Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 41SQS767097

City: Tarin Kot

District: Tarin Kot

Province: Uruzgan

Report Basis: ASC ATS2-208

Unit: ATS-2

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:** A couple of men say Pakistani Government claims to have released some Taliban commanders, but the locals feel it is not true. They criticize President Karzai for being a weak leader and not stopping Pakistan from interfering in Afghan affairs.

**2. ATMOSPHERIC VALUE:** Non-Supportive-GIRoA.

**3. DETAILS:** On 18 Feb 13, while at the bazaar in Tarin Kot, ASC ATS2-208 overheard two Pashtun males, of the ages 36 and 57, talk about Pakistani Government claiming to have released some Taliban commanders.

A 36-year-old man said, “The Pakistani Government is claiming to have released some Taliban commanders; but nobody knows the names of the people supposedly released.”

A 57-year-old man said, “I believe Pakistan is making this up. If it is true that Taliban commanders have been released, they should have handed them over to the Afghan Government. I wish we had a President like Daud Khan, he would have responded with swift military action against the Pakistani Government for meddling in our affairs. I cannot wait to see President Karzai leave office, he is a weak leader.”

**4. COMMENTS:** According to a couple of men, the Pakistani Government claimed to have released some Taliban commanders. One of the men feel the Pakistani Government is making up the story because if something of that sort did happen, the Afghan Government would have been involved. This report seems to suggest that some of the locals feel that President Karzai is weak and cannot confront the Pakistani Government to desist from intruding in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.