**Type of Article:** Report

**Title:** Comrades Bid Farewell to Soldier Found Dead at Afghan Base

**Author:** Brian Hutchinson

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**Synopsis:** A report on the death of Michelle Mendes, who died mysteriously in her sleeping quarters in Kandahar. The writer quotes a newspaper interview involving her mother and soldiers and describes other such mysterious deaths, one of which was eventually declared a suicide while the cause of the other remains to be disclosed.

The writer suggests the possibility of post-traumatic stress being commonplace in the Canadian army.

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**Quotes: “**In August, 2007, Maj. Raymond Ruckpaul, 41, died from a gunshot wound to the head sustained in his quarters in Kabul. His death was eventually declared a suicide.”

“In July 2008, the body of Cpl. Brendan Downey, 36, was discovered in the living quarters at Camp Mirage, a military base in the Persian Gulf that Canadian troops use as a staging area before deployment to Afghanistan. The nature of his death was not disclosed.”

“It is also well known many Canadian soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress related to their deployment to Afghanistan and other theatres of conflict.”

“Figures released last year by Veterans Affairs Canada indicate more than 25 per cent of the 1,300 soldiers who had already served in this country described some symptoms of the disorder.”

“Canadian Forces officials have not said Maj. Mendes took her own life offering only that she died from a non-battle injury that did not involve enemy action.”