Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 41RQR52200590

City: Baba Saheb

District: Arghandab

Province: Kandahar

Report Basis: ASC ATS6-600

Unit: ATS-6

Tasker: RFAI-RCS-079-20110720

*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:** ARGHANDAB unemployment and economic opportunity is stagnant if not decreasing despite ISAF efforts. Taliban is taking advantage of this with loans and offers of jobs for people to do insurgency activities. People are concerned that there will never be security if the people do not have the means to feed their families.

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

**3. DETAILS:** On 17 Feb 13, while in the village of Baba Saheb, ASC ATS6-600 overheard two Pashtun males talking about the rise in inflation and unemployment.

The 28-year-old man stated, “It seems that life is getting harder these days. Despite the Americans and other foreign countries spending money in Arghandab, still we do not have jobs and the price of commodities have sky rocketed.”

The 35-year-old man stated, “With some access to health care, more babies are born healthy and the mortality rate is on the rise. There are more mouths to feed. Men have a hard time finding a job and providing for their families and that is when Taliban give them loans and hire them. We will never have security if we do not have an income to feed our families.”

**4. COMMENTS:** Two men speak sadly of the state of the ARGHANDAB economy and say that despite ISAF efforts there are few jobs and food staples are getting more expensive. They say insurgents are taking advantage of these conditions by giving loans to people and offers jobs to desperate people. Past reporting shows unemployment and youth unemployment to be very high in ARGHANDAB.