

# Research Package #3

(Senior High School)



**“THBT NATO’s military should remain in Afghanistan beyond 2011.”**

(Canadian National Style)

Regional and Provincial Topic (Feb/Mar) 2009-2010



THE ARTICLES HERE HAVE BEEN EDITED, REPHRASED & ANNOTATED

# RESEARCH

This Research booklet is not complete. It is only an overview of information and debaters will use this booklet as a basis for their thinking and move on to other ideas and research. As well, the best foundation for any research into a topic begins with some basic reading on the ideas. If you wish, you can follow this with an interview with someone who is knowledgeable, can suggest ideas and can direct you to other ideas and research. Although you cannot quote this person unless he/she is published in print or on video, a human being can always explain issues better than an article.

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## THE CASE FOR NATO'S MILITARY TO REMAIN IN AFGHANISTAN

### 1. Security for NATO States

The reason the mission in Afghanistan started in 2002 was because the Taliban was in control of governments and the country was harboring terrorists after the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. NATO felt that the instability of the government in the country caused a significant security threat to all developed countries that were potential targets for terrorist groups based there. One argument to keep troops in Afghanistan beyond 2011 is for that very reason. If we pull out, there is a chance that extremists will regain power and Afghanistan will once again become a safe haven for potential terrorists. This would threaten the safety of Europe, the United State, and potentially Canada as well. The following is a statement by the Secretary General of NATO to keep troops in Afghanistan "until the job is done". That means not putting a hard and fast end date on the mission, but waiting until it is safe and stable to pull out:

Monthly press conference  
by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

I will focus my remarks on the main priority today, this week and for this Alliance: Afghanistan.

Last night, President Obama made a very important statement. He reconfirmed what we all know: that we cannot have security in our countries and in our homes until terrorism is defeated in Afghanistan.

He expressed the determination of the United States to do what is necessary to finish the job, for as long as it takes – but not one day longer.

And he backed up those words, by committing substantial numbers of troops, and by setting out a clear political and military strategy for success.

I congratulate President Obama on his determination and the strategic vision he has demonstrated.

But this is not just America's war.

What is happening in Afghanistan poses a clear and present danger to the citizens in all our countries. Terrorism that could strike our streets, our airports, our metros. Extremism that inspires violence across the world. Drugs that end up in our schools and back alleys, and that kill 100,000 people every year.

Instability in Afghanistan means insecurity for all of us.

If we are to make Afghanistan more stable, and ourselves more secure, we must all do more.

The US has pursued a multilateral approach to this operation. We must now demonstrate that multilateralism delivers concrete results.

This is our fight, together. We must finish it together. At this very important moment, NATO must demonstrate its unity and its strength once again. And it means, in concrete terms, that all Allies and Partners in our mission must do more.

For all these reasons, I have spent the past weeks speaking directly with all of the Allies which I believe might be able to provide more forces for the operation. And I can confirm that the Allies, and our Partners, will do more. Substantially more. In 2010, the non-US members of this mission will send at least five thousand more soldiers to this operation, and probably a few thousand on top of that. That is in addition to the more than 38,000 they have already there.

Our strategy is also clear: to transfer lead responsibility for running their own country to the Afghans, as soon as possible.

That means transition, where Afghan forces take the lead, and our forces move into a supporting role. I am pressing Allies and partners to fully resource and finance our training mission. With the aim to train and educate Afghan soldiers and Afghan police. Because that's how we'll make transition to Afghan lead a reality, sooner.

But let me emphasize: transition is not a code word for exit strategy. It means transition to a different role. We have no intention to have come this far, and sacrificed this much, to falter before the finish line.

We will stay as long as it takes to finish our job. And our mission in Afghanistan will end when the Afghans are capable to secure and run the country themselves.

But people want to see progress. The Afghan people. And people in troop contributing countries. And we will ensure progress.

I find it realistic to start the transition to Afghan lead in some districts already next year. Tomorrow and the next day we will discuss all of this at the Foreign Minister's meeting here in Brussels. But we will not just discuss the military operation. We will also focus on the broader political strategy. And that includes what we expect from the new Afghan Government.

Good governance is the best way to suck the oxygen away from the Taliban. After all that we have committed to this mission, we have the right to insist on it.

President Karzai has made some very clear and welcome statements. I'm pleased to see that corruption investigations are already underway. It's a good start, and it will help to establish the credibility the Afghan people and the international community need to see. The conference to be held in January in London will be very important in this regard as well, to establish a new contract between the Afghan Government and the international community.

This week marks the beginning of a new phase in our mission.

In 2010, there will be substantially more forces on the ground, focused on defending the Afghan people.

We will start handing over lead security responsibility to Afghan forces, district by district, where conditions allow.

There will be clear commitments, and I expect clear action, by the Afghan Government to earn the support of the Afghan people.

There will be more development assistance, starting with the 5 billion dollars pledged by Japan. And the civilian side of the whole effort will be stepped up as well, not least through the European Union Action Plan.

All of which is why we will soon see a new momentum in this mission.

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions\\_59619.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_59619.htm)

## **2. Finish What Was Started – Don't waste the last eight years**

Some believe that pulling the NATO armies out of Afghanistan in 2011 will undo any progress that was made in the past eight years. The democratically elected government may not be able to maintain order and control without foreign troops. If they cannot maintain control, power in the country could return to the Taliban. The result could be that all of the time, resources, and lives that we have sacrificed would have been wasted. Leaving in 2011 is a political decision coming from local governments that doesn't take into account the consequences for Afghanistan. Below are articles from the United States and Canada that warn against pulling out too early:

### The Valley of Death

Seven and a half years after U.S. troops arrived in Afghanistan following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the war there is more deadly — and more muddled — than ever. When American troops first went to Afghanistan, they did so to overthrow the Taliban regime, which then ruled the nation and provided a haven for al-Qaeda. In less than three months, the Taliban was defeated, and a U.S.-supported administration, headed by President Hamid Karzai, was installed in Kabul. Yet in 2009, the U.S. is still fighting the Taliban, and al-Qaeda operatives are still plotting from Afghanistan. And one part of the region's deadly muddle has gotten

worse. In 2001 there were fears that the war in Afghanistan would destabilize Pakistan. (The Pashtun ethnic group, which makes up a large part of the Taliban insurgency, straddles the border between the two countries.) Those fears are now reality; the Pakistani Taliban threatens nuclear-armed Pakistan's viability as a state even more than its cousins jeopardize Afghanistan's.

It is because the war in Afghanistan threatens to destabilize an entire region that it has become America's biggest foreign policy challenge. On Feb. 18, President Obama committed an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan; when they all arrive, there will be about 55,000 troops there from the U.S., plus 37,000 from its allies. The latest Afghan war is now Obama's war. The Administration has signalled that it is downsizing expectations about what can still be achieved: the principal goal now is to counter terrorism and bring a degree of stability to Afghanistan — not to turn a poor and fractious nation into a flourishing democratic state.

When Obama laid out his new strategy last month, he made it clear that the mark of success would be the ability "to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan and to prevent their return to either country in the future." But accomplishing even that comparatively limited objective at this stage will require a massive and sustained U.S. Commitment — one that involves more than military boots on the ground. Al-Qaeda still thrives in the ungoverned tribal areas along the border between the two countries, and while many of its members have been killed, new recruits quickly take their place. U.S. soldiers have learned that to deny al-Qaeda a foothold in Afghanistan will require the establishment of a government that Afghans can believe in, the security that allows them to support it and jobs that provide an alternative to fighting. "We are not going to kill our way out of this war," says Lieut. Colonel Brett Jenkinson, commander of the U.S. battalion stationed in the Korengal Valley. "What we need is a better recruiting pitch for disaffected youth. You can't build hope with military might. You build it through development and good governance."

Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1890243,00.html#ixzz0cuV01j5l>

## Canada's Afghan Mission

They're pulling up the tent pegs on Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, slated to end in July, 2011.

But some critics are looking down the road at what comes next, and finding a big question mark. They say the government is leading from the rear, without taking the time for a wide-ranging debate on how – and even when – the troops should leave. They worry that the most important reasons for Canada's participation in the lengthy war may be left behind.

"The military is doing what it's been asked to do, preparing to go," says Douglas Bland, a professor of political studies at Queen's University and an expert on the Canadian military.

"But nobody has analyzed the consequences of leaving. We're just walking away."

With dire news from the Afghan front arriving daily – six more NATO soldiers were killed Monday – many Canadians are eager to see the end of a campaign they believe is too costly in lives and dollars.

But, Bland argues, "what we're doing now is trying to drive the policy process backwards. We've decided when the end is, so we're seeing how we can end up with the date being a rational one."

International debate will flare at the end of this month when British Prime Minister Gordon Brown hosts a 68-nation conference on Afghanistan's security and future.

But in Canada, Afghanistan is a radioactive issue, sending politicians scurrying for cover – a sign, Bland says, that leadership has failed.

He calls for scrutiny of issues including how Afghanistan affects Canada's future relations with the U.S., NATO and the United Nations, as well as Ottawa's international reputation.

Equally important, he says, is whether Canada's withdrawal will further fuel the Taliban insurgency and weaken an already fragile Afghan government.

If Afghanistan's people matter to Canadians, he said, the government should be able to explain how they will be affected by the end of the Canadian mission.

"The indicators should be the security and well-being of Afghans. If they believe those are improving we should reinforce that by protecting teachers, doctors and others who are helping to improve their welfare."

In a poll released this week by BBC, ABC News and Germany's ARD, Afghans' optimism about the future has dramatically escalated since one year ago, with 71 per cent of those questioned saying they expected their situation to improve, and 90 per cent favouring President Hamid Karzai's government to run the country – while only 6 per cent back the Taliban. In December 2008, just 40 per cent believed Afghanistan was moving in the right direction.

The survey of 1,500 Afghans was done in all of the country's 34 provinces in December 2009.

Rachel Rowell, head of advocacy for CARE International in Afghanistan, said the most important questions for the troubled country's future focus on the West's long-term engagement.

"That is more important than security," she said in an interview from Kabul. "Our own security is community acceptance, which we've built over 15 years. Right now what we need to know is exactly what is meant by withdrawal."

Mark Sedra, an Afghanistan expert at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ont., says the Afghan government could face a crisis of confidence as the Western troops leave.

"It won't have the capability to pay for the majority of its budget for some time yet. ... Some level of international assistance will be needed for the foreseeable future."

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/afghanmission/article/749501--canadian-troops-will-leave-afghanistan-and-then-what>

### 3. Supporting Democracy/Human Rights

Some claim that countries with liberal democracies are much less likely to go to war with each other, and therefore it is important to support and develop liberal democracies all over the world to achieve peace. Further, human rights are often ignored in places where there are totalitarian or otherwise non-democratic governments. This is an article from 2007 supporting keeping Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Many of the same arguments can be made for NATO troops to remain now. In particular, there is an appeal to protect those who suffer under totalitarian regimes:

Canada Should Stay in Afghanistan, Despite the Costs  
By David Kilgour  
Embassy Magazine, Ottawa, July 4, 2007

Canadians appear to be sharply divided about our military role in Afghanistan. Some believe the country is a "deadly sinkhole" from which the Harper government should immediately remove our soldiers, who have already suffered 60 deaths.

Others say the proud and independent Afghans, who have suffered under a heartless theocracy, communism and more during three decades of conflict and bloodshed, deserve continued military support as they continue to consolidate their fragile democracy. Canadians have an opportunity at least until early 2009 to assist this historically important country to establish a domestic peace and prosperity, which will probably also impact positively on neighbours in south Asia, including Pakistan and Iran.

Already in Afghanistan, many women and girls are being educated. For six years under Taliban rule, they risked being stoned to death for not wearing a burka or for speaking with a male on the street. Many Afghans of both genders are gainfully employed and the infant mortality rate is significantly lower.

Two recent experiences have further convinced me that the second camp is the better option for Canada despite our heavy human and financial costs. One is the recently published book *Punishment of Virtue* by Sarah Chayes, an American journalist covering Afghanistan for National Public Radio, who later returned to the country to work for an NGO, which rebuilds war-damaged homes.

Chayes' work is insightful, hopeful and encouraging. She respects and likes Afghans, including President Hamid Karzai, but stresses the need for better and firmer leadership by everyone involved with ongoing problems, including the Taliban, warlords and corruption. Following the recent deaths of 90 civilians, she would no doubt call for much better co-ordination in the future of NATO-led International Security Forces with the Afghan ones, including police and the American special forces who pursue the leaders of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Few who accept her analyses and numerous telling anecdotes are likely to move to the "leave now" camp.

Friends of Afghanistan worldwide—but perhaps especially Canadians given our own painful experience with American "friendly fire"—are deeply concerned about continuing fatal mistakes, mostly by members of the special forces. If they and the ISAF cannot be merged, which seems the most sensible way to minimize errors, the rules of engagement for both must be altered so that combatants err always on the side of saving civilian lives.

The second was learning more about some of Afghanistan's democrats. Take, for example, Yunus Qanuni, who is presently speaker of the lower house of the Afghan National Assembly. Following the 1979 invasion of the country by the then-Soviet Union, he joined the mujahideen forces, which, with great determination and courage, finally drove the invaders out in 1989. He then became joint defence minister, but was badly injured subsequently when his car was blown up.

When the Taliban seized Kabul in 1996, Qanuni sought to unite Afghans opposed to their regime and eventually became leader of the Northern Alliance's main political party. He was named interior minister and later education minister in Hamid Kharzai's government, formed when the Taliban government refused to surrender Osama bin Laden following the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and a U.S.-led military coalition drove them out of the capital.

The United Nations sponsored the conference in Bonn, which created an interim government for Afghanistan. It was replaced in 2003 by a presidential system with a bicameral parliament. Very importantly, everything that is happening in Afghanistan is under a UN mandate. There have been troop contributions to date at various times from fully 37 countries, which protect the government and continue to fight the Taliban effectively most of the time. Ultimately, only the Afghans themselves will be able to defeat the Taliban permanently or bring them into a viable coalition.

Dr. V.P. Vaidik, an Indian academic who specializes in Afghanistan, thinks it would be rash to withdraw the Canadian or other international forces from Afghanistan at this point. He thinks the country needs its own strong army. He also advocates a Second Bonn Conference for a grand internal reconciliation, co-operation from the neighboring countries and restructuring of foreign development assistance

In the first presidential election held in 2004, Karzai won 55 per cent of the votes cast and Qanuni came second among numerous candidates with about 16 per cent. The National Assembly elections were held less than two years ago, with Qanuni winning both a seat and then being elected speaker by the members of the lower house. He is expected to run again for president.

The issues in Afghanistan are complex. Historically, however, Canadians have sacrificed much to rescue Europeans, Asians and other peoples from totalitarian regimes, including our loss of 516 soldiers during the Korean War. We are now playing important roles in consolidating peace, development, democracy and prosperity in Afghanistan. In my opinion, we should continue to do so.

*David Kilgour is a former member of Parliament and Canadian secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific.*  
[http://www.david-kilgour.com/2007/July\\_21\\_2007\\_06.htm](http://www.david-kilgour.com/2007/July_21_2007_06.htm)

# THE CASE FOR NATO TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

## 1. The cost

### a. Lives

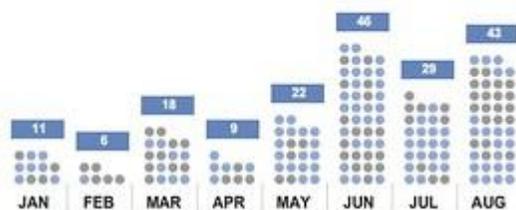
NATO countries do not like to hear reports of young soldiers dying abroad. Many citizens have a hard time being involved in a war and losing many soldiers in a place that seems far away and removed from domestic issues. As casualties in Afghanistan rise, and resources at home get tighter, many NATO countries are questioning continued military involvement in Afghanistan.

#### Mounting Casualties in Afghanistan Spur Concern

A series of attacks in Afghanistan has left two U.S. Marines and eight British soldiers dead in recent days, stoking concern among U.S. and allied forces over a surge in battlefield deaths, as thousands of troops pour into the country.

U.S. Marines with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade cross a river during a weekend patrol in Mian Poshteh, Afghanistan. The Marines are part of Operation Khanjari, launched to take areas in Helmand province used by Taliban fighters, and to help prepare for Afghan's presidential elections.

The mounting deaths have contributed to harsh criticism of the war in a handful of NATO countries that have lost soldiers in recent months, including Canada, Germany and France. It has been an especially divisive issue in Britain, which has lost 15 soldiers in the past 11 days, including the eight killed Friday. Those deaths have brought Britain's total losses to 184, a tally that now exceeds the 179 British military personnel killed in Iraq. So far this year, 192 foreign soldiers have been killed, including 103 Americans -- a 40% jump from the same period last year, and a 75% increase from 2007, say U.S. military officials. That figure doesn't include the latest U.S. casualties.



#### [The Military Toll in Afghanistan](#)

Deaths of U.S., allied troops there since 2001.

"There are more troops operating in more areas where [the] enemy is located compared to last year," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clarence Counts Jr., a spokesman at Bagram Air Field, the main American military base in Afghanistan.

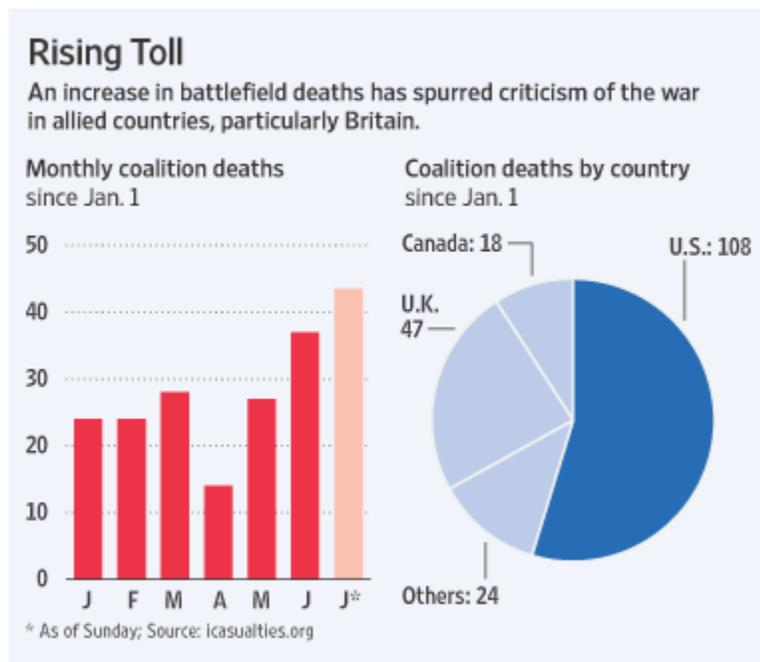
Since the start of July, the death toll for U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops has been comparable to casualty levels in Iraq during the height of violence there, averaging roughly 3.5 a day, according to the Web site icasualties.org, which monitors military deaths in both countries. British forces have suffered more casualties than any country except the U.S.

The latest deaths came Sunday when four Marines were killed in two separate roadside-bomb blasts in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, said U.S. Army Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, a spokeswoman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. She couldn't provide additional details on how the men died, but thousands of American Marines are in the middle of a massive operation to dislodge Taliban insurgents in Helmand.

Eight British soldiers were killed in Helmand in four separate attacks over a 24-hour period that ended Friday. Five of the British soldiers were killed Friday afternoon when twin bomb blasts hit their foot patrol, according to Britain's defense ministry.

Hours earlier, an explosion killed another soldier on a foot patrol; one soldier succumbed to wounds suffered in a firefight with insurgents near the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah; and another died when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

Two days earlier, seven American soldiers were killed in a single day in separate attacks across the country. Six were in vehicles that hit roadside bombs, while the other was killed in a gun battle.



The number of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan has increased by about 50% since 2007, as has the number killed, officials say. They warn the trend most likely will continue as more troops arrive before the Aug. 20 presidential elections.

In the U.K. in recent days, a host of opposition politicians, retired military officers and media commentators have questioned Britain's eight-year-long presence in Afghanistan. They say that there is no strategic end game and that British forces are underequipped for the role with, for instance, little helicopter cover.

Nick Clegg, the leader of the opposition Liberal Democrat party, said that troops' lives in Afghanistan were being "thrown away." Critics have also questioned whether it is wise for the cash-strapped British government -- which is spending £3 billion (\$4.9 billion) on its Afghan campaign this year -- to be pouring money into the conflict when it needs to make budget cuts at home. Britain, with 9,000 troops, has the second-largest contingent in Afghanistan after the U.S.

The government has countered such criticism by arguing that Britain's security depends on helping Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan defeat the Taliban and al Qaeda. British intelligence estimates that three-quarters of the serious terrorist threats faced by the U.K. come from the mountains that straddle Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Taliban's heartland. In a six-page letter to members of Parliament, Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently said the strategy in Afghanistan was to provide security for the coming elections and work on building a stable government that could effectively counter the Taliban and al Qaeda.

The insurgency, meanwhile, has grown in strength and deadliness, and its increasing reliance on roadside bombs is a major concern for U.S. and NATO commanders. The bombs are buried in ditches and culverts, making them hard for forces operating in Afghanistan's rugged terrain to detect. They are responsible for the majority of casualties.

"We expect to see a 50% increase in such attacks this year," said U.S. Army Col. Jeffrey Jarkowsky, commander of Task Force Paladin, an Afghanistan-based unit that works to counter the bombs.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124741046100128361.html>

## **b. Money**

One of the strongest arguments for NATO troops to leave Afghanistan, from each contributing state is that it costs so much. For example, the article above mentions the cost in Great Britain, and the Article below gives a brief overview of the amount of money spent keeping Canadian troops in Afghanistan, and an idea of why it costs so much:

It costs taxpayers about \$525,000 a year to keep one Canadian soldier in Afghanistan, according to the simplest calculation possible, which is to divide the approximately \$1.5-billion cost of the mission for the 2009-10 fiscal year by the 2,850 troops who are part of it.

These figures don't take into account soldiers' salaries and benefits or the long-term health-care costs associated with service in Afghanistan. They are in line with official Pentagon estimates of what it costs to keep U.S. troops in the country.

"We don't break down costs by individuals. We look at what is the requirement to meet operational demands," said Maj. Brad Wells, of Edmonton, who until late last year was responsible for paying all Canada's bills in Afghanistan.

"What is our budget here? About \$250 million is the starting point for operations and maintenance. But that does not include strategic airlift, CANCAP (Canadian civilian contractors), our helicopters or the helicopters that we charter."

Nor does it include the \$2 billion in equipment and infrastructure that Canada has in Afghanistan.

Whatever the precise costs of keeping so many Canadians in Afghanistan, fighting a war in a landlocked country halfway around the world that has limited, dangerous and politically complicated access by road is a hugely expensive undertaking. Everything from pens to toilet paper, earplugs and rations must be brought in and then, in many cases, moved out again into the field.

"I would not want to hazard a guess on how much extra it costs for something that we use here compared to what we would pay for the same thing in Canada, but a lot of the costs are for transport," Wells said.

Maj. Tim Duncan, who was responsible for land and sea movements for the task force until November, went even further, adding, "Often the price to deliver a product is greater than the actual cost of the product."

Canada shelled out \$241,000 US a week for fuel for its aircraft and surface vehicles in Afghanistan in 2009, according to statistics provided by military public affairs officers in Afghanistan.

The task force's fleet of helicopters and transport aircraft at Kandahar Airfield consumed approximately 130,000 litres of fuel at a cost of \$155,000 a week. Just as it does in Canada and on world markets, prices for this fuel varied widely in 2009, with costs ranging from 99 cents to \$1.62 a litre.

The other \$86,000 a week that Canada spent on fuel was for diesel and gas to power generators and to keep armoured trucks, personnel carriers and tanks moving across Kandahar.

On top of its whopping fuel bill, Canada shelled out \$20.5 million this year to a NATO-affiliated company to feed the approximately 1,000 Canadian troops based at Kandahar Airfield. This works out to about \$20,500 a year for food for every soldier.

Although precise figures were impossible to come by, it cost even more to feed Canada's 1,250 forward deployed combat troops and the 300 other troops who are part of the provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar city. Their victuals were provided by and delivered to Kandahar Airfield by a company based in the Persian Gulf and then moved out to troops in the field by heavily guarded combat logistics patrols.

To keep the mission up and running, a military Airbus and a C-17 jumbo transport make the 20,000-kilometre round trip at least once a week between Trenton, Ont., and the region. The

air bridge also includes at least two Canadian C-130 Hercules flights into Kandahar every week as well as six or seven chartered Russian jumbo transports a month that can cost as much as \$1.5 million per flight.

The Canadian Forces also operate a land and sea bridge from Montreal to Kandahar Airfield via Karachi, Pakistan. It includes as many as 20 sea containers a month of less critical supplies and supplies that would have no military value to the enemy. Among the many items carried in these sea and land convoys are refrigerated containers with coffee, juice and cooking dough for the wildly popular Tim Hortons outlet at the airfield.

Whatever the logistical hurdles, which are many, "We try to make sure the soldier does not know that we exist," said Tim Duncan, the movements officer. "We try to make it look like smoke and mirrors."

During September and October, Brad Wells and his staff of seven military accountants paid out slightly less than \$5 million a week in-country.

"I'm kind of the banker here," Wells said in something of an understatement.

As well as handling the military accounts and the salaries of dozens of Afghan translators and a fleet of vehicles used on base, which are rented from Afghan suppliers to help develop the local economy, Wells's office holds in trust and helps process about \$9 million a year of expenses incurred by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency in Afghanistan. It also doles out money to Afghans who work on economic development projects.

Afghanistan is infamous for corruption, so particular care is taken when spending involves Afghans.

"There is a big demand for cash here," Wells said, "but there is a greater chance of bad things happening with cash, so as we try to build Afghan capacity, we want them to use a banking system.

"However, this is not always possible. For example, local Afghans are engaged to work on road repair and we pay them cash because, obviously, these people do not have bank accounts."

Although there have sometimes been unexpected and unusual expenditures, record keeping for the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent by soldiers in Afghanistan is done exactly as it would be in Canada.

<http://www.canada.com/news/Canada+Afghanistan+About+soldier/2422678/story.html>

## **2. Need has Passed**

Since the main reason we entered Afghanistan was to remove the threat of the Taliban, and the Taliban is now out of power, some say that there is no further benefit for remaining. The goal of establishing a liberal democracy where none has ever existed could be an

exercise in futility, and a waste of resources. Now that the threat is gone, we should get out. That is the view of the following article:

Canada, U.S. should leave Afghanistan: expert

CTV.ca News Staff

Date: Sunday Jan. 11, 2009 3:34 PM ET

A retired American colonel and prominent academic is calling for U.S. president-elect Barack Obama to reconsider his plans to expand his country's military mission in Afghanistan. Andrew Bacevich, a foreign affairs specialist at Boston University, said the U.S. and allies like Canada should start to withdraw from the war-torn country because it "simply does not make sense" to stay.

Appearing on CTV's *Question Period* Sunday, he said the original objective of the mission was to make sure the region does not become a breeding ground for Al Qaeda terrorists, who could then have a safe haven to launch attacks on the West.

Bacevich said that now the Taliban has been forced out of power, there is really no need for Western countries to stay in the country and try to make it into a modern democracy. "Our interests there are very limited. As long as Afghanistan is not a sanctuary for terrorists that have the aim and capability to attack us in the West, we don't really care that much about what happens in that country," he said.

"We don't have to create a modern, coherent, Afghan nation-state in order to achieve those limited interests. The great defect, I think, of Western policy over the last few years is to assume that we have to create a modern Afghan nation state where none has ever existed." Obama has said he wants to refocus America's military attention on Afghanistan as the U.S. plans to reduce its military presence in Iraq. He has suggested that as many as 30,000 more U.S. troops could head to Afghanistan within the year.

Bacevich said that doesn't make sense during the current economic crisis, especially when the U.S. is projecting a deficit topping \$1 trillion. He said the U.S. and other Western nations can fight terrorism without being in Afghanistan.

"We're in the midst of the worst economic downturn in this country (the U.S.) since the Great Depression, and that economic downturn is affecting Canada (and it) will continue to affect Canada," he said. "The truth is that we don't have the money to sustain misguided foreign policy initiatives."

Bacevich added that it is "incumbent on us to spend our national security dollars wisely." He said the bulk of the burden in Afghanistan is being carried by the U.S., Canada and Britain, because NATO is not the cohesive organization it was during the Cold War.

"I would go back and emphasize that Canadian power and, I think, Canadian political will is limited. But it's time for those of us on this side of the border to recognize that American power and American will is also limited," he said.

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090111/afghan\\_colonel\\_090111/20090111?hub=Canada](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090111/afghan_colonel_090111/20090111?hub=Canada)