Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 42SUA46601638

City: Mandel Khel

District: Shinkai

Province: Zabul

Report Basis: ASC ATS4-402

Unit: ATS-4

Tasker: N/A

*This report contains raw unevaluated atmospheric information, which may reflect the bias/motivation of the ASC that provided it. Atmospherics represents the perceptions, opinions and sentiments of the local populace, which may differ from factual accounts and/or historic reality. It is not intended to be used as a standalone document.*

**1. BLUF:** Villagers see the Taliban in two groups, one group that is fighting ISAF and another one that is supported by foreigners. They criticize that foreign forces support the Taliban and want the oppression of foreigners to end.

**2. ATMOSPHERIC VALUE:** Non-Supportive-INS/Non-Supportive-ISAF.

**3. DETAILS:** On 18 Feb 13 while in Shinkai District, ASC-426 overheard two Pashtun males talking about different factions of the Taliban.

A 35-year-old man said, “The Taliban are in two groups, one is fighting with the ISAF and the second is supported by foreigners. These Taliban that the foreigners are supporting are used for assassinations that the foreigners want carried out. If the foreigners want to kill someone, they will use their Taliban. The public does not like the Taliban that the foreigners support.”

A 35-year-old man said, “Those Taliban that are fighting with the ISAF should fight the Taliban that the foreigners are supporting, in order to save us from their tyranny. We are sick and tired of the oppression these foreigners bring to our country.”

**4. COMMENTS:** Some Afghans see two groups within the Taliban. One group fights ISAF and GIRoA for control of Afghanistan, while the other Taliban faction is controlled by a foreign power. The men infer that the Taliban group supported by the foreign power is only trying to control Afghanistan for the sake of the foreign group rather than to help the people of Afghanistan.