

THE BATTALION

# Afghanistan, Turkey cooperate against poppy cultivation

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Afghanistan's interim prime minister welcomed Turkey's plans to take over command of the international peacekeeping force and said Thursday the two countries would also cooperate in the fight against the production of opium.

Turkish troops would be embroiled in renewed unrest in Afghanistan.

"We do not think that there will be unrest in Afghanistan from now on. The Afghan people and the international community would resist it," Karzai said.

Karzai arrived in Turkey as his government pledged to end the cultivation of poppies, a major source of income in Afghanistan and a huge problem for Turkey, through which much of the opium is smuggled.

Karzai also thanked Turkey for its help in training Afghanistan's new national army, and its offer to help rebuild the Afghan health and education systems.

"We asked the government of Turkey to cooperate with Afghanistan in the continuation of its fight against poppy cultivation and the smuggling and trading of opium," Karzai said in a news conference with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

"Our relationship in military aid, education and culture is a very deep one," Karzai said.

**"We asked the government of Turkey to cooperate with Afghanistan in the continuation of its fight against poppy cultivation and the smuggling and trading of opium," Karzai said.**

Turkey's offer to take over command of the peacekeeping force in Kabul came after lengthy negotiations with the United States and Britain. Ecevit said those discussions have resulted in agreement "to a great extent."

Ecevit said Turkey, which implemented measures to halt poppy cultivation under U.S. pressure in the 1970's, would share its experience.

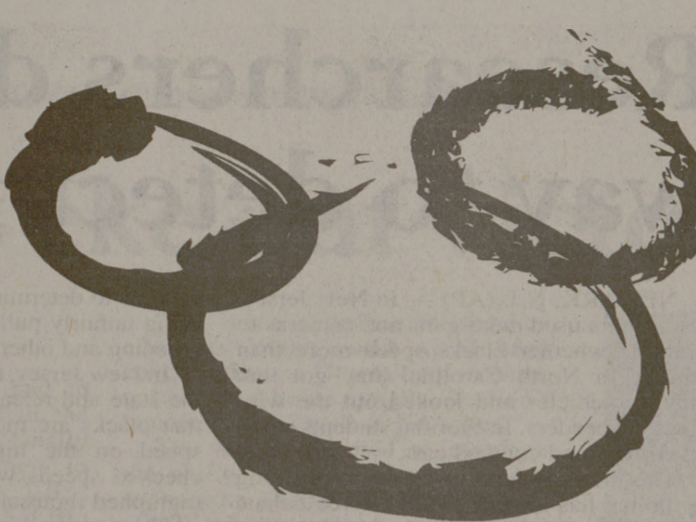
Britain, the current commander, wants to hand over command in April, before the mission's mandate expires in June. Turkey — while willing to take on the mission — has insisted that its conditions be met.

Last weekend, Turkish police seized 7.5 tons of unrefined morphine, a poppy extract, which originated in Afghanistan. Police said it was the largest single haul of crude morphine ever. Karzai, who arrived in Ankara on a private plane sent by the Turkish government, said he was pleased that Turkey would take on the peacekeeping mission.

Turkey has asked the United States to provide cargo planes and Britain to leave behind some of the facilities it set up for the peacekeepers.

Turkey's military said Sunday that the country has agreed in principle to lead the force.

Turkey's demand for money appears to have been met. State Minister Yilmaz Karakoyunlu, a government spokesperson, said earlier this week that a \$228 million aid package promised by the Bush administration would meet Turkey's needs.

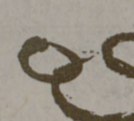


**Dream it. Do it. Disney.**  
We're coming to campus!

Mark your calendars — All majors and all college levels invited. This is your chance to go inside this world-famous resort, **build your resume** and **meet students from around the world.**


Check out a *Walt Disney World*® College Program **paid internship.** Housing is offered. College credit opportunities may be available. Visit our website at [wdwcollegeprogram.com](http://wdwcollegeprogram.com) and then come to the presentation. Attendance is required to interview.

**Monday, April 8 at 6:00PM**  
MSC 226

 **COLLEGE PROGRAM**  
[wdwcollegeprogram.com](http://wdwcollegeprogram.com)

EOE • Drawing Creativity from Diversity • © Disney

**National Student-Athlete Day**  
**Friday April 6, 2002**



**As student-athletes, we feel honored to represent Texas A&M and the student body and we greatly appreciate the 12th Man and your one-of-a-kind support for Aggie Athletics. Gig 'Em!**

**Did You Know?**

- 647 - The number of student athletes at Texas A&M
- 390 - The number of student athletes on athletic grant-in-aid
- 40% of a full - The average amount of athletic grant-in-aid per student athlete
- \$0 - The amount of athletic grant-in-aid funded by student fees
- \$0 - The amount of student fees allocated to the athletic department
- 236 - The number of student-athletes achieving a 3.0 GPR or better in 2001
- 323 - The number of student-athletes volunteering in community events including: AggiesCAN, First Yell, HOSTS/BUDDY mentor programs, Sports Days, March of Dimes Walk America, Big Event, Parent's Weekend BBQ, Red Ribbon Week, National Young Reader Day, Special Olympics, Public School Week, 100% AAI, and Relay for Life

**In recognition of: Aggie Athletes Involved, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Texas A&M Athletic Department**

# Research indicates drug slows diseases

LONDON (AP) — Methotrexate, a key drug for rheumatoid arthritis, could help people with the crippling disease live longer, new research suggests.

Methotrexate, originally a cancer drug, has been used to fight rheumatoid arthritis for about 15 years. Since then it has been proven to slow progression of the inflammatory disease and to make patients feel better, but a new study provides the first hint it may also save lives. Experts said the study, published this week in *The Lancet* medical journal, was encouraging but did not provide definitive proof.

Rheumatoid arthritis strikes about one percent of people, usually in middle age. People with the disease tend to die about 10 years sooner than normal, according to Dr. Theodore Pincus, a prominent rheumatoid arthritis researcher from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

It is not the type of arthritis common in the elderly because of the wear-and-tear of aging. It occurs when the immune system goes awry and attacks the joints, causing severe inflammation in the lining of the joints, pain and stiffness.

It is also linked to an increased risk of heart disease. Scientists believe people with rheumatoid arthritis have shorter life spans partly because they face increased chances of getting heart disease and dying from it.

The latest study, led by Dr. Frederick Wolfe of the Arthritis Research Center Foundation at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, found that patients on methotrexate were 60 percent less likely to die prematurely than those not getting the drug. They were 70 percent less likely than people not on the drug to die from heart disease.

Experts said the finding bolsters the growing body of evidence that inflammation might play a role in heart attacks and that anti-inflammatory medication might ward them off.

Methotrexate works by switching off the underlying inflammation caused by the immune response.

Dr. David Scott, professor of clinical rheumatology at Guy's, King's and St. Thomas' Medical School in London, said the findings echo what doctors have suspected.

**[FREEUP]**  
**(THE BETTER WAY TO PREPAY)**

**[SETUP] today!**  
**\$99.99 Retail Price**  
**- \$30.00 Mail-In Rebate**

**Now Only \$69.99**  
Price After Mail-In Rebate



Kyocera 2135pp

**Includes \$15 worth of minutes.**

**200 BONUS WEEKEND MINUTES**  
every time you **[REUP]**

As long as your account remains active.

**verizonwireless**  
We never stop working for you.™

**Applebee's**  
Neighborhood Grill & Bar

**Monday - House Sirloin or Bourbon St. Steaks - \$2. off**  
\$1.99 23 oz. Domestic Beer

**Tuesday - Fajitas \$2. off**  
\$.99 House Margaritas

**Wednesday - Chicken Fried Chicken or Chicken Fried Steak \$8.99**  
\$1.99 23 oz. Domestic Beer

**10% discount with valid college ID**

200 S. Texas Ave.  
College Station  
(979) 260-3003

**Fax in a to-go order**  
(979) 691-8175

**Verizon Wireless Communications Store**  
COLLEGE STATION  
1901 Texas Ave., South  
(979) 696-3112

**Authorized Retailers**  
VERIZON PHONE MART  
(979) 846-1271

Service and equipment offer and prices may vary at these locations.

**Business Sales** CALL TOLL-FREE 1.800.505.5015

**VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORE OPEN SUNDAYS**

Subject to terms of Prepay Wireless Service Agreement. Set-up fee up to \$35 may apply. Usage rounded to next full minute. Unused minutes lost. Restrictions apply. For a limited time only. Rebate requests must be postmarked on or before 04/15/02. Original receipt and bar code required, copies not accepted. Allow 10-12 weeks for rebate checks. Bonus Weekend Minutes do not apply to SMS messages or calls off the Verizon Wireless [FREE] network. Special charge numbers such as International Dialing will use bonus minutes and additional surcharges may apply. Bonus Weekend Minutes will deplete with Voice Mail deposits and retrievals. Bonus Weekend Minutes are lost once account expires. See store for details. © 2002 Verizon Wireless.