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## Connecting

July 30, 2021

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**PETER ARNETT SNAPPED THIS PICTURE of an American flag attached to a piece of helicopter wreckage at Kandahar airport as he was ending his assignment in Afghanistan in March 2002. Neither he nor the soldiers who placed it there would know -- or would have believed -- that an America flag would be flying over Kandahar airport for the next 20 years.**

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this July 30, 2021,

In a month, U.S. military forces are scheduled to be withdrawn from Afghanistan – the news peg for a fascinating series provided to Connecting colleagues this week by **Peter Arnett** on coverage of the Afghan civil wars that preceded America's longest-running war.

Today's issue brings you the concluding installment of the three-part series – Part One ran on Monday and Part Two on Wednesday.

In today's final installment, Peter outlines the behind-scenes efforts that resulted in a face-to-face interview in 1997 with Osama Bin Laden. Peter was a correspondent for CNN at the time – after a great career with the AP during the Vietnam War in which he won a Pulitzer Prize for his war reporting.

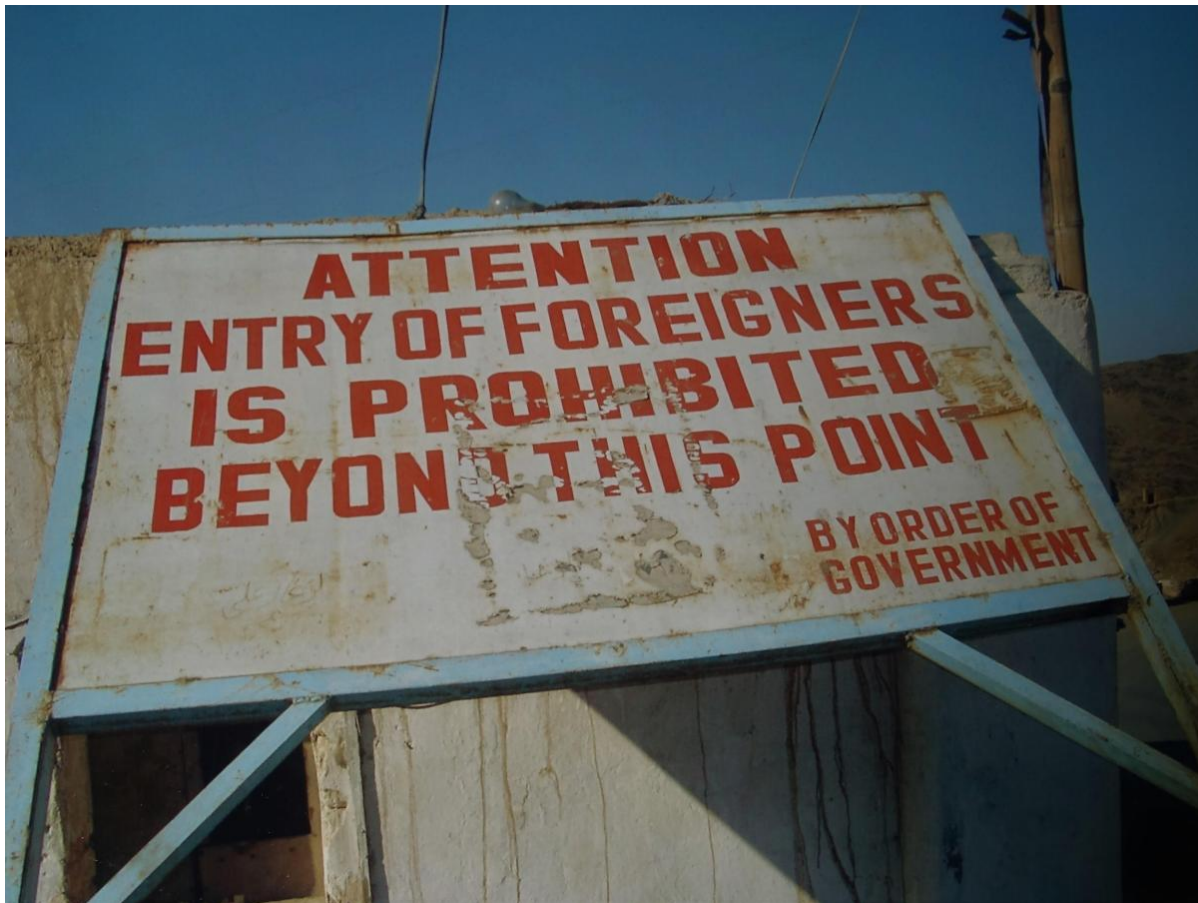
We thank him for sharing his insights. There's lots of ground work that goes into scoring a beat and Peter's story shows just that.

And Three Cheers to our colleague **Paul Bowker** – who has good news to share on his battle with lymphoma cancer.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy – and share your stories with Connecting.

Paul

## United States hunts Bin Laden in Afghanistan anti-terror war



**IN 1996, AFGHANISTAN'S MAIN SOUTHEASTERN BORDER** crossing with Pakistan was closed by the Islamic fundamentalist group, the Taliban, after it had wrested control of the capital of Kabul from warring tribal war lords in a surprisingly swift military campaign. The Taliban declared Afghanistan an Islamic emirate, with Mullah Mohammed Omar, a cleric and veteran of the anti-Soviet resistance, as "commander of the faithful." It was later learned the Taliban also established strong ties with the Al Qaeda terrorist group, giving shelter to its Saudi leader Osama Bin Laden after his expulsion, under international pressure, from Sudan, because of his growing role as a financier of terrorism. From various hideouts in south eastern Afghanistan and backed by a considerable family inheritance, Bin Laden raised the ante on his propaganda campaign against Western policy in the Middle East, his agents distributing DVDs and audio tapes to Islamic populations in Europe and the Middle East's major cities.

**Peter Arnett (Email)** - CNN decided to seek a television interview with Osama Bin Laden early in 1997 after he declared a jihad (a war) against the United States in a

widely distributed audio tape to the Arab world. An earlier visit by the network to Afghanistan to investigate terrorist involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center truck bombing had not turned up any linkage to Bin Laden although court documents had listed his name among others as unindicted co-conspirators. His declaration of war against the United States rated only a paragraph or two in American newspapers because it seemed an unlikely threat from a solitary enemy forced to hide out in a mountain cave in far-away Afghanistan. Classified documents obtained much later indicated the U.S. State Department in 1996 was already warning that Bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi Islamic fundamentalist, could prove dangerous to American interests in Afghanistan where hundreds of Arab Mujihadeen volunteers were receiving military training and where key terrorist leaders were known to congregate. The Clinton Administration had little to publicly say about the matter, but FBI officials investigating the World Trade Center truck bombing, passed on to CNN the agency's assessment that Bin Laden was possibly becoming actively involved in terrorism against American interests in the Middle East.

CNN discovered that Bin Laden's enablers were not hard to find among London's Islamic community, hiding in plain sight, as it were, in the respectable suburb of Dollis Hill. That residential district was well known for where a rarely used cabinet war room for Churchill's government was dug underground in World War II. Forty years later, the British Government was tolerating the presence of political opponents of Middle Eastern regimes there, allowing what the popular press was calling a "Londonistan" in the north of the city. Bin Laden's agents had set themselves up at a comfortable home in the Dollis Hill district's Beethoven Street, that also served as the office for the at Qaeda Advice and Reformation Committee, an organization founded by Bin Laden years earlier to assist exiled critics of the Saudi Arabia regime of which he had become a sworn enemy. The director, Khalid al-Jawwaz, responding to CNN enquiries, mentioned several other major news organizations had asked to have the first television interview with the Al Qaeda leader and that he would add CNN's name to the list. In early March 1997 the director phoned to say that Bin Laden's media advisor had concluded that CNN and Peter Arnett were best for the television interview, and that we should depart immediately for Afghanistan.





**A SCREEN SHOT FROM PETER ARNETT'S 1997 INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA BIN LADEN, conducted in a shepherd's hut late evening in eastern Afghanistan's Spin Ghar mountains near the Al Qaeda leader's headquarters. The son of a wealthy Saudi industrialist, Bin Laden told Arnett he had secretly imported heavy construction equipment from the family firm into the mountains during the Russian War to build a rudimentary road system and a fortress of caves and tunnels in the mountains. "We destroyed the Soviet Union," he said, claiming credit for the political chaos in Moscow and the end of communist rule across Russia that followed the Mujihadeen victory in 1989. Bin Laden added laconically, "Now we will destroy the American empire."**

En route to Afghanistan, the CNN team was required to visit Dollis Hill to meet director Jawwaz. The modest Tudor-style house on Beethoven Street where Bin Laden's senior London handler lived had a well-tended front garden and fitted in well with the dozen other nearby homes in the neighborhood, one of which we learned was occupied by another senior Bin Laden aide. Khalid was a burly Arab man dressed in a long white robe and a checkered headdress and wore a full bushy beard. He looked in his early 30s, in exile for a decade, he said, from his homeland of Saudi Arabia. We saw posters of Bin Laden on the hallway walls, and when we removed our shoes and entered his sitting room, we noted it was lined with computers, printers and fax machines and shelves with books in Arabic. It was all for use, Khalid told us in colloquial English, for the promotion across the Middle East of Bin Laden's criticism of the Saudi Royal family "for corrupting Islam", and against the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia, "the holy place of Islam", who had remained after the 1991 Gulf War to monitor Iraq's. Khalid clearly worshipped Bin Laden, describing him as "humble, charming, intelligent, a really significant wealthy chap for Islamic causes who gave up everything to go and fight in Afghanistan." But what about the announced Jihad against the United States that persuaded CNN to interview him in the first place? Khalid's response was that he would not condemn Bin Laden's call for violence against the West, but he would not condone it.

Khalid endeavored to impress upon us the "special privilege" we had received to interview his leader, and then laid down the rules we had to follow should we continue our assignment. He emphasized security, saying there had been several assassination attempts on Bin Laden by Saudi agents. "Tell no one you are meeting with Bin Laden, and en route if asked say you are traveling not to Jalalabad, Afghanistan, (the interview location) but to meet a man in Kuwait.," he stated. "Do not discuss the purpose of the trip with anyone. Prepare your questions in advance and pass them on to Bin Laden's media adviser two days before the interview. You may not ask follow up questions." What about our security, I asked, because we would be traveling through Taliban lands becoming notorious for brutal repression. Khalid introduced us to an Arab man he named Ali. He had a bushy red beard and was stocky, and spoke Arabic and a little French. He knew Afghanistan, he knew Bin Laden, we were told. He would be our guide. "Obey his instructions at all times." Khalid said. As we departed for Heathrow airport to catch a flight to Islamabad, Pakistan, Khalid had one last instruction: "You have to swear you are not working for the CIA".



**THIS SCREEN SHOT FROM CNN'S DOCUMENTARY shows the route followed outside Jalalabad toward the distant mountain rendezvous with Bin Laden. Told to leave their camera equipment at their hotel, this highway scene was taken by the CNN team the evening after the interview to help reproduce the drama of the drive. The Al Qaeda leader's personal media adviser photographed the interview with an expensive digital camera and handed over a DVD copy soon afterwards. The CNN team had been permitted to bring a lighting kit that was set up only after an altercation with suspicious security men.**

Our guide Ali turned up with a second Arab man in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar who remained nameless for the rest of the trip. We presumed he was our

main man for the final stretch into Afghanistan. He was civil but did not care to chat, and would disappear with Ali for hours, presumably to clear the path through Taliban border security and onward to Jalalabad. We had Pakistan visas but nothing official or unofficial from the Taliban. It didn't matter. We passed out through Pakistan immigration at the Torkam border crossing with minimum fuss and passed into Taliban Afghanistan at speed in our rental car as a dozen armed guards waved us on our way. The fix was in. In fact, in our seven days in busy Jalalabad that had become an important Taliban center we did not personally meet one Taliban official or soldier or ordinary person, even as we three casually dressed Caucasians daily walked outside our hotel. People looked away as they passed and jeeps packed with security men left us alone as they roamed the city streets. Clearly, Bin Laden's influence was writ so large in the Taliban biosphere that he could secure not just our security but our near-complete oblivion to others.

Then came the waiting. Mr Ali had earlier informed us the trip might take a week or two and we were already into our third day in Jalalabad. We were booked into the old art deco style Spin Gha Hotel, a large wooden heap painted bright yellow that once represented luxury for an older Afghanistan. The cavernous rooms made up in size for what they lacked in cleanliness and basic necessities. We were the only guests, attended by one cook/waiter who served mainly mystery meat stews for our meals, and a polite but nervous desk clerk. Mr Ali would visit every day or so to counsel patience but he was unwilling to impart any information whatsoever about the situation. On day five an officious young Arab man with shoulder-length hair and wearing a headdress and dark glasses arrived at our door. He introduced himself as Bin Laden's media adviser and said the interview would be conducted at night sometime soon, "somewhere in the neighboring Spin Ghar mountains" that towered beyond Jalalabad to the Pakistan border,. And we were asked to produce the interview question list that the adviser suggested might be influential in determining when and whether Bin Laden would give the interview. CNN producer Peter Bergen and I had labored hours over the list, aware that Bin Laden would not accept follow-up questions, and that he could rule out those he didn't like. We ended up with 32 consequential questions that if answered frankly would update the world's knowledge of Bin Laden's and Al Qaeda's motivations and intentions.





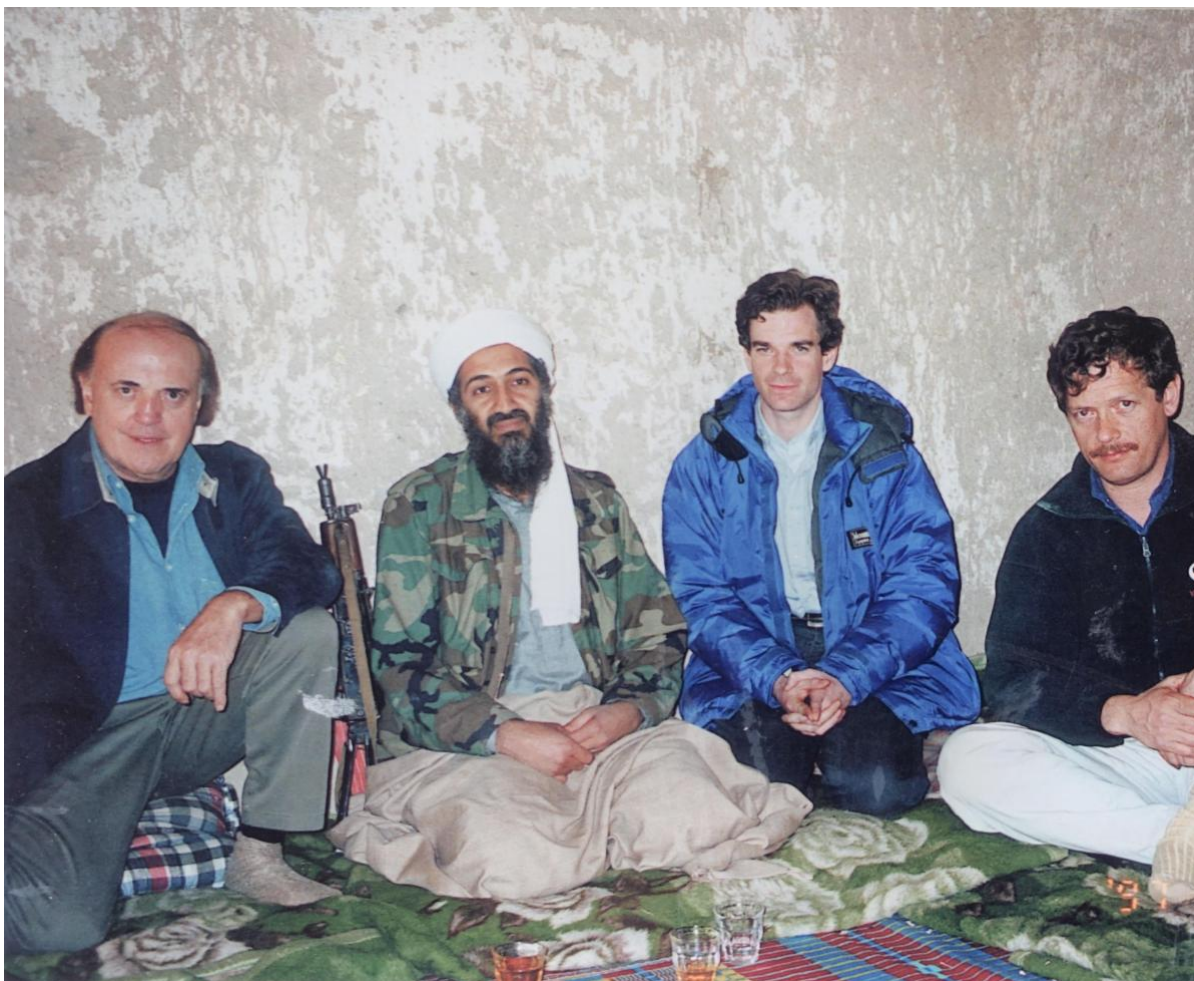
**A SCREEN SHOT OF OSAMA BIN LADEN RESPONDING to a question from Peter Arnett during his CNN interview in Afghanistan in July 1997. Asked why he had declared a jihad against the United States, the Al Qaeda leader declared it was in response to what he described as the U.S. Government's "unjust, criminal and tyrannical activities in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, "that were responsible for civilians to be killed." He also suggested America civilians might be potential targets in his war plans, saying, "They are not exonerated from responsibility because they voted for this government and voted for it despite their knowledge of its crimes".**

On our sixth day of waiting the media adviser arrived unannounced at the front door of the Spin Ghar Hotel late afternoon with an old blue Volkswagen van. I could see our guide Ali inside, and three armed soldiers in the back. The media adviser was officious, striding into our equipment room and picking through the tv gear. "You can't take any of this with you," he declared, only to be confronted by Peter Jouvenal, already furious over having to leave his camera behind. "We have to have the lights," he asserted, waving the spindly metal frame in the adviser's face. We took the lights but the adviser had the last say: "Turn out our pockets and take only the clothes you are wearing, not even your watches." We clambered into the van, and were required to wear dark glasses with cardboard insets to conceal our route, but they were hardly effective. We knew the locality well enough to know we were on the main road to Kabul and we passed through the familiar long tunnel out of town before we turned into a rocky pathway leading up a mountain. We came to a halt and were required to leave our vehicle to be immediately surrounded by a dozen crew-cut Arab paramilitary soldiers who roughly searched us. I was not happy. I complained to the media adviser and he told me they were looking for concealed tracking and location devices in our clothing that he said were beginning to be used by Western intelligence agencies. By now the moon was full and I saw that the soldiers were armed with rifles and rocket propelled grenades.

We were transferred to a Jeep Cherokee with heavily tinted windows and began to climb slowly up the mountain., bumping over the crude path. Our ordeal by



aggressive soldiers was not over. A second group of armed paramilitary men ordered us out of the SUV as we reached a small plateau. Again we were roughly searched, as was our vehicle. An officer began questioning the military adviser, and held us for some time. But our ordeal was still not ended because 30 minutes later near the crest of the mountain with snow visible on the ground we were again searched, this time by soldiers with Russian PK submachine guns, clearly an elite unit. An officer came close and talked to me, in Arabic, the military advisor translating, "If we find a tracking device on any of you, you will all be killed instantly." The closer we got to Bin Laden the more protective his defenders were becoming. When we reached our destination, a narrow mountain valley, late in the evening, I noticed it was ringed by soldiers. I thought, here we go again, more rough-house, but instead we were led to a mud hut lined with blankets and with ratty carpets on the floor to sit on, and served plates of rice, bread and chicken. There was a kerosene lamp throwing a dim light across the hut, enough to illuminate the rising excitement in our faces as we waited for Bin Laden to appear. We were far from home, in a place where we did not feel welcome, about to meet a dangerous opponent of much we valued, and yet we wanted to be here in Afghanistan, we'd chased this moment, to match our wits against the leader of the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world, our interview in effect a demand he explain himself to those he threatened.



**A PHOTOGRAPH, TAKEN BY BIN LADEN'S MEDIA ADVISER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CNN INTERVIEW, shows the CNN team (Correspondent Peter Arnett, left, producer Peter Bergen center, and cameraman Peter Jovenal) and a relaxed Bin Laden, with his polished AK47 rifle next to him. Tea was served, and he chatted casually about his days fighting the Russians and his dislike of Saddam Hussein who he described as "a**

**bad Arab who should be replaced as president of Iraq." An aide later told Arnett his rifle's barrel had six notches scratched on it, the number of enemy soldiers Bin Laden claimed to have killed with the weapon in the Russian War.**

Bin Laden arrived at midnight from some other place across the mountain. He pushed through the sackcloth door of our crude shepherd's hut, looking down on our little group as from a great height, well more than six feet, I thought, enhanced by the white cloth turban wrapped around his head. He carried a shiny AK 47 rifle in his right hand with a military-style jacket pulled over his blouse and loose-fitting trousers. I endeavored to stand up in greeting but he motioned me down. He stood over us all for a long moment, then he called over to his media adviser who directed him to a green blanket along the far wall where he sat down heavily. I noticed he was limping. By now a distant buzzing generator was providing power for the camera lights. I squatted down on my own blanket and looked at Bin Laden three feet away. His thick beard had tiny threads of grey and his gaze was steady, unflinching. I'd interviewed other bad men. Like them, he was confident in his power to persuade. His media adviser was the interpreter. I asked my questions and Bin Laden responded in Arabic, his lilting cadence rising with excitement as he discussed subjects close to him, such as his jihad against America. I asked him if an eventual end of the United States presence in Saudi Arabia, a withdrawal, would end his call for jihad. No, he said, ending the jihad would not come with an American withdrawal from the Arabian peninsula "but rather a requirement to desist from aggressive intervention against Muslims in the whole world."

I asked a series of questions about a rising tide of terrorism in Saudi Arabia against American troops, particularly in Riyadh and Dhahran in the mid-1990s when bombs used against an American vehicle and against a military billet killed more than 20 servicemen. Neither was attributed to Bin Laden but in my interview he applauded the attacks. Does he expect more attacks? His response: "It is known that every action has its reaction. If the American presence continues, and that is an action, then it is natural for reactions to continue against this presence. In other words, explosions and killing of the American soldiers will continue." To me his answers confirmed that his jihad against the United States had started long before he announced it in 1996, and that the brutality he espoused was no less frightening even though cloaked in religious necessity. Bin Laden was with us one hour, then he was gone into the wintry night as mysteriously as he had arrived. At dawn they let us leave the shepherd's hut on our journey home. The soldiers were gone from the road and we were not further hindered.

After 9/11 when academics and others began downloading the text of my interview on Google, something was made of his enigmatic response when I had asked his future plans and he'd responded, "You'll see them and hear about them in the media, God willing". Was he signaling the 2001 World Trade Center attacks? I think he was signaling all his future actions, including the monstrous Al Qaeda car bombings of the American Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Tanzania's Dar es Salaam on August 7, 1998, killing 224 people including 12 Americans, and injuring 5,000 others. President Bill Clinton ordered in response a cruise missile attack on terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and the Sudan, with little permanent effect. And then came the attack against the U.S. Navy's guided missile destroyer the Cole on October 12, 2000, while it was on a refueling stop in Yemen's port city of Aden. Al Qaeda terrorists blasted a large hole in the Cole's hull, killing 17 crew members and injuring 37 more.

Undeterred in his mission, Bin Laden moved to a higher plane to intimidate the hated America. The elaborate, unbelievably destructive terrorist plot against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon emerged from his military training camps and his eager young Arab acolytes in an Afghanistan, a country the size of Texas, that he had bent to his will.



**THIS IS A SCREENSHOT FROM THE 1997 CNN BIN LADEN DOCUMENTARY of correspondent Peter Arnett making his closing remarks from a site near the picturesque Kabul River reservoir west of Jalalabad. The documentary was shown on May 12, 1997, in the United States and the 100 other countries served by the satellite network. The AP wrote about it, and in Saudi Arabia the police confiscated copies of newspapers that had discussed it. Otherwise, there was little reaction. Osama Bin Laden had warned America of his intentions but the country wasn't listening.**





**TALIBAN ARTILLERY GUNS and other weaponry destroyed in a military depot outside Jalalabad by the early salvos of the American bombing attacks that followed the 9/11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Peter Arnett was at his apartment in New York City when the attacks occurred. He signed up with Mark Cuban's HDNet, then a new high-definition television channel, based in Texas, to make a dozen 30-minute documentaries on the beginning months of America's Afghan war.**





**PREPARING FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER 2001, a few weeks after the fall of Kabul to allied forces, American soldiers carefully pin up a large flag in the reception room at the formerly abandoned U.S. Embassy. The press conference was for visiting US Senator Joe Biden, then a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Responding to a question from Peter Arnett, Biden promised support for an American economic aid program that would help reopen Afghanistan's main highway system and rebuild destroyed urban communities, indications that the United States might have bigger plans in store for the troubled land of tribal rivalries and terrorists than just hunting down and killing Osama Bin Laden.**



**PETER ARNETT SHOWN REPORTING FROM A DESERTED AL QAEDA terrorist training camp located in the foothills of the Spin Gha mountains in southeastern Afghanistan in December 2001. The sprawling compound of mud brick rooms had housed several hundred Arab volunteers in Bin Laden's war against America. An Afghan soldier showed Arnett the only room with a water supply that he said had been used by Bin Laden when he visited the camp. The soldier had also found a set of large chest x rays that he believed were taken of the Al Qaeda leader.**



**WHEN THE WAR BEGAN ON OCTOBER 7, 2001, ATTACKING AMERICAN AIRCRAFT LEVELED BUILDINGS in an elaborate family estate Bin Laden built outside the city of Kandahar, a stronghold of the fundamentalist Taliban regime. The courtyards were decorated with painted themes from Islamic teachings. The Al Qaeda leader's home that housed his several wives and children, had several bedrooms and large kitchens. All had been looted by local Afghans when Peter Arnett visited in December 2001.**





**TWO MONTHS INTO OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, PETER ARNETT SPENT A DAY WITH SOLDIERS** from the U.S. Army's 187th infantry regiment who were settling into Kandahar Airport as a base for major operations against the Taliban. In his report for HDNet television, Arnett quoted the optimistic predictions of the troopers who had carved out foxholes from the rocky landscape and been ordered to confront anyone approaching their lines from across the vast desert beyond them.

## The largest news agency in the US changes crime reporting practices to 'do less harm and give people second chances'

### The Conversation

When suspects' names appear in crime stories, their lives may be broken and never put back together.

For years, people have begged The Associated Press, known as the "AP," to scrub their indiscretions from its archives. Some of those requests "were heart-rending," said John Daniszewski, standards vice president at AP who helped to spearhead the worldwide news service's new policy.

Acknowledging that journalism can inflict wounds unnecessarily, AP will no longer name those arrested for minor crimes when the news service is unlikely to cover the



story's subsequent developments. Often, such stories' publication hinges on an odd or entertaining quirk, and the names are irrelevant. Yet, the ramifications can loom large and be long-lasting for the persons named.

How much detail American reporters include in a crime story depends on how newsworthy it is, our research found. A minor story might be based solely on a police incident report. A big story, the kind discussed around the water cooler, can include interviews with acquaintances and deep probes into the person's past. Whether the story is big or small, most accounts include full identification of the accused in the American press.

"I received a very moving letter from a man who, as a college student, had been involved in a financial crime," Daniszewski recalled in an interview with us, both media ethics scholars. When an old news account of the incident surfaced, the young man lost friends. Even his upcoming marriage was jeopardized until he could persuade his fiancée and her family that he had learned from his experience and was not an incorrigible villain.

Read more [here](#).

## Cancer journey delivers chemo and friendships



Paul with his daughter Alyssa, who drove from Massachusetts to Iowa to take care of him, and wound up getting a job as a medical specialist in the neurology clinic at the University of Iowa. I am still writing news and sports stories for The News in Kalona--my first adventure at a weekly paper.

By Paul D. Bowker ([Email](#))  
The News, Kalona IA

The last seven months were a blur, quite honestly, as they become for any cancer patient.

This is my story.

Days began with a bottle of water.

And then a pill.

Then more water.

And more pills.

Every 22 days, there was a chemotherapy treatment at the University of Iowa, sometimes with the infusion suite offering a grand view of Kinnick Stadium. The infusion of multiple chemo drugs would take hours. And, yes, more pills before the treatment ever began.

There were three in-patient stays in the hospital for methotrexate, a powerful chemo drug.

And an ongoing recovery from a blood clot.

There were two biopsies, two PET-scans and a CT scan to go along with the endless number of blood draws and Covid tests.

So when my oncologist informed me earlier this month that my lymphoma cancer was gone, that I was in remission, I was waiting for the balloons and the music and the fireworks display.

That is not reality.

Read more [here](#).

## **Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas**

### ***- Plus a generous bonus event!***

You are invited to attend the Sept. 18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Co-hosts are Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

Please register by Monday, Aug. 2, which is also the deadline to get the reduced AP Connecting Reunion rate at the group hotel (see below). Pay your own way for events Saturday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 19.

There's also a generous bonus event, hosted by David and Ellen Sedeño, on Friday night, Sept. 17 (see below). All events are casual attire.

**WHO'S ATTENDING:** Registration list so far (will be updated):

- Jaime & Lori Aron
- Amanda Barnett
- Barry Bedlan
- Betsy Blaney
- Joei Bohr & Mark Woolsey
- Jeff Carlton
- Sally Carpenter Hale & Rick Hale
- Mike & Sondra Cochran
- Pam & Frank Collins
- Schuyler Dixon
- Katie Fairbank
- Denne & Judy Freeman
- Mike Graczyk
- Stephen & Andrea Hawkins
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- Brent Kallestad
- Doug Kienitz
- David & Darlene Koenig
- Mark Lambert
- Terri Langford
- John & Eileen Lumpkin
- Scott McCartney
- John McFarland
- Steve & Teri Mace
- Evan Ramstad
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Rod Richardson & Kia Breaux Richardson
- David & Ellen Sedeño
- Kelley Shannon
- Ed & Barbara Staats
- Jamie Stengle
- Terry Wallace & Liz Eaton
- Sylvia & Will Wingfield

**Group Events:** A Tex-Mex dinner Saturday night, Sept. 18, and going to the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, at retractable-roof Globe Life Field in Arlington. Baseball tickets are \$45 each and must be reserved in advance via Diana. Details on the registration form.

**Bonus Event!** Friday night, Sept. 17:

David and Ellen Sedeño of Dallas have graciously offered to host and pick up the tab (for reunion early arrivals or those who live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) for dinner Friday night at their family's BBQ restaurant: Meat U Anywhere BBQ in nearby Grapevine. For more information or to confirm for Friday night, email [david@meatuanywhere.com](mailto:david@meatuanywhere.com)

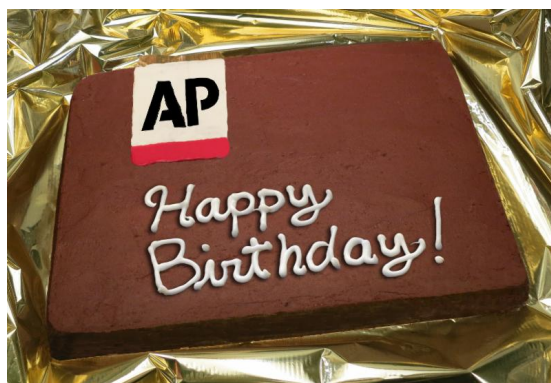


**Group Hotel:**

SpringHill Suites Dallas DFW Airport South/CentrePort, rates \$109-\$114 per night, plus taxes & fees, AP Connecting Reunion rate is available Sept. 15-20. Please make your reservation by Aug. 2. Details on the registration form.

See you in September!

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Briscoe - [dcbriscoejr@gmail.com](mailto:dcbriscoejr@gmail.com)

Freida Frisaro - [freidafrisaro@att.net](mailto:freidafrisaro@att.net)

*On Saturday to...*

Randi Berris - [randi.berris@gmail.com](mailto:randi.berris@gmail.com)

Jocelyn Noveck - [jnoveck@ap.org](mailto:jnoveck@ap.org)

Tony Winton - [twinton1@me.com](mailto:twinton1@me.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Mike Goodkind - [goodkindm@gmail.com](mailto:goodkindm@gmail.com)

Dolores Barclay - [tobibar@gmail.com](mailto:tobibar@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

## ***New NPR Ethics Policy: It's OK For Journalists To Demonstrate (Sometimes)*** (NPR)

By KELLY McBRIDE

NPR rolled out a substantial update to its ethics policy earlier this month, expressly stating that journalists may participate in activities that advocate for "the freedom and dignity of human beings" on both social media and in real life.

The new policy eliminates the blanket prohibition from participating in "marches, rallies and public events," as well as vague language that directed NPR journalists to avoid personally advocating for "controversial" or "polarizing" issues.

NPR's current ethics policy was first drafted in the early 2000s, and then given an overhaul in 2010-2011.

The new NPR policy reads, "NPR editorial staff may express support for democratic, civic values that are core to NPR's work, such as, but not limited to: the freedom and dignity of human beings, the rights of a free and independent press, the right to thrive in society without facing discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, disability, or religion."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Group: Jailed Belarus journalist needs urgent hospital care*** (AP)

By YURAS KARMANAU

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The Belarusian Association of Journalists on Thursday called on authorities in Belarus to transfer a jailed journalist to a civilian hospital so he could get treatment for a coronavirus-induced pneumonia he has reportedly developed in detention.

The association said it filed a request with the Interior Ministry's penitentiary department and the Health Ministry to urgently hospitalize Andrei Skurko, head of the advertising and marketing department of the prominent Nasha Niva newspaper. Skurko, who used to be the paper's chief editor from 2006 to 2017, was arrested three weeks ago and is in a pre-trial detention center in Minsk, the capital.

Nasha Niva reported this week that Skurko has been transferred to the facility's medical ward with "structural changes in his lungs," and his cellmates were placed in quarantine because Skurko was suspected to have been infected with COVID-19.

The newspaper said before Skurko, 43, was moved to the detention facility he is in now, he had spent 13 days in another detention center that is notorious for its harsh

conditions, without a bed or a mattress and lacking access to his diabetes medications.

Read more [here](#).



## Celebrating AP's 175th

### 175th anniversary Polo shirts



AP is offering a variety of 175th anniversary merchandise, but one item that isn't available and that many staffers like is a Polo shirt. Adam Yeomans, AP's regional director for the South, has taken care of that. He recently ordered Polos for AP staffers in the South, a few members and retirees, other AP fans. Now you have the opportunity to order one of these limited-edition shirts emblazoned with the AP's 175th anniversary logo. The cost is \$30 per shirt, including shipping. Adult sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL. The Navy Blue shirts are a 50/50 blend and tend to run a little large. If you'd like to order one, please email Adam Yeomans at [adamyemans@yahoo.com](mailto:adamyemans@yahoo.com) with your name, phone number, home address, and the size(s) and quantity by July 30. Adam says he will collect payment once the shirts are ready for shipping. He's trying to cover his cost; if there's anything left, he says he will donate it to the AP Employee Relief Fund.

### AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.



Click [here](#).

## AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

### AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

# Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



# Today in History - July 30, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 30, the 211th day of 2021. There are 154 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

### On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race, which had begun in New York in February, ended in Paris with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL'-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

In 2008, ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich) was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

In 2010, the Afghan Taliban confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and appointed his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

Ten years ago: NATO jets bombed three Libyan state TV satellite transmitters in Tripoli, targeting a propaganda tool in Moammar Gadhafi's fight against rebels.

Five years ago: Sixteen people died when a hot air balloon caught fire and exploded after hitting high-tension power lines before crashing into a pasture near Lockhart, Texas, about 60 miles northeast of San Antonio.

One year ago: John Lewis was eulogized in Atlanta by three former presidents and others who urged Americans to continue the work of the civil rights icon in fighting injustice during a moment of racial reckoning. Herman Cain, a former Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of a pizza chain who became an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump, died in Atlanta of complications from the coronavirus at the age of 74; he was hospitalized less than two weeks after attending Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was photographed not wearing a mask. Trump floated the idea of delaying the Nov. 3 presidential election, an idea that met immediate resistance from Republicans in Congress. The government reported that the coronavirus pandemic sent the economy plunging by a record-shattering 32.9% annual rate in the second quarter. The NBA season resumed for 22 teams inside a "bubble" at Walt Disney World in Florida, with no fans in attendance and with strict health and safety protocols in effect.

Today's Birthdays: Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 87. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 85. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 82. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 82. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 81. Singer Paul Anka is 80. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 76. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 74. Actor William Atherton is 74. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 73. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 73. Actor Frank Stallone is 71. Actor Ken Olin is 67. Actor Delta Burke is 65. Law professor Anita Hill is 65. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 63. Country singer Neal McCoy is 63. Actor Richard Burgi is 63. Movie director Richard Linklater is 61. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 60. Actor Lisa Kudrow is 58. Bluegrass musician Danny



Roberts (The Grascals) is 58. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 58. Actor Vivica A. Fox is 57. Actor Terry Crews is 53. Actor Simon Baker is 52. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 52. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 51. Actor Tom Green is 50. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 50. Actor Christine Taylor is 50. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 48. Actor Hilary Swank is 47. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 44. Actor Jaime Pressly is 44. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 41. Actor April Bowlby is 41. Former soccer player Hope Solo is 40. Actor Yvonne Strahovski is 39. Actor Martin Starr is 39. Actor Gina Rodriguez is 37. Actor Nico Tortorella is 33. Actor Joey King is 22.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**



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