



## No Lack of Courage: Operation Medusa, Afghanistan

By Bernd Horn

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*No Lack of Courage* is the story of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Operation Medusa, the largely Canadian action in Afghanistan from 1 to 17 September 2006, to dislodge a heavily entrenched Taliban force in the Pashmul district of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province. At stake, according to senior Afghan politicians and NATO military commanders, was nothing less than the very existence of the reconstituted state of Afghanistan, as well as the NATO alliance itself. In a bitterly fought conflict that lasted more than two weeks, Canadian, Afghan, and Coalition troops defeated the dug-in enemy forces and chased them from the Pashmul area.

In the end, the brunt of the fighting fell on the Canadians, and the operation that saved Afghanistan exacted a great cost. However, the battle also demonstrated that Canada had shed its peacekeeping mythology and was once more ready to commit troops deliberately to combat. Moreover, it revealed yet again that Canadian soldiers have no lack of courage.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Readers of Canadian military history, as well as those with an interest in the Afghan conflict, will snap up *No Lack of Courage* the first battle narrative written by a Canadian military historian."

*(Quill and Quire 2011-02-01)*

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#### From the Inside Flap

This is the story of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's first battle. It is a revealing account of the largely Canadian action from September 1 to 17, 2006, to dislodge a heavily entrenched Taliban force in the Pashmul district of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province.

#### About the Author

Colonel Bernd Horn, an experienced Canadian Forces infantry officer, is currently chief of staff of the Land Forces Development and Training System. Dr. Horn is also an adjunct professor of history at the Royal Military College and has authored, co-authored, or edited 28 books. Some of his recent publications are *Establishing a Legacy* and *The Military Leadership Handbook*. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.

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