

[Autos](#) [Careers](#) [Classifieds](#) [Homes](#) [SEARCH](#)

**We're listening**  
Join our Your News Views online advisory committee today!

Your News Views  
Strengthening the Connection to  
Our Readers and Community



[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the short introductory survey

## Taliban contemptuous of large Canadian offensive

By COLIN PERKEL, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last Updated: 28th June 2009, 12:24pm

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Defiant Taliban heaped scorn on Canada's recent anti-insurgent operation in the village of Salavat, calling the impact on their operations minimal and claiming immediate retaliation for the offensive.

Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, the Taliban's spokesman for the south, was contemptuous of the military's delighted summation of the two-day incursion into the village in the Panjwaii district of southern Afghanistan.

"They are most welcome with these kinds of operations," Ahmadi said by telephone.

"This kind of operation affects our strategy very positively, because even more people came to join us."

Ten days ago, hundreds of Canadian soldiers along with Afghan forces invaded the village of 1,500 amid firm intelligence the insurgents were using two compounds.

Salavat has been dubbed one corner of Panjwaii's "Taliban Triangle," a known hub of insurgent activity and movement.

While soldiers found no sign of insurgents themselves after smashing their way into the two compounds, a thorough search of the village did turn up enough explosives and electronics for about a dozen roadside bombs, along with a few weapons. One man was arrested.

The action was one of the first big counter-moves by the Canadians as the "fighting season" got into full swing with escalating violence throughout the region ahead of next month's national elections.

Battlegroup commander, Lt.-Col. Jocelyn Paul, called the operation a big success in putting a damper on the ability of insurgents to move about and mount their own attacks.

Ahmadi shrugged that off.

"We are not worried about anything — our Afghan people are with us," he said.

"We are ready to defeat (the international forces) all the time. We are not scared."

The Taliban also claimed to have retaliated immediately for the Salavat offensive, with lethal results for Afghan soldiers working with the international alliance.

A man named Rehamatulla carried out a suicide attack in Sanzari district, killing six members of the international forces and 15 Afghan soldiers, the insurgents said.

"(The) suicide attack in Sanzari is also one of the results of Salavat operation," Ahmadi said.

Sanzari district chief Niamatulla Sarhadi confirmed the attack against a patrol searching for hidden improvised explosive devices.

However, he said three Afghan soldiers were killed and five others, along with two women passing by, wounded.

NATO said none of its soldiers had been involved.

Among other incidents in southern Afghanistan: two American soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb on a main road into Kandahar city on the day the Salavat operation ended.

A Canadian soldier was also badly wounded last Tuesday by an improvised explosive device.

— With files from A.R. Khan.

Copyright © 2009 Edmonton Sun All Rights Reserved