

THE STORY	THE DETAILS	TERMS & PEOPLE
<p><i>In 2001, al-Qaeda destroyed the World Trade Center. American intelligence agencies tracked the leader of al-Qaeda to Afghanistan. The Americans asked the Taliban to give up Osama bin Laden. The Taliban refused. A few short weeks later America led a NATO invasion of Afghanistan.</i></p>	<p><b>Canada in Afghanistan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). An American led NATO task force invaded Afghanistan on October 7, 2001. Canada secretly sent 100 soldiers during the opening stages.</li> <li>2). The main body of Canadian troops did not arrive in the country until January 2002. The Canadian government believed our role would largely be that of a "peace keeper"; however, that role changed.</li> </ol> <p><i>Canada's Purpose: The operation was aimed at identifying and neutralizing al-Qaeda and toppling the Taliban regime (which was accused of supporting international terrorism).</i></p>	
<p><i>The Canadian commitment was only supposed to last until 2003. Canada worked alongside America and other NATO countries to wipe out Taliban resistance and establish a democratic style of government in Afghanistan.</i></p>	<p><b>Operation Apollo</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). Canada deployed its troops to the province of <b>Kandahar</b>. Art Eggleton, Canada's Minister of Defence, under the advice of senior military advisers volunteered Canada to work primarily in Kandahar.</li> <li>2). Canadian troops helped with humanitarian relief efforts. Other tasks Canada was involved in was airfield security and direct combat against Taliban forces.</li> <li>3). The fighting in the opening stages intensified so Canada was forced to send additional troops.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Kandahar:</b> this province was a Taliban stronghold. Some members of the NDP criticized the Liberals (party in power at the outset of the War in Afghanistan) for allowing our troops to be stationed in this region. Arguably, Kandahar was the most dangerous of all the provinces in Afghanistan (and the Canadian military wasn't necessarily the best equipped).</p>
<p><i>What started as a peacekeeping mission turned into a combat mission. Canadian troops were given additional training so they could do both. The War in Afghanistan was the first time since the Korean War that Canadian troops had relieved American troops in a combat situation. There was public outrage to the killing of Canadian combat troops by an American pilot during a training mission.</i></p>	<p><b>Events: 2001-2002</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). Canadian special forces were deployed to Afghanistan as part of the American military (without prime minister Jean Chretien's approval).</li> <li>2). Our special forces were given US Navy Presidential Unit Citations for their success and courage.</li> <li>3). <b>Operation Anaconda:</b> a large, multinational battle fought to remove the Taliban and al-Qaeda from the Shahi-Kot Valley and Arma Mountains.</li> <li>4). Corporal <b>Rob Furlong</b> set the record for the longest confirmed sniper kill in combat at 2,430 meters. This record was broken in 2009 by a British sniper.</li> <li>5). <b>Tarnak Farm Incident:</b> the first Canadian fatalities of the war were due to a "friendly fire" incident involving an American F-16 jet.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Operation Anaconda:</b> an attempt to wrest control of a strategically important area from Taliban forces. The Americans claimed to have killed at least 500 enemies but only 23 bodies were ever found.</p> <p><b>Rob Furlong:</b> a police officer in Calgary who served as a sniper for Canada.</p> <p><b>Tarnak Farm Incident:</b> an F-16 dropped a bomb on a group of Canadian soldiers training on a designated live-fire range. The American pilot mistook the Canadians for Taliban insurgents. Four Canadians were killed and eight wounded.</p>

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<p><i>In August 2003, the Canadian Forces moved to the northern city of Kabul where it became the commanding nation of the newly formed "International Security Assistance Force".</i></p>	<p><b>Events: 2003-2005</b>  <b>Operation Athena</b></p> <p>1). A two phase military operation, i.e. during phase one Canadians safeguarded (<b>Kabul</b>) the capital city of Afghanistan so that the newly established government of Afghanistan could develop its constitution and hold its first elections.</p> <p>2). <b>Hamid Karzai</b> was declared the winner of the first democratic election in Afghanistan's history on December 9, 2004.</p> <p>3). During phase two Canada assumed overall control of Kandahar province from the United States Army.</p> <p>4). <i>Operation Athena</i> successfully ended in December (2005) having accomplished the "rebuilding of the democratic process" in Afghanistan.</p>	<p><b>International Security Assistance Force:</b> (also called the Coalition Forces) was established by the UN Security Council.</p> <p><b>Operation Athena:</b> the main purpose of this mission was to train Afghan National Security Forces and assist in the rebuilding of key government institutions; but it also engaged in combat missions with insurgent groups which continued in to 2012.</p> <p><b>Hamid Karzai:</b> first democratically elected president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.</p>
<p><i>After the success of Operation Athena, Canadian forces were redeployed to Kandahar. Meanwhile the Taliban was massing for an attack in Kandahar (and the Canadians found themselves caught in the middle of a two pronged attack by a sizable force of Taliban).</i></p>	<p><b>Events: 2006-2009</b>  <b>Operation Archer</b></p> <p>1). Canada took on a larger military role as part of the Task Force Afghanistan battle group of 2,300 soldiers. The Canadian government extended the army's commitments to Afghanistan by two years (replacing the earlier commitment to withdraw soldiers by 2006).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Stephen Harper's New Conservative Party was the governing party of Canada at this time.</p> <p>2). Canadian soldiers were redeployed to Kandahar Province (previously being stationed in Kabul). The Taliban began a major offensive and the Canadians were caught in the middle.</p> <p>3). The Taliban in Kandahar and Helmand provinces were massing. Six Canadian soldiers were killed during <b>fire-fights</b>.</p>	<p><b>Operation Archer:</b> the purpose of this operation was to reconstruct Afghanistan through the establishment of infrastructure, providing security, and assisting in training the Afghan National Army.</p> <p><b>Fire-fights:</b> a term used to refer to hand to hand and small arms military engagements or battles.</p>

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<p><i>During the Battle of Panjwaii the Canadians found themselves fighting the Taliban in complex mud-walled compounds which made fighting in the Panjwaii District take an almost urban style of fighting in some places. Daily fire-fights, artillery bombardments, and allied airstrikes turned the tides of the battle in favor of the Canadians.</i></p>	<p><b>Operation Mountain Thrust</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). The Battle of Panjwaii was fought between July and October 2006.</li> <li>2). <b>Nichola Goddard</b> died during this battle.</li> <li>3). Canadian and Afghan forces cleared the Panjwaii District of its Taliban strongholds. The Taliban were forced to withdraw.</li> <li>4). Thinking Panjwaii secure the Canadians left to assist the Americans and British in the Helmand District. Four Canadians were killed during this period.</li> <li>5). Once the Canadians left the Taliban re-entered Panjwaii. These Taliban were surrounded and pounded with air strikes and artillery.</li> <li>6). Small detachments of Canadians went in to challenge the Taliban directly. Four soldiers were killed.</li> <li>7). The Taliban were forced to resist Canadians through suicide bombings and <b>IEDs</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> an American A-10 jet killed another four Canadians through friendly fire.</p>	<p><b>Operation Mountain Thrust:</b> a combined NATO-Afghan operation whose primary objective was to quell the ongoing Taliban insurgency in the south of the country.</p> <p><b>Nichola Goddard:</b> the first female to be killed during combat.</p> <p><b>IEDs (or Improvised Explosive Devices):</b> a series of devices like garbage cans, rocks, etc. which were detonated remotely when NATO or Coalition Forces passed by.</p>
<p><i>The task of removing the Taliban was more difficult than previously thought. Many political theorists were convinced the Taliban was simply "waiting out" NATO, i.e. once NATO left they would go active again. With that said, from 2006-2009 the Taliban increased their presence and activity.</i></p>	<p><b>Canadian Government Commits</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). On March 13, 2008, Harper's Conservative government passed a motion extending the military mission past February 2009 in to 2011.</li> <li>2). The Liberals supported extending the military mission because significant Taliban resistance still existed; however, both the NDP and Bloc Quebecois opposed any extension of the mission.</li> </ol>	
<p><i>To address the problem of increased Taliban activity the Americans sent an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan in something called a "surge".</i></p>	<p><b>2010: The American Troop Surge</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). Canada's troops remained mostly active in the Panjwaii and Kandahar districts where they were located at the end of 2009.</li> <li>2). Canadians took part in the <b>Marja Offensive</b>.</li> <li>3). During the Marja Offensive, Coalition Forces pushed into the town of Marja. Fighting was intense and many allied troops were killed due to Taliban sniper-fire and IEDs.</li> <li>4). The offensive successfully wrested Marja from Taliban control.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Surge:</b> a term used to refer to a dramatic and immediate increase in the number of troops present in Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>Marja Offensive:</b> involved 15,000 Afghan, Canadian, French, American, and British troops. This was the largest joint operation of the war up to this point.</p>

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<p><i>Canada withdrew the bulk of its troops from Afghanistan in 2011. Stephen Harper stated a "decade of war is enough".</i></p>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). Combat operations ended in July 11.</li> <li>2). Canadian troops were given the job of training the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.</li> <li>3). Literacy problems with both the Afghan police and army continued to hamper the ability to train them in modern policing and military techniques.</li> </ol>	
<p><i>Canada played an important part in building democracy, dealing with insurgents and establishing better healthcare and education for Afghan women and children.</i></p>	<p><b>Canada's Signature Projects</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). Canada helped rebuild the <b>Dahla Dam</b> and irrigation system.</li> <li>2). Canada pledged 12 millions dollars over three years into improving the education system across Kandahar.</li> <li>3). Canada pledged 60 million dollars to help immunize an estimated seven million children of diseases like polio.</li> <li>4). Canadian forces helped decommission tanks, artillery, rocket launchers, etc. used in decades of war in Afghanistan.</li> <li>5). Canada likewise helped remove 10-15 million mines in Afghanistan.</li> </ol> <p>On March 12, 2014 Canada pulled its last remaining troops out of Afghanistan. Afghanistan continues to be plagued by terrorism and violence. The United States has remained a presence in the country.</p>	
<p><i>Canada was finally hit by two acts of terrorism in 2014.</i></p>	<p><b>Canadians Radicalized</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1). On October 20th, 2014, two Canadian Forces members were rammed by the vehicle of a so-called "lone wolf" terrorist who had sympathy for radical Islam. Patrice Vincent died from his injuries while the other soldier eventually recovered.</li> <li>2). On October 22nd, 2014, a Canadian soldier standing guard at the Canadian National War Memorial in Ottawa was killed. The man killed was Corporal Nathan Cirillo. The attacker then entered Parliament and was killed in a fire-fight.</li> <li>3). <i>Bill C-51</i>. <i>Bill C-51</i> was passed in the wake of these attacks giving the Canadian Government extraordinary powers of search, seizure and imprisonment of persons suspected of being involved in terrorist activities.</li> </ol>	

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<p><i>The United States invaded Iraq in 2003; however, Canada (and other member countries of the United Nations) believed the invasion illegal by standards of international law. Nonetheless, Canada got dragged in to the conflict in 2014 to fight ISIS.</i></p>	<p><b>ISIS &amp; CANADA</b></p> <p>1). In 2011, people were making calls for democratic reform. Syria's president, <b>Bashar al-Assad</b>, responded with a violent crack down on protestors (including the use of chemical weapons). This led to the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War (2011-2016) causing millions to flee the country seeking refuge in Turkey, Jordan, etc.</p> <p>2). <b>ISIS</b> took advantage of political instability by taking control of territory in Syria and Iraq (with the aim of establishing a worldwide caliphate).</p> <p>3). Canada began <i>Operation Impact</i> in September (2014) when the Canadian Air Force began undertaking military missions against ISIS in Iraq. Canada also sent in military advisors to train/support Kurdish freedom fighters. On May 12, 2015, Major <b>Andrew Doiron</b> was killed by "friendly fire" from Kurds due to mistaken identity.</p> <p>4). In the Canadian election of 2015 (October) the winning party led by <b>Prime Minister Justin</b> Trudeau promised to end Canada's military involvement against ISIS.</p>	<p><b>BASHAR AL-ASSAD:</b> the son of dictator Hefez al-Assad, Bashar assumed the dictatorship of Syria in 2000. He was a favorite of the Russians (making it difficult for him to be toppled by any Western forces).</p> <p><b>ISIS (ISIL):</b> the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has existed since 1999. They joined with Al Qaeda in 2004 to make common cause against the Western coalition in Iraq. ISIS was a significant contributor to terrorist acts in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and North America.</p> <p><b>ANDREW DOIRON:</b> a Canadian serviceman from Moncton, New Brunswick.</p>
<p><i>The Syrian Civil War touched off the greatest humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II.</i></p>	<p><b>CANADA &amp; THE SYRIAN REFUGEES</b></p> <p>1). An estimated 3,000 refugees died crossing the Mediterranean to find refuge in Europe. The main destination of refugees was Germany (who absorbed almost a million refugees).</p> <p>2). Canadians remained relatively indifferent to the plight of the refugees until images of a drowned Syrian boy who washed up on a beach went viral. There was a Canadian connection to the child, i.e. his aunt had tried desperately to get the Canadian Government to allow the boy and his family entry.</p> <p>3). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to bring in <b>25,000 Syrian refugees</b> to Canada (as well as support the remaining encamped refugees financially).</p> <p>4). Reaction in Canada was mixed, e.g. Muslims were attacked in Toronto and mosques were burnt down in <b>Peterborough</b> and <b>Red Deer</b>. The first refugees arrived in Canada in December of 2015.</p>	<p><b>PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU:</b> leader of the Liberal Party of Canada became the country's 23rd prime minister.</p> <p><b>SYRIAN REFUGEES:</b> refugees being allowed entry in to Canada are families or mothers with children. Single males were not allowed entry.</p>