

# 24 hours

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**Baby makes three**



Actress Jessica Alba...  
 ...and her husband Paul Giamatti...  
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**Modern-day fathers**



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# How many body bags?

Poll shows majority would accept 25 dead in Afghanistan: **Full story, P. 3**

up front

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# Death toll near limit: Poll

**Canadians won't tolerate many more military deaths in Afghanistan, if a new poll done for 24 hours is any indication.**

The survey by Strategic Communications asked Canadians how many deaths in the war-torn country would be "acceptable as an inevitable part of this mission."

Almost half, 47 per cent, said they would "accept" less than 25 deaths.

Sixteen Canadian soldiers and a diplomat have died in Afghanistan since 2002, including Capt. Nichola Goddard, who in May became the country's first woman killed by hostile action since the Second World War. It may have taken casualties for Canadians to pay greater attention to foreign policy and the military, says Michael Byers, the academic director at UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues.

"The deaths and injuries have attracted media attention, as they should," Byers said in an interview. "Canadians realize that the stakes are higher than they thought."

The poll also found Canadians are split on how well we understand



- Getty

**Canadian troops unload after a mission in Afghanistan yesterday. Canadian soldiers are currently engaged in a campaign to bring peace to the country.**

the Afghanistan mission as a whole.

Just over 41 per cent of Canadians said they didn't have an understanding of Canada's mission in Afghanistan, while about 46 per cent said they did.

Those who felt they understood the mission were more likely to have voted for the Conservatives in the last election – 60 per cent versus 45 per cent of Liberal voters and 35 per cent of NDP voters.

But for Byers, the country still needs to ask some important questions – like what is the military's exit strategy for the 2,200 personnel now stationed in

Recently the House extended Canada's military commitment to Afghanistan for two more years. Do you feel you understand the mission of Canada's forces in Afghanistan?

- Yes .....45.8%
- Somewhat .....12.0%
- No .....41.3%
- Don't know .....0.8%

The extension of Canada's commitment to Afghanistan will mean some Canadian soldiers will be hurt, or even killed. How many deaths do you deem acceptable as part of this mission?

- Less than 25 .....47.0%
- 26 to 50 .....6.3%
- 51 to 100 .....3.8%
- More than 100 .....8.8%
- Will not pick .....24.5%
- Don't know .....9.6%

Afghanistan?

"I haven't heard anyone clearly explain what success will look like," Byers said. "Is it simply the stabilization of the situation? Is it a full and vibrant democ-

racy?"

The survey polled 813 Canadians from June 7 – 12, and is considered accurate within +/- 3.4 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Irwin Loy, 24 hours