



# AFGHANISTAN: A SOLDIER'S STORY

## February/March Newsletter

### **The Project:**

“Afghanistan: A Soldier's Story” Is a not for profit project to develop a legacy coffee table style book chronicling the 10 years Canada has been engaged in the Afghanistan conflict. The intent is not to create an academic dissection of the conflict or present the perspective of a professional writer, but to gather and share the stories and photos that capture the honest reflections, insights, and pivotal experiences of those who served.

### **The Objective:**

To share with Canadians the human face of the Afghan Mission, the insights and reflections of the Boots on the Ground who represented Canada and Canadian values so well in Afghanistan.

**For those who served:** Whether you deployed as a member of the Canadian Forces, as a civilian, or embedded with our troops as media, you each have a unique personal perspective worth sharing with Canadians. Why? Because many Canadians still struggle to understand why we were there. Because Canadians tend to turn away from their military when the conflict is past. This legacy album is an opportunity to provide a better understanding of and appreciation for the extraordinary work done by ordinary serving Canadians.

**For the friends and families of those who served:** We would like to provide the children, partners, parents and siblings of those who served with a legacy album all would be proud to share, to show off, at school, at work, and in your homes. We want to make it easy for you to say with pride, “look what my Dad, Mom, partner, kid, did”

**For the media who embedded with our troops:** You put yourselves at risk, alongside our soldiers, in order to bring home to Canadians a taste of the conflict. Perhaps not all of your stories and images were published. Perhaps you have never had an opportunity to share with Canadians the human face of the Canadian Afghan Mission. Now you can.

Photo credit Sgt Lou Penney

14 Sept 2006, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry



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**The Web Site** [www.afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca](http://www.afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca)

The volunteers on the project have created a web blog where you can share your stories and images, and feedback on the project as it unfolds. Submissions started to come in after the project launch in November 2011 but many of you appear to be pretty shy about sharing your experiences. To make it easier, we have borrowed images and captions from Combat Camera from 2002 through to 2012. Who knows, perhaps your picture is already at the site? We've also included a news timeline so that you can better place your own stories within the context of the greater events happening around your individual stories.

**Facebook:** We have established a Facebook Group

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Afghanistan-A-Soldiers-Story/310244442351004> and encourage you to "like" the project, "share" the project, and contribute your ideas, suggestions and even submissions to help make this book a reality. Help us make it go viral!

**Youtube:** We have established a Youtube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ASoldiersStory> and encourage you to help us build a collection of video clips here. Either by sharing your favourites or uploading your own. There is a documentary filmmaker currently interested in compiling video submissions into a film about the human face of the Canadian Afghan Combat Mission.

**Linkedin:** We have created a group

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4256579&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4256579&trk=hb_side_g) where you can discuss the project, pass it along, and help to gather the stories and images essential to a successful publication.

**Flicker:** We have created a group here too <http://www.flickr.com/groups/canafghanstory/> so that it is easier for you to share your photos and videos.

**Contact Us:** Visit the web site [www.afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca](http://www.afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca) or drop us an email [contact@afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca](mailto:contact@afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca)

We need your input, through feedback, stories, images, and video clips in order to build this worthwhile publication. Proceeds will be shared by the Edmonton MFRC with Boomers Legacy, the Military Families Fund, and the Soldier On Fund.

Photo credit Sgt Lou Penney

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