

452 CSH helps U.S. troops see big picture

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – If U.S. and coalition forces here are going to be successful in their quest to kill, capture and deny sanctuary to al Qaeda and Taliban militants, they must first be able to see their nemesis.

And with the help of the 452nd Combat Support Hospital's Ophthalmology unit, troops in the Afghanistan theater will never have to go into a combat operation with "blind" ambition, conversely they'll see the big picture clearly – an Afghan nation rid of unwanted oppressors.

"Our role is to provide eye care for the U.S. troops in the (Afghanistan) theater and to provide emergency eye care for the local Afghan citizens," said Capt. Mark Reynolds, 452nd CSH Ophthalmology officer in charge.

Staffed with an Ophthalmologist and an optical laboratory specialist, the Ophthal-



Capt. Mark Reynolds, 452nd CSH Ophthalmology Clinic, examines the eyes of 1st Sgt. Earnest Robertson, 1st Embedded Training Team, who complained of eye problems. Eye exams are one of the many services available at the Ophthalmology clinic.

mology Clinic treats various optical problems for service members ranging from providing troops with prescriptive glasses to treating eye injuries and giving eye exams.

"We provide an array of services," said Reynolds, "pretty much anything that a ser-

vice member can get done at their home station we can do here."

Reynolds noted the types of services that the unit doesn't handle or provide are

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Sergeant major discusses vehicle issues on Bagram

Story by Sgt. Cain S. Claxton
CJTF-180 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Vehicle safety considerations and the crowding of Bagram were the chief concerns discussed at the Base Operations Sergeants Major meeting here Monday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy J. Green, Base Operations command sergeant major, warned attendees that safety violations, from a speeding vehicle to a vehicle parked in an unauthorized area, would result in a unit's loss of that vehicle for 30 days.

Sgt. 1st Class Randy Wood, 10th Military Police representative,

said the number of traffic safety violations has escalated, and that many more speeders here would likely have been ticketed if MPs had radar guns.

Radar guns are on their way here, Wood said.

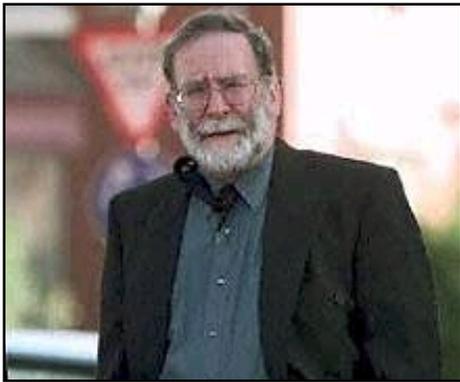
Green hit hard on vehicle parking, pointing out that vehicles parked next to tents or other living quarters, next to barricades and bunkers will be ticketed and impounded.

"If you break the rules, you pay the penalty," Green said. "We're not going to violate safety rules to accommodate peoples' parking habits."

Green referenced several compounds that rescue vehicles can-

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Shipman during his 1998 trial

'Dr. Death' found hanged

LONDON – As the body of UK serial killer Harold Shipman, found hanged in his prison cell, was taken away for an autopsy, relatives told of their anger.

They said they felt cheated that the man known as “Dr. Death” took to his grave the motive for killing at least 215 people – mostly unsuspecting middle-aged and elderly women patients killed with deadly diamorphine injections.

Shipman was found in his cell at Wakefield prison, northern England, by prison staff early Tuesday, the day before his 58th birthday.

He had hanged himself using bed sheets from the window bars in his cell, a Prison Service spokeswoman told the *UK Press Association*.

Relatives said they were upset Shipman showed no remorse and maintained his innocence even after his January 2000 conviction at Preston Crown Court for 15 murders which a judge described as “shocking beyond belief.”

Later a public inquiry heard he had murdered more than 215 patients, mostly elderly women, in a 23-year killing spree and was suspected of killing another 45.

Two students arrested in Columbine-style killing plot

DUTCHTOWN, La. – Two high school students were arrested and accused of creating an elaborate plan to re-create the bloody Columbine High School massacre on its five-year anniversary in April.

Christopher Levins, 17, of Prairieville and

Adam Sinclair, 19, of Geismar were each booked Monday with one count of terrorizing – a felony punishable with up to 15 years in prison, Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley said.

“This is not just a case of kids just talking to be cool,” Wiley said. “These students had plans all worked out.”

The alleged plot was discovered after an anonymous call was made to Dutchtown High School on Friday indicated some kind of armed disturbance was being planned. Levins and Sinclair admitted some of the planning but called it a “fantasy” and a joke, and said they never really planned to go through with it, Lt. Kevin Hanna said.



Democratic presidential candidate Dick Gephardt: “The very heart of my candidacy ... is to restore American leadership in the world.”

Dean, Gephardt spar on Iraq

DES MOINES, Iowa – With less than a week until the Iowa caucuses, the two Democratic candidates running neck-and-neck for first place in the state – Howard Dean and Dick Gephardt – continued to spar Tuesday over the issue of the Iraq war, while voters in the District of Columbia were casting votes in a primary most of the major candidates bypassed.

Also, Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said Tuesday he believes candidates who don't win in Iowa, New Hampshire or any of the seven primary contests on Feb. 3 should consider dropping out of the race.

“I think on the morning of February 4th, if you're a Democratic candidate for president and you haven't won one of those nine contests, I would assume at that point you really need to assess your candidacy,” McAuliffe said in an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer.

McAuliffe said that after the first nine contests “the whole country has been in play, all the different groups of the Democratic Party have been involved in this process, and we need to narrow this down.”

Nine Democrats are in the race for the Democratic nomination. As Monday's contest in Iowa has gotten closer, Dean has come under increasing fire from other candidates in the Democratic field. Monday he blasted back, saying he would no longer be a “pin cushion” for his rivals.

37 people, including U.N. envoy, die in Uzbek crash

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan – Thirty-seven people have been killed when a Uzbekistan Airways flight crashed as it reached the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, a spokesman for the country's interior ministry has told *CNN*.

The United Nations have confirmed its top official in the central Asian nation was aboard the plane.

A statement issued by the state *UzA* news agency said all on board – 32 passengers and five crew – were killed as the plane came down on final approach on a domestic flight from Termez, on the Central Asian state's border with Afghanistan.

“At 7:27 p.m. local time (9:27 a.m. EST), a Yak-40 aircraft crashed while landing at Tashkent airport,” the statement said, *Reuters* reports.

A U.N. official in New York identified the man as British-Australian citizen Richard Conroy, the United Nations' “resident representative” in Uzbekistan.

Officials at Uzbekistan's national airline said the Yak-40, a Soviet-era jet, was on a domestic flight from Termez to Tashkent when the crash occurred.

There was no immediate indication of what caused the crash. At least one news report ruled out any indication of foul play.

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contact lens problem, in which contacts are prohibited in theater, laser eye surgery and some diagnostic eye exams such as an angiogram because of limited diagnostic equipment.

“The most common problems we treat are service members suffering from foreign objects in the eye such as sand or other small debris,” said Sgt. Robert Davis, Ophthalmology unit noncommissioned officer in charge. “However, we have treated service members with small corneal abrasions and have treated a few major eye injuries.”

Though Ophthalmology unit is required to treat U.S. service members and only emergency surgery for local citizens, the unit understands that every attempt to help the local citizens is an attempt to foster a better relationship between the coalition forces and Afghanistan.

“While we provide emergency surgery local citizens who suffer from eye injuries due to a land mine accidents or other accident, our services to the local citizens don’t stop there,” said Reynolds. “We’ve provided surgery for citizens who suffer from Strabismus and have removed cataracts.

We are trying to do the most we can with the time and resources we have available.”

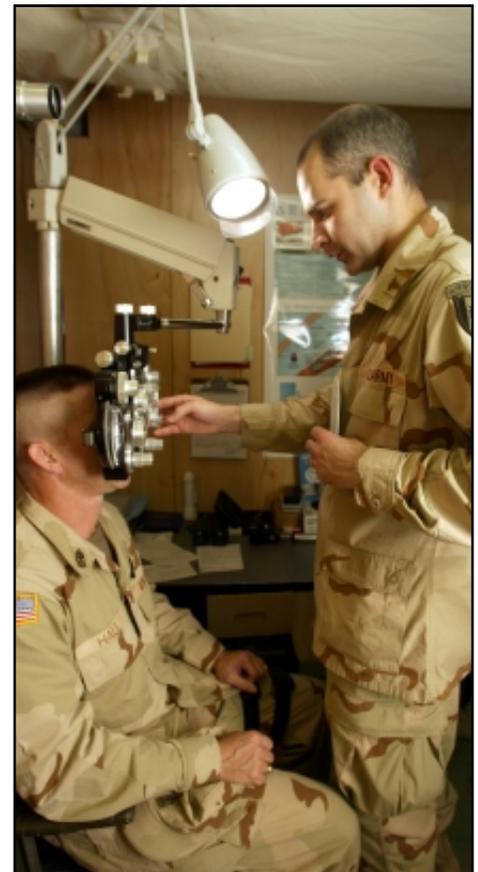
“Our mission is to preserve a person’s eye sight,” said Davis, “but if we can improve a person’s eyesight or improve the appearance of the eyes then we are more than happy to do that. It’s wonderful to (observe) a person that come in and can’t see but when they leave they can see or their eyesight is better. It makes (one) feel as if the time being here is well worth it.”

Although the Ophthalmology Soldiers are not on the front line fighting, they understand that their contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom is no less valuable than Soldiers who put bullets down range.

“What good is an infantryman if he can’t see what he needs to shoot, or a pilot if he can’t see where he needs to fly,” said Davis. “We preserve the sight so armed forces can fight, and that makes us as valuable as any asset the military has.”

The Ophthalmology unit is open from 0800 L to 1130L and 1300 L to 1500 L Monday through Saturday.

Located adjacent to the Sick Call clinic in the U.S. Hospital on Bagram Air Base, the Ophthalmology unit sees about 10 to 12 service members daily.



Capt. Mark Reynolds, 452nd CSH Ophthalmology unit, instructs Sgt. Maj. Wayne Hall, Joint Logistic Command, to read an eye chart as part of an eye exam.

Soldiers, officers can now view records online

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Soldiers can now review their personnel information on the Web in a one-page Enlisted Records Brief.

Official photographs were added last month to the online Officer Records Briefs, which first became available on the Web in June. The ERBs went online in December.

MyERB and MyORB are now both on the U.S. Army Human Resources Command homepage at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. Just click on the “Active” link at bottom right. Then the MyORB and MyERB links can be found in the left chimney.

The Web-based solution enables active-duty Soldiers to prepare for promotions by reviewing their records summary via the Internet, HRC officials said. Army Reserve Soldiers and officers can review some of their personnel information via the My2Xcitizen portal. Both the HRC and Reserve portals require Army Knowledge Online accounts and passwords.

“We believe that Soldiers’ access to their personnel information is the best it’s ever been with the ERB going online,” said Col. Reuben Jones, commander of the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center.

“If Soldiers need to make changes they should still contact their S-1,” Jones said. “Once changes are made in eMILPO, Soldiers should see corrections to their ERB within 24 to 48 hours.”

The ERB virtually replaces two forms – the old three-page ERB and the four-page DA form 2-1 for enlisted personnel, officials said. They added that the new ERB is now available for viewing 24/7 on the EREC homepage.

Similar to the ORB, the ERB contains personnel information used to manage professional development, assignments, and promotions such as assignment history, civilian and military education, awards and decorations, special skills, and individual qualifications. Both documents are updated from the data stored in eMILPO.

Currently, only the ORB includes a photo. The ERB will incorporate enlisted official photographs from the Department of the Army Photo Management Information System, known as DAPMIS, in a couple of months, officials said.

The ORB site has had about 25,000 “hits” since Dec. 18 when the photos were added.

“It is important that everyone ensures ... personnel information is accurate and updated,” said Brig. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, director of Officer Personnel, HRC. “MyORB with the photo is another step toward that end state.”

(Editor’s note: Shannon Brown, chief of the HRC Information Management Branch and Sgt. Maj. Deborah Seimer, the EREC sergeant major in Indianapolis, Ind., contributed to this story.)

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not freely move through. A fire engine had a difficult time responding to a fire in the Korean compound last week because vehicles were parked illegally.

“180 safety regulations have never allowed parking along Hesco walls,” Green said of the dirt and rock-filled barricades outlining most compounds here.

Several unit representatives raised concern that there aren’t enough parking areas here, especially with ongoing construction across the base. Green offered that camp mayors may designate parking areas provided they do not impede the free movement of rescue vehicles, and are not adjacent to living quarters. Safety officers are inspecting camps here to see if they meet standards.

Hundreds more vehicles are making their way onto base, and available parking is becoming more difficult to find. Green suggested people walk to destinations here, leaving their vehicles parked in front of unit headquarters.

Also covered in the meeting, Afghans working here will begin wearing new badges soon, prominently displayed at all times (except when conflicting with the safe operation of machinery). Combined Joint Task Force policy in effect since September obligates any service member to challenge a host-nation worker to show his badge. If the worker doesn’t have one, the challenging service member should detain the worker and deliver him to MP custody. Local workers wearing badges that have the color red anywhere on them need to have an escort at all times.

Not every worker will have the new badges right away. Each new badge will contain fingerprint and eye-retina data belonging only to its holder. Hard to counterfeit and to pass to someone else, these badges should improve base security.

Green reminded unit representatives that it’s not difficult for people to sneak over walls or under wire at night, infiltrating the base. By challenging all locals to display their badges, base personnel can identify infiltrators from registered workers.

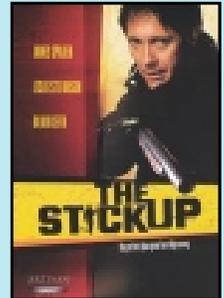
The new badges, also planned for other coalition camps in Afghanistan, will create the largest record of Afghans in the country.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“The Stickup”

1530Z at the MWR building:

When a bank robber takes up residence in a small town after having gotten away with half a million dollars, country life is disrupted by a former cop and a local police officer.



Tomorrow’s movie:

“Formula 51”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Uzbekistan:	<i>Cloudy/Rain</i> H: 58F L: 34F	<i>Cloudy/Rain</i> H: 61F L: 45F
Bagram:	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 57F L: 39F	<i>Cloudy/Rain</i> H: 55F L: 37F
Kabul:	<i>Cloudy/Fog</i> H: 55F L: 37F	<i>Cloudy/Rain</i> H: 54F L: 36F
Kandahar:	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i> H: 66F L: 41F	<i>Thunderstorms</i> H: 68F L: 48F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Benson, Mock to return to Texas

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas running back Cedric Benson announced Tuesday that he will stay with the Longhorns for his senior year.

Junior backup quarterback Chance Mock, who began last season as the starter before losing his job to Vince Young, also said he would stay at Texas. He had considered transferring to a Division I-AA school.



Cedric Benson has rushed for 1,000 yards in each of his three seasons at Texas.

Benson, who rushed for 1,360 yards and 21 touchdowns in 2003, considered leaving school early to enter the NFL draft. He's only the third Longhorns back to rush for 1,000 yards in three seasons.

"I have a lot of things I'd still like to accomplish at Texas but the most important one is to win more games and try to help the team win a Big 12 and National Championship," Benson said.

"I'd also like to prove that we can be one of the most explosive offenses out there and continue my development into hopefully one of the best running backs in the country," he said.

His decision means the Longhorns will still have two of their marquee players in 2004. All-American junior linebacker Derrick Johnson announced last week he'll also stay at Texas.

Texas finished 10-3 and ranked No. 12 last season after a 28-20 loss to Washington State in the Holiday Bowl.

Injured shoulder may sideline Kobe

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Kobe Bryant joined Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone on the sidelines Tuesday, leaving Gary Payton as the only healthy Los Angeles Lakers superstar.

Bryant is expected to miss a minimum of two-to-three weeks with an injured right shoulder, the result of a collision with Cleveland's Kedrick Brown on Monday night, the team said.

An MRI exam taken Tuesday confirmed Bryant sprained his surgically repaired shoulder.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Bryant won't need surgery, but will probably be placed on the injured list, meaning he'd have to sit out at least five games.

"I don't think there's any long-term effects to something like this," Jackson said.

It's also possible that Bryant could miss a game in February and two in March because of hearings regarding the sexual assault charge he faces in Colorado.

Bryant, the NBA's seventh-leading scorer with a 22.0-point average, was injured with 5.7 seconds left in the first quarter of an 89-79 victory over the Cavaliers when he faked Brown into the air outside the 3-point line and Brown landed on Bryant's shoulder.

Chiefs defensive coordinator resigns

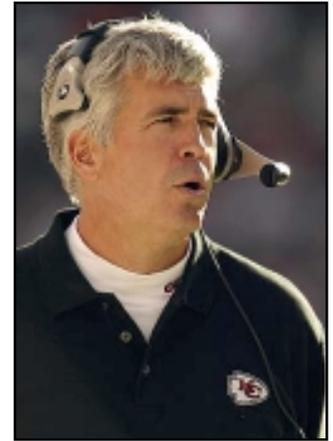
KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Chiefs defensive coordinator Greg Robinson resigned Tuesday, two days after an embarrassing playoff loss to Indianapolis.

Robinson told head coach Dick Vermeil after Sunday's 38-31 defeat that he would resign if Vermeil thought it was in the team's best interests.

"I told him to think about it," Robinson said. "Well, (Monday) afternoon he and I sat down and talked. He told me, 'Greg, Carol (Vermeil's wife) and I spent a long time (Monday) night talking about it. We believe it is the right thing.'"

Robinson's voice often wavered as he spoke, and Vermeil stood nearby with his arms folded and occasionally wiped away tears. Robinson left without taking questions.

The Chiefs' defense finished last in the NFL a year ago, but was thought to be significantly improved for this season with the addition of free agents Vonnie Holliday, Shawn Barber and Dexter McCleon, plus the return of injured starters Ryan Sims and Jerome Woods.



Greg Robinson's defense ranked 29th overall.

Boeheim helps in Syracuse victory

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Syracuse's first trip outside New York was a big success.

Hakim Warrick had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and the 17th-ranked Orangemen pulled away in the second half to beat Missouri 82-68 Monday night for their 12th straight victory.

Coach Jim Boeheim won his 665th career game, pulling ahead of John Wooden for 19th on the career Division I victory list. He's 665-227 in 28 seasons at Syracuse.

The Orangemen (12-1) are unbeaten since losing the opener to Charlotte. This was their first true road game, and they were impressive against a team ranked as high as third earlier in the season.

Syracuse arrived in Columbia on Saturday after beating Boston College earlier that day. A sold-out Hearnes Center did not rattle the visitors.

"We were intense from the beginning," said center Craig Forth, who scored a career-high 18 points.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Fight against terror network falters

(AP) – Nearly 100 countries have failed to enforce UN sanctions against the al Qaeda terror network and Afghanistan’s ousted Taliban and they should be publicly identified, the chairman of the committee overseeing sanctions said.

Chilean ambassador to the UN, Heraldo Munoz, briefed the Security Council yesterday on the committee’s uphill struggle to implement the asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo.

Only 93 countries have submitted reports on measures being taken to implement sanctions – less than half the 191 UN member states, he said.

Mr. Munoz said possible reasons for the failure to comply with the requirement to submit reports included lack of political will, “reporting fatigue,” lack of resources and technical ability, and problems with national coordination. The committee “intends to analyze and address the issue of why some states did not submit reports,” he said.

Mr. Munoz said it wasn’t just a matter of “naming and shaming” but of closing loopholes, adopting tougher measures, and engaging directly with countries to tell them that compliance with the sanctions resolution is mandatory.

Chile, the U.S., and Russia are also working on a new resolution to strengthen sanctions, which is expected to be adopted this month. “You can expect stronger measures” and possibly new sanctions, he said.

The council shifted sanctions from the government of Afghanistan to terror leader Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda and remnants of the Taliban in January 2002, after a U.S.-led force ousted the Taliban. But while 4,000 individuals linked to the two groups have been detained in more than 102 countries, the UN list of individuals and entities subject to sanctions has only 392 names.

Algeria’s UN ambassador Abdallah Baali, a new council member, suggested that countries might not be providing names for the UN list because of the reluctance of council members to accept their evidence of links with al Qaeda or the Taliban and called for greater transparency in the committee’s operation. Several countries complained of difficulty in enforcing the travel ban because of the lack of information to identify those on the list.

Pakistan’s UN ambassador Munir Akram said that since terrorism knew no borders, it was essential to ensure that there was no stigma attached to admitting that members of al Qaeda were present in a country. Instead, such admissions should be considered a sign of readiness to confront terrorism, he said.

Afghan progress undermined by drugs

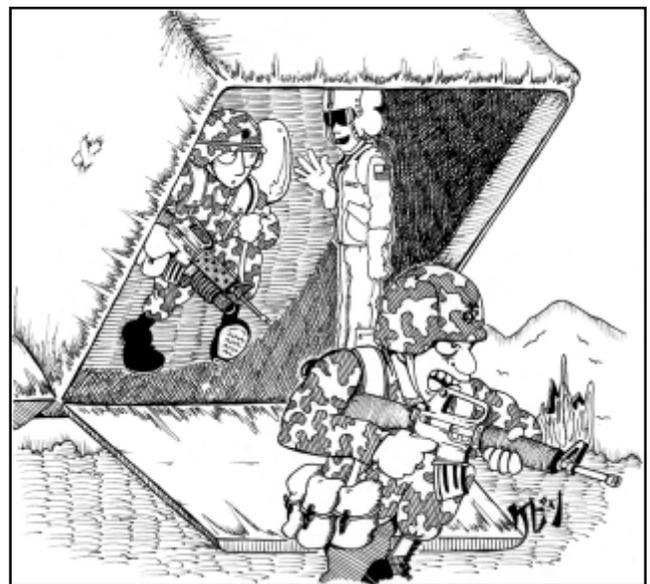
(*Christian Science Monitor*) – After three weeks of vigorous debates in the loya jirga, Afghans have succeeded in approving a new Constitution for their country. But whether Afghanistan has a presidential or parliamentary system, the focus of controversy is in many respects overshadowed by the burgeoning narcotics trade. Unless checked, the drug trade has the potential to undermine Afghanistan’s entire political and economic reconstruction process.

A recent trip to Afghanistan convinced us that along with growing insecurity, the drug trade is the single biggest obstacle to a stable Afghanistan. This year narcotics accounted for more than 40 percent of the Afghan economy; the UN estimates that Afghanistan’s current annual production of 3,600 tons of opium is 75 percent of the world’s output.

The struggle to produce a democratic constitution to underpin a stable, unified Afghanistan will bear little or no fruit if the narcotics trade continues to flourish. The Afghan drug lords, tied to terrorists and warlords for support and assistance, have a vested interest in a weak government in Kabul. And these “narcolords” will use all their power to keep the already fractured and volatile Karzai government unstable.

Afghan drug money provides a steady source of finance for groups like al Qaeda and the Taliban. These groups view the Karzai government as a pawn of the U.S. and its allies and they want to drive the international assistance community from Afghanistan. The terrorists target foreign aid workers and contractors, who are essentially undefended, in an effort to push out all international groups working to reconstruct Afghanistan and secure its future. The peace cannot be won while a reliable source of funding from narcotics continues to put weapons and resources into the hands of warlords and the Taliban. The war on terror in Afghanistan has to include an assault on the drug trade.

“Thank you for choosing Marine Air, please fly with us again.”



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support