

Canada resumes Afghan detainee hand-overs

by UPI

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The Canadian military in Afghanistan has resumed handing over prisoners to Afghan authorities, apparently satisfied detainees won't be tortured, officers said. Lt. Col. Grant Dame told reporters in Kandahar each transfer would be done on a "case-by-case basis," but said he couldn't disclose too much more, a Canwest News Service correspondent reported. "We cannot get into exactly when (transfers) started or when the decision was made to do so," Dame said, adding the number of prisoners was also classified. The Canadians stopped turning over prisoners in November when allegations were made some detainees were being abused in an Afghan prison. The unidentified Afghan official accused in the incidents has been suspended, and Ron Hoffman, Canada's acting ambassador to Afghanistan, told reporters by telephone Canada has been providing "additional training of prison officials in human rights and appropriate questioning techniques" at the request of the Afghan government. Canada has also given Afghanistan \$1.5 million to pay for additional training and improvements to prison medical facilities, ventilation and septic systems, new uniforms and beds, the report said.

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