Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 41RQR48080478

City: Kuhak

District: Arghandab

Province: Kandahar

Report Basis: ASC ATS6-616

Unit: ATS-6

Tasker: N/A

*This report contains raw, unevaluated atmospheric information, which may reflect the bias/motivation of the ASC that provided it. Atmospherics represent 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:** Farmers are growing poppy despite warnings by GIRoA since it is the best way for farmers to support their families. The farmers are not against GIRoA, they just need to survive.

**2. ATMOSPHERIC VALUE:** Neutral.

**3. DETAILS:** On Feb 17 2013, while in Kuhak, ASC ATS6-616 overheard two Pashtun males. The men were talking about farmers growing poppy.

A 35-year-old man said, “The farmers who have grown poppy are eager to get a good crop this year. Most of the poppy is grown in the south side of Kuhak Village in an area called Khalishak. The farmers are hoping that the ANP will not destroy their crop.”

A 40-year-old man said, “The district governor of Arghandab has warned the farmers that if he finds the poppy fields he will destroy them. The district governor has promised to punish the guilty farmers and put them behind bars. In spite of all the threats and warnings, the farmers have grown poppy because that is the only way they can feed their families. The villagers are sympathetic towards the poppy growers because they know there is no other way to make a living.”

**4. COMMENTS:** Two men say farmers are growing poppy in Kuhak despite serious threats from GIRoA and that villagers are sympathetic to the farmers because they know it is the best way for farmers to provide for their families. Past reporting shows that villagers are defying GIRoA on poppy cultivation for economic reasons and they are not anti-GIRoA.