

Vice Chief of the Defence Staff



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This letter is to inform you of Canadian Forces actions regarding the proposed Senate Standing Committee on National Defence and Security visit to Kandahar between September 12-15, 2006.

High ranking officials from the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces including myself and a representative from the Strategic Joint Staff met with the Honourable Senator C. Kenny in his office at 14:30 on Saturday, September 2, 2006. During the meeting Canadian Forces officials provided an operational update explaining that for reasons of personal safety, the committee would no longer be able to travel to Kandahar as planned between September 12 and 15.

Senator Kenny made an additional request by phone to the Chief of Defence Staff on September 6, asking for briefings from representative of the Provincial Reconstruction team in Dubai. The CDS explained that military representatives would not be able to fly to Dubai for such briefings but that the Canadian Forces could facilitate transportation of DFAIT and CIDA officials if they could be released for travel.

Subsequently, DFAIT informed the committee that as a result of current operations in southern Afghanistan, all non-essential travel of PRT staff was restricted so they could not be released to travel to Dubai during the time period requested.

Sincerely,

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