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**Good to Go: States of Wellness in the Canadian Infantry**

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University of Calgary

Wednesday, November 21, 2007  
12:30 - 1:30 P.M.

Room G639, Health Sciences Centre,  
3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary

Canadian combat soldiers deployed in southern Afghanistan belong to a culture which values stoicism and physical toughness, yet these soldiers are routinely confronted with their own human limitations in the context of extreme physical demands. Commanders at all levels are constantly engaged in a process of honestly and realistically evaluating fitness and readiness for combat of individual soldiers and groups of soldiers, yet they too operate within a context in which stoicism is valued and rewarded. Based on three months of ethnographic fieldwork conducted with an infantry company deployed on combat operations in southern Afghanistan in 2006, this seminar will examine the discourses about wellness that emerge out of this context.

Dr Anne Irwin holds BA and MA degrees in Social Anthropology from the University of Calgary and a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester. Dr Irwin holds the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute Chair in Civil-Military Relations at the University of Calgary. She has a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. Dr Irwin has conducted anthropological field research with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry since 1992, most recently with them for three months during combat operations in Afghanistan. She served for fifteen years in the Canadian Forces Reserves, retiring as a Military Police officer with the rank of Major. She is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Militia Command and Staff Course. Her research interests include anthropological perspectives on military organisation and structure, the lived experience of soldiers, masculinity, embodied practice, leadership, and group cohesion.

This Seminar Series is sponsored by the Population Health Intervention Research Centre. We'd like it to reflect a range of perspectives and interests. We welcome participation. Please contact Lindsay Bradshaw, at ph (403) 210 9316; email [bradshaw@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bradshaw@ucalgary.ca) if you have any ideas or suggestions.



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