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PRI: Public Radio International: National and World News, Talk, Arts, Entertainment and Music: Bailout bill goes to the White House

Bailout bill goes to the White House

To the Point on 01 October, 2008 10:50:00

Congress has reversed itself and passed what's now called "the plan" -- 263 to 171 -- amid dismal news about employment and California's big federal loan.

Saying that passage of the bill would be a relief, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Republican counterpart, House Speaker John Boehner admitted that "I don't want to see this bill pass."

Democrat Nancy Pelosi, the House Speaker, said she would support the bill. California, officials -- including the governor -- are pushing for federal legislation to help the state.

Will the bill resolve the credit crunch and the crisis in housing? Will the bill resolve the credit crunch and the crisis in housing? Will the bill resolve the credit crunch and the crisis in housing?

Guests:

- Richard Rubin: Economics

- Steven Davidoff: Professor, Cornell University

- Robert Reich: Former Secretary of Labor

Hosted by a very informative and thought-provoking discussion

issues that attract many viewers.

More "To the Point" Professor, Cornell University

- Richard Rubin: Economics

Guests:

crunch and the crisis in housing?

billion investment? "To the Point" looks at what's

Will the bill resolve the credit crunch and the crisis in housing?

federal legislation to avoid economic crisis?

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Bailout bill



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To the Point
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Will the bill resolve the credit
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Point" looks at what that could
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Thu Jun 11, 2009 7:39pm EDT
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By David Morgan
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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Insurgent violence in Afghanistan rose sharply in the first five months of 2008, according to U.S. military officials. Insurgent attacks soared 59 percent to 5,222 in the first five months of 2008, according to U.S. military officials. That is more than double the growth rate for violence in 2007, when military officials estimate insurgent attacks climbed 33 percent.

“The past week was the most violent in our history,” said Army Lt. Gen. Petraeus, who leads U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan. “There are so many sanctuaries and the ISAF reported accelerating attacks, thousands of lives, war-torn Afghanistan. Petraeus said in 2007, the United States is about to turn the tide in Afghanistan. But rising violence about one-third of the way through the year, where most of the attacks climb. Attacks climb in Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). ISAF said attacks were broiled in a controversy. The report said direct-

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Insurgent violence in Afghanistan has accelerated sharply alongside the arrival of new U.S. troops, reaching its highest level since 2001 just last week, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

Insurgent attacks soared 59 percent to 5,222 incidents from January through May, compared with 3,283 attacks in the first five months of 2008, according to U.S. military officials and excerpts of a report by NATO's International Security Assistance Force obtained by Reuters.

That is more than double the growth rate for violence in Afghanistan between the same months in 2007 and 2008 when military officials estimate insurgent attacks rose about 25 percent. All told, insurgent violence climbed 53 percent in 2008, they said.

"The past week was the highest level of security incidents in Afghanistan's history, at least that post-liberation history," said Army General David Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and Central Asia as the head of U.S. Central Command.

U.S.-led forces toppled Afghanistan's former Taliban regime in 2001 after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, which U.S. officials say were planned from al Qaeda safe havens on Afghan territory.

"There are some tough months ahead. Some of this (violence) will go up because we are going to go after their sanctuaries and their safe havens as we must," Petraeus told a Washington forum in a presentation unrelated to the ISAF report.

Accelerating violence could pose political risks for President Barack Obama, as his administration pours thousands of fresh troops into Afghanistan as part of a larger strategy to thwart Taliban influence and stabilize the war-torn nation.

Petraeus, whose strategic thinking is widely credited with rescuing Iraq from the brink of open civil war in 2007, is overseeing the military segment of the Obama strategy.

The United States has already increased its military presence in Afghanistan to 56,000 troops, from about 32,000 in late 2008, and Petraeus said he expects to see a total of 68,000 troops in the war zone by autumn.

Analysts have warned the counterinsurgency strategy could lead to sharply higher U.S. casualty rates, potentially diminishing support for the war at home as members of Congress head into mid-term elections in 2010.

ISAF statistics show the number of insurgent attacks in May at 1,450, surpassing the 1,400 mark for only the second time since January 2007. Monthly attacks first topped 1,400 in August 2008. In May 2008, there were 944 insurgent attacks in Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

The data include attacks on U.S. and NATO forces as well as Afghan military, police, government and civilian targets.

Military officials blame the increase partly on a mild winter, which enabled Taliban and other insurgents to cross freely into Afghanistan from safe havens in Pakistan.

But rising violence was also driven by heightened NATO and Afghan military operations, which increased by about one-third from January through May, ISAF said.

The ISAF report showed a 78 percent jump in attacks from January through May in southern Afghanistan, where most of the additional U.S. troops are headed.

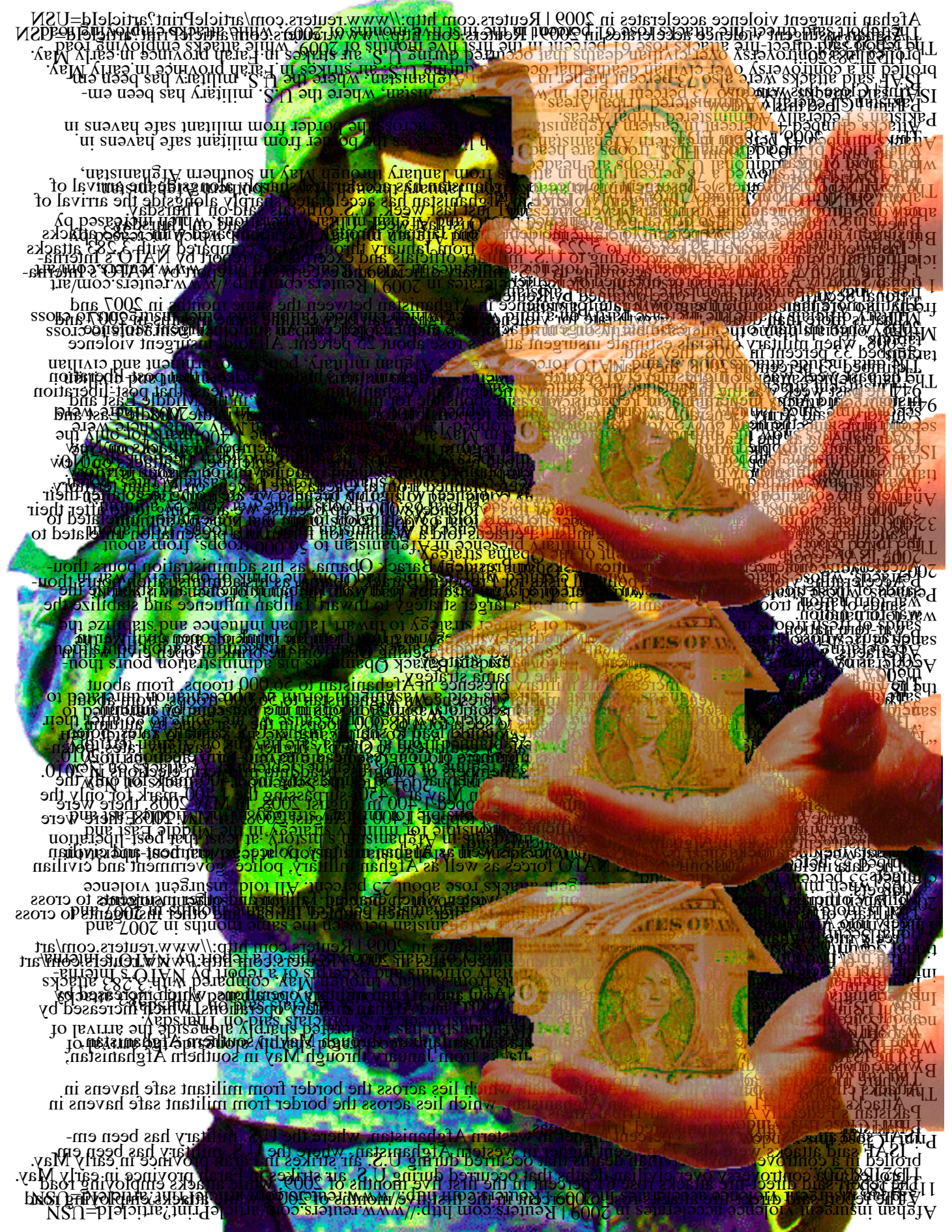
A key concern is the loss of U.S. troops in attacks on the border from militant safe havens in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

ISAF said attacks were also 73 percent higher in western Afghanistan, where the U.S. military has been on site for more than a year.

The report said direct-fire attacks rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, while attacks employing road-to-rod tactics rose 10 percent over civilian deaths that occurred during U.S. air strikes in early May.

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Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1255401>

The report said direct fire attacks rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, while attacks employing road-bombing increased 20 percent in the same period. The report also said that the number of attacks in the southern region of Afghanistan rose 300 percent in the first five months of 2009, while attacks employing road-bombing increased 20 percent in the same period.

Attacks on the border of Afghanistan, which lies across the border from militant safe havens in Pakistan, increased 50 percent in western Afghanistan, where the U.S. military has been embroiled in a controversial effort to reduce civilian deaths that occurred during U.S. air strikes in Fara province in early May. The report said direct fire attacks rose 61 percent in the first five months of 2009, while attacks employing road-bombing increased 20 percent in the same period.

Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1255401>

Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1152158320>

The number of attacks in Afghanistan rose 41 percent in the first five months of 2009, while attacks employing road bombs increased 73 percent, U.S. military officials said on Thursday.

The highest level of security incidents in Afghanistan's history, at least that post-liberation Middle East and North Africa, is being experienced there, U.S. military officials said on Thursday.

General David Petraeus, who is responsible for military strategy in the Middle East and North Africa, said the increase in violence could pose political risks for President Barack Obama, as his administration pours thousands of troops into Afghanistan as part of a larger strategy to thwart Taliban influence and stabilize the country.

Petraeus, whose strategic thinking is widely credited with rescuing Iraq from the brink of open civil war, said the military segment of the Obama strategy in Afghanistan has already increased its military presence in Afghanistan to 56,000 troops from about 33,000 in late 2008, and Petraeus said he expects to see a total 68,000 troops in the war zone by autumn.

U.S. officials have warned the counterinsurgency strategy could lead to sharply higher U.S. casualties, but Petraeus said the U.S. has the support for the war at home as members of Congress head into mid-term elections in 2010.

Statistics show the number of insurgent attacks in May at 1,450 - surpassing the 1,400 mark for only the second time since January 2007. Monthly attacks first topped 1,400 in August 2008.

In Afghanistan, U.S. officials said, the data include attacks on U.S. and NATO forces as well as Afghan military, police, government and civilian targets.

U.S. officials blame the increase partly on a mild winter, which enabled Taliban and other insurgents to cross the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan from safe havens in Pakistan.

PM Afghan insurgent violence accelerates in 2009 | Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USN1152158320>

ISAF said attacks were also 73 percent higher in western Afghanistan, where the U.S. military has been embroiled in a controversy over civilian deaths that occurred during U.S. air strikes in Farah province in early May.

Where most of the additional U.S. troops are headed, attacks climbed 41 percent in eastern Afghanistan, which lies across the border from militant safe havens in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

ISAF said attacks were also 73 percent higher in western Afghanistan, where the U.S. military has been embroiled in a controversy over civilian deaths that occurred during U.S. air strikes in Farah province in early May.

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