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INC – Afghanistan [1/2]

**1. We’re winning the war now**

**Kagan, ’09**

[Fredrick, R**esident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute** ‘‘A Stable Pakistan Needs a Stable Afghanistan”, Wall Street Journal, **September 5th 2009,** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204731804574386602057103982.html>]

Trying to win in Afghanistan is not a fool's errand, however**. Where coalition forces have conducted properly resourced counterinsurgency operations in areas such as Khowst, Wardak, Lowgar, Konar and Nangarhar Provinces in the eastern part of the country, they have succeeded despite the legendary xenophobia of the Pashtuns.** Poorly designed operations in Helmand Province have not led to success. Badly under-resourced efforts in other southern and western provinces, most notably Kandahar, have also failed. Can well-designed and properly-resourced operations succeed? There are no guarantees in war, but there is good reason to think they can. Given the importance of this theater to the stability of a critical and restive region, that is reason enough to try.

**2. Surge fights off Taliban and provides development**

**Charney, ’10**

[Craig, Charney Research President, “The Surge is working all signs point America’s way,” 2-26-10, <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/02/25/the-surge-is-working.html>]

Even as the Marines' battle for Marja grabs headlines, it's diverting attention from a bigger story. **Though the Taliban is entrenched in Helmand province, where Marja is situated, its grip is slipping in the rest of Afghanistan as President Barack Obama's 30,000-troop surge unfolds. These developments undercut the common belief that America is doomed to fail in a land of fiercely tribal, pro-Taliban Pashtuns who hate infidel invaders.** In fact, Afghanistan's demography, sociology, military situation, and politics all favor Obama's counterinsurgency strategy. **That's why it's working**. **The strategy, devised by** U.S. and NATO commander **Gen. Stanley McChrystal, aims to win over Afghans by protecting them from the Taliban**, **restraining firepower** to limit civilian casualties, and **speeding up development, along with seizing Taliban sanctuaries like Marja.** It has six things going for it. Most Afghans aren't Pashtuns —and most Pashtuns oppose the **Taliban. Three fifths of Afghans are Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazara, and other ethnicities who suffered under Taliban rule and dread its return**. What's more, while most Taliban fighters are Pashtun, **70 percent of Pashtuns dislike the Taliban**. Only one Pashtun in four favors the insurgents. Most Pashtuns desire closer ties with the West. Why? **Polls say they, like other Afghans, mainly want jobs, electricity, and reconstruction—none of which the Taliban offers.**

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**3. New commitments to Afghanistan will alleviate corruptions and stabilize the country.**

**Rupert & Penny, ’10**

[James and Thomas, Staff Writers, “Karzai says Afghanistan May Need Foreign Troops for the Next 15 Years,” January 28th 2010, <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-28/karzai-says-afghanistan-may-need-foreign-troops-for-15-years.html>]

A $500 million plan to entice Taliban fighters to quit the growing insurgency in Afghanistan will form the centerpiece of a conference in London after President **Hamid Karzai warned that international troops may be needed in his country for as many as 15 years. More than 60 foreign ministers are meeting top Afghan officials to approve a political strategy backing the U.S.-led troop surge. The ministers will show support for** **Afghan President Hamid Karzai and resolve to stabilize his country,** while countering falling public support for the war in Europe and the U.S. by offering a timeline for troops to come home. “This conference marks the beginning of the transition process, agreeing the conditions under which we can begin district by district, province by province, transferring the responsibility for security from international forces to Afghan forces,” U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in a speech today opening the one-day meeting. **Governments at the conference will pledge about $500 million, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, to provide jobs, homes and farming help for Taliban fighters who return to civilian life.** Alexander Dobrindt, deputy leader of Merkel’s sister party, the Christian Social Union, dubbed the plan a “Taliban cash-for-clunkers” program. **Conference attendees will also renew pressure on Karzai to reduce official corruption that has weakened his government. Karzai,** in an interview with BBC television, **said he’ll present a “new, invigorated” anti-corruption plan. The blueprint will include more deadlines, laws and regulations than previous plans, he said.**

**4. Obama’s Withdrawal Plans leads to Pashtun and Non-Pashtun split – Turns civil war**

**Rasgotra, ’10**

[Maharajakrishna, Indian Diplomat “Indian commentary says US troop exit from Afghanistan to be "historical blunder,” June 12th 2010, Lexis]

**The United States is in the process of committing a historical blunder with grave consequences** for not only Afghanistan but also the regions surrounding it. President Barack Obama's decision to begin withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan in 2011 is understandable: the long and costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have taxed the patience of the Americans, and the President himself must start planning his campaign for the second term. But it is **the manner of the planned exit and its consequences that cause worry. The strategy devised** at the London Conference in January 2010 on Afghanistan -- "reintegration and reconciliation" **-- is a veiled scheme to hand over Afghanistan, once again, to Pakistan.** President Obama's rhetoric on the "Way Forward in AF-PAK" has the same thrust. **The consequences of this dangerous scheme are not hard to foresee: the return of the brutal Taleban rule in Kabul, the resumption of a civil war which will suck in the neighbouring countries; and spread of terrorism and bloodshed farther afield. The end result** will be a virtual **partition of Afghanistan into Pushtoon and non-Pushtoon countries and** the eventual rise of **a larger, independent Pushtoonistan incorporating Pakistan's own Pushtoon lands.** I would not wish that fate for Afghanistan or Pakistan.

2NC – Winning Now [1/2]

**1. The United States is winning the trust of the Afghan people by providing enough security to exist normally and come together**

**Kitson, ’10**

[Nick Kitson, Lieutenant Colonel, “Afghanistan: A war we’re winning,” June 9th 2010, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/afghanistan-a-war-were-winning-1994934.html>]

Of real significance though, and **a sure sign that we and the Afghan Government we support are having effect, is the in-fighting that has begun to boil over amongst our Taliban adversaries**. It seems that the locals may be getting increasingly fed up with the extremism of the external militants loyal to Quetta and out-of-area power brokers. While we continued to fend off our enemy, often with a fierce fight, and targeted them ruthlessly when the appropriate opportunity arose, one of this Battle Group's principal achievements was to take the heat out of the fight. Our soldiers took considerable extra risk upon themselves to move in these small numbers amongst the people, not to overreact when provoked and do their very best to engage with the locals so as to pass the message of what we stand for, what we are trying to achieve and to ask them what they want from the Government. We were told since before we deployed that our mission was about "winning the argument" and we left a situation where the argument is most definitely being had – and it is a socio-political argument not a fighting argument. The most important thing is that, now Sangin has a credible District Governor committed to his people and a better future, the argument is between the people and the Afghan Government. **Our role was simply to provide enough security for them to exist normally and to bring them together.** **Reducing the levels of fighting on the streets of the centre certainly helped that begin to take place. If war is politics by other means** (as Clausewitz tells us) **then we can tentatively take heart that we are now perhaps beginning to move back towards politics.** The Helmand Provincial Governor, Gulab Mangal, visited again in early April and was visibly impressed by what the new District Governor had achieved in his month in office. **Mangal was able to sit down with genuine, respected local elders and remind them of their responsibilities for uniting the people and the tribes to work together for a better future.** This was a far cry from his previous visit in mid-January, where the previous District Governor had that morning press-ganged a few old tramps from the bazaar to come and pretend to be community elders. **The locals beyond the security footprint that we provide in the town** (the District Centre) **are beginning to see what is on offer by way of development, healthcare, education and assistance with agriculture.** **Our struggle for the hearts and minds of the people, on behalf of the Afghan Government, has forever been hampered by a leaderless population of fence-sitters too battered, intimidated, cynical and jaded to trust anyone. Perhaps now the grass is beginning to look decidedly greener on the Government side.**

**2. We can war in Afghanistan – Afghanistan supports a stable government and likes the U.S.**

**McCain, ’09**

[John McCain, Arizona Senator, “The Situation in Afghanistan” <http://www.aei.org/speech/100046>]

**I am confident victory is possible in Afghanistan.** I know Americans are weary of war. I’m weary of it. But **we must win the war in Afghanistan. The alternative is to risk that country’s return to its previous function as a terrorist sanctuary, from which al Qaeda could train and plan attacks against America. Such an outcome would** constitute an historic success for the jihadist movement, **severely damage American standing and credibility in a region that already doubts our resolve, and threaten the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A terrorist sanctuary in Afghanistan would encourage and enable al Qaeda and other terrorist groups to destabilize neighboring countries.** **Broader insecurity in Afghanistan**--with the violence, refugee flows, and lawlessness it would engender--could **spill beyond its borders to nuclear armed Pakistan or other states in south and central Asia, with the gravest implications for our national security.** Afghans reject the Taliban. Just 4 percent of Afghans wish them to rule the country, and they rate the Taliban as by far the most dangerous threat to their nation. Despite the deteriorating conditions, nearly 70 percent continue to say the U.S. invasion and overthrow of the Taliban were a good thing. What the people in Afghanistan want most is not the exit of foreigners, or of coalition troops, but rather the things that a properly configured and resourced strategy would deliver: security, some degree of development, and basic good governance. The problem in Afghanistan today is not innate xenophobia or hostility to the West. It is our own failed policies that are the problem. We have tried to win this war without enough troops, without sufficient economic aid, without effective coordination, and without a clear strategy. The ruinous consequences should come as no surprise. If we change our policies, the situation on the ground will change, too.

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**3. Afghans approve of our presence**

[**Arnoldy**](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contact/Staff-Writers/Ben-Arnoldy)**, ’10**

[Ben, “Afghanistan war worsening but optimism is up, says new poll,” January 12th 2010, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/0112/Afghanistan-war-worsening-but-optimism-is-up-says-new-poll>]

It’s morning in Afghanistan, according to a new nationwide poll of Afghan public opinion. But while even some skeptics agree that Afghans may have a more optimistic view of their country than outsiders suppose, analysts with deep experience there are cautious about the sunny picture emerging from the survey released Monday, saying it runs counter to their sense of the mood and the repercussions of the recent fraud-riddled election. **Seventy percent of Afghans say the country is moving in the right direction, up 30 points from one year ago,** according to the poll from ABC News, the BBC, and ARD German TV. **Conducted last month after President Hamid Karzai’s reelection was confirmed, the survey also found his approval up 19 points on the year, to 71 percent.Matthew Warshaw,** managing director of ACSOR Surveys, the firm in Kabul that conducted the poll, **chalked the optimism up to three things: the peaceful resolution of the election controversy, the US deepening its commitment to the country, and more Afghans seeing development in their local area.“I think there was somewhat of an election honeymoon” in December, says Mr. Warshaw, referring to the bump in optimism that usually follows democratic elections in other parts of the world.**

**4. Local trust**

**A. We’re winning now – building relationships with locals**

**Peter, ’10**

[Tom Peter, Foreign Correspondent, “Afghanistan war: Good counterinsurgency, like good politics, is local,” January 27th 2010, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/0127/Afghanistan-war-Good-counterinsurgency-like-good-politics-is-local>]

While it might not be possible to send every unit back to an area where it has already deployed, Vanda Felbab-Brown, **an expert in Afghanistan and counterinsurgency at the Brookings Institution in Washington, says that the goal is to "build a process that enhances and allows for as much continuity of relationships and knowledge as possible.”** According to Ms. Felbab-**Brown, many soldiers complained that it was difficult to make progress when they had to leave after a year, often just as they were starting to benefit from the relationships they'd built**. **The new policy allows units to keep those connections, but without having to endure longer deployments.**Although Attack Company redeployed to Kunar Province several months before McChrystal took the helm in Afghanistan, **their deployment has accomplished many of the goals sought under the new policy.** Some of the soldiers had worked with their counterparts in the Afghan Army during previous rotations. Sfc. Jose N. Urrutia-Castanon of San Diego, Texas, **says he may not always remember specific Afghan soldiers, but both sides remember particular units, and finding out they fought together in the past provides common ground that he says improves relationships.**"It works to our advantage, and it also works great toward influencing the local population. **They see us working together as one**

B. Local Trust means better intelligence and development

**Peter, ’10**

[Tom Peter, Foreign Correspondent, “Afghanistan war: Good counterinsurgency, like good politics, is local,” January 27th 2010, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/0127/Afghanistan-war-Good-counterinsurgency-like-good-politics-is-local>]

It is hoped that, **by gaining locals' trust, soldiers will also be able to gather better intelligence and more effectively stop the Taliban from infiltrating communities.** Most of the relationship-building happens between American officers, who have interpreters, and their Afghan counterparts, while rank-and-file soldiers pull guard duty outside the meeting. Still, these lower-ranked enlisted soldiers often remember the area where they served, adding to the institutional memory.**Sgt. Harry Griffith** of Pittsburgh says **he doesn't remember any locals but does recall many of the villages and is surprised to see how much they've developed since he left. In several towns, he says, he's noticed new shops and restaurants, and the completion of a US-funded road."It's really cool to see because that's what we're here for [to develop the country], that was a huge motivator to help the people out," he says.**

2NC – Presence K2 Stability [1/2]

**1. New commitments to Afghanistan will alleviate corruptions and stabilize the country**

**Rupert & Penny, ’10**

[James and Thomas, Staff Writers for Business Weeks “Karzai says Afghanistan May Need Foreign Troops for the Next 15 Years,” January 28th 2010, <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-28/karzai-says-afghanistan-may-need-foreign-troops-for-15-years.html>]

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**2. U.S. and International presence key to stability**

**Krishna, ’10**

[Somanahalli, Indian Prime Minister for External Affairs, “Longer international presence needed in Afghanistan,” July 22nd 2010, <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_longer-international-presence-needed-in-afghanistan-sm-krishna_1413123>]

With the **US having announced that it will begin pulling out its troops from Afghanistan from July 2011, India on Thursday said that "international presence" in the war-torn country was needed for a much longer time.** Just back from Kabul after attending an international conference on Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna said that he shared President Hamid Karzai's enthusiasm for Afghan forces to take over security of the entire country from 2014. "He is very enthusiastic and I am very happy about it. He is also confident that he will be able to raise his own security force," said Krishna, who had discussions with Karzai and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the Afghan capital. Asked if India was willing to help in raising the security forces necessary for the task, the minister replied, "Well, if Afghanistan asks India shall help. We have been helping Afghanistan in our own way. It depends on what kind of help they seek and what kind of help we can render." **Responding to a question as to whether the US decision to commence troops pull out in a year was premature, Krishna said, "I feel that international presence is needed in Afghanistan for a much longer time than it has now now been projected. We hope that international presence will act as some kind of insulation to Afghanistan for normalisation."** Asked whether India would like the US to take a fresh look at its decision, the minister said that New Delhi had conveyed its views to the US and to Afghanistan in bilateral meetings. To a question on Pakistan's efforts to play the power broker in Afghanistan, Krishna said that India had emphasised that initiative for future set up in the country had to be "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned". Asked whether there was a shift in India's stand on good Taliban and bad Taliban, he said, "Well, we cannot wish away Taliban. Who are Taliban--they are all citizens of Afghanistan. "There is a realisation among individual members of Taliban that their movement is not not going to be helpful to Afghanistan and that they should reconsider their association with Taliban. Then I think they should go back to the

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**3. We must follow the Iraqi model to leave a stable Afghanistan - rapid withdrawal will only lead to instability**

**Washington Times, ’10**

[Washington Times, “Winning the war in Afghanistan,” <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/19/winning-in-afghanistan-786391921/>]

Afghanistan has 34 provinces comprising 397 districts. Some are very secure, others decidedly not. In that respect, Afghanistan is in a similar situation to Iraq's in 2007**. A province-by-province approach to** [**Afghanistan**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/afghanistan/) **- starting with the most secure areas and handing off responsibility for the defense of the area to the Afghan government** - **could build the same kind of momentum it did in Iraq. It also could** help **rebuild support with the American public for the war effort similar to the surge in Iraq.** Such a strategy will make progress in the war more comprehensible to the American people and build a more solid political foundation in the country. This is critical because, as in the case of Vietnam, the enemy cannot defeat U.S. forces on the battlefield but may be able to create domestic political conditions that will make it difficult if not impossible to sustain the war effort.**Handing over all the security responsibilities to the Afghan government is a reasonable measure of success in the war, so this approach lays out a road map to victory.** It's important that the United States comes out of its longest war with a check in the win column.