



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

August 2017

The Taliban and the Future of the Afghan Conflict

Professor Thomas H. Johnson

Naval Postgraduate School

Friday, August 25, 2017

11:30 am registration ~ noon luncheon ~ 1:00-2:00 program

Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road

The Taliban movement has proved to be a formidable fighting force in Afghanistan and a major threat to its government. The Sunni Islamic Fundamentalist movement now controls more than half of the nation. As of this writing, the Trump Administration expects to increase American military involvement in Afghanistan to counter the growing threat.

What is known about the current Taliban leadership and their goals? How does their Pashtun heritage affect their political agenda? What role is Pakistan playing in the conflict? And what are the prospects for a resolution of the long and tragic strife? Tom Johnson, Research Professor in the National Security Affairs Department at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), will address these critical issues at our August 25 meeting.

For more than three decades, Professor Johnson has taught, conducted research, and written on Afghanistan, Central and South Asia, politics, terrorism, and security. He is also Director of the Program for Culture and Conflict Studies at NPS. Professor Johnson regularly briefs deploying troops concerning weapons of mass destruction and global jihad.



In 2008-9 he served as the Senior Political and Counterinsurgency Advisor to the Commander (General Jon Vance) of the Canadian Afghan Task Force stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Tom Johnson has taught at the University of Southern California and the Foreign Service Institute, and frequently lectures at Service Academies. Before joining the faculty of the NPS, he served on the faculty of George Mason University. His commentaries have appeared in numerous

academic journals and popular media outlets including the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

His edited volume on COIN (counterinsurgency strategy), *Culture and Conflict* was published by Stanford University Press in 2014. His most recent book, *Taliban Narratives: The Uses and Power of Stories in the Afghan Conflict*, will be co-published by Oxford University Press and Hurst Publishers (London) in September 2017.

(Please see page 3 for reservation details.)

Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 3	Board meets in D200, 400 Pacific Street, MIIS. Open to members.	4:30 pm
Monday, August 14	Discussion Group meets on <i>North Korea Updated: What to do About a Seemingly Intractable Problem?</i> Room 106, Humanities building, MPC.	4-5:30 pm
Wednesday, August 9	WAC Book Club meets at Monterey Public Library, Community Room to review <i>The Storied City: The Quest for Timbuktu and the Fantastic Mission to Save its Past</i>	5-6:30 pm
Friday, August 25	Luncheon and presentation of <i>The Taliban and the Future of the Afghan Conflict</i> by Professor Tom Johnson at Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road	11:30—2 pm

June Program Report

Sustaining Peace in Colombia

At the luncheon on June 19th, Professor Douglas Porch assessed the sustainability of the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). After significant changes, the process of demobilization and civilianization will unfold in stages. The terms of the agreement include the FARC surrendering their weapons to UN custody and the demobilization of guerilla units in return for amnesty and land redistribution.

Porch is “cautiously pessimistic” about the likely success of what will be a drawn out process. Colombia has been a weak state due to fragmented geography, weak political institutions and a history of political violence. The current demobilization is the seventh major demobilization of violent non-state actors since 1989. While conditions in Colombia have certainly improved since the nadir of the 1990s, the more common pattern is that violence has been recycled in the form of criminal gangs rather than ended. In the past, spoilers have intervened to assassinate political opponents or sabotage reforms. The land redistribution provisions, which lie at the heart of the agreement, have failed in the past, will prove difficult to implement legally, and do not offer a viable economic model. Employment will remain elusive for many FARC guerillas as they lack skills to successfully integrate into civil society. The result threatens to become what Porch calls “a criminalized peace” fostered by those who continue to trade in illicit narcotics. The tradition of localized groups working out conflicts through violence combined with the country’s vast areas of un-governed space, will make it all too likely that localized conflicts in Colombia will continue.

Philip Morgan

WELCOME!

Thanks to all of you, we had a record number of new members sign up around the July luncheon talk with Dr. Frank Fukuyama. We welcome you as new members. We hope you will take advantage of all the benefits and “perks” of World Affairs Council membership. AND REMEMBER to invite your friends, neighbors and business associates as guests to our luncheons and urge them to sign up for membership, too. You are the lifeblood of this organization and its continued growth and success.

So.....WELCOME AND THANK YOU!

Ron Nelson,
Membership Chairman

Terry Alfriend
C.E. Armstrong
Debra and Brett Borden
Sandra and Richard Brown III
Jerry and Marge Burnett
Margaret Coppemoll
Mary Kay Crockett
Mark and Susan Gajewski
Bud and Judith Glickman
Doug McLain
Nancy McInnis
Gloria Massey
Carolyn Mitchell
Denny Paul
Jack Uydess
Mark Widmer

(And more!)

Board of Directors!

Please note that the August Board meeting will take place at 4:30 pm, Thursday August 3 in room D200, 400 Pacific Street, second floor, of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets regularly second Monday of each month at MPC, room 106 Humanities Building 4 p.m. This month we will discuss North Korea. How should the U.S. respond to recent events? Meeting is free and open to the public. Please come!

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due August 21, 2017 for August 25, 2017 presentation.

Registration 11:30 am
Luncheon at noon
Program 1 pm

Mail form & check or credit information to:
WAC—P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
or FAX reservation to (831) 643-1846

Members @ \$25 ea. _____
Guests @ \$35 ea. _____
Credit card charge \$2 ea. _____
Total _____

The Taliban and the Future of the Afghan Conflict

Name/s _____

Card Holder's Name _____

Address _____

Card Number _____

Email _____ **Phone #** _____

Exp Date _____ **VISA** _____ **MC** _____

Vegetarian? (72 hours notice) _____

Signature _____

Questions? Call the office at 831-643-1855

BOOK CLUB

The WAC Book Club meets regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at the Monterey Public Library, from 5-6:30 p.m. The public is invited.

On August 9 attendees will review *The Storied City: The Quest for Timbuktu and the Fantastic Mission to Save its Past* by Charles English. It's two tales of a city: The historical race to "discover" one of the world's most mythologized places, and the story of how a contemporary band of archivists and librarians, fighting to save the ancient manuscripts from destruction at the hands of al Qaeda, added another layer to the legend.

September reading will be *Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom* by Condoleezza Rice.

See you there?

(This program is not sponsored or endorsed by the Monterey Public Library or the City of Monterey.)

LUNCHEON MENU

Caesar Salad

Braised Chicken

Tarragon

Rice Pilaf

Vegetable Medley

Chef's Choice Dessert

(Vegetarian)

Fettuccine Alfredo



The Passport August 2017

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area. Founded in 1951, the Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, EIN-77-0301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups and student scholarships.

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by:

California State University Monterey Bay
Defense Language Institute
Monterey Peninsula College
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
Naval Postgraduate School
Rancho Cañada Horan & Lloyd law firm
Ventana Vineyards

WAC office, 479 Pacific St., 5A, Monterey 93940
Mail to: P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
831-643-1855 FAX 831-643-1846
e-mail: wacmb@redshift.com
Website: www.wacmb.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Benefactor.....	\$1000
Patron.....	\$600
Sponsor.....	\$300
Contributing.....	\$150
Sustaining.....	\$75
Family (couple).....	\$50
Individual	\$30
Student.....	\$15

Make checks payable to WAC and mail to:
WAC, P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942

Name/s _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Student memberships are limited to full-time students matriculating at an accredited college or graduate school. This includes special military membership for enlisted personnel. Grades E-1 to E-4 only.

World Affairs Council
P.O. Box 83
Monterey, CA 93942
wacmb@redshift.com

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 330
Monterey, CA
93940

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers & Board of Directors

President: Cynthia Harris
Secretary: Mary Jo McDonough
Treasurer: Jerry Sullivan

Jean Hurd	Larry Johnson
Fred Lawson	Philip Morgan
Ron Nelson	Glenn Robinson
Judy Sloan	Jerry Sullivan
Naomi Terman	Doug Wilhelm

-Liaisons-

MPC/Marilynn Gustafson
CSUMB/Andre Lewis
DLI/LTC Kevin Bosch
NPS/Glenn Robinson
MIIS/Eva Gudbergsdottir

Committee Chairmen

Jim Emery: Information Management
Abby Foss: *Passport* editor & Administration
Chris Keehn: Arrangements
Lynn Yaghoubian: Office Assistant