



## Media Statement Land Force Western Area



July 11, 2006

### FATHER OF CORPORAL BONECA ISSUES STATEMENT

**THUNDER BAY, Ont.** – Mr. Antonio Boneca, father of Corporal Anthony Boneca, who was killed in battle on July 9, 2006, while serving in Afghanistan wishes to issue the following statement:

Our pride was in our son before and after he became a professional soldier. He was a giving person. He was a leader. He was the kind of person who was always joking and liked to make others around him happy. Anthony was the first to volunteer in any situation.

My son volunteered to go to Afghanistan. Anthony knew what he was getting into. He loved being in the Army and my wife, Shirley and I, supported our son whole-heartedly. In all my conversations with my son, there was never any mention of him not being well enough or fit enough to carry out his military duties.

Recent media reports state that my son may not have been prepared. His conversations with my family and me indicated he was well aware of the dangers around him and was committed to the test he had taken on. Anthony knew he was part of a group that stuck together to do what they were sent to do. He said it was difficult to cope with the weather, the sand, and the situation the young children endured. He was proud to make a difference in their lives and said he wished these children could live like we do in Canada. Certainly, Anthony wanted to come home, but I ask what soldier wouldn't in that situation? There is no question about the extent of his military training. I know he was well prepared for what he was sent to do.

Please respect my family's request for privacy during our time of grief.

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**Note to editors:** For more information, contact Katie McLaughlin, Land Force Western Area Public Affairs Officer, at (780) 973-1942 or (780) 919 8992.