



United States

Washington, D.C.

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October

RELEASE IN PART B5

**NOTE FOR SECRETARY CLINTON**

FROM: S/SRAP – Ashley Bommer and Vikram Singh

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON AF/PAK MOBILE INITIATIVES

As you know, we have been trying to make progress on two critical areas in Afghanistan through mobile technology:

- First, secure cell phone towers in contested areas:
  - The Taliban has long ordered telecom companies to power down cell towers every night in contested areas. In this week's Newsweek reported a Taliban commander saying, "All the raids came between midnight and dawn. We found out they were finding us by tracing our cell phone calls, and by giving away our location. So we forced the cell companies to stop transmissions from 6pm to 7am. We still worry about night bombers, but we are suffering fewer American night raids because they just don't have the intelligence they used to have. We are willing to cooperate with them and betray us."
- Second, corruption and absenteeism that demoralize and weaken the military:
  - Officers are under paid (their bosses skim about 30% off their pay) they then often have to travel for a week to take their cash home to their families. During this time they are vulnerable because gangs target government workers around pay day.

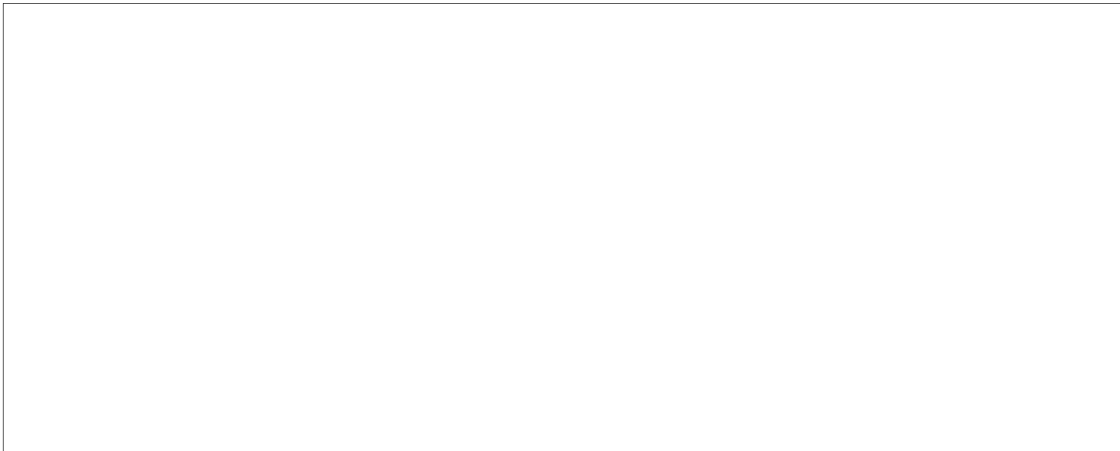
We are making great strides in both areas through mobile initiatives as part of our Communication and Counter Propaganda strategy.

Earlier this year, we proposed countering the Taliban by moving cell towers to Forward Operating Bases, where they would be protected. For the past

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months, with your support, we conducted meetings with the military companies and relevant ministries. This week, Rear Admiral Greg Strategic Communication Director, confirmed that towers would be RC South and East (ISAF and US Forces Afghanistan Action Plan

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**Attachments:**

1. ISAF memo on cell plans
2. Recent Economist Report on Telecoms in Emerging Markets