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## **Amputee soldier finishes race**

**Soldier who lost legs in Afghanistan finishes race**

By [JACK BOLAND](#), SUN MEDIA

For most, yesterday's St. Pat's 5-km fun run and walk was just that.

But for Master Cpl. Jody Mitic, 31, of the Royal Canadian Regiment, it marked another triumph on his road to recovery after a landmine blew off both legs below the knees.

On that fateful day -- Jan. 11, 2007 -- Mitic was leading his elite sniper team on a reconnaissance mission in Afghanistan when his life changed forever.

He was on another mission yesterday with support from 70 people including family, friends and fellow unit members as he tested his new running legs and raised cash for the St. John's Rehabilitation hospital.

"I'm winded, that's for sure," said Mitic, as he sat on a bench to take off his new specialized prosthetic running legs and slip on his walking ones after crossing the finish line.

### CARRYING FLAGS

"Five K doesn't sound long. But it feels long once you are out there," Mitic said, who finished in just over 46 minutes with fellow unit members carrying Canadian and Regimental flags.

It was Mitic's first 5-km race and he wondered right from the start, laughing in the face of possible defeat, if he would finish.

"But it was all good. It was for a good cause," said Mitic. "I knew I'd be able to pull it off.

"I just wanted to raise money for the hospital and new equipment. They helped out me."

Younger brother Cory, 25, was beaming proudly at his brother's accomplishment.

"I think this means a lot of things. It means my brother is moving forward with his life and getting active again," said Cory. "I'm more than impressed. I'm inspired."

Mitic began walking last May, just months after the attack.

"And now, to see him running is incredible," said Cory, who recalled that as kids they both liked to tussle and his brother would "never give up."

"A lot of people give up when they are in that situation," said Cory. "It takes a strong man -- or woman -- to move on."

For their entire family and military family, Cory said "it has been tough" and the best part of

yesterday's run was the fact his brother "is still around."

Other friends paying tribute to the Mitic and Canada's fallen soldiers was Trevor Hill of Elmira, who had 80 pounds of weight strapped to his chest in remembrance of the 80 who have been killed during the Afghan mission.

"I served with the RCR over in Afghanistan as well and lost some of my friends over there," said Hill. "So this is just my tribute to them."

"You can't say enough about the guy (Mitic). He has a real positive attitude and is an inspiration to all."