Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 42SUA02165378

City: Qalat

District: Qalat

Province: Zabul

Report Basis: ASC ATS4-401

Unit: ATS-4

Tasker: RFAI- RCS-076-20110710; RCS-079-20110720; RCS-094-20120101

*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:** Taliban seem to be wary of ISAF efforts with the ANA and ALP. According to residents, Taliban said that they would not be defeated unless local Afghans stand up against it, with the support of Americans.

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

**3. DETAILS:**  On 19 Feb 13 while in Kandahar City at a taxi stand, ASC-401 overheard two Pashtun males talking about Taliban’s plans for Afghanistan and the difficulty the Taliban is having defeating the ANA and ALP.

A 30-year-old man said, “The Taliban Commission in Quetta Pakistan is saying that the Americans cannot defeat us by themselves, but they can defeat us if the Americans have deep and strong relations among the Afghan people and Afghans stand against us. Then it is possible that we will be defeated.”

A 45-year-old man said, “The Taliban are saying they have had many losses from fighting with local Afghans. The Americans started a movement against us when they created the ANA and ALP. Because of the ANA and ALP the Taliban cannot stay in the villages or conduct operations against the government. The Taliban are saying they will not be defeated if local Afghans do not stand against them. The Taliban have given warnings to the village elders and those cooperating with the government to stop cooperating. If that happens, it will be very easy for the Taliban to get control of the villages. The majority of the people want the government and the Americans to defeat the Taliban. We hope the pressure on the Taliban continues and more attention is paid to villages’ security.”

**4. COMMENTS:** The men in this report say that some Taliban are fearful of ISAF efforts to strengthen ANSF and in fact say that ISAF will be successful if Afghan civilians in the towns and villages can be brought into the plan to defeat the Taliban. The men seem to hope this turns out to be the case and say that most Afghan citizens would like to see the Taliban defeated.