Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 41RQQ35399199

City: Bazaar-e Panjwai

District: Panjwai

Province: Kandahar

Report Basis: ASC ATS7-716

Unit: ATS-7

Tasker:

*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:** Local villagers discuss the jihad against Russians and the Taliban’s jihad. They believe that the Taliban are fighting for Pakistan and take vacations during the winter, unlike the mujahideen who fought against the Russians .

**2. ATMOSPHERIC VALUE:** Neutral

**3. DETAILS**: On 17 Feb 13 ASC ATS7-716 overheard a conversation between eight Pashtun men at the bazaar in Panjwai, between the ages of 30 and 60, talking about the Jihad against the Russians. They were comparing it to the Taliban. One man claims that Taliban’s war is not Jihad and they are paid by Pakistan and it is not for sake of God, it is for sake of Pakistan.

The first man said, “Jihad is supposed to be for sake of God like we fought against Russians. We controlled large areas and we only did it for sake of God. If you compare it with the Taliban you can see that they are not controlling any areas and when it is winter they go back to Pakistan and take vacations.”

The second man said, “They are all fighting for sake of Pakistan not sake of God. They go to Pakistan in the winter and relax compared to the days our mujahedeen never went to Pakistan regardless of summer or winter and accepted a lot of hardships.”

The younger men who were listening shook their heads with agreement.

**4. COMMENTS:** These villagers are comparing the Taliban to the Russians and deciding if the Taliban are misusing Jihad. These villagers understand that the Taliban are being influenced by Pakistan for the wrong reasons and that the war with the Russians was indeed for Jihad.