

That get-together was one of 30 bilateral meetings he had throughout the week on the sidelines of the UN summit — a reflection, said his aides, of the push by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make Canada a "must-listen-to" middle power.

He also used a meeting he had yesterday with Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, to press for the release from a Dubai jail of Bert Tatham, a Canadian anti-narcotics officer who had worked in Afghanistan.

"We indicated we hope he can be included in an [upcoming] Ramadan amnesty list," said Bernier of the Ontario-born B.C. resident, who was convicted of possession of a small amount of hashish as he passed through Dubai while returning to Canada.

Tatham's lawyers argued the possession had been work-related.

One woman's war against weapons; Scholar and philanthropist has donated almost \$15 million to anti-armament and peace efforts

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PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Westcoast News

PAGE: B1 / FRONT

COLUMN: Weekend Extra

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Mark Van Manen, Vancouver Sun / Jennifer Simons, also the mother of four grown children, is a scholar with credentials in the world of international law. ; Colour Photo: Mark Van Manen, Vancouver Sun / Jennifer Simons, an expert on global disarmament, has donated some \$15 million to various peace and disarmament programs. She also supports the arts. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

BYLINE: Douglas Todd

SOURCE: Vancouver Sun

WORD COUNT: 1972

Jennifer Allen Simons — one of the world's most effective advocates for disarmament — obtained her black belt in martial arts at the age of 65.

The longtime Vancouverite learned kickboxing for fitness, the same reason she does Pilates and flamenco dancing. However, when she recently felt she was being followed through Istanbul she appreciated that she knew how to switch her mind into "black-belt alert," which meant she didn't fear the potential assailant.

"My black belt is just for defence," Simons, 68, says with a surprisingly easy laugh for a woman who feeds her mind daily with knowledge of the bloody things done to humans by everything from landmines and cluster bombs to nuclear explosives and biological weapons.

A media-shy scholar, philanthropist, globe-trotting diplomat and mother of four who has donated almost \$15 million to a wide variety of anti-armament and peace efforts, Simons believes countries, like individuals, are justified in defending themselves.

But they're not morally justified in building up weapons for pre-emptive attacks.

"I'm an anti-military militant," Simons says with a big, open smile, standing up in her black dress, stretching out the arms of her patterned blouse and raising her fists in a mock-threatening kickboxing pose.

"I believe in armies, but they shouldn't go outside borders. They should be purely defensive," the intellectual-activist says in her Simons Foundation office, in Simon Fraser University's downtown Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Her office desk is covered with books on war and arms, including Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms, created by Hans Blix and his Weapons of Mass Destruction

One woman's war against weapons; Scholar and philanthropist has donated almost \$15 million to anti-arma

Commission — a project the Swedish government supports and to which Simons has donated more than \$1 million.

On the wall behind Simons' desk is the chilling "Global Conflicts" map that is constantly updated by the Canadian Christian ecumenical organization, Project Ploughshares, to which Simons gave \$80,000 this year. The map pinpoints the world's continuing military conflicts, most of which are civil wars, and the countries that profit from them by supplying arms.

"I'm so glad Canada didn't go to war in Iraq," Simons says, speaking of one of the few current conflicts involving foreign invasion.

And she doesn't take that position just because Blix, the former United Nations weapons inspector, was right in 2002 in reporting Iraq was not hiding weapons of mass destruction. Like most ethicists, she simply believes the attack on Iraq did not fit the criteria of a just war.

"I also don't like Canadian troops in Afghanistan," she adds. "I think it's a hopeless situation."

The only time a country's military should venture outside its own borders, Simons says, is to conduct internationally sanctioned peace operations.

"I think if Canadian troops were in Afghanistan for peacemaking, or peace-building, it would be much better than the aggressive role they're playing now. We were famous for our peacemaking, which was initiated by (former Liberal prime minister) Lester Pearson. But now Canada is following lockstep with U.S. policies."

KEY PLAYER INTERNATIONALLY

Even though Simons as a toddler had nightmares about military violence during the Second World War and marched in Vancouver's 100,000-plus peace marches in the late 1980s, her geopolitical analysis goes far beyond a stereotypical peacenik's dislike of any kind of conflict.

Hers are the carefully considered judgments of a scholar with credentials in the sophisticated world of international law, diplomacy, disarmament and "human security," an emerging field of study distinct from "national security."

With a doctorate from Simon Fraser University, Simons has received honorary degrees and been an adjunct professor in international studies at SFU, UBC, the Czech Republic's Charles University and early this September, the University of Queensland in her native Australia, where she's lecturing on prohibiting weaponry.

Simons produced a four-part TV documentary for the Knowledge Network on nuclear bombs, landmines, small arms and the peace movement. Through substantial donations, she has initiated and funded dozens of SFU and UBC programs, including the Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Research, as well as professorships, lectureships and essay contests centering on ethics, citizenship, international law, development and peace.

Despite her self-effacing demeanour, she has also become in the last seven years a key player on the international diplomatic and United Nations scene. She's expert at funding projects and twisting arms to raise pressure to develop programs to limit all kinds of death-dealing weapons.

For instance, Simons used her expertise and money to almost single-handedly persuade the governments of Canada, China, Russia and other nations to take part in continuing conferences to stop the so-called "weaponization of space."

One woman's war against weapons; Scholar and philanthropist has donated almost \$15 million to anti-arma

She worries about a universe in which satellites are turned into lethal weapons. The U.S., she says with a resigned shake of the head, was notable for its refusal to attend the conferences.

In addition, Simons has developed a special relationship with educational and government officials in the Czech and Slovak republics. Over the years she has developed relationships with former Czech president Vaclav Havel, former Canadian foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy and celebrity anti-landmine activists such as actor Michael Douglas and Queen Noor, the widow of the late King Hussein of Jordan.

Ernie Regehr, co-founder of Project Ploughshares, says Simons has been a big influence on international disarmament efforts because of her "deft capacity to focus in on issues and activities that have the potential to yield significant and lasting change."

The Simons Foundation put up \$450,000 for the 2006 Vancouver Peace Forum.

That led Simons to break from her typical behind-the-scenes roles to publicly lambaste Vancouver's Non-Partisan Association councillors for withdrawing \$50,000 in funding support.

At the peace forum, attended by thousands, the soft-spoken Blix received star treatment for having accurately reported that executed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had not been hiding weapons of mass destruction, the rationale U.S. President George W. Bush and then British prime minister Tony Blair cited for attacking.

Introduced by Simons at last year's conference, Blix released his first Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission report — with 60 recommendations, including the outlawing of new nuclear weapons. Via the commission, Blix also warned this summer that the U.S. and Britain, by repeatedly threatening to attack Iran, are increasing the chances the Muslim-run country will develop nuclear weapons.

For her part, Simons said she agrees with former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan, who recently said the world is "sleepwalking" toward nuclear proliferation. Even though the number of nuclear weapons has been cut almost in half to 26,000, there are still enough, she says, "to obliterate the world."

The U.S. and Russia's arsenals of nuclear weapons, she says, remain on high alert.

FAMILY MONEY

How does Simons do it?

In addition to tenacity, expertise and behind-the-scenes cajoling, part of the answer, of course, is money.

The crucial wealth that flows out of the Simons Foundation was created in part through Simons's Australian family of origin. She says her grandfather, a doctor, and her father, a diplomat, were "good investors."

However, Simons' family contributions are also matched by her husband, Tom Simons, retired president of H.A. Simons Ltd., which was one of the world's largest forestry engineering firms before it was sold in 1998 to Agra Inc.

"Tom's a pacifist by nature," says Simons. He served in the U.S. Army in the 1950s and saw some downsides of the military mindset.

Even though Tom supports the goals of the Simons Foundation, Simons smiles wryly when she says: "I make the decisions."

In some ways, what Simons does daily is stare boldly into the face of terror.

One woman's war against weapons; Scholar and philanthropist has donated almost \$15 million to anti-arma

Even though she has enough money to spend all of her life playing tennis and sipping mai tais in Hawaii, she instead has made it her goal to expertly raise warnings about humans' unimaginable capacity to destroy fellow humans.

"I have a strong need to work for a better world and that, to me, means a world without war and increasingly cruel weapons; and to rid the world of the dangers which a small group of political and economic power-hungry individuals are subjecting us to," she says.

"I just feel fortunate to have money so I can live out my ethical positions and work in ways that I feel strongly about. I am proactive. I would be following the same path without [money], but I have the opportunity to work at a different level with it."

Simmering with energy and a self-confessed determination to complete whatever she starts, Simons cites reports, facts and statistics about global weaponry as if they were rhetorical machinegun bullets.

She's an expert on nuclear weapons buildup, the whereabouts of millions of unexploded landmines, the spread of small arms such as AK-47s, the horrors of napalm and especially the long-term suffering caused by cluster bombs, which she says are preferred by most militaries to landmines because they drop from the sky, radiating farther than the size of a soccer field.

With such weapons, more than 90 per cent of the victims of most modern conflicts are civilians.

"Did you know that the U.S. dropped 52.8 million cluster bombs on or near villages in Laos during the Vietnam War? Many of them are still lying there, blowing up innocent citizens," she says. Twenty-eight other countries, she says, remain contaminated with unexploded cluster bombs.

A few minutes later, she comes out with another grisly fact. "Do you know there is a man who has made a gun that will shoot one million rounds a second? It's an indiscriminate weapon. I would like to meet that man. I cannot understand the mindset; does he refuse to acknowledge the outcome of what he's inventing?"

ARTS PATRON

How does she stand swimming in an ocean of weaponry?

She's not exactly sure. "It's absolutely horrible when you think about it," she says.

However, Simons refuses to succumb, as most have, to what psychiatrist Robert J. Lifton famously called "psychic numbing," the human capacity to ignore evil that is too much to contemplate.

Anyway, she does enjoy other passions. Along with a rigorous schedule of kickboxing, flamenco dancing and Pilates, she is an appreciator of the arts. She supports dance companies, classical music and art galleries. Through the foundation, for instance, Simons donates to Vancouver's Holy Body Tattoo dance troupe and Flamenco Rosario studio.

She is also self-revealing about how her life's work may, at least in part, be trying to heal her own Second World War childhood in Australia, when she had nightmares about being chased by German and Japanese soldiers wielding guns.

When she was two years old, her father basically disappeared for more than five years to do his bit in the Second World war and its aftermath. It was a frightening time. "My father came back," she says, "but you do harbour those feelings of abandonment."

One woman's war against weapons; Scholar and philanthropist has donated almost \$15 million to anti-arma

Her own fears of the destruction that can be wrought by advanced weapons were revived when one of her daughters, seven at the time, had nightmares about nuclear war. She thought her child too young to have to fear nuclear Armageddon.

As she fights against the expanding horror wielded by arms dealers, what sustains her inner spirit? She's not religious in any institutional sense. She doesn't believe she's she'll go to heaven after she dies.

But, ever since she learned about Albert Schweitzer in the 1960s, she has been a great admirer of the German–French medical missionary and Lutheran theologian who won the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his philosophy of "reverence for life."

As a liberal Christian, Schweitzer vigorously opposed European colonialism and, for the last part of his life, fought the buildup of nuclear weapons with Albert Einstein — who helped invent them — and the pacifist Welsh philosopher Bertrand Russell.

"I'm a bit like Schweitzer, in that I think we have a responsibility to act" to protect human life, she says. The mission statement of the Simons Foundation is a call to arms, so to speak, from Alfred Lord Tennyson's Ulysses: "Come my friends. 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

Given her crusade for wider disarmament, might she be one of those people who could be tagged "a patron saint of lost causes?"

She goes quiet. She's not going to go there. Her answer is simple: "I'm genetically optimistic." She picked up the trait, including boundless energy, she says, from her grandfather and father.

She acknowledges she's been extremely fortunate in her unconventional life. Almost apologetically, she says, "I've never really had a proper job." But she's clearly chosen to go beyond the call of duty.

"You have to work on keeping these issues alive; people's attention spans are so short," she says. For what it's worth, neither her four adult children, nor four grandchildren, seem to hold her unusual lifestyle against her.

"I think," she says, "they like that I'm not at home baking cookies."

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Canadian Forces trained by U.S. firm under fire

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Family members of Corporal Nathan Hornburg, attend his arrival at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on Friday. Corporal Hornburg was killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday. ;
KEYWORDS: !@DATELINE=OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 341

OTTAWA — The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counterterrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in specialty areas, ranging from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on innocent civilians, saying its convoy was attacked by insurgents.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year in support of coalition special forces. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also underwent counterterrorism driving training, according to a military official. The Ottawa-based counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, also has training links to Blackwater.

Military officials did not have further details on why Blackwater would be hired, but promised to provide those. Later, they did not comment on the matter.

New Westminster-Coquitlam MP Dawn Black, the New Democratic Party's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be involved in training Canadian troops.

"My understanding is we have some of the best-trained forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our armed forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?"

Military spokesman Maj. Norbert Cyr said of Blackwater: "They're accredited, they're recognized, they're specialists."

U.S. mercenaries hired to train Canadian troops

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PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
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PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Family members of Cpl.Nathan Hornburg at the arrival of his casket at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ont., on Friday. Hornburg was killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday. ;
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Election talk stirs plans; Political hopefuls are preparing for a possible election that NDP leader Jack Layton says 'could happen at any moment'

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / NDP leader Jack Layton speaks during a news conference in Ottawa Thursday before coming to Vancouver. ;

KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

BYLINE: Doug Ward

SOURCE: Vancouver Sun

WORD COUNT: 675

Political organizers and candidates in B.C. are gearing up for an autumn federal election, which could be triggered if all three opposition parties vote against Prime Minister Stephen Harper's upcoming throne speech.

That appears to be a real possibility, according to politicians from various parties.

NDP leader Jack Layton, visiting Vancouver on Friday, said his party is prepared to vote against the minority Conservative government on an expected confidence motion following the Oct. 16 throne speech.

"If Harper carries on the same path on the [Afghanistan] war and the environment and the prosperity gap between people, I don't see how we could possibly support the agenda," said Layton.

The NDP leader said it would then be up to either the Liberals or the Bloc Quebecois to save the Tory government.

The Conservatives have only 126 seats in the 308-seat House of Commons, and so need the support of one of the three opposition parties to pass the throne speech.

Harper has committed himself to keep governing until his fixed-election date of October 2009. However, there are good reasons to believe he might deliberately craft a throne speech that leaves the opposition with little choice but to oppose it.

The timing of an election this fall is good for Harper, according to this theory, as the Liberals are plagued by infighting over Stephane Dion's troubled leadership and by financial problems. They are also in disarray in Quebec, where they need a dramatic revival to form a government.

"An election could happen at any moment and we do need to be ready, and I think we've shown that we are ready," said Layton, who was in Vancouver to meet local media and attend an NDP fundraiser.

"We have winds in our sails because of the byelection in Outremont," added Layton, who was accompanied in Vancouver by Thomas Mulcair, the NDP candidate who won a stunning byelection victory earlier this month in the Montreal riding of Outremont, formerly a safe Liberal seat.

Election talk stirs plans; Political hopefuls are preparing for a possible election that NDP leader Jack Layton

Conservative organizer John Reynolds said the Tories in B.C. are ready for an election, but downplayed the likelihood of a national vote this year.

The public doesn't want an election, said Reynolds, and the Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois aren't prepared to topple the government — especially after their performance in three recent byelections in Quebec.

"The Bloc does all this talking, but they just got their butts kicked in Quebec," Reynolds added.

He said Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe was "just bluffing" when he recently threatened to vote against the throne speech unless five key conditions are met, including an end to the Afghan campaign in February 2009.

"And the only Liberals who want an election," said Reynolds, "are those who want to get rid of Dion."

David Black, an election organizer in B.C. for the NDP, said his party has candidates nominated in 28 of the 36 ridings in the province.

The NDP will be targeting Vancouver–Kingsway, where voters are waiting to see whether David Emerson will run again after sparking a firestorm when he switched to the victorious Conservatives shortly after winning the last election as a Liberal. The NDP candidate there is labour lawyer Don Davies.

Bruce Young, co–chairman of the Liberal campaign in B.C., said his party has 27 candidates nominated in the province with plans to choose the remaining candidates later this month.

Young dismissed suggestions that media coverage of Dion's leadership problems could undermine Liberal chances here. "Dion has connected with British Columbians because of his deep commitment to the environment and for safe injection sites," Young said.

Jay Hill, the Tory MP in Prince George–Peace River, said the election call will depend on Dion. Hill said many Liberals believe Dion's popularity won't improve significantly in the future and so "they might as well roll the dice now and get it over with."

He added that Dion "is under intense criticism, so he might end up capitulating to the views of many in his party."

Among the Liberals' star candidates in B.C., said Young, are former provincial cabinet minister Joyce Murray in Vancouver–Quadra and environmentalist Briony Penn in Saanich–Gulf Islands.

Tory organizer Reynolds said his party is hoping to regain North Shore seats lost to the Liberals in the last election. Tory candidate John Weston will again go up against Liberal incumbent Blair Wilson in West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast, while newcomer Andrew Saxton will try to unseat Liberal Don Bell in North Vancouver.

The Tories are also hoping to take Vancouver–Quadra now that Liberal MP Stephen Owen has resigned his seat to work for the University of B.C.

dward@png.canwest.com

Logistics support no job for the faint-hearted; Soldiers play deadly game of cat and mouse with Taliban

IDNUMBER 200709290112
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: D7
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CanWest News / Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud is responsible for all logistics for Task Force Afghanistan ;
DATELINE: MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Matthew Fisher
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 786

MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan — Cpl. Johan Sauvageau and Cpl. Charles Hebert have what may be the most dangerous jobs in the Canadian military.

The baby-faced reservists play a deadly game of cat and mouse with Taliban bombers almost every day. As members of 1st Platoon, Force Protection, National Support Element, they are literally part of Task Force Afghanistan's lifeline, escorting food, ammunition and mail as well as rotating troops and repaired vehicles to infantry combing the insurgent heartland to the west of Kandahar City.

To reach these distant outposts, the Canadians must run a deadly gauntlet. More than 40 of the Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been struck down by suicide bombers driving cars or trucks packed with jury-rigged explosives or by improvised explosive devices buried in the roads.

"With our job we never know what the menace might be or when it will hit," said Sauvageau, a 22-year old student from Dolbeau, Que., now attached to the Regiment du Saguenay.

"Still, we like the challenge," says the young man, who forsook one of the coldest places in Canada, 330 kilometres northeast of Montreal, to spend half a year riding on point as a gunner in the heat and dust of Afghanistan. "We like the adrenalin. And we like to be out with the guys in situations where we can achieve something in life that we cannot achieve at home."

Since arriving in theatre in June, both Sauvageau and Hebert, a 24-year-old medic's assistant and university student from Montreal's Regiment du Maisonneuve, have been on convoys that have come under attack.

Fear is always part of the equation. Sauvageau and Hebert have coped with it in different ways.

"I have what I would call a healthy fear," says Hebert. "I try to think what might happen. Sometimes when you go over a bridge or a bump in the road you think you are about to blow up. And then you don't."

Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who oversees the convoys and all of Canada's complicated logistics in Afghanistan, gets out several times a week to find out what the combat troops need and to check on the reservists from Force Protection.

Logistics support no job for the faint-hearted; Soldiers play deadly game of cat and mouse with Taliban

"It is extraordinary what these young men have accomplished, even more so as they are volunteers and don't have to be here," Eldaoud said. "These guys had little experience but we took them for almost a full year of intense training and it has really paid off. They have a very narrow field of work that requires a lot of depth, whereas a regular force soldier has to have a lot more width to his training."

To keep the enemy off balance, combat logistics patrols, as the convoys are officially known, leave from Kandahar at any time of day or night for one of seven far-flung places where troops of the Van Doo battle group are stationed. To avoid establishing patterns that might make them even more vulnerable to attack, the composition of the convoys and the routes they follow — even whether headlights are switched on or off — are constantly changing, as are the defences used if attacked.

"Running convoys is about taking a chance or accepting a risk," Eldaoud said. "We accept the risk, but only if there is a benefit to us. And we try to take every precaution on our side. We have a plan B and we have a Plan C and we try to be totally unpredictable and random. We do this because we know the enemy is looking for patterns."

One recent morning 1st Platoon was up at four o'clock to be part of what turned out to be a 12-hour stop-and-go trip through Taliban country to the Van Doo regiment's main base, which is dug into the sides of a staggeringly beautiful mountain at Masum Ghar in Panjwaii district, and to Patrol Base Wilson, a tiny nearby outpost in Zhari district that floats on a sea of impossibly chalky sand beside an important highway.

Happily, it was a mostly uneventful expedition. There were a few anxious moments when some soldiers had to get out of their vehicles to gingerly walk around a freshly dug hole that might have contained an IED, followed by more anxiety during a much longer delay to fix a flat tire on an armoured flatbed truck.

Hebert and Sauvageau say convoy crews, who jokingly refer to themselves as "weekend warriors" treat such dramas with "black humour." It is unlikely that the men, both scheduled to be home for Christmas, will be recounting such stories to their families any time soon.

"I don't think my parents would be too happy to know all the details. The less they know, the better it is for them," Sauvageau said. "I'll tell them a few things, but only when my time here is over."

Canada pushes for Afghan envoy; Canadian foreign minister to make case to UN Tuesday

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PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: C18
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Maxime Bernier;
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 508

UNITED NATIONS — Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East Peace Process has named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Bernier said in an interview.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The Middle East Quartet — which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia — has been more active since the appointment of Blair as Special Envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as Special Envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created UNAMA to help rebuild the country after the 2001-02 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now everything is at the discussion stage after being aired by Bernier and others at a closed-door, high-level meeting on Afghanistan Sept. 23 at the UN, attended also by Ban and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the (countries') various ideas all mesh up, so we have to

wait and see."

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan, as well as massive reconstruction commitments, make it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council, where permanent members with forces in Afghanistan are the United States, Britain and France.

Bernier will have brought up Canada's ideas in a private meeting Friday at the UN with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

That get-together was one of 30 bilateral meetings he had throughout the week on the sidelines of the UN summit — a reflection, said his aides, of the push by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make Canada a "must-listen-to" middle power.

He also used a meeting he had Friday with Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, to press for the release from a Dubai jail of Bert Tatham, a Canadian anti-narcotics officer who had worked in Afghanistan.

"We indicated we hope he can be included in an (upcoming) Ramadan amnesty list," said Bernier of the Ontario-born B.C. resident, who was convicted of possession of a small amount of hashish as he passed through Dubai while returning to Canada.

Tatham's lawyers argued the possession had been work-related.

Canadian troops being trained by controversial security firm

IDNUMBER 200709290053
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DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A19
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 460

OTTAWA --- The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counterterrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas, which range from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

But Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on innocent civilians, saying instead that its convoy had been attacked by insurgents.

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday he has sent a team to Iraq to investigate whether there is enough oversight of the private soldiers employed by firms such as Blackwater.

On Thursday, a congressional report into the deaths of four Blackwater security contractors in Iraq in 2004 found that the company appeared more interested in cutting costs than in the safety of its personnel.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year in support of coalition special forces. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also underwent counterterrorism driving training, according to a military official.

The Ottawa-based counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, has also maintained ongoing training links to the company.

Military officials did not have further details on why Blackwater would be hired, but promised to provide

those. Later, however, they did not comment on the matter.

Dawn Black, the NDP's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be involved in training Canadian troops in the first place.

"My understanding is we have some of the best-trained forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our armed forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?"

Military spokesperson Maj. Norbert Cyr said there are no concerns in the Canadian Forces about Blackwater's alleged involvement in the Iraqi incidents. "They're accredited, they're recognized, they're specialists," he said.

Since 2002, Blackwater has received U.S. government contracts totalling more than \$1 billion. Personnel working for Blackwater, which has close ties to the Bush administration, guard U.S. diplomats and provide helicopter services to the U.S. State Department.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Bloc leaflet attacks Harper's war stance

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PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A17
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CanWest News Photo / Portion of a Bloc Quebecois pamphlet mailed out in Quebec ;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Mike De Souza
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 444

OTTAWA --- The dark silhouette image of a rifle-toting soldier crouched in an attack position was deliberately included for strategic reasons in a new Bloc Quebecois leaflet that makes a threat to bring down Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government over its foreign policy in Afghanistan, a spokesperson for the sovereignties party said Friday.

The leaflet, which was mailed out to thousands of Quebecers last week as a part of the \$6-million printing budget funded by taxpayers for members of Parliament, warns that Harper's government may fall within weeks if the prime minister doesn't announce a withdrawal of Canada's troops from the combat zones of Afghanistan by February 2009.

"If Stephen Harper persists with his war mentality, he will not be able to count on the support of the Bloc Quebecois for the throne speech," reads the harshly worded leaflet. "We won't hesitate to vote against the government even if this means that such a choice would force the dissolution of the Commons, and a new general election."

Bloc spokesperson Karyne Duplessis Piche said the image of the soldier, crouched above the Afghan flag, and the message in the leaflet is designed to raise awareness about the mission and the party's position.

"We put (the soldier) because it demonstrates that Canada is at war," said Piche. "It was sent out and put together in a strategic manner."

Members of Parliament are allowed to send out leaflets to up to 10 per cent of their constituents, but Piche said the Bloc caucus decided to combine its mailing budget to send out its leaflet to as many federal ridings in Quebec as possible, including those held by rival parties.

The war is suddenly getting more exposure in the Quebec media in recent weeks, after more than 2,000 troops from the province landed in Afghanistan to become the lead regiment in the deadly mission to drive back the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

But the Conservative government doesn't appear to be scared by the Bloc's new campaign after it snatched a former sovereigntist stronghold and came within a few percentage points of taking another riding in recent federal byelections in Quebec.

"It looks like the Bloc is in campaign mode," said Harper's spokesperson Dimitri Soudas. "Quebecers were clear with them during the byelections. What part of the byelection did they not understand?"

Although it propped up the minority government in its first two budgets, Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe said last week that he would no longer do so unless it committed to Canada's Kyoto commitments, eliminated federal spending in provincial jurisdictions, maintained supply management in the agriculture sector and financial aid for the forest industry, along with confirming the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Body of fallen Canadian soldier brought home

IDNUMBER 200709290035
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DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A13
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 423

The body of Canada's most recently fallen soldier in Afghanistan, Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, arrived home Friday afternoon at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario.

"The skies were certainly grey as we brought home our latest fallen soldier from the war in Afghanistan," said Capt. Nicole Meszaros, a public affairs officer with the base.

The plane carrying the 24-year-old's body touched down just after 3 p.m. and his parents, Linda and Michael, were there to greet it. They approached the coffin before it was loaded into the hearse, said Meszaros.

"That seems to be a moment where it becomes very real, I think, for the families that they've lost a loved one and here he is. It's a very poignant moment," she said.

Dignitaries including Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of the defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony.

Hornburg was killed Monday when he was hit by mortar fire while repairing the tread on a Canadian Leopard tank, which had come off in rough terrain.

The soldier's body was due to come home Thursday but a mechanical problem with the plane used to repatriate fallen soldiers from the Afghan war zone prompted a one-day delay.

A piper played a lament as the flag-draped coffin was carried across the tarmac to a waiting hearse. About 100 military members from CFB Trenton and other nearby bases were there to show their support. Lined up along the surrounding fence were about 100 ordinary Canadians who also came to pay their respects, said Meszaros.

"That's always a heartening experience," she said of the public display of support for the troops.

Following the ceremony, a military cavalcade was to take Hornburg's remains to Toronto, where an autopsy will be performed. The procession travels along Highway 401, a portion of which has been officially renamed the Highway of Heroes.

The young soldier was a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment. Before he left for Afghanistan, he told his mother that no matter what happened during his tour, he would have no regrets.

Hornburg was the 71st Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002, with more than half of those deaths occurring in the Panjwahi and nearby Zhari regions. One diplomat has also been killed.

Hornburg's death, however, was the first since October 2006 to come as the result of ground conflict. Most of the more recent deaths of Canadian soldiers have been caused by improvised roadside bombs or suicide attacks.

Another soldier, a reservist from the Edmonton-based Lord Strathcona's Horse regiment, was wounded during the attack that killed Hornburg.

Three other Quebec-based soldiers were also wounded when they engaged the insurgents who had fired at Hornburg as they tried to carry him away from the fighting. The injuries, which were from rocket-propelled grenades, were not life threatening.

A final 'thanks' for slain Canuck fighter

SOURCETAG 0709290550
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
ILLUSTRATION: photo of RODNEY TRAVERS–GRIFFIN Gives salute
BYLINE: SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 236

He was the 71st Canadian to travel the Highway of Heroes since 2002.

But Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, King's Own Calgary Regiment, was the first to do so since that stretch of Hwy. 401 had been designated the Highway of Heroes earlier this month.

Veteran Rodney Travers–Griffin just had to be there along that famous route — saying it costs nothing to go and say "Thank you" to a person who paid the ultimate.

"This poor guy was a reservist," Travers–Griffin said of Hornburg, who is Canada's 71st casualty in Afghanistan and who was brought home on a Canadian Forces Airbus, which landed at CFB Trenton yesterday afternoon. "He was fighting for and believed strongly in freedom."

The 24–year–old Hornburg from Calgary died in a mortar attack in Afghanistan earlier in the week.

In an interview with the Calgary Sun in July he indicated his strong support for the mission saying, "It's more of an argument we should be there — we know it's a mess and that's why we're there."

PROUD SOLDIER

He was a typical, proud soldier who scoffed at the danger and did the work anyway, Travers–Griffin said. Standing there on the Meadowvale overpass in salute, the 75–year–old veteran of the British army said he was thinking of all of the fine men and women from his home country of England and his adopted country of Canada who have died protecting those freedoms.

"It is a comradeship," he said. "I am doing this out of respect and to pay tribute."

Only once before has he saluted without being in uniform and wearing a cap.

"Recently my friend William Wordingham, a Dunkirk veteran, passed away and I saluted after my eulogy," he said. "I am proud to do it again for Cpl. Hornburg." **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Sombre ceremony for fallen soldier Procession for Cpl. Hornburg travels along Highway of Heroes

SOURCETAG: 0709290548

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of NATHAN HORNBURG Killed Monday in Kandahar 2. photo by Fred Thornhill, Reuters The flag-draped casket holding the body of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg arrives at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday.

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: CFB TRENTON

WORD COUNT: 181

A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta killed in Afghanistan made his final journey home to Canadian soil Friday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries who gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

CROWD OF VETERANS

An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go." **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Building trust tricky business

SOURCETAG 0709280380
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.09.28
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 22
BYLINE: RICHARD LATENDRESSE
DATELINE: Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 432

It takes a while for soldiers to trust a reporter. They're a defensive bunch — even when it comes to journalists. But I've noticed that after you've been on operations, on patrol or simply sharing a military tent, the guard comes down.

After a month with Canadian soldiers in southern Afghanistan, they were willing to talk. And in some cases, willing to share with me that they feel they're wasting their time here. Some of the Canadians talk about how ungrateful — devious, even — the locals are, as they smile at NATO forces by day and collaborate with the enemy by night.

Granted, it's a small number, but those soldiers on the ground are not alone in their pessimism.

The Afghanistan mission is seen as a failure by 69% of Germans, 66% of Italians and 63% of British and French respondents to an international Angus Reid poll released last month. Of the Canadians sampled, 49% think the operation is futile.

Before leaving Kandahar, I sat down with the top Canadian soldier in Afghanistan, Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche. I wanted three concrete examples that this mission is a success.

SAFETY

He cited improved safety in parts of the region, a better capacity for Afghans to run their own affairs — in particular, the progress in training Afghan soldiers — and reconstruction in the country.

All of that may be true, but it's in very small doses.

I did chat with locals in villages repopulated under better security. But I came across just as many abandoned villages.

I did see Afghan soldiers risking their lives in combat. But it was obvious that without Canadian support, they'd surely be wiped off the map. Afghan police are still just a joke.

As for the reconstruction, success stories are few. I did witness thriving communities — the military happened to visit them while a journalist was on board. Otherwise, I probably wouldn't have seen any.

Laroche is not wrong. But what he's describing is an Afghanistan in motion, and the country I saw is pretty numb. Between the optimism of the top soldier and the desperation of the less confident, there are real Afghans grasping at the chance to lead a normal life.

There was pain in the eyes of locals asked to collaborate with Canadian soldiers or with the young Afghan army, afraid the Taliban will catch up with them.

So it goes. Canadian soldiers spend a few hours in a village, then move out, leaving the villagers on their own.

If the Canadians don't revisit these villages in the coming days and weeks, and especially if they disappear altogether after February 2009, like so many in Ottawa want, progress made will disintegrate.

NO REPLACEMENTS

Other members of NATO are not eager to make their mark on the south of this poor country. Once the Canadians leave, the Afghans will be abandoned, just like they already fear.

What's needed most — not only from our soldiers but from all Canadians — is patience. Years of patience. Otherwise, all the energy, money, and especially the 70 Canadian lives lost there, will have been wasted.

Once again, we would be leaving behind Afghans who want a real life, and who are counting on us to help them succeed.

Final journey for soldier

SOURCETAG 0709290363

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 10

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Jonathan Hayward, The Canadian Press Unidentified family members of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg attend a repatriation ceremony as his body is returned to CFB Trenton yesterday from Afghanistan.

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: CFB TRENTON

WORD COUNT: 132

A 24-year-old soldier killed in Afghanistan made his final journey home to Canadian soil yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries who gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said. **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Dutch sending 80 more troops to Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0709290141
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: AMSTERDAM
WORD COUNT: 137

The Netherlands announced yesterday it will send 80 more troops to support its own mission in Afghanistan after NATO allies failed to respond to its request for reinforcement.

The additional troops will bring the Dutch military presence in Afghanistan to 1,745.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister who made the announcement after a weekly cabinet meeting, said the deployment is being made on a temporary basis.

"They will be going in order to assist our troops," said Bos, filling in for Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende who was travelling home after addressing the UN in New York on Thursday.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcements in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, but was forced to fill the gap itself when no other allies were willing to come forward with more troops.

Canada, too, has been calling on allies to contribute more troops to the NATO mission to help the Kabul government establish its authority across Afghanistan. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Fallen Alberta reservist first to travel Highway of Heroes

SOURCETAG: 0709290140
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Fred Thornhill, Reuters FAMILY MOURNS: Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence, greets family members of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. Hornburg, whose body returned home yesterday, was killed in Afghanistan on Monday. 2. photo of NATHAN HORNBURG Reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment was killed Monday trying to repair a tank track while under fire.

BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: CFB TRENTON
WORD COUNT: 185

A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta killed in Afghanistan made his final journey home to Canadian soil yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries who gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go." **KEYWORDS=**CANADA

Soldier comes home Canada's latest war casualty

SOURCETAG 0709290451

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 30

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Jonathan Hayward, The Canadian Press Members of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg's family attend a repatriation ceremony as his body is returned to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ont., yesterday. Hornburg was killed in Afghanistan earlier this week. 2. photo by Fred Thornhill, Reuters An honour guard carries his casket at CFB Trenton.

BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATELINE: CFB TRENTON, Ont.

WORD COUNT: 209

A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta who was killed in Afghanistan returned home to Canadian soil yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan on Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

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An autopsy will be performed on Hornburg's body in Toronto.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

Hornburg's family was to stop outside the fence around the base to speak with those gathered to watch the repatriation ceremony, but a sudden downpour of rain kept them from doing so.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go." **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

Taliban claims credit for killing 27 troops

SOURCETAG 0709290704
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DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 35
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 128

A Taliban suicide bomber killed 27 Afghan troops and an unknown number of civilians early today in an attack on an army bus in the capital, Kabul.

"So far the information that we have is that 27 Afghan National Army personnel were killed and 21 soldiers also on the bus were wounded," said army spokesman Zaher Murat.

"There are also civilian casualties but we don't know the exact number."

The Defence Ministry said the blast was caused by a suicide bomb. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The bus was split into two by the blast and shop windows were shattered all around.

Residents helped police pick up pieces of flesh and put them into plastic bags.

"The explosion happened just after a group of Afghan National Army soldiers got onto the bus," said witness Mohammad Zaher who had cuts in his forehead from flying glass.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted from power for harbouring al-Qaida leaders in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

Taliban insurgents have largely shied away from large-scale conventional attacks. KEYWORDS=WORLD

NATO gains appear fragile

SOURCETAG 0709290703
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 35
BYLINE: REUTERS
DATELINE: LONDON
WORD COUNT: 112

Hardfought gains by NATO troops this year could be lost if Afghan forces fail to hold ground seized from the Taliban, the NATO commander in Afghanistan says.

U.S. General Dan McNeill, who commands the alliance's 35,000-strong force, said NATO scored successes this year in driving Taliban fighters from mountain valleys in the southern Helmand province, an opium-producing Taliban heartland.

The NATO forces in the area are mostly British troops who arrived in large numbers only last year.

They say they have recaptured much of the Helmand River valley from the Taliban over the past six months.

But McNeill said Afghan troops had not yet performed as well as hoped in holding the ground after it was cleared, and there was a chance the Taliban could regroup and return.

"We are likely to have to do some of this work again," he said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Dutch reinforce in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0709290702
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: 35
DATELINE: AMSTERDAM
WORD COUNT: 104

The Netherlands announced yesterday it will send 80 more troops to support its own mission in Afghanistan after NATO allies failed to respond to its request for reinforcement.

The additional troops will bring the Dutch military presence in Afghanistan to 1,745.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister, said the deployment is being made on a temporary basis.

"They will be going in order to assist our troops," said Bos.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcements, but was forced to fill the gap itself when no other allies were willing to come forward.

Canada, too, has been calling on allies to contribute more troops.

Insurgents have been battling coalition and government forces in many parts of the country, especially in the south where the Taliban movement has its roots.

Bos said the troop increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission past next summer. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Canadian suspect's solitary time extended

SOURCETAG 0709290694
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 26
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: MINNEAPOLIS
WORD COUNT: 143

A Canadian being held on terror charges in Minneapolis must wait behind bars a while longer after a judge postponed an earlier order that would have eased the conditions of his confinement.

Mohamed Warsame, a Canadian citizen of Somali descent, reportedly has been held in solitary confinement at the Oak Park Heights prison since 2003.

Yesterday, U.S. District Judge John Tunheim ruled that his Aug. 31 order to transfer Warsame, to a more normal detention facility, should be postponed while the court considers the prosecution's arguments to keep holding Warsame under special circumstances.

Warsame was attending college in Minneapolis in 2003 when FBI agents questioned him about time he allegedly spent in two terrorist training camps in Afghanistan three years earlier.

Federal agents arrested Warsame in December 2003 as a material witness.

Warsame was indicted about six weeks later in Minneapolis on charges of conspiring to provide material support to the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

He was also charged for lying to federal agents about travelling to Afghanistan and sending \$2,000 to an associate there. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Day warns Canada of terror backlash Country on list of al-Qaida targets

SOURCETAG 0709290672
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 13
ILLUSTRATION: photo of STOCKWELL DAY Warns of terror
BYLINE: BILL KAUFMANN, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 191

The potential of a terrorist backlash at home from a recent explosion of anti-Canadian hostility in Afghanistan can't be dismissed, federal Safety Minister Stockwell Day said in Calgary yesterday.

Speaking at a security conference, Day acknowledged an Afghan protest Wednesday following the deaths of two villagers in a raid by foreign soldiers involved the chanting of "death to Canada."

"We'll have to take all of this into account," Day said when asked if the incident raises concerns of a violent response in Canada.

But he said Canadian troops have received a generally favourable reception from Afghans, adding protest in the war-ravaged country shows progress.

"I'd say it's a sign of robust democracy, that protest can take place," he said.

Day reiterated that Canada is on the list of countries targeted by terrorist group al-Qaida and that Canadians can't be complacent about the threat.

"Canada's the only one on that list that hasn't been hit," he said.

Discussions are taking place in Ottawa, said Day, about expanding the reach of the Canadian Security Intelligence Agency not only at home but overseas.

"Whether legislation is required to do so is one of the questions," Day explained.

A one-time CIA analyst who attended the conference, Dr. Paul Pillar, said the role of western foreign policy in provoking terrorism can't be overlooked.

"There's no question it has an effect on recruitment of terrorists and certainly Iraq and the rendition of people to countries where tortured is used are parts of that," said Pillar, who's with the security studies program at Georgetown University. **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

Viewpoint sombre on heroes' highway

SOURCETAG: 0709290654
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 3
ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Fred Thornhill, Reuters Family members of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg comfort Sgt. Richard Weetman of the King's Own Calgary Regiment.
BYLINE: JOE WARMINGTON
WORD COUNT: 274

He was the 71st Canadian to travel the Highway of Heroes since 2002.

But Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, King's Own Calgary Regiment, was the first to do so since that stretch of Hwy. 401 was designated the Highway of Heroes earlier this month.

Veteran Rodney Travers-Griffin just had to be there along that famous route. He said it costs nothing to go and say thank-you to a person who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"This poor guy was a reservist," Travers-Griffin said of Hornburg, Canada's 71st casualty in Afghanistan, brought home on a Canadian Forces Airbus which landed at CFB Trenton yesterday afternoon.

"He was fighting for and believed strongly in freedom."

The 24-year-old Hornburg from Calgary died in a mortar attack in Afghanistan this week.

In an interview with the Sun in July, he indicated his strong support for the mission, saying "it's more of an argument we should be there -- we know it's a mess and that's why we're there."

He was a typical, proud soldier who scoffed at the danger and did the work anyway, said Travers-Griffin.

Standing there on the Meadowvale overpass in salute, the 75-year-old veteran of the British army said he was thinking of all of the fine men and women from his home country of England and his adopted country of Canada who have died protecting those freedoms this young man held so dear to him.

"It is a comradeship," he said. "I am doing this out of respect and to pay tribute."

Only once before has he saluted without being in military uniform and wearing a cap.

"Recently my friend William Wordingham, a Dunkirk veteran, passed away and I saluted after my eulogy," he said. "I am proud to do it again for Cpl. Hornburg."

Travers-Griffin served in Germany, Egypt and Cyprus and knows firsthand how soldiers, sailors and airmen and women appreciate support.

"It's a nice thing and I hadn't done it before," he said, adding he thinks everybody should witness the harsh reality of war by watching a hearse with a young serviceman being carried to his final resting place.

As for the Highway of Heroes, Travers-Griffin said he will call it that from now on.

"I think it's a fitting name," he said.

And Cpl. Nathan Hornburg is the latest Canadian hero to travel along it. KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

Calgary's own back in Canada Body of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg lands at CFB Trenton

SOURCETAG 0709290653
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 3
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: CFB TRENTON, Ont.
WORD COUNT: 203

A 24-year-old soldier from Calgary killed in Afghanistan returned home to Canadian soil yesterday in a sombre repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario.

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, died in Afghanistan Monday while trying to put a track back on a tank while under fire.

He is the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Gov.-Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier were among the dignitaries gathered on the tarmac to pay their respects.

Hornburg became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Hwy. 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed by the Ontario government.

A crowd of veterans and emergency personnel gathered outside the military base in support as the procession passed by.

Hornburg's family was to stop outside the fence around the base to speak with those gathered to watch the repatriation ceremony, but a sudden downpour of rain kept them from doing so.

In the crowd was Alberta veteran Chekotah Bronson, who said he felt it was right for him to be there.

"I was in the area and when I heard it's an Alberta boy coming back home, and being from Alberta, I wanted to be here and participate with everybody," he said.

"For any of these young fellows who are going overseas and doing what you and I should be doing, we've got to absolutely support these boys from the get-go." **KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

'No one is braver today'

IDNUMBER 200709290253
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: National
SECTION: Letters
PAGE: A25
COLUMN: Letter Of The Day
ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: Reuters / Monks wear masks as they protest against the government in Rangoon on Wednesday. ;
BYLINE: Mark Ordonselli
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 151

Re: Myanmar Troops Fire On Crowd, Sept. 28.

In limiting their response to toothless sanctions and a "strong disapproval" of Myanmar's military dictatorship, our Western leaders condemn to death not only the country's bloodied, unarmed monks and civilians, but also the fragile hopes of oppressed peoples everywhere, who will quickly learn that the West cannot be counted on to back up its pro-democracy rhetoric with action.

Why are the world's powers reluctant to support a people with an elected leader-in-waiting, a burning desire for freedom and a willingness to die in peaceful protest against oppression, while we impose these same values on other nations that don't want our help in the first place? In Afghanistan and elsewhere, we're told of the urgent need to support those who stand up for freedom. No one is standing taller or braver than the Myanmar people today.

Mark Ordonselli, Montreal.

KEYWORDS: 0

Canada to ask UN to play bigger Afghan role; Bernier To Speak; Wants envoy like Blair to guide reconstruction

IDNUMBER 200709290204
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: National
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Color Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Relatives of Corporal Nathan Hornburg, who was killed in Afghanistan on Monday, attend his body's arrival at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. Canada's role in Afghanistan makes it a key player in the debate at the United Nations. ;
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 643

UNITED NATIONS – Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East Peace Process has named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better coordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from more than 60 countries and organizations around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Mr. Bernier said in an interview.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the coordination process."

The Middle East Quartet — which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia — has been more active since the appointment of Mr. Blair as Special Envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as Special Envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created UNAMA to help rebuild the country after the 2001–2002 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now everything is at the discussion stage after being aired by Mr. Bernier and others at a closed-door high-level meeting on Afghanistan last Sunday at the UN, attended also by Mr. Ban and Afghan President

Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the [countries'] various ideas all mesh up, so we have to wait and see."

The current UN mission has a staff of more than 1,000 that helps the Afghan government implement the so-called Afghan Compact – a deal that aims to promote stability and development in Afghanistan in return for economic and military support.

But a report commissioned by the UN Development Program said this week that, despite progress in a number of key areas, the country is "not progressing fast enough."

Problems include increased poverty, widespread corruption, a breakdown in the rule of law and a paralyzed judiciary, according to the report, authored by the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University.

"We want to improve the life of the Afghan people," said Mr. Bernier. "We want to find a more effective way to do that, and in the fastest possible time."

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan, as well as massive reconstruction commitments, make it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council, where permanent members with forces in Afghanistan are the United States, Britain and France.

Mr. Bernier will have brought up Canada's ideas in a private meeting yesterday at the UN with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

That get-together was one of 30 bi-lateral meetings he had throughout the week — a reflection, said his aides, of the push by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make Canada a "must-listen-to" middle power.

He also used a meeting he had yesterday with Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, to press for the release from a Dubai jail of Bert Tathem, a Canadian anti-narcotics officer who had worked in Afghanistan.

"We indicated we hope he can be included in an [upcoming] Ramadan amnesty list," said Bernier of the Ontario-born B.C. resident, who was convicted of possession of a small amount of hashish as he passed through Dubai while returning to Canada. Tathem's lawyers argued the possession had been work-related.

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

Bloc leaflet warns government may fall if no Afghan withdrawal date set

IDNUMBER 200709290203
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: National
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
COLUMN: Canada Brief
ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: / (See hardcopy for Photo Description);
BYLINE: Mike De Souza
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 152

The dark silhouette image of a rifle-toting soldier crouched in an attack position was deliberately included for strategic reasons in a new Bloc Quebecois leaflet that makes a threat to bring down Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government over its foreign policy in Afghanistan, a spokesperson for the sovereigntist party said yesterday. The leaflet, which was mailed out to thousands of Quebecers last week, warns that Harper's government may fall within weeks if the prime minister doesn't announce a withdrawal of Canada's troops from the combat zones of Afghanistan by February, 2009. Bloc spokesperson Karyne Duplessis Piche said the image of the soldier, crouched above the Afghan flag, and the message in the leaflet is designed to raise awareness about the mission and the party's position.

KEYWORDS: POLITICAL PARTIES; LIBEL

Dutch to bolster Afghan mission; Netherlands sending 80 more soldiers

IDNUMBER 200709290035
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A14

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / A 24-year-old soldier from Alberta made his final journey home yesterday in a repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton. Corporal Nathan Hornburg, killed on Monday, became the first Afghanistan casualty to officially travel the Highway of Heroes since the stretch of Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto was renamed. ;

DATELINE: AMSTERDAM, Netherlands
SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 333

The Netherlands announced yesterday it will send 80 more troops to support its own mission in Afghanistan after NATO allies failed to respond to its request for reinforcement.

The additional troops will bring the Dutch military presence in Afghanistan to 1,745.

Wouter Bos, the deputy prime minister who made the announcement after a weekly cabinet meeting, said the deployment is being made on a temporary basis.

"They will be going in order to assist our troops," said Bos, filling in for Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende who was travelling home after addressing the United Nations in New York on Thursday.

The Netherlands had asked NATO for reinforcements in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, but was forced to fill the gap itself when no other allies were willing to come forward with more troops. Canada, too, has been calling on allies to contribute more troops to the NATO mission to help the Kabul government establish its authority across Afghanistan.

Insurgents have been battling coalition and government forces in many parts of the country, especially in the southern provinces where the extremist Taliban movement has its roots.

Bos said the troop increase should not be seen as a signal that the Netherlands will extend its mission in Afghanistan past its scheduled end next summer. The Dutch government is expected to make a decision next month on whether to extend the mission.

"Strictly speaking, this will have no influence on the possible decision to extend," Bos said. "But, it is the case that our ... decision ... will be based in part on a safety analysis, and the question of what actual difference the presence of Dutch troops can make in Uruzgan, including for the safety of the local population," he said.

The troops were needed in the Deh Rawod district, where a Dutch soldier was killed in combat last week. The soldier, whose body was flown home Monday, was the 11th fatality since the Netherlands dispatched troops to

the area in August 2006.

The Canadian Forces have been in Afghanistan since 2002, and 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in the country.

With files from The Canadian Press.

Canadian logistics teams run deadly Afghan gauntlet; Dodging bombs come with job of supplying troops

IDNUMBER: 200709290051
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A27
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CanWest News Service / Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who is responsible for all convoys and logistics for Task Force Afghanistan, says part of his job is accepting risk. ;
KEYWORDS: !@DATELINE=MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Matthew Fisher
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 577

Cpl. Johan Sauvageau and Cpl. Charles Hebert have what may be the most dangerous jobs in the Canadian military.

The baby-faced reservists play a deadly game of cat and mouse with Taliban bombers almost every day. As members of 1st Platoon, Force Protection, National Support Element, they are literally part of Task Force Afghanistan's lifeline, escorting food, ammunition and mail as well as rotating troops and repaired vehicles to infantry combing the insurgent heartland to the west of Kandahar City.

To reach these distant outposts, the Canadians must run a deadly gauntlet. More than 40 of the Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have been struck down by suicide bombers driving cars or trucks packed with jury-rigged explosives or by improvised explosive devices buried in the roads.

"With our job we never know what the menace might be or when it will hit," said Sauvageau, a 22-year-old student from Dolbeau, Que., now attached to the Regiment du Saguenay.

"Still, we like the challenge," says the young man, who forsook one of the coldest places in Canada, 330 kilometres northeast of Montreal, to spend half a year riding on point as a gunner in the heat and dust of Afghanistan. "We like the adrenalin. And we like to be out with the guys in situations where we can achieve something in life that we cannot achieve at home."

Since arriving in theatre in June, both Sauvageau and Hebert, a 24-year-old medic's assistant and university student from Montreal, have been on convoys that have come under attack.

Fear is always part of the equation. Sauvageau and Hebert have coped with it in different ways.

"I have what I would call a healthy fear," says Hebert. "I try to think what might happen. Sometimes when you go over a bridge or a bump in the road you think you are about to blow up. And then you don't."

Lt.-Col. Nicolas Eldaoud, who oversees the convoys and all of Canada's complicated logistics in Afghanistan, gets out several times a week to find out what the combat troops need and to check on the reservists from Force Protection.

Canadian logistics teams run deadly Afghan gauntlet; Dodging bombs come with job of supplying troops

"It is extraordinary what these young men have accomplished, even more so as they are volunteers and don't have to be here," Eldaoud said. "These guys had little experience but we took them for almost a full year of intense training and it has really paid off. They have a very narrow field of work that requires a lot of depth, whereas a regular force soldier has to have a lot more width to his training."

To keep the enemy off balance, combat logistics patrols, as the convoys are officially known, leave from Kandahar at any time of day or night for one of seven far-flung places where troops of the Van Doos battle group are stationed. To avoid establishing patterns that might make them even more vulnerable to attack, the composition of the convoys and the routes they follow — even whether headlights are switched on or off — are constantly changing, as are the defences used if attacked.

"Running convoys is about taking a chance or accepting a risk," Eldaoud said. "We accept the risk, but only if there is a benefit to us. And we try to take every precaution on our side. We have a plan B and we have a plan C and we try to be totally unpredictable and random."

Sauvageau sees keeping some of the risks of his job private as being easier on his family.

"I don't think my parents would be too happy to know all the details. The less they know, the better it is for them," he said.

Canada pushes for Afghanistan envoy; Bernier to make case for UN role in wartorn nation

IDNUMBER 200709290036
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A17
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 386

Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country -- in the same way the global Middle East Peace Process has named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Bernier said in an interview.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The Middle East Quartet -- which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia -- has been more active since the appointment of Blair as Special Envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as special envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created UNAMA to help rebuild the country after the 2001-2002 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now everything is at the discussion stage after being aired by Bernier and others at a closed-door, high-level meeting on Afghanistan Sept. 23 at the UN, attended also by Ban and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the (countries') various ideas all mesh up, so we have to

wait and see."

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan, as well as massive reconstruction commitments, make it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council, where permanent members with forces in Afghanistan are the United States, Britain and France.

Bernier will have brought up Canada's ideas in a private meeting Friday at the UN with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

Troops trained by controversial firm

IDNUMBER 200709290016
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A7
BYLINE: David Pugliese and Jamie Komarnicki
SOURCE: CanWest News Service and Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 514

The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counterterrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas. The company's website boasts its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on civilians, saying instead that its convoy had been attacked by insurgents.

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday he has sent a team to Iraq to investigate whether there is enough oversight of the private soldiers employed by firms such as Blackwater.

On Thursday, a congressional report into the deaths of four Blackwater security contractors in Iraq in 2004 found the company appeared more interested in cutting costs than in the safety of personnel.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year in support of coalition special forces. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also underwent counterterrorism driving training, according to a military official.

The Ottawa-based counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, has also maintained ongoing training links to the company.

Canadian Forces spokesman Lt.-Col. Jamie Robertson said Blackwater and other firms have been contracted to provide services for other units.

"The Canadian Forces has occasionally contracted companies to provide specialized training to our personnel in those cases when specialized training is not available within the Canadian Forces," said Robertson.

Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day said the government is informed of the training Canadian Forces receive.

"The minister of Defence certainly is advised and apprised of the situations that they have to deal with and the situations they face," said Day when asked whether the training in Blackwater is appropriate. "We're very proud of the work they do."

Questions on the specifics of their training are handled by the minister of Defence, Day said in Calgary on Friday.

Dawn Black, the NDP's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be involved in training Canadian troops in the first place.

"My understanding is we have some of the best-trained forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our armed forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?"

Military spokesman Maj. Norbert Cyr said there are no concerns in the Canadian Forces about Blackwater's alleged involvement in the Iraqi incidents. "They're accredited, they're recognized, they're specialists," he said.

Since 2002, Blackwater has received U.S. government contracts totalling more than \$1 billion. Personnel working for Blackwater, which has close ties to the Bush administration, guard U.S. diplomats and provide helicopter services to the U.S. State Department.

Fallen soldier comes home; Jamie Komarnicki and Deborah Tetley, Meagan Fitzpatrick

IDNUMBER 200709290013

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Soldiers carry the casket of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg to a waiting hearse at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on Friday. ; Photo: Cpl. Nathan Hornburg ;

KEYWORDS: CANADIANS; ARMED FORCES; CANADA; ALBERTA

SOURCE: Calgary Herald; CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 647

The body of Canada's latest fallen soldier, Calgary Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, arrived home Friday afternoon at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario.

The plane carrying the 24-year-old's body touched down just after 1 p.m., greeted by family members including parents Linda Loree and Michael Hornburg, and sister Rachel Herbert.

A steady rain falling from gloomy skies let up just as the plane touched down, said warrant officer Ronald Senior of the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

Family members approached the reservist's flag-draped coffin before it was loaded into the waiting hearse.

"It's very emotional — just the fact that he was back home and we can continue on with the next phase of healing," said Senior, the acting regimental sergeant major who flew out from Calgary to Trenton for the arrival of the young soldier's body.

"That seems to be a moment where it becomes very real . . . for the families. It's a very poignant moment," said Capt. Nicole Meszaros, a public affairs officer with the base.

It also became real for friends who stayed home in Calgary.

Michael Pederson gathered with a group of Hornburg's friends Friday afternoon to grieve, share stories and watch media coverage of the repatriation ceremony on television.

They were glad he was home after a one-day delay and were preparing for next week's funeral.

"It's really nice that he's back on Canadian soil, where he wants to be," said Pederson, 22.

Hornburg was a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment. Before leaving for Afghanistan, he told his mother no matter what happened during his tour, he would have no regrets.

Fellow soldiers in Calgary say the shock of Hornburg's death is still sinking in.

But with his body safely back in Canada, members of his Calgary regiment are looking forward to the opportunity to honour the young man in his home town.

"When he arrives back in Calgary, that will be more of a milestone for us as a regiment," said warrant officer Bruce Moore, of the KOCR.

"Our task is to focus on the duty of what needs to be done. Later, there is going to be time for that personal grief to set in.

Friends of Hornburg's family said funeral arrangements have not been finalized.

Dignitaries including Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of the defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony under rainy skies.

Hornburg, who was born and raised in Calgary, was killed Monday when he was hit by mortar fire while repairing the tread on a Canadian Leopard tank, which had come off in rough terrain.

The soldier's body was due to return Thursday, but a mechanical problem with the plane used to repatriate fallen soldiers from the war zone prompted a one-day delay.

A piper played a lament Friday as the flag-draped coffin was carried across the tarmac by eight stone-faced soldiers to a waiting hearse.

Mother Linda wiped her tears and held hands with family members, all of whom gripped peach-coloured, long-stemmed roses.

About 100 military members from CFB Trenton and other nearby bases were there to show their support. Lined up along the surrounding fence were about 100 ordinary Canadians who also came to pay their respects.

Though he never met Hornburg, Calgarian Gerald Blair said he felt compelled to stop by the memorial set up at Mewata Armouries to honour the young man's sacrifice.

"We need to support the military in whatever way we can, especially in times of bereavement and death," said Blair, whose father fought in the Second World War and grandfather in the first.

Following the ceremony, a military cavalcade took Hornburg's remains to Toronto, where an autopsy will be performed. The procession travels along Highway 401, a portion of which has been officially renamed the Highway of Heroes.

The name is meant to pay tribute to the route travelled from Trenton to Toronto when the bodies of fallen soldiers are brought home. The processions usually draw large crowds of nearby residents, veterans and emergency service workers to the highway overpasses where they wave flags and show their support of Canadian troops.

Hornburg's procession is the first to travel down the renamed Highway of Heroes, which was formally dedicated in September.

"The ride back was very quiet," said Senior.

"Then we started to see the people on the overpasses, waving at us, standing and saluting. That was quite emotional, to see that kind of support."

Hornburg was the 71st Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002, with more than half of those deaths occurring in Panjwahi and nearby Zhari regions. One diplomat has also been killed.

Hornburg's death, however, was the first since October 2006 to come as the result of ground conflict. Most of the more recent deaths of Canadian soldiers have been caused by improvised roadside bombs or suicide attacks.

Calgary's Hornburg had 'warrior's heart'

IDNUMBER 200709290012

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / A military cavalcade brought Cpl. Nathan Hornburg's remains from Canadian Forces Base Trenton to Toronto, along Highway 401, a section of which was renamed the Highway of Heroes. ; Photo: Courtesy, Lourdes Juan / Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, pictured here with friend Lourdes Juan, appeared anxious for his Afghan duty. ;

BYLINE: Deborah Tetley, with files by Matthew Fisher, CanWest Newsservice.

SOURCE: Calgary Herald

WORD COUNT: 752

Three days before his deployment to Afghanistan, Cpl. Nathan Hornburg appeared anxious over lunch at the Belmont Diner in Calgary's Marda Loop.

More than six years of training for war as a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment were about to be put to the test.

Though Hornburg excelled academically and athletically in school, serving his country was all the 24-year-old wanted at this stage in his life.

But on this sunny Friday afternoon, Lourdes Juan noticed a certain unease about her longtime friend.

"There was a nervousness to him that I've never seen before," said Juan. She wondered if he was scared.

Hornburg said he "was scared of not doing his job" and that he "just wanted to come home."

Three days later, on Aug. 28, Hornburg said goodbye to family and friends in Edmonton, and embarked on his six-month tour to the Afghan war zone.

His friends had joked that the hot and mountainous Afghanistan was a long way from his family's cattle ranch in Nanton, where he spent many summers celebrating his love for the prairies.

Twenty-seven days later the volunteer soldier was killed among a cluster of villages in a Taliban hotbed.

Michael Pederson, who has known Hornburg since the two were elementary age, didn't plan for this. The duo had silently agreed to talk about life, rather than death.

Two weeks earlier Pederson received a call from Hornburg, who was phoning from a satellite device on the military base in Kandahar.

Pederson, 22, said his friend was upbeat and happy.

"He sounded safe," said Pederson. "He said Afghanistan so far was like a cool camping trip, where he had his laptop and his computer set up on a table.

"He said it's really easy to forget about how dangerous it really can be."

Indeed, one day before he died a seemingly relaxed Hornburg updated his social networking site, Facebook, with a message that read, "Nathan is getting a tan."

He died the next afternoon.

His mother was delivered the news in Nanton after 4 a.m. by somber representatives of his regiment.

That same night, his comrades in the field took the young man's death hard.

"It's been a rough last couple of days, but we'll carry on," said Cpl. Ken Wright of the Edmonton-based Lord Strathcona's Horse squadron, in an e-mail to the Herald.

"This is a tough loss to all of us but it will only bring us closer and with more resolve than ever."

Although he'd only spent a short time with Hornburg, Wright, like other soldiers, grew closer to him in that time.

Standing shoulder to shoulder in a war makes you do that, he said.

"I would do anything for him and I know in my heart he would do anything for me and anyone else out here if he was still around."

His family, who have been grieving very privately all week, said Hornburg knew, weighed and discussed the risks before signing up for a stint in Afghanistan.

His thoughts — and ultimately his decision — were dominated by patriotism, family and friends say.

They say he had a warrior's heart and wanted to defend freedom.

"He went to support his fellow troops and friends, he went because his country asked him to, and he went because he felt, from the bottom of his heart, that it was the right thing to do," his mother Linda, father Michael and older sister Rachel, wrote in a statement.

In the weeks leading up to his deployment, Juan, and several other friends, asked Hornburg not to go.

They wanted him to stay, continue landscaping and perhaps return to his studies at Mount Royal College.

"We fought about the situation since he joined the army," Juan said.

In the end, her arguments proved weaker than Hornburg's passion and dedication.

On the day he was killed, Hornburg was driving a Leopard tank, an armoured recovery vehicle. When he left in August, he and three other Calgaryans on the same tour were only a handful of reservists in Canada trained to drive the new, state-of-the-art tanks.

Before leaving he told the Herald he was excited for the rare opportunity.

The Leopard 2 carries four soldiers and is designed to manage the rough and dry terrain of southern Afghanistan.

But just before dusk on Monday, one of the 55-tonne battle tanks, in the area to ramp up security in preparation for a new police station, lost a tread in the rugged terrain and became immobilized.

Hornburg, who was part of the day-long Canadian Forces sweep dubbed Operation Good Soldier, hopped from his tank to fix the track.

Taliban insurgents, protecting the hotly disputed Panjwai district — punctuated by mud wall huts and wheat farms — fired mortars all around the soldiers.

The fatal confrontation, 47 kilometres west of Kandahar City, was one of many firefights in the area that day. Hornburg ran to the tread and was struck by mortar fragments.

His friends in Calgary aren't surprised the soldier put himself in harm's way.

"He would have assessed that situation inside and out before making that decision," said Pederson.

"And he wouldn't have cared about his chances, only about the mission," said Pederson, who recently enlisted in the army himself.

"I wonder how many of us would have stood there, with bullets and shrapnel flying all over. Not a lot of people make choices like that."

Another soldier, a reservist who, like Hornburg, was attached to the Lord Strathcona's Horse squadron, was wounded.

Three infantrymen from Quebec tried to carry Hornburg to safety, but came under attack when the insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades.

Hornburg is the 71st soldier to die since Canada joined the war in Afghanistan in 2002 and the third Calgarian.

He is the first member of the King's Own Calgary Regiment to die in battle since the Second World War.

The prime minister, friends, strangers and his commanding officer called him a hero.

"He exemplified courage," said Lt.-Col. Rick Coates.

The news of his death this week resonated throughout Calgary, southern Alberta and indeed the country.

Flags flew at half-mast in small towns and at City Hall in Calgary, in a break from protocol.

Hornburg's old football team at Waldorf School put yellow Support Our Troops ribbons on their helmets and neighbours in the Glamorgan community, where Hornburg grew up, tied yellow ribbons around trees outside the family's home.

Lasting tributes were posted by friends and strangers on memorial websites, many thanking the young man for his sacrifice.

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Fallen soldier was uneasy about mission

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SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Cpl. Nathan Hornburg with friend Lourdes Juan. ; Colour Photo: Fred Thornhill, Reuters / Gen. Rick Hillier consoles family members of Calgarian Cpl. Nathan Hornburg. ;

KEYWORDS: CLERGY; RELIGION; VISITS; WORLD WAR I

SOURCE: Calgary Herald

WORD COUNT: 48

Fallen Calgary soldier Cpl. Nathan Hornburg was visibly anxious three days before his deployment to Afghanistan, recalls his longtime friend Lourdes Juan.

"There was a nervousness to him that I've never seen before," Juan said.

A plane carrying Hornburg's body was greeted by his family after landing Friday at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Ontario.

See stories, Page A3

Canada pushes for envoy to Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.09.29

PAGE: A13

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 178

CNS UNITED NATIONS — Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East Peace Process has named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France and the United States, also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Bernier said.

Canada's deployment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan makes it a key player in the Afghan debate, even though it does not have a seat on the Security Council.

— CanWest News Service

Canadian troops trained by controversial firm

IDNUMBER 200709290019
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A7
COLUMN: National Briefs
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: Star News Services
WORD COUNT: 180

OTTAWA – The Canadian Forces are using a controversial private security firm to train some of their troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counter terrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian military officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas, which range from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

But Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight.

Canada wants a champion for Afghanistan; Bernier to press UN for high-profile envoy with a role similar to Tony Blair's in Mideast

IDNUMBER 200709290034
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Shah Marai/AFP/Getty Images / According to the Afghangovernment, 63,000 of the city's homes have been destroyed in two decades of war. Other problems include increased poverty, widespread corruption and a breakdown in the rule of law. ;
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 435

UNITED NATIONS – Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country — in the same way the global Middle East peace process has named former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit on Tuesday. Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States, also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction and other help currently arriving from around the world.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair, who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan, we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Mr. Bernier said in an interview.

"The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The Middle East Quartet — which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia — has been more active since the appointment of Mr. Blair as special envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as special envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created the Afghan mission to help rebuild the country after the 2001–2002 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now, everything is at the discussion stage after being aired by Mr. Bernier and others at a closed-door, high-level meeting on Afghanistan Sept. 23 at the UN, attended also by Mr. Ban and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the (countries') various ideas all mesh up, so we have to wait and see."

The current UN mission has a staff of more than 1,000 that helps the Afghan government implement the Afghan Compact, a deal aimed to promote stability and development in Afghanistan in return for economic and military support.

But a report commissioned by the UN Development Program said this week that despite progress in a number of key areas, the country is "not progressing fast enough."

Problems include increased poverty, widespread corruption, a breakdown in the rule of law and a paralysed judiciary, according to the report, authored by the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University.

Afghanistan. Taliban produces its own Afghan constitution

IDNUMBER 200709290028
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 99

The Taliban has published a shadow Afghan constitution outlining an alternative hardline government to that of President Hamid Karzai. The 23-page document envisages a country where women would remain veiled and under-educated, "un-Islamic thought" would be banned and human rights would be ignored if "contrary with the teachings of Islam." The Constitution of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan comes days after Des Browne, Britain's defence secretary, said the Taliban would need to take a role in the peace process in Afghanistan.

Bloc leaflet attacks 'war mentality'

IDNUMBER 200709290018
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: (See hard copy for photo description);
BYLINE: Mike De Souza
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 335

The dark silhouette image of a rifle-toting soldier crouched in an attack position was deliberately included for strategic reasons in a new Bloc Québécois leaflet that makes a threat to bring down Stephen Harper's minority government over its foreign policy in Afghanistan, a spokeswoman for the sovereigntist party said yesterday.

The leaflet, which was mailed out to thousands of Quebecers last week as a part of the \$6-million printing budget funded by taxpayers for members of Parliament, warns that the government may fall within weeks if the prime minister doesn't announce a withdrawal of Canada's troops from the combat zones of Afghanistan by February 2009.

"If Stephen Harper persists with his war mentality, he will not be able to count on the support of the Bloc Québécois for the Throne Speech," reads the harshly worded leaflet. "We won't hesitate to vote against the government even if this means that such a choice would force the dissolution of the Commons, and a new general election."

Bloc spokeswoman Karyne Duplessis Piché said the image of the soldier, crouched above the Afghan flag, and the message in the leaflet is designed to raise awareness about the mission and the party's position.

"We put (the soldier) because it demonstrates that Canada is at war," said Ms. Piché. "It was sent out and put together in a strategic manner."

Members of Parliament are allowed to send out leaflets to up to 10 per cent of their constituents, but Piché said the Bloc caucus decided to combine its mailing budget to send out its leaflet to as many federal ridings in Quebec as possible, including those held by rival parties.

The war is suddenly getting more exposure in the Quebec media in recent weeks, since more than 2,000 troops from the province become the lead regiment in the deadly mission.

But the Conservative government doesn't appear fazed by the Bloc's new campaign after it snatched a former sovereigntist stronghold and came within a few percentage points of taking another riding in recent byelections in Quebec.

Body of fallen soldier brought home to Canada

IDNUMBER 200709290017
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 166

The body of Canada's most recently fallen soldier in Afghanistan, Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, arrived home yesterday afternoon at Canadian Forces Base Trenton.

"The skies were certainly grey as we brought home our latest fallen soldier from the war in Afghanistan," said Capt. Nicole Meszaros, a public affairs officer with the base.

The plane carrying the 24-year-old's body touched down just after 3 p.m. and his parents, Linda and Michael, were there to greet it. They approached the coffin before it was loaded into the hearse, said Capt. Meszaros.

"That seems to be a moment where it becomes very real, I think, for the families that they've lost a loved one and here he is. It's a very poignant moment," she said.

Dignitaries including Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony.

Cpl. Hornburg was killed Monday when he was hit by mortar fire while repairing a tread that had come off a Canadian Leopard tank in rough terrain.

The soldier's body was due to come home on Thursday but a mechanical problem with the aircraft prompted a one-day delay.

Private firm trains Canadian troops; Forces send soldiers to Blackwater outfit under scrutiny for killings in Iraq

IDNUMBER 200709290003
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
BYLINE: David Pugliese
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 807

The Canadian Forces is using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops sent to Afghanistan.

Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. Other soldiers have taken counter-terrorism evasive-driving courses with the private military company now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of Iraqi civilians and mounting concerns about the aggressive tactics of its workers in the field.

Critics of Blackwater label the firm as a mercenary organization and question why a professional military such as the Canadian Forces can't do its own training in specialized areas.

But Canadian officials say the company was selected because it is a leader in its specialty areas, which range from weapons training to executive protection. The company boasts on its website that its instructors are "ranked the best in the world."

But Blackwater has found itself under intense scrutiny since a Sept. 16 incident in Baghdad in which 11 people, including a couple and their infant, were killed during a firefight. Iraqi officials put the blame for the killings on the private soldiers, but the company has denied its men fired on innocent civilians, saying instead that its convoy had been attacked by insurgents.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Wednesday said he sent a team to Iraq to see if there is enough oversight of the private soldiers employed by firms such as Blackwater.

On Thursday, a congressional report into the deaths of four Blackwater security contractors in Iraq in 2004 found that the company appeared more interested in cutting costs than in the safety of its personnel.

Canadian military police trained by Blackwater operated in Kandahar last year in support of coalition special forces. Members of the Strategic Advisory Team, which operates in Kabul, also underwent counter-terrorism driving training.

The Ottawa-based counter-terrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, has also maintained ongoing training links to the company. For instance, in February 2000, JTF2 operatives went to the Blackwater skills school at Moyock, North Carolina, while others from the unit's 2 Squadron took shooting courses at Blackwater in October 2000 and enrolled in the firm's tactical shotgun course a month later. More recent data on JTF2's

Private firm trains Canadian troops; Forces send soldiers to Blackwater outfit under scrutiny for killings in Iraq

training with Blackwater was not available.

Canadian Forces spokesman Lt.-Col. Jamie Robertson said the military does not discuss its special forces training. But he said that Blackwater and other firms have been contracted to provide services for other units.

"The Canadian Forces has occasionally contracted companies to provide specialized training to our personnel in those cases when specialized training is not available within the Canadian Forces due to a range of factors, including the unavailability of training resources, expertise or specialized facilities and equipment," Lt.-Col. Robertson said. He said the training is adapted to Canadian Forces requirements and procedures.

The Canadian Forces does not use such contractors as advisers or in combat operations.

But Dawn Black, the NDP's defence critic, questioned the need for Blackwater to be involved in training Canadian troops in the first place. "My understanding is we have some of the best-trained forces in the world, and great trainers, so why do we need our armed forces personnel to be trained by a mercenary organization?" Ms. Black said. She said she was also concerned because of allegations regarding the firm's track record in Iraq.

Since 2002, Blackwater has received U.S. government contracts totalling more than \$1 billion. Personnel working for Blackwater, which has close ties to the Bush administration, guard U.S. diplomats and provide helicopter services

to the U.S. State Department. In Afghanistan, Blackwater provides security for the State Department and is involved in counter-narcotics programs.

A total dollar figure on what has been spent on Blackwater training was not available by press time because training is contracted out individually on a unit-by-unit basis, Lt.-Col. Robertson said.

But he provided an example of one such contract: 18 members of the Strategic Advisory Team sent to Kabul went to Blackwater in June for a two-day course called hostile environment defensive driver training. The cost was \$29,000, which included accommodation and meals, as well as extra course time for two of the team members.

Blackwater spokeswoman Anne Tyrrell could not be reached for comment about the Canadian training. The firm has denied any wrongdoing in the Sept. 16 killings. It has called the congressional report one-sided and alleges that it fails to acknowledge "terrorists determined what happened that fateful day in 2004."

Peter Singer, a U.S. analyst who watches the private security industry, said contractors can sometimes play a role in providing training to established militaries. Where they don't have a place, however, is on the battlefield, argues Mr. Singer, author of *Corporate Warriors*. In a report published Thursday, he suggested such firms have hurt the ongoing war on terror since their sometimes reckless actions undercut the U.S. campaign to win Iraqis over.

New Bloc leaflet is militantly anti-war; Calls withdrawal key to no-confidence vote

IDNUMBER 200709290034
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: MIKE DE SOUZA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 431

The dark silhouette image of a rifle-toting soldier crouched in an attack position was deliberately included in a new Bloc Québécois leaflet that makes a threat to bring down Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government over its foreign policy in Afghanistan, a spokesperson for the sovereignist party said yesterday.

The leaflet, mailed out to thousands of Quebecers last week as a part of the \$6-million printing budget funded by taxpayers for members of Parliament, warns that Harper's government may fall within weeks if the prime minister doesn't announce a withdrawal of Canada's troops from Afghan combat zones by February 2009.

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Members of Parliament are allowed to send out leaflets to up to 10 per cent of their constituents, but Piché said the Bloc caucus decided to combine its mailing budget to send out leaflet to as many federal ridings in Quebec as possible, including those held by rival parties.

The war is getting more exposure in Quebec media in recent weeks, after more than 2,000 troops from the province landed in southern Afghanistan to become the lead regiment in the dangerous mission to drive back the Taliban there.

But the Conservative government doesn't appear scared by the Bloc's new campaign, after it snatched a former sovereignist stronghold and came within a few percentage points of taking another riding in recent federal by-elections in Quebec.

"It looks like the Bloc is in campaign mode," said Harper's spokesperson, Dimitri Soudas. "Quebecers were clear with them during the by-elections. What part of the by-election did they not understand?"

Although his party propped up the minority government in its first two budgets, Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe said last week he would no longer do so unless it committed to Canada's Kyoto commitments, eliminated federal spending in provincial jurisdictions, maintained agricultural marketing rules and aid for the forest industry, along with confirming the 2009 withdrawal from Afghanistan.

A sombre homecoming at CFB Trenton

IDNUMBER 200709290033

PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette

DATE: 2007.09.29

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A12

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: FRED THORNHILL, REUTERS / Under dark clouds, a hearse carries Corporal Nathan Hornburg from the aircraft that brought his body home to Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. Hornburg was killed by mortar fire in Afghanistan on Monday. ;

KEYWORDS: ARMED FORCES; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; ONTARIO

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 297

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Such dignitaries as Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of the defence staff, also attended the repatriation ceremony.

Hornburg was killed Monday when he was hit by mortar fire while repairing the tread on a Canadian Leopard tank, which had come off in rough terrain.

A piper played a lament as the flag-draped coffin was carried across the tarmac to a waiting hearse. About 100 military members from CFB Trenton and other nearby bases were there to show their support.

Lined up along the surrounding fence were about 100 ordinary Canadians, Meszaros said. "That's always a heartening experience," she said of the public display of support for the troops.

Following the ceremony, a military cavalcade was to take Hornburg's remains to Toronto, where an autopsy will be performed. The procession travels along Highway 401, a portion of which was officially renamed the Highway of Heroes early this month.

Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was the 71st Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan since 2002, with more than half of those deaths occurring the Panjwaii and nearby Zhari regions. One diplomat has also been killed.

Since Hornburg's death, at least seven other Canadian soldiers, out of about 2,500 in Afghanistan, have been wounded.

Canada to call for special UN envoy; Tuesday speech. Raise mission's profile, Bernier urges

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PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.09.29
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
KEYWORDS: FOREIGN AID; CANADA
DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS
BYLINE: STEVEN EDWARDS
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 370

Canada will call on the United Nations to dramatically raise the profile of the global effort in Afghanistan, saying the world body should name an envoy of major stature to the country – in the same way the global Middle East peace process now has former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier will make the case for stepping up the UN's Afghan role when he delivers Canada's address at the annual General Assembly summit Tuesday.

Other countries, principally France, Norway, Spain and the United States, also seek enhanced UN leadership in Afghanistan, believing there is room to better co-ordinate reconstruction aid.

"The Middle East has Tony Blair, who's doing a very good job, and we believe that at the leadership level in Afghanistan we need someone of a high level and with a clear mandate," Bernier said in an interview. "The UN mission is already there, and Canada is there under UN mandate, but we believe that the UN itself has to be more active in the co-ordination process."

The Middle East "quartet" – which groups the U.S., the European Union, the UN and Russia – has been more active since Blair was appointed special envoy.

Tom Koenigs, a German national who served the UN in Kosovo and Guatemala, currently heads the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UN officials said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon could seek to reappoint him as special envoy even if the UN Security Council, which created UNAMA to help rebuild the country after the 2001–2002 U.S.-led invasion swept the Taliban from power, decides to give the mission greater powers.

For now everything is at the discussion stage, after being aired by Bernier and others at a closed-door, high-level meeting on Afghanistan Sept. 23 at the UN, attended also by Ban and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to discuss the issue with President Karzai and with other member states," said one official. "It's not clear yet whether the (countries') various ideas all mesh up, so we have to wait and see."

The current UN mission has a staff of more than 1,000.

But a report commissioned by the UN Development Program said this week the country is "not progressing fast enough."

Problems include increased poverty, widespread corruption, a breakdown in the rule of law and a paralyzed judiciary, according to the report by the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University.

Blackwater trains Canadian troops

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PAGE: A12
COLUMN: Fast Track
KEYWORDS: !@DATELINE=OTTAWA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service; Global TV; Winnipeg Free Press
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Canada is using a controversial private security firm to train some of its troops being sent to Afghanistan. Select Canadian soldiers have been sent to Blackwater U.S.A. in North Carolina for specialized training in bodyguard and shooting skills. The Ottawa-based counterterrorism unit, Joint Task Force 2, also has training links to the company. Other soldiers have taken

evasive-driving courses with the private military company, now at the centre of an investigation into the killings of 11 Iraqi civilians and its aggressive tactics in the field. Critics label Blackwater a mercenary group and ask why a professional military can't do its own training in specialized areas.