

## Media Report 08 OCT 2021

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal

### Service of Remembrance Jarrott HOLZHAUER 7 Sept

Friends – attended the service today. St Matthews – the Anglican Church of the Glebe! A very impressive church, and today there was a Pandemic “full house”. I counted perhaps 140 people attending – all wore masks. The first funeral/Remembrance service that I have attended since spring 2020 (when the pandemic changed all our lives) where there was a reception – food and coffee/tea afterwards – on the church lawn where the family warmly welcomed all. The Anglicans did Jarrott and his family proud today. There were peacekeepers, Service Corps, War Museum , ex-Cadets (he was Class of 1959) and others attending. I encountered two RMC classmates of mine – the question was “...how did you know Jarrott?” One had served his first posting after graduation when Jarrott was 2 I/C of the Svc Bn in Gagetown – he was REME. The other was ARMD – they had once canoed from Ottawa to RMC as a fund raiser. Small world. Words of Remembrance were spoken by his daughter Katie – she spoke well, lots of emotions, and painted a picture of a soldier and a loving Dad who lived a life of duty to country, community and family. She was followed by one of his fellow classmate from Royal Roads and RMC...he spoke of shared friendships ( they had been each others Best Man when they married). Much of the idea of military service and family. Much of the sense of pride in duty and service within the military. I avoid trips into Ottawa – traffic is terrifying, and a visit to “The Glebe” is a look into a different world – Man buns and sunglasses on the Hip fellows...coffee shops on every block – no parking anywhere – a real Zoo for a country bumpkin! I grew up in a world where working men wore beards – the upper class were unshaven. Do not ask me about my opinion about “Tramp Stamps” (tattoos). Serious note – Gord is having

surgery tomorrow (Knee) and was not able to attend the service today- he is confined to quarters by the MO – had to wash himself in antiseptic soaps hourly! I extended his condolences to Judith and members of the family. I was proud to attend and represent NVOC and our members. Randy

## Survivor's pension

1.

If you are the survivor of a disability pensioner you may qualify to receive a survivor's pension.

About this program

To provide financial stability, you will continue to receive your spouse's disability pension for a full year following their death.

Continuation of Disability Pension

When a disability pensioner dies, you will continue to receive their pension for one full year. If they also received Prisoner of War Compensation, Exceptional Incapacity Allowance or Attendance Allowance you will also receive the full amounts for each of those benefits.

In the following year, you will automatically receive the survivor's pension.

Survivor's pension

The amount you receive through a survivor's pension depends on the assessed level of your spouse's disability pension. If their pension was assessed at 48 percent or greater, you will receive a full survivor's pension (see maximum rate in Table B of the [disability pension rate table](#) ). If their pension was assessed between 5 and 47 percent, your survivor's pension will be one-half the amount they were receiving.

Do you qualify?

Continuation of Disability Pension

If your spouse's Disability Pension was 5% or more, you will continue to receive your spouse's disability pension for one year as well as any amounts they received through:

- Prisoner of War compensation,
- Attendance Allowance, and
- Exceptional Incapacity Allowance.

Survivor's pension

If you receive the continuation of their disability pension, after one year you will automatically receive a survivor's pension.

If the Veteran had a disability assessment of 5% or less, they were paid that as a lump-sum. As a result, it is not possible to provide any amount to their survivor. However, if you believe that your spouse had a disability related to their military service that would have exceeded the 5% assessment, you can make a posthumous claim for a disability benefit.

### How to apply

There is no application form for this program.

If you qualify, you will continue to receive your spouse's pension for one year. After that, you will begin receiving the survivor's pension automatically.

[Contact us](#) if you believe that you are eligible for this benefit but are not receiving it.

### Additional information

Find out more

You will continue to receive your survivor's pension if you remarry.

You could still qualify for the survivor's pension if you were separated but your spouse was paying:

- alimony,
- maintenance
- support, or
- an allowance

### Related programs

[VIP for primary caregivers](#)- Payment for yard and housekeeping services to help you stay in your home.

[Exceptional Incapacity Allowance](#)- Monthly payments if your illness or injury impacts your quality of life.

[Attendance Allowance](#)- Monthly payments if your health needs require personal care support.

[Educational Assistance for children](#)- Payments for military children to cover the cost of tuition and other expenses.

### Frequently asked questions

What do I do if my survivor's pension is not automatically paid after the waiting-period?

If you do not receive your survivor's pension after the one-year continuation of the Veteran's disability pension, please [contact us](#) right away.

Where can I find the policies for this program?

Read more about the [policies related to a survivor's pension](#).

What Purpose? What Missions? [ Selected Extracts  
from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/nato-in-the-21st-century-what-purpose-what-missions/NATO> NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 15 October 2021

NATO in the 21st Century:

Ivo H. Daalder Thursday, April 1, 1999

As the nineteen members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) contemplate the future of the Alliance in the next century, they are confronted with a notable paradox. Following initial doubts and debate in the years following the cold war's demise, it is now widely agreed that NATO is the premier security organization in Europe. In contrast to the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and even the United Nations (UN), the Atlantic Alliance is viewed by members and non-members alike as Europe's "go-to" organization in those cases where the threat or use of force is deemed appropriate in and around Europe. NATO attained this status by outperforming the other organizations in bringing peace, albeit belatedly, to the Balkans—first in Bosnia and later in Kosovo. It also proved to be more adept at meeting the needs and aspiration of central and eastern European countries yearning to become a recognized part of the west. While the EU concentrated on expanding its membership by initially incorporating rich, formerly neutral European countries, NATO opened its doors to the east, inviting the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland to join while affirming that membership would remain open to all qualified European countries.

Notwithstanding NATO's leading status today, the fundamental purpose of the Atlantic Alliance in the post-cold war world remains essentially contested. Its members—old and new alike—have yet to fully agree on what a military organization born and raised in response to an overwhelming military threat emanating from the Soviet Union ought to do now that this threat has disappeared. Should its primary purpose remain to defend the territory of its members against direct attack, which, though less likely, remains a possibility in an uncertain and unstable world? Alternatively, should the Alliance aim to extend security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic region, accepting new members that meet the basic standards of market democracy, the rule of law, and a commitment to resolve internal and external disputes by peaceful means? Or should NATO extend its reach both geographically and functionally, defending not just the common territory but also the common interests of the Alliance members wherever these might be threatened? Depending on how NATO's members answer these fundamental questions about the Alliance's purpose, specific policy decision relating to its new strategic concept, its command and force structure arrangements, and the extent of its future enlargement will necessarily differ.

NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 8 October 2021  
NATO allies are preparing for a future without America's "forever wars" [ Extracts  
from <https://www.vox.com/22639474/afghanistan-nato-europe-refugees-germany-uk>

### How the US's Afghanistan withdrawal echoed overseas.

Afghanistan wasn't just America's 20-year war. It also belonged to US allies.

"This has been above all a catastrophe for the Afghan people. It's a failure of the Western world and it's a game changer for international relations," the European Union's chief diplomat Josep Borrell told an Italian newspaper Monday, according to the Washington Post.

"Certainly," he continued, "we Europeans share our part of responsibility. We cannot consider that this was just an American war."

As President George W. Bush said in October 2001 while announcing airstrikes against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the US had the "collective will of the world" behind its mission in Afghanistan. (Iraq, of course, was a different story.) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has invoked Article 5 — the common-defense clause — only once in its history, after the 9/11 attacks. More than 51 NATO members and partner countries sent troops to Afghanistan, with a combined 130,000 troops at the deployment's peak.

NATO's combat mission ended in 2014, but coalition troops remained to help train and advise Afghan security forces. Even as some countries wound down their military presence in the later years of the war, a total of 1,145 allied troops died in Afghanistan of the approximately 3,500 service members killed.

The United States, starting with Donald Trump, and continuing with Joe Biden, made clear the plan to withdraw from Afghanistan. But the rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the swiftness of the Taliban takeover turned that departure into chaos. The United States looked blundering and inept, and it dragged its allies down with it. Some countries struggled to evacuate their personnel and Afghan associates as the situation around the Kabul airport worsened. All had to reckon with the reality that after 20 years, and lives lost, and billions spent, little was left to show for it.

That has led to recriminations in London and Berlin and Brussels, directed at leaders there, and at the United States. "Was our intelligence really so poor?" former British Prime Minister Theresa May asked in Parliament earlier this month. "Was our understanding of the Afghan government so weak? Was our knowledge on the ground so inadequate? Or did we just think we had to follow the United States and on a wing and a prayer it would be all right on the night?"

Some voices on this side of the Atlantic and the other are simply advocating that US engagement in Afghanistan continue indefinitely. But even among those who are not, there is a genuine frustration at how Afghanistan unraveled, and questions of how closely the US consulted with its coalition allies on its withdrawal timeline.

That has revived a debate that has beset the transatlantic alliance for years,

especially during the Donald Trump era: Are the United Kingdom and Europe too dependent on the US for their security? And will the shifting US priorities finally require correcting that imbalance? Katharina Emschermann, deputy director at the Center for International Security at the Hertie School in Berlin, said there is “uncertainty in Europe about the future course of US foreign policy, and what it means for it.”

“Part of the discord that we’re seeing now is probably also rooted in the sense of unease about how things are going to go on in the future,” Emschermann added. It is still unlikely that Afghanistan begins a real remaking of NATO. But at the very least, allies may take it as a sign that Joe Biden’s reassurances that “America is back” is not enough.

Allies say the US communicated, but didn’t consult, on Afghanistan

The Trump administration signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February 2020. According to the terms of the deal, US-led NATO forces would depart Afghanistan by May 2021.

Biden, as president, recommitted to the US withdrawal, though in April he extended the final deadline, first to September 11, and later inching it back to Tuesday, August 31. In April, Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in Brussels with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who said NATO would also begin its drawdown. “We went into Afghanistan together, we have adjusted our posture together and we are united in leaving together,” Stoltenberg said.

Togetherness was simply the default. NATO governments didn’t have the capacity to stay in Afghanistan after the US left. Privately, diplomats grumbled that they weren’t fully consulted, or raised doubts about the US plans. But once the US made its decision, the decision was also made for approximately 7,000 non-American NATO forces on the ground.

“It showed, basically, how dependent we really are,” Jana Puglierin, senior policy fellow and head of the Berlin office at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), said of allies like Germany. “Because then it was immediately clear that we needed to follow the American withdrawal, and withdraw, as well.”

Allies took steps to wind down their presence, and as the security situation started deteriorating, some began asking personnel and nationals to leave. But the US and its allies did not fully anticipate (or chose to downplay) the Taliban’s accelerated push through Afghanistan and the collapse of Afghan defenses. That left NATO and European governments also rushing to get their personnel out.

“The immediate feeling around this whole situation is that perhaps there should have been more consultation and more joint planning about how to manage the exit strategy,” said David O’Sullivan, who served as EU ambassador to the United States from 2014 to 2019.

“The feeling is that this all kind of descended into something of a scramble,” he continued, “which is very difficult to manage, which put the European countries in a lot of difficulty — not only to get their own nationals out, but also to get out all the Afghans who are working closely with them, and were clearly at risk.”

Governments like Germany and the United Kingdom faced harsh criticism for their failures to prepare and evacuate their citizens and their Afghan allies. Some UK lawmakers responded by pushing the idea that after 20 years, the US — and

Western allies — should have stayed even longer in Afghanistan. “The Biden choice, I thought, was false. It was either total commitment of American forces and a lot more American deaths with a never-ending war, or pulling out,” Owen Paterson, a Conservative British MP, said on the Telegraph’s Chopper’s Politics podcast. Will Afghanistan shift the transatlantic alliance? It’s complicated. Afghanistan has opened up new fault lines in NATO, but it likely will not be the thing that fully fractures it.

Experts told me that the military withdrawal added to a growing skepticism of the United States, and its larger commitment to collaboration with allies. “People are unsure how much Trump is in Biden, how much of the Trump phenomenon was part of the United States foreign policy consensus — whether Trump wasn’t so much an outlier, but whether he was representing something bigger,” Puglierin said.

For NATO allies, who’ve built their security around the United States, it is getting harder to ignore the reality that US priorities are shifting. Some of this is seen in explicit foreign policy goals — for example, the US’s focus on China — and some of it is less directly linked, like America’s domestic political polarization.

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