

Canadian soldier dies in Afghanistan

by UPI

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- A 30-year-old Canadian female military officer was found dead in sleeping quarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan, military officials said.

The defense ministry released few details about the death of Maj. Michelle Mendes, except that she was on her second tour of duty in the NATO mission, the Canwest News Service reported from the base.

The military said she died from "a non-battle injury" that did not involve enemy action.

Mendes was one of 36 troops injured in September 2006 when a U.S. fighter plane mistook the Canadians for enemy Taliban fighters and opened fire, killing one soldier.

She reportedly was working in the military intelligence division, local media said.

Mendes was the 118th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since 2002, and the third Canadian female soldier to die in the conflict, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said.

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