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It is my privilege to introduce *Afghanistan: A Soldier's Story*, a legacy album which tells the story of the Canadian Forces men and women who served in Afghanistan. This book, a compilation of their stories and their photographs, was created for Canadians, by the Canadians who served there. This is their mission, seen through their eyes, and told in their words.

Our success in operations is a testament to the quality of those who serve, and to those who support them. Across this country, Canadians have seen their military make a difference. In keeping with Canada's finest military traditions our sailors, soldiers, airmen and women serve here and around the world with great distinction. They defend Canada today, just as the veterans who went before them did when they took Vimy Ridge, stormed the beaches of Normandy and fought to hold Kapyong.

Our time in Afghanistan has been marked by great personal sacrifice, hard work and a perpetual hope for a better future for all Afghans. Together with our allies and our Afghan partners, we fought against terrorism while also working to establish the basis for a lasting peace. Throughout our campaign Canadian Forces members distinguished themselves by their courage in battle and through their compassion for others. Historians will write the final outcome of our efforts in Afghanistan, but what we can say for certain now is that the Canadian Forces served with honour.

By reading this book, you have shown you care not only about the members of the Canadian Forces, but also about their families. The role of military families cannot be overstated as our members could not serve without their love, care and support. Sales of this book will help fund a number of military family support programs and allow them to continue their good work. For your contribution to these programs, you have my gratitude.

To those who wear the uniform, I'm very proud of you and I'm thankful for your service. To all Canadians, I say 'thank you' for standing firmly with us and for supporting the Military Families Fund, Soldier On and the host of similar worthwhile causes. Thank you for caring.

General Walt Natynczyk
Chief of the Defence Staff

