



**The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of National Defense**

4 July 2011

Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV
Commander NTM-A

Dear General Caldwell,

Please accept my best wishes and heartfelt congratulations on the celebration of the 235th birthday of the United States of America. Through the course of modern history, no other country has had such a profound or positive impact on the betterment of humankind. In realizing the aspirations of your own nation you have also inspired the spirit of freedom, liberty, justice and democracy in the hearts of millions of men and women around the world.

Nowhere is this more visible than in my home land of Afghanistan. Far from their own homes, Americans have sacrificed greatly to grant Afghans a reprieve from the ravages of war and terrorism and a real chance at building a unified nation suffused in the light of peace and prosperity. Over 1,500 of your comrades in arms have made the ultimate sacrifice to assist the people of Afghanistan, and there is nothing that exemplifies the true spirit of America more than the endurance of her ideals and the selfless courage of her citizens.

Your history is proud and honorable; your generosity unrivalled. You are well justified in the pride that fills your heart every 4th of July, and on behalf of myself, the Ministry of Defense and the entire Afghan National Army, I wish you and all Americans a most joyful Independence Day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes.

Abdul Rahim Wardak
Minister of National Defense