

# Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 7, 2013

## “Update on Afghanistan”

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Hello this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Over Memorial Day weekend, I had the opportunity to visit our troops in Kabul and to meet with the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

It is always great to visit with our troops, and I was very impressed with our nation’s servicemen and women serving in Afghanistan. Their resolve is exceptional and their character is outstanding. I’m thankful for their continued dedication and their service to our nation. It is their hard work and selflessness that make this the best country in the world.

Throughout our history, the United States has always believed that democracy promotes security, prosperity, and stability. This fundamental belief is the bedrock of America.

One of the true hallmarks of a democracy is the peaceful transition of power. It’s that simple act of handing over authority to someone else that represents a maturational landmark of a truly democratic country. It’s an act so ingrained in America that we have the luxury of taking it for granted.

In less than a year, Afghanistan is scheduled to go through a process, that, when President Karzai, now one of Asia’s longest serving leaders, will leave office at the conclusion of his current term. When we spoke, I urged President Karzai to ensure that there is a peaceful transition of power after next April’s elections. By ensuring fairness and transparency in their voting process, along with a peaceful transition, Afghanistan can make another important step towards democracy.

This important milestone would have never been possible without the service and sacrifice of our armed forces, and the sacrifices of their families. All over the world, our brave men and women continue to fight for freedom, and so many have given the ultimate sacrifice. To them and their families, thank you. Our nation is truly blessed to have you answer the call of duty.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on legislative issues before the United States Congress please visit my website, [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). May God bless you and your family, may God bless our troops, and as always, may God bless Texas.