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Failures allowed attack on CIA

The agency ignored a warning about a Jordanian double agent, who killed 7.

KEN DILANIAN
REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

The CIA ignored warnings that a potential Jordanian asset might be an Al Qaeda double agent, then failed to search him as he entered a high-security base in Afghanistan where he detonated a suicide bomb that killed seven agency personnel in December, an internal investigation has revealed.

CIA Director Leon E. Panetta said the investigation found widespread security and communication breakdowns that led to the devastating attack on the remote agency base in Afghanistan's eastern Khowst province, which killed two contractors and five employees, including the base chief, who was one of the agency's foremost experts on Al Qaeda. Six other CIA officers were wounded.

Critics called the failures revealed by the investigation violations of basic intelligence tradecraft, but Panetta said no one would be fired or disciplined.

Panetta disclosed for the first time Tuesday that 25 days before the attack, a Jordanian intelligence officer had expressed concerns to his CIA counterpart in Jordan that the future bomber, Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal Balawi, could be a double agent. But the CIA officer [See CIA, A5]



SCOTT OLSON Getty Images

DEATH IN AFGHANISTAN

Marines in Helmand province wait for a helicopter to evacuate the body of Camp Pendleton-based Cpl. Jorge Villarreal, killed this week by an improvised bomb. To boost security in remote areas of the country, U.S. officials hope to recruit 10-person Afghan police teams in 900 villages by March. **WORLD, A5**

FORMER VERNON OFFICIAL FACING CHARGES

A grand jury indicts Donal O'Callaghan on three felony counts tied to city business deals with his wife.

HECTOR BECERRA, SAM ALLEN AND KIM CHRISTENSEN

A Los Angeles County Grand Jury on Tuesday indicted the former city administrator of Vernon on three felony counts of conflict of interest and misappropriation of public funds involving business deals between the city and his wife.

The indictment of Donal O'Callaghan marks the third time in four years that a top Vernon official has faced public corruption charges, and prompted Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley on Tuesday to voice support for disincorporating the city. Cooley noted that Vernon has been dogged for decades by accusations that it is a fiefdom run by a small cadre of insiders with little accountability.

"The Vernon saga continues. This has been going on for 75 years," Cooley said in an interview. "There has to be an ultimate solution. About two or three years ago, we worked on a project within this office to propose legislation that would allow a process of disincorporation when a city becomes something that's not really a city, more like a fiefdom."

"I think it might be time to dust off that proposal for Vernon. I think there's an atmosphere there where people get into that city and take advantage of the set-up. And the fact is, there's so much money there."

The charges come after a series of articles in The Times about high pay and travel expenses earned by top Vernon officials as well as a business deal involving O'Callaghan and his wife.

O'Callaghan was placed on paid leave in August after The Times inquired about consulting fees paid to him through a company headed by his wife, Kimberly McBride O'Callaghan, and about her work as a contract employee under his supervision.

The Times reported that Donal O'Callaghan had received \$243,898 in consulting fees from the city through Tara Energy Inc., a company headed by his wife. Billed at \$300 an hour for overtime through the first half of this year, the fees were in addition to [See Vernon, A22]

ELECTION 2010

Alaska Senate race getting wilder

A 'tea party' Republican and a write-in incumbent are full of surprises

KIM MURPHY
REPORTING FROM JUNEAU, ALASKA

The tone — or was it the tune? — for this year's strange U.S. Senate race in Alaska was perhaps set last week, when incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a normally dignified politician who favors pearl earrings and tough policy talk, started singing what sounded like

"The Mickey Mouse Club" theme song during a radio interview.

"M-U-R," she sang, "K-O-W, eh-S, K-ay, I!"

There are all kinds of ways to help voters remember how to write her name on the ballot in the Nov. 2 election, she said, as she wages an unusual write-in campaign to hold on to her seat.

"You can do it visually: A cow on skis? You can think your way through this!" she

Politics Now

As the Nov. 2 election approaches, a new feature debuts today that will follow the national conversation. **NATION, A8**

insisted. "And remember the Hokey Pokey?" As the host fell silent, the senator started singing again: "You fill the o-val in, you write Mur-kow-

ski out — pretty funky, huh?"

Election seasons always produce "now it has come to this" moments, but in Alaska, where elections were often predictable until former Gov. Sarah Palin came on the scene, nearly every day seems to produce a surprise. The three major candidates for Senate seem almost propelled toward a tense, expensive showdown.

The upset win of Tea Party [See Alaska, A10]



RICK LOOMIS Los Angeles Times

RITUAL: An effigy several stories tall is the centerpiece of the annual Burning Man festival in Nevada.

COLUMN ONE

For academics, it's a hot subject

A growing number of scholars view the Burning Man festival as more than a party. They see fertile ground for research.

CATHERINE SAILLANT
REPORTING FROM THE BLACK ROCK DESERT, NEV.

Thousands of bare-chested women are riding bikes across the barren landscape of the Black Rock Desert outside Reno. They are being cheered on by crowds of enthusiastic, mostly male supporters. "You're beautiful!" shouts a tall, dreadlocked man in a pink tutu to Neko, a 21-year-old political science student from San Diego. "Be strong!" yells another, wearing a camera around his neck. For Neko, it's the empowering highlight of her

trip to Burning Man, the annual arts-and-fire festival that celebrated its 25th year this summer.

"It was women celebrating being women," said the petite brunette, who like others here prefers to use her Burning Man nickname during the festival. "It was amazing."

Where some see feminist freedom in the topless bike ride, researcher Wendy Clupper saw a dissertation. Watching the same parade eight years earlier, she couldn't help noticing the dichotomy between female empowerment and male lust.

Her paper, "The Performance Culture of Burning Man," earned Clupper a doctoral degree in performance arts from the University of Maryland. Since then her essays on Burning Man have been reprinted in two books, including an analysis of the bike ride that Neko found so exhilarating.

That puts Clupper [See Burning Man, A12]

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS: Attorney general

An atypical prosecutor

Kamala Harris stresses prevention as well as punishment

PHIL WILSON

San Francisco Dist. Atty. Kamala Harris stood at the pulpit and spoke of redemption and second chances, the first of many clues that she is a different kind of prosecutor.

The Democratic candidate for California attorney general was on a recent campaign swing through Long Beach churches, and blamed California's lock-'em-up law enforcement policies for creating a "broken system" of overcrowded, revolving-door prisons that do little to make neighborhoods safer.

"Everybody will make mistakes, and for some that mistake will rise to the level of being a crime," Harris, 46, said to the congregation at the Greater Open

Door Church of God in Christ. "Yes, there will be consequence and accountability, but after that ... isn't it a just society that says we are going to create a role and opportunity for folks to earn their way back among us?"

Harris' Republican opponent in the race, Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley, seizes on comments like that to cast Harris as a far-left liberal, a "radical" too concerned about the welfare and rights of criminals whom many California voters would rather leave behind bars.

There's no doubt Harris has vulnerabilities. An opponent of capital punishment, she refused to seek the politically popular death penalty for a cop killer in 2004, and again last year for an illegal immigrant accused of gun- [See Harris, A14]



KAMALA HARRIS

This is Steve Lopez's brain on drugs

At the behest of the city attorney, the columnist smokes pot and gets behind the wheel for a driving test. So how did he do? **PAGE A2**

Kirk Gibson to sell historic gear

The ex-Dodger will auction the bat, ball and jersey from his '88 World Series homer, writes Bill Plaschke. **SPORTS, C1**

Military taking gay applicants

But the possibility that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy could be reimposed worries some who might apply. **NATION, A16**

China raises rates

The country's surprise move to stem inflation rattles U.S. and global markets. **BUSINESS, B1**



JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

A MAN OF INTENSITY

Raul Esparza, above, currently starring in the musical "Leap of Faith," which is in its closing days at the Ahmanson Theatre, talks with The Times about empanadas, Virginia Woolf and his career — past, present and future. **CALENDAR, D1**



Associated Press

'Happy Days' star Tom Bosley dies

The actor won a Tony Award for his stage work but was best-known for his role as "Mr. C" on the TV sitcom. **LATEXTRA**

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Nation	A6
California	AA3
Weather	AA8

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