



- Canada having completed its mission in Kandahar in 2011, worked with its closest ally the U.S. to dismantle the board and return them to Canadian soil in 2016
- Boards measure 126" W (two pieces 61" and 65 ") x 48" H
- Boards will be on display in the Hockey Hall of Fame, Tim Hortons Theatre from June 30 – September 4, 2017
- There is a history and strong relationship between hockey and the military; from the First World War to the Royal Canadian Air Force Flyers, which won a 1948 Olympic Gold medal
- The rink was completed in 2006 and was mostly the work of Canadian engineers volunteering days off and evenings to build it
- A "Hockey Night in Kandahar" event was organized in 2010, between the Canadian and US military. More than 500 spectators watched the Canadians win against the U.S. 16-2
- At the peak of the Kandahar mission, the near regulation size rink was home to a highly competitive ball hockey league with 24 teams (two from Slovakia, one from the U.S., and 21 from Canada)
- Between 2006 and 2016 the rink became a social focal point and cathartic oasis for Canadian troops
- The rink hosted several hockey stars and Hall of Famers – Don Cherry, Jarome Iginla, Tiger Williams, Bob Probert, Guy LaFleur, Lanny McDonald, Mike Gartner, Brian Burke and a visit by the Stanley Cup!
- Fittingly, a Tim Hortons was set up close to the rink, and the only time there wasn't a line up for coffee from back home was when there was a game on
- Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Kenneth Neufeld participated in the sending of this distinctive symbol of Canada home

Quick facts on military in Kandahar:

- At its peak, Kandahar Airfield housed more than 50,000 people
- Kandahar was the centre of Canada's military and civilian engagement in Afghanistan from 2006 – 2011
- Canada's mission in Afghanistan saw 158 Canadian Armed Forces members and soldiers and four civilians killed, as well as more than 1,800 Canadians wounded while serving their country

Quotes:

“I am not aware of a single Canadian soldier who did not stop at the rink when they passed through Kandahar on their way to and from the battlefield. It was a touchstone.” Howard Coombs, Royal Military College professor

“Each mark on the boards is like a brushstroke. And each one of the brushstrokes represents some form of contact with the boards, and with the lives that were there in Afghanistan.” Stephen Quick, Director General, Canadian War Museum

“Our team is pleased to be part of the celebration of Canada’s 150th birthday. Our hope is that these boards will help to tell stories that may have been forgotten - of hardship and courage, of triumph and tragedy, of Canadian lives lived in Afghanistan. These sacrifices help the people of Kandahar to improve security, governance and economic development, and are part of Canada’s story”. Kenneth Neufeld, Ambassador of Canada to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan