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00:00:00:08 SEAN: ... A couple of extra minutes to get settled. On behalf of all of us on the museum staff, I want to welcome you this morning, just a couple of quick housekeeping items. Out of a courtesy both to our guest speaker this morning and to your fellow attendees, if I could ask you to turn cell phones, pagers, Blackberries, et cetera, to a vibrate setting, we would really appreciate it.

00:00:21:28 And then second, I'm not sure if Chuck's is going to be on autopilot during his presentation. But certainly afterward, we'll have time for questions and answers. If I could ask you to please wait just a moment when you raise your hand to ask a question for either Shanita or Vince to come to you with a microphone. That way we can make sure we capture the question and everyone can hear it.

00:00:44:04 So, we started this fall lecture series which is deemed completely on DEA in Afghanistan. We started this in September with the big picture at the 50,000 foot level. Then last month in October, it was all about the FAST teams.

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00:00:58:17 Today, we're going to take a step back in time. Many folks aren't fully aware that while DEA is in Afghanistan today, this is not our first time around the block in that country. In fact, we were there in the '70s and right up really into the '80s too.

00:01:11:09 Our guest today, looking back at the early years of DEA in Afghanistan is Retired Special Agent Chuck Carter. And let me tell you a little bit about him before we welcome him to the stage. He got his start as a U.S. Marine, 1955-1960. Then he went to work for the LAPD, Los Angeles Police Department, for eight years before he joined DEA in 1968.

00:01:34:31 And he worked for DEA for twenty years with a lot of different varied assignments. Starting in Los Angeles in our resident office there. For those of you who don't know, there was a time before training was at Quantico. It was in the basement of the old headquarters building. And Special Agent Chuck Carter from 1971 to 1974 was a basic agent instructor for our fledgling training efforts before moving to Pakistan.

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00:02:02:06 Then to Cleveland, then to San Antonio, then to Washington, D.C. here at headquarters as an Assistant Deputy Administrator in Intelligence. And then finally, his last couple of years in charge of DEA's efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Retiring, however, in McCowen, Texas in 1988.

00:02:23:13 Since then, he has been the CEO of North American Advisory International which does due diligence for major hotels. Perhaps you've heard of or watched the movie Charlie Wilson's War. Today, we're going to hear about Chuck Carter's war. And please do me a favor and welcome Special Agent Retired Chuck Carter.
[applause]

00:02:48:15 CHUCK CARTER: Thank you, Sean. I'm absolutely honored to be asked to make a presentation here at the DEA Museum. As Sean mentioned, I retired twenty-two years ago. And Barbara and I have been in San Antonio. And we felt like a couple of country bumpkins this morning walking around Washington look at these big buildings, particularly DEA headquarters.

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00:03:17:26 When I was used to the DEA headquarters at 8th & I and the Golden Eagle and the gym next to it. DEA has certainly come a long way.

00:03:27:03 I'm very pleased to see that Mr. and Mrs. Lawn made it here today. And I would also like to acknowledge a very, very special person who has been with me for years and followed me around the world a couple of times and helped me in rough times and pepped me up when I needed pepping up and direction when I needed direction.

00:03:57:06 And that's my wife Barbara. Barbara. [applause]
Good Lord willing, we're going to be doing our 50th wedding anniversary in April. The next hour, I'm going to discuss some of DEA's earlier efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan. And I include Pakistan because they're so closely related.

00:04:32:06 And you haven't heard probably a lot about what I'm going to discuss. Because at the time it happened, it was classified as top secret. And basically, what we

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were doing is we were going into Afghanistan from Pakistan and helping the Mujahideen take out heroin laboratories along the border.

00:04:59:01 Before I get into the details on that operation, I would like to give you a little background on Pakistan and how it related to the narcotics situation and how it related to Afghanistan. When I first there in 1974, there was an abundance of opium. Pakistan always, always cultivated a lot of opium.

00:05:25:25 And at that time, they had what is known as opium vendors where they actually had vendors on corners selling opium. But to sell it or to buy it, you had to be registered with the government. That program lasted about five years and they did away with it.

00:05:44:04 At that time, there was an abundance of morphine sulfate. It came in small tablets. And, of course, a lot of hashish coming out of the Northwest Frontier Province. When I was there the first time, there was no evidence of heroin. We did have some intelligence that there were some Germans on the

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Afghan side that were trying to make heroin. But up to that point, to my knowledge, they were unsuccessful.

00:06:15:16 We did have one operation up in Swet where we had a laboratory. They were trying to make heroin. And they got to the morphine base and they couldn't go any further than that. And PNCB arrested them and put them in jail. I've heard at that time various instances where they were trying very hard to convert the morphine to heroin, which they eventually did.

00:06:51:26 At that time, we could safely travel through the frontier Providence, through the border to Landi Kotal, to Jalalabad, through the Khyber Pass through the Khyber Gorge, beautiful, beautiful country. I might add that's the only part of the whole world that's never been conquered by another outside force. Genghis Khan and a bunch of other people who tried to take it over unsuccessfully. And you'd understand why if you saw it. I mean, it's baron. It's hilly. The inhabitants, they refer to themselves as batons. And they are great warriors, big guys.

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00:07:44:00 All of them are excellent shots. You go up there and everybody is either carrying an AK47 or a PG5 anti-tank weapon as a matter of routine. It's very difficult to get used to seeing that as you go through a town of kids fourteen years old walking around with an AK47 and a bandolier of bullets.

00:08:10:02 One of our administrators, Mr. Bensinger, came from Kabul. And I had the occasion to drive him and his wife from Kabul to Islamabad. And I'll never forget it. The weather, the temperature was like 110 degrees. And it was so hot, the car couldn't handle the air conditioner. And I looked at Mr. Bensinger. And I said, sir, you might consider getting comfortable because we're going to have a rough ride for the next 100 miles or so.

00:08:45:01 He advised me in his career that he had never taken his tie off on official matters. Well, that lasted for about five minutes. He said, Chuck, if you don't mind, I think I'll take my tie off and jacket. We got to Landi Kotal, there's little kids running around

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asking you if you want to buy hashish, marijuana. They didn't have it. But they ask you if you wanted to buy some heroin.

00:09:16:13 So they asked Mr. Bensinger, do you want to buy some dope? He said, yeah, can I? So he actually negotiated with the kid to buy some hashish. And that was the highlight.

00:09:31:20 The entire part of the Northwest Frontier Province is mostly tribal area. And it's still that way. And when you go through the northwest frontier, there are strict rules at that time. No more. Because you can't do it. But in those days, strict rules. You could not talk to people. You couldn't even look at them. You just stayed on that road and took care of your business and go where you want to go and get it done.

00:10:09:20 The U.S. aid was very strong at that time in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. And they were trying very hard to introduce substitute crops for the poppy, for the opium. And it was tough. Really, there's no

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other product out there that will produce, as you all know, that will produce as much revenue as poppies.

00:10:40:11 And there was what I've heard was a rather humorous story. They were very, very big in northern Thailand in the early '70s. And they introduced irrigation to the farmers. And they introduced fertilization to the farmers. They built big roads. They gave them big trucks. And a year later, they had bigger, better poppies. They did nothing on the crop substitution.

00:11:12:15 Corruption was rampant. It still is. Payoffs are a way of life from peons to the wealthy. To give you an example, if you own a house and you have a guard outside and the guard lets the salesman in and the salesman makes a sale, on his way out, he's obligated to pay that guard some *baksheesh* for letting him in. That happens in every way throughout, right up to the government. It's an amazing way of life.

00:11:45:05 There are some very, very interesting things that happened while we were there. I remember we took this lab I mentioned, we took it out and SWAT. And at the

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time, the Prime Minister's name was Zulfikar Bhutto.
And he was very, very pro American.

00:12:02:04 And he wrote our Ambassador. Our Ambassador's name at the time was Henry Byroade, an excellent, excellent ambassador. Wrote him a letter and told him that he wanted ... he encouraged us to work more with his PNCB.

00:12:18:16 Now, PNCB is interesting because Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, we were very instrumental in developing them and structuring them. And they were structured basically at that time like DEA or BNDB was structured. And they had regional directors in Karachi. And they had regional directors in Sind and Baluchistan and Islamabad and up in Peshawar.

00:12:48:05 Unfortunately, in 1977, there was an internal coup. He was arrested. Ended up getting hanged. They hung him for killing an opponent. And it was a big blow to the Americans because he was very, very pro-American, very pro anti-narcotic. He wanted in the worst way

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... he wanted us to help his country get out of the hole of narcotics.

00:13:18:05 It's also interesting about the same time if you remember Mecca had a very, very bad fire. Rumors are that the Russians spread the rumors that the Americans were responsible for Mecca burning. So, the Pakistanis burned the U.S. Embassy to the ground. Fortunately, this was about a few months after we left. They did rebuild the Embassy to its original state.

00:13:58:23 Now, I mentioned a few minutes ago about Zulfikar Bhutto getting executed. He had a young daughter, Benazir Bhutto, who eventually was the President also of Pakistan, who was very pro-American who was assassinated just a few years ago in a campaign parade in Rawalpindi.

00:14:26:17 Another thing of interest, that's sad. Shortly after we left the second time, there was a ... our ambassador's name was Raphael. And there was a General Herb Wassam who was in charge of all the

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military in the embassy. And President Zia, they were all on a Pakistan 130 aircraft and it blew up and they were all killed. A very sad situation.

00:15:04:24 I mentioned it because it because Ambassador Raphael was also very, very pro-narcotic enforcement. And anytime we had anything to do regarding narcotics, he was totally in favor of it. So we missed some of that activity and we transferred to Cleveland in '77, then to San Antonio, back to headquarters in '84.

00:15:29:08 Now, in '85, while I was assigned inspections, I went to Pakistan to do an inspection. And as a matter of routine, when you finish the inspection, you always go and discuss it with the Ambassador. You discuss what you found and thank him for his cooperation with DEA.

00:15:55:06 The Ambassador at the time was a very serious guy Dean Hinton, excellent Ambassador. And I went in there and I was talking got him for a matter of routine conversation, I told him, I said, sir, what are we going to do about this narcotic problem?

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00:16:15:12 And he had a cigar in his mouth. He chomped down on it. And he says, with a few profanities, he says, you guys are the experts. What are you asking me for? At the same time, he says, if it were up to me, I'd get twenty DEA covert agents and send them into Afghanistan and take care of business and take those laboratories out.

00:16:34:07 Then he says, I have a feeling that that statement may come back to haunt me. And he's right. It did come back to haunt him. And backing up a little bit, at that time, there were a million users of heroin at that time in '85 in Pakistan. And this is closely related to Afghanistan. Because all the heroin was coming from the Afghan side.

00:17:11:22 Of course, you know at that time, we had probably a half a million addicts here in the United States? Fifty to sixty percent of the heroin in the United States at that time was coming from the Golden Crescent, the Golden Crescent being Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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00:17:33:28 Dean Hinton, the Ambassador, he has a son that's a DEA agent. I've never met him. And I'm not sure if he's still active. But the Ambassador always spoke very highly of DEA. And he inquired, I remember one time, about his son going to DEA. And we strongly suggested it. So to show you how much he supported DEA, he recommended that he be an agent. And, of course, his son is an agent.

00:18:18:01 I want to back up a little bit. When I was first asked to come here, and we talked about going back in the DEA Afghanistan twenty-five years, I didn't think much of it. But then I started thinking twenty-five years. There's probably agents out there that are probably not even 25 years old.

00:18:41:21 And then my daughter asked me two nights ago, she said, dad, how long is your lecture? I said, about an hour. She said do you think you can stay awake that long?

00:19:02:05 So in a short nine years, Pakistan and Afghanistan developed into a major source country for large

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amounts of heroin. And the bad side of that for the particular country is when you have a source country, you also have a very, very large population of addicts.

00:19:27:15 And they estimated at one time that Pakistan had over a million users of heroin and probably another million addicts. Pakistan is a very, very poor country. You wonder where in the heck do they get the money to buy all this heroin? There's a lot of crime going on. There's a lot of different things going on to support their habits.

00:19:54:12 And so, after I did the inspection ... I'm jumping around here. you'll have to excuse me a little bit. After we had finished the inspection in Islamabad, I came back to headquarters. And I again put in for Pakistan. We went back to Pakistan. And I was starting to work on this program of sending covert agents into Afghanistan.

00:20:26:02 And I get back to the embassy. And I met this guy it turned out is still a very, very good friend of mine,

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Richie Fiano was my assistant. I was really blessed to have an assistant like Richie. He quickly got onboard with the operation.

00:20:49:08 Richie's the kind of guy ... I'm sure a lot of you know him. Ask him to do something or even suggest something to him, it's done. It's done right. So I felt good that I had the support and backing of Richie right away in Pakistan.

00:21:04:17 So then I had to go. The first approval I had to get was the Ambassador. So I went in and I talked to him about the proposal. And he asked me, again laced with a few profanities, where'd you come up with this crazy idea? And I had to tell them, sir, you were the original creator on this.

00:21:28:24 I had to get other approvals and then headquarter's approval. And I might add that Operation Jihad always had the total support of administrator at the time Jack Lawn. And on several occasions, Mr. Lawn had to defend the operation from the Senate Committee that had intelligence oversight which is not an easy job

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for Mr. Lawn to do. But we felt very good, very supported by headquarters with Mr. Lawn supporting it.

00:22:05:25 One of my last meetings with Ambassador Hinton, he said, Chuck, I hope you realize that there's a war going on between the Afghans and the Russians. And he said that if you get caught over there, your people get caught over there, he says, we're all going to get fired. And we're probably going to be in the soup line in the United States.

00:22:30:04 And I guaranteed the Ambassador that we would do nothing to embarrass him or the mission. Our mission in Pakistan at that time was to protect the United States from narcotics. We worked closely with the PMCB. We exchanged intelligence. We had the authority to develop informants and work undercover.

00:22:52:19 We conducted a number of controlled deliveries where we would actually get in the middle of a large transaction and have a large amount of hashish or whatever the drug is sent to a foreign country and then lure the sources into the country and have them

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arrested. Which always turned out to be very successful.

00:23:12:01 Even though narcotics was DEA's top priority, that was not always the top priority of the embassy. At that time, the embassy's top priority was stopping the Russians in Afghanistan and the proliferation of the nuclear capability at that time was just growing in Pakistan. And then drugs were third.

00:23:41:22 So when I presented this to the ambassador, I mentioned that I felt that we were fulfilling two of the criterias. One was we were helping the war against the Russians because we were paying the Mujahideen. And they were turning that money back into the war effort. And also fulfilling the problem with narcotics.

00:24:08:12 Our first objective on developing this program was to get informants. And what we wanted to do was get informants that would fit in, that could travel along the border and locate what appeared to be laboratories.

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00:24:25:09 And we taught them how to use ... if you can believe this, we taught them how to use cameras. And we taught them how to use everything. We provided them cameras. They would go out and get what they thought was a laboratory. And they'd bring back the pictures and we'd review them. And then if it looked interesting, then we would take action on it.

00:24:48:11 We then also went to the refugee camp in Peshawar. And we recruited a lot of Mujahideen, freedom fighters, who were recovering from the war efforts. Every one of them were required to spend a minimum of ninety days fighting the Russians out of every year. Then they could come into Pakistan, recovery, relax and then go back and then fight again.

00:25:15:00 So what we did was we were looking for some young, energetic aggressive type Mujahideen commanders that had some English capability. And because we wanted to use them to effect these raids. At that time, of course, the Russians are there. They're not going to do anything. We couldn't even talk to the Russians.

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There were no courts. There was no police. There was no judicial infrastructure. So, the closest thing we can come up to were the locals in Mujahideen. And they worked with us very closely. And they did an excellent job.

00:26:04:09 Some of these commanders were absolutely amazing. I remember one in particular. At the time, he was about twenty-five years old, very sharp. He showed me nine wounds that he had received fighting the Russians. And he was not hospitalized for any one of the nine wounds. Just whatever they could do for them at the local. And he survived nine of these wounds. And some of them were serious wounds.

00:26:36:11 He eventually ran for President of Afghanistan. He was way down on the ladder, maybe fifth or sixth. And his picture is in a couple of these slides that I'm about to show you.

00:26:53:27 In preparing for these raids, we figured we had to get in pretty good physical shape. So we had a physical fitness program in the embassy. And we worked along

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with the Marine security guard. We also made the decision to carry AK47s rather than the AR15s. Because they were professionals on fixing an AK47. They could do it blindfolded. I've seen them with missing parts, they'll still work.

00:27:28:01 Plus, they had an overabundance of ammunition. We also carried a sidearm. We carried a nine millimeter Sig Sauer. Of course, we got very, very familiar with them, qualified with them on a regular basis. Let's see, I'm about to show you some photos and a video of one of the operations which resulted in the seizure of two labs.

00:28:07:26 Over 700 kilos grams of pure heroin, seizures of thousands of dollars. And the money of the seizure was interesting. Because they would bury it. and when somebody came and they bought heroin and left, they'd take the money and, of course, they'd bury it.

00:28:27:26 Well, we found Iranian money. We found Italian lire. We found Turkish. We found Afghanistan. We found Pakistan rupees, money from all over the world,

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particularly right in that immediate area. We had a very simple seizure program when I compare it with what I remember with DEA, how complicated it was.

00:28:57:28 It was very simple with the Mujahideen. They just took everything. And there was no appeal. It was funny how they handled cars. Because if they seized a car or a truck, they would destroy it. because they didn't want to attract attention they claimed. They didn't want to attract attention from the rivals and maybe some of the people, some of the politicians, that had money invested in that particular laboratory.

00:29:28:29 They would take shoes. They would take the sewing machine. They would take the material. They would take the tent. They would leave nothing. You'll see in a few minutes. Usually, I think what happened when they got in this situation when we weren't around, the results could have been fatal to the lab operator.

00:29:56:11 I had a long talk with a couple of the commanders. And I convinced them that the lab operators were worth more alive than they were dead. They had a hard time

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grasping that concept. Because life is very cheap over there. And one commander says, okay. But if one of my Mujahideen gets hurt or killed, they all die.

00:30:25:18 Well, I certainly couldn't argue with that. But what they would do is they prepared a document that looked very official in Farsi. And what it said was the suspects were caught manufacturing narcotics which was in violation of the Holy Koran.

00:30:53:15 And they made them put their hand on it. And it also said that if they're caught the second time, it would result in immediate death without appeal. Of course, they were happy to sign this. Because they thought they were departing this world, they thought they were going to Allah then. So they were very happy to sign this thing. So, we got by that problem real quick.

00:31:31:06 On this particular operation, Richie and I went undercover and our first leg on the trip was a PIA flight from Islamabad to Quetta. Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan. And it was just crawling with Russian spies. And, of course, if they see a white

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face, they're going to want to know who you are and what you're doing and all that.

00:31:57:11 So, we got to Baluchistan. And the Mujahideen quickly picked us up and got us away from there and took us to a little village and put us up that night. And the next morning, we would go out and find the laboratories.

00:32:28:22 Let me go through some of these slides. This is not really where you want to go for vacation. These wells and houses are all made from camel dung. However, you can see that they do a nice job making them see the mountains in the background.

00:32:57:10 Some of the roads were good. But some of them were totally impassive where you had to get out and you had to walk because the truck would get stuck in the soft sand. Which brings up another funny situation. I've looked back.

00:33:13:05 One of the trucks wasn't running very good. And they stopped. And I'll never forget it was wintertime. It

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was nighttime. And out in the desert, out there it gets cold, I mean, really cold at nighttime. And they open the hood and this one Afghan jumps in under the hood. Now, he's got his *shawacamis* on.

00:33:38:12 And he proceeded to take this four barrel carburetor apart. And he had all the parts, the springs and valves and all over his *shawacamis*. And I'm saying there is absolutely no way this guy can ever get this thing back together. Because I'm thinking about what little knowledge I had here in the States on mechanics. I always ended up going and buying something new by taking the carburetor apart. They didn't have that luxury out there. So I figured if this doesn't work, we're out of transportation here.

00:34:14:26 He took it apart, cleaned it. He's looking at it. He's blowing through these little holes and everything. Gets it all back together. And I swear, there must have been 200 parts. And he got it back on the truck and started it up. And the truck ran perfect. I mean, I just couldn't believe it.

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00:34:33:11 We had the same thing happen on another truck. And they were absolutely amazing. I mean, they made the most of what little they had. These trucks are old international trucks that were left by USAID many years ago and just stayed there in Pakistan and stayed in Afghanistan. And they acquired them.

00:35:01:25 When we traveled to the border, like I mentioned, it's desert. You didn't know whether you were in Pakistan or Afghanistan. There were no signs welcome to Afghanistan. Or stop by to see the tourist agent, none of that stuff.

00:35:25:26 Once in awhile, we would see a camel caravan of nomads going by. They were called *kuchis*. And they're an interesting bunch because they're constantly on the move. They go up into northern Pakistan just when the poppies bloom. Because they're the ones that do the striations and bleed the poppies.

00:35:50:18 And then as it gets cooler, they move back down into cooler areas. But they're constantly on the move.

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And their mode of transportation is a double humped camel and that's it.

00:36:05:06 As far as equipment, we had no cell phones. We had no communications. There was limited food, limited water. And what little water there was, there was no ... you had no idea where it came from. So, when you drank it, you were ... God only knows what you're doing.

00:36:24:27 We were also concerned about Russian patrols, Russian helicopters, Russian aircraft. And we were worried about possible landmines. Probably the biggest concern was the lack of any medical facility. At that time, the closest would have been either Bangkok or Wiesbaden. And if you had a serious wound, you're just not going to make it.

00:36:49:13 The food we ate was unrefrigerated, unsalted gunk. And we usually ... chow, I'm going to show you. We'd eat off this one carcass for a week until you just couldn't do it anymore. I mean, Richie laughs because he knows I'm a chowhound. And he always had me before

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him. And he said if I passed it down. If I said, no, I'm not going to eat it, he said, if you're going to turn it down, there's no way I'm going to have it.

00:37:29:28 We did have, there were onions, tomatoes, homemade bread and tangerines. I can't tell you the number of tangerines I ate on this thing. That's a poppy field. It's hard to see. But that is a blooming poppy field. That's the hut that we were in when we first got there.

00:38:08:14 That's the food right there. I think that was day one of the goat. And it's not too funny for the goat. Because they walk the goat in alive. And they advise you that that's going to be our food for the next week. Okay, great.

00:38:30:09 Now, the bread there is great bread. And you see the tomatoes and what have you, getting ready. This is a picture of one of the freedom fighters. Most of them are very, very serious. And they weren't getting paid. One of the commanders told me they would get no money. But he said don't ever miss a meal. He said

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they don't complain about not getting paid. But he said if you miss a meal, they're going to come down on you hard.

00:39:05:20 That's Richie and I and some of the freedom fighters. Here's some poppies in bloom. The pedals haven't quite fallen off yet. And here's ... now, this is interesting. The first time I was there, Barbara and I, I went to work one morning. I'm walking down my driveway. And I look. I couldn't believe my eyes. Here's twelve poppy plants right in my front yard.

00:39:38:12 And I know that some poppies are grown because they're a pretty flower. So I figured, well, I'm going to see what happens. So, sure enough, the pedals fell off. And I came out there one morning. And here were the striations. Somebody hit them and somebody was bleeding them to get the opium.

00:40:01:01 So, I got one of the servants out there. And I said what's this? And he said oh, sahib, that's *afim*. *Afim* is the Arabic word for opium. He says, that's *afim*. We take medicine. And he explained to me when

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kids have problems with teeth or anything, they'd take the opium, whether it was diarrhea, constipation, they took the opium. It was sort of a heal-all medicine.

00:40:30:08 And I told him I'm glad. But take those plants out of here. Because that could be a little embarrassing. That's one of the plants right there. That is one of the plants in the front yard.

00:40:47:01 This is ... some of the Mujahideen ... and you wondered, you know, like I remember in the Marine Corps we had organized physical fitness. What these guys do is amazing. They're strong. And they're lean. And you don't see an extra pound out there. There's no fat guys.

00:41:10:24 What they have is they compete with each other in what we would call the Olympics. They would have a long jump. They would wrestle in the sand. They would do a lot of things. And this is what they were doing here. They were doing some physical exercises.

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00:41:30:00 This is one of our modes of transportation. Now, this is interesting. If you look very carefully at the individual who's right behind the passenger side, that's Richie Fiano. [laughs] I laugh every time I see this.

00:41:53:29 Because I'll tell you what. If one of them came up, they wouldn't challenge him because he looked like one of them. But they like to line up. And they love to have their pictures taken. And I said at this time when Richie and I were working with these guys, I said, I'd hate like hell to go into combat with these guys. Because they were fatalistic. They didn't care. They had a belief. They'd die believing in it.

00:42:27:13 They would work a soldier for nothing, take these labs out for nothing. They would ... I saw them walking in hot sand barefooted when it's 100 degrees out there. I've seen them in the same mountains when it was thirty degrees barefooted. They are very, very hearty people. And they make the most of what little they have.

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00:42:59:15 I don't know if you can see it, but the second guy from the right, he's got an Efram Zimbalist bullhorn. Now, how he got that idea, I have no idea. The only thing I can think of is maybe they had some reruns of Efram Zimbalist. Remember that old rerun they had of the FBI and Efram Zimbalist. He'd go out there and say, the FBI. Come out with your hands up.

00:43:24:17 Well, this guy would duplicate it with his bullhorn. Again, I have no idea where he got that idea. But he did it. There see he's holding it in his right hand. The guy on the left, of course, that's our PG anti-tank weapon. It was amazing how accurate these guys were with that weapon. They demonstrated it to us a couple of times. And they were excellent.

00:44:09:05 This is one of the Mujahideen. Now, that weapon you see there is a seized Soviet machine gun. I think that was one of the three weapons that the lab operators had when we made the raid and they opened fire on the raiding team with three of these weapons. They can crank out a lot of ammo in a short time.

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00:44:40:18 Here they were making dinner. This is interesting. You see that little kid? I bet you he's not eleven years old. And you'll notice he's carrying around an AK47. Which is standard procedure up there. You'll see the kid right in front of him. He couldn't be more than fifteen and he was part of the raiding team.

00:45:05:14 The only time that I ever felt uncomfortable with them was they were very, very undisciplined with weapons. And the way they carried them, the way they shot them, the way they loaded them, the way they unloaded them. And God knows, they had the experience because they'd been doing it probably all their lives. But they were very, very undisciplined.

00:45:30:08 And I had a talk with the commander. I said, I'm worried. And he said, about what? And I said, I'm afraid that one of my people may get shot by one of your freedom fighters the way they carry the weapons. He responded by saying, Chuck, don't worry about it. If one of your agents gets shot, I'll kill that guy.

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00:46:02:18 I said, well, that's great. But that's not the answer. We've really got to work on improving their ... and they actually kind of drilled them on how to carry it properly and we were marching and they were marching.

00:46:16:12 For example, sometimes we'd be just sitting there. And all of a sudden, you hear a round crank off behind you. And a guy two or three ranks behind you is shooting up into the mountain. Well, it's not only dangerous shooting over your head, but God only knows how close the Russians were. And you wouldn't certainly want to tip them off by firing your weapon.

00:46:44:03 I wanted to comment on this procedure here. Early in my career, I always heard about France and how they produced heroin and how the chemists were all in white slacks and white gloves. And they were very particular on how they made the heroin.

00:47:13:15 You look at this and you wonder how in the world these people ever produced heroin. And they were coming back, the percentage was like 95 percent heroin. And

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they had the procedure down pat. I was telling Mr. Lawn earlier that I had gotten a teletype from Mickey Toban telling me to find out how they were getting their percentage rate so high. And I figured how the hell are you going to do that? Short of getting somebody in a laboratory. And that's not going to work. That's not going to happen.

00:47:49:01 So, we got a couple of our informants and they enticed a chemist down into Islamabad. And we called our special testing lab up and they sent out a representative, a chemist, to observe this. And we got the Pakistani chemist. We got him ten kilograms of morphine or opium and all the precursors that he needed to convert it to heroin.

00:48:24:19 And we watched him convert that in our backyard. Barbara couldn't believe that either. Especially when they had to use the oven to heat the ... to bake the acetic hydrate into the powder.

00:48:41:05 But anyway, it was amazing. Because the guy, if these idiots that stick the needles in their arms here in

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the States could see how it's made, they wouldn't do it. This guy was bleeding into the ... sometimes he cut himself, his hand on one of the edges of the barrel. He was bleeding into the mixture. He was perspiring into the mixture.

00:49:03:11 At the end of the day, he would take his shoes off. And he'd hold it over the mixture with a hose. And hose everything off his shoes into the mixture. And, you know, he doesn't care. He's just concerned about quantity and the final process.

00:49:23:09 But, sure enough, when we got the return from the percentage on that, it came back 95 percent heroin. Now, we're talking about number three heroin which is not quite injectable. It's not water soluble. But then the Europeans found a way they could take the smoking heroin and mix it with any citric acid. And it would convert it to water soluble where they could inject it.

00:49:59:27 They're amazing. And it was funny because we paid this guy, we paid them, if I remember right, maybe

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\$100 for making this kilo of heroin which probably would be worth a million dollars after it's all cut, cut, cut. He had no idea. I don't think he had any idea where it was going or what it was being used for. But he knew how to make it. And he did a good job at it.

00:50:25:21 Of course, this is a press. And what they do is they put all the opium in here and they put lime in there with water. And they use the press to separate all the leaves, twigs, what have you, that's in it. You can see how rudimentary they are.

00:51:02:18 I have to mention this to you. The guy is holding something in his hand. It's bread. That's something that we ate. I think he was the baker. What he would do ... and it was delicious. He would take a big rock and put it in the fire and get it hot. Then he'd get the dough and he'd wrap it around the hot rock. And he'd get a crust on the inside.

00:51:27:15 Then he'd put it back in the fire. Then he'd get a crust on the outside. I tell you, it was outstanding.

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And this is one of our breaks, Richie and one of the commanders and myself. This was DEA Shaghai Hills. This was our temporary quarters.

00:52:09:01 You notice the trucks in the background. They're seized or stolen Russian trucks. And I mention the guy that ran for President. The guy second from the left, he's very active in politics today. And he's really a sharp guy. I think if he ever got to a position, he's probably do the right thing. Can everybody hear me back there? Because I'm wandering away from this mike.

00:52:50:23 They brought a bowl full of water and soap around before every meal to make sure your hands are washed. That was a big joke. And here's seized RPG5 and some of the heroin that were seized. This is unusual too. They were very proud of their finished product. They didn't mind putting their names on it. Putting a batch number on it.

00:53:19:02 There was no enforcement up there. Nobody was doing anything. So, they didn't care and they were proud of

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their product. You can see on there narcotics merchants Jalalabad. Jalalabad is right now it's a very major city for us in Afghanistan. It's right on the Afghan/Pakistan border.

00:53:44:16 This was a picture of what I told you about making the heroin in our backyard. That stuff that looks like dirt, that's heroin. This is one of the places where they had 500 kilos of heroin stashed in this little building here. That was before we started destroying it.

00:54:20:06 That's the opium. That's raw opium right after they take it off of the poppy and put it in packages. And Agent Lee Phillips, Freedom Fighter. My assistant. He's looking at me like how did he get me into this mess? Here's a young kid. I bet he wasn't fourteen, fifteen years old. But he could I'm sure take care of business if he had to.

00:54:59:02 This was one of the commanders standing on the right. And that was the suspect's tent behind us. And that was some of the seizure, some of the heroin in front

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of us. These are the precursors that they use. Precursors appeared to be off coming from Asia like China, Japan. And God only knows how it got there. It could come by camel. It could come in by truck. It could come in by you guess any way it could.

00:55:32:26 Anyway, it found its way to these heroin laboratories.

00:55:36:05 We figured that, well, let's just find a way to cut off the precursors. And then he couldn't make the heroin. But that just wouldn't work. Because you never knew where it was coming from, what angle or how it was coming in.

00:55:51:06 This is one of the Russian trucks that they had, that they acquired. You'll notice if you can see it in the back, to the right, you see a carcass. That's the remains of the goat after a week and a half. This was one of the vehicles that we seized there. They seized. We took it apart and we found the obvious compartment where they were smuggling. They were using this car, driving it down across the border to Karachi and then shipping it out by ship.

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00:56:36:02 It was amazing how the heroin burned. It was really no problem burning it. I mentioned earlier, the nomads, the Kuchis. Here they are here. You'll see the female in the corner. They are really basic Islamic fundamentalists. I mean, they follow the Muslim way to the T.

00:57:05:02 And I don't know what they do when they get sick. I mean, they're all self-sustaining. They just ... they go up to the mountains. They strike the poppies. They come down. Every year, they do the same thing.

00:57:27:16 I had talked about the raid that we went on. And this is a video clip. Now, this is a condensed version of about I guess it was about a thirty minute fire flight. And I'll try to interject some things to let you know what's happening.

00:58:00:02 But you'll notice from when I turn it on, you'll notice that it starts from a ... they always seem like the traffickers always found a canyon. They felt secure in a canyon. They felt secure in a canyon.

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And this has all been declassified. But we worked with the agency, with the satellite.

00:58:21:27 And what they would do is they would look for canyons. And they would look for tire tracks. And they would look for 55 gallon drums. And if they could find them, then we'd go find the heroin laboratory. So let me get this thing going. [PLAYS RECORDING]

00:58:49:25 You're probably not going to understand what he's saying. But one interesting thing about this is when you got into a situation, everybody talked. Everybody had a solution. There was no leader. There was no do this, do that. One of them just got hit. Not a bad one.

00:59:13:07 You can see the tent down in the middle. That's the bullhorn. So I told them they're just going to run out of ammunition when they do that. And sure enough, they ran out of ammunition. And they put their hands up. And they laid down in the sand. That's when the raiding team came down on the lab site.

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- 01:02:10:19 I think that was one of the machine guns they seized. That was one of the machine guns the suspect had. Now, that's an example of their weapons. No reason a guy gets shot at the [inaud.].
- 01:03:41:28 That's it. One thing that helped a lot is these people were meticulous on notes. They would take notes on where they bought the opium, who they bought it from, how much they paid for it, who bought it, how many kilos were sold and what dates and everything.
- 01:04:06:16 But the problem was what we'd do with the intelligence. I mean, we could get all that intelligence and put it in [inaud.] and send it to headquarters. But there was nothing actionable there. Because there was nobody there to act on it.
- 01:04:24:02 Like that one truck I showed you, there were actually logs in that truck of every trip the driver took smuggling narcotics to Karachi. When he did it, how much and all the details that every investigator would love to have in his investigation. But what do you do with it? There was nobody there to follow it up?

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01:04:50:08 I just looked at my watch. It's ten after 10:00. I've only been talking for ten minutes. Then it dawned upon me, it's an hour and ten minutes. Wait until I talk to my daughter about this. All right. I would be more than happy to answer any questions that you might have.

01:05:21:27 Q: What happened to the three bad guys you took down?

01:05:25:21 CHUCK CARTER: Okay. Those are the guys that they prepared the document and they signed the document that they were going to get a walk this time. But if they got caught the second time, it was Kuhafis to Allah without appeal. No, they walked on this one.

01:05:49:00 I'll tell you what. I think while they were laying there, they figured it was all over. I'll guarantee you that's what they were thinking. And then when they were presented this option of signing this document, they jumped on it. They were happy, happy campers.

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01:06:03:14 One of the interesting parts here is we'd go into these labs. We'd find out that these lab operators, they weren't necessarily all Afghans. There might have been one Iranian, one Pakistani, one Afghan. They were from all over that part of the world. And you'd think that maybe it'd just be one group. But, no. They came from all different countries. Any more questions? Yes, sir.

01:06:38:01 Q: Chuck, do you remember the story you had told me about the son of the tribal leader who was arrested by DEA in New York and the conversation you had with the tribal leader about how he had to retaliate?

01:06:57:21 CHUCK CARTER: Jack, I am getting old. I'm sorry, I don't remember that story.

01:07:06:24 Q: Thank you.

01:07:13:22 Q: I had two questions. One was what's the name of the person who you said was one of the presidential candidates, who was in the photos with you?

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01:07:28:09 CHUCK CARTER: I'm sorry, can you identify yourself?

01:07:28:28 RACHEL: My name is Rachel.

01:07:33:07 CHUCK CARTER: Rachel, I honestly don't remember his name. And I can find out for you. And he's documented here. He doesn't hold back the fact that he cooperated with the United States Government. He doesn't mind that. So I can find out.

01:07:51:11 RACHEL: Okay.

01:07:52:14 CHUCK CARTER: Are you with DEA?

01:07:53:20 RACHEL: No, I'm with ONI. And my second question was you said that you had all the actionable intelligence, but there was no one to act on it. So what were the mechanisms, or were there any mechanisms, to target the distributors in Karachi?

01:08:13:17 CHUCK CARTER: Well, you've got to remember that we had ... in Pakistan at that time, we had a total of

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maybe forty personnel, maybe fifteen agents. And we had five in Karachi. We would pass the information to them. And they were pretty much obligated on things like that to go to PNCB.

01:08:37:06 PNCB, it's a tossup on what's going to happen. You don't know. They could move on it. And they did move on some of that information. But most of it, like I said, it just fell by the wayside. Not because we wanted it to. It's just that there was no mechanism. There was no agency to follow-up on it.

01:09:07:26 Q: What were the years of your two tours in the region? And the more important question is what will ... given your years of experience or what will it take now to create a stable region that's not a threat to the United States?

01:09:27:12 CHUCK CARTER: I told Barbara that I was worried that somebody would ask me that. I was there the first time from '74 to '77. Second time from '86 to '88. And to answer your second question, First of all,

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you've got to have a stable government. And if you don't have a stable government, forget it.

01:10:01:13 Now, a comment on Afghanistan. Afghanistan has never had a stable government, never. They have a lot of warlords, guys that own literally miles and miles and miles. They have their own cities. They have their own police departments. They feel like they're their own mayor there. They don't even look at Kabul as a central government.

01:10:30:25 So, somehow you've got to have a very structured main government in Kabul. And you've got to have one with teeth. And then these war lords have to accept that. And then you have to have people going out and enforcing the narcotic laws of that country and enforcing it hard. You need intelligence. You need training. You need enforcement. You need all of those ingredients to get it going.

01:10:59:16 Right now personally, I think it's the poppy efforts over there is a nightmare. I get feedback from some of the agents that come back. It's border to border,

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it's wall to wall poppies. And there are some guys that are growing the poppies that are good guys to the government. Some are bad guys. And some are, you know, how do you know?

01:11:26:17 You know, it's just that you've got to have a stable government. And then you've got to have the warlords accepting the fact that they can't do it. Do you think that will ever work? I don't know. I don't know.

01:11:52:05 Well, it's been a pleasure. As you can see, Afghanistan was a problem. Pakistan was a problem. It remains a problem. It remains a major problem. I want to thank you for your attention. God bless you all. God bless all the DEA agents and in particular the families of the three DEA agents that we recently lost in Afghanistan. Thank you. [applause]

01:12:30:13 SEAN: Just a quick thank you, Chuck, on behalf of us on the museum staff. Catie Drew, who is the real powerhouse behind these lecture series has a small token for you.

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01:12:39:10 We do have plans for one final program in this series in December. Stand by for more details as we bring Special Agent Ed Follis in from the DEA Los Angeles field division. He's going to talk about recent operations in Afghanistan as well as training for the Afghani national police. We'll be sending out broadcast emails to that effect. If you haven't visited DEA today, if you're in-house here at DEA, please do so.

01:13:01:09 And finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that this program, this entire lecture series, is made possible, both by the DEA museum and the educational foundation. With the Combined Federal Campaign coming, please remember that. And thank you all very much for coming. Have a good afternoon. [applause]

(END OF TRANSCRIPT)