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DRAFTED BY:SA/RA:KLARSON  
APPROVED BY:SA:RRAPHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206975

FOLLOWING PESHAWAR 0926 DTD 03 OCT SENT ACTION  
STATE ISLAMABAD INFO USUN ASHGABAT DUSHANBE LONDON  
MOSCOW NEW DELHI PARIS RIYADH ROME TASHKENT JEDDAH  
KARACHI LAHORE GENEVA USIA DIA RPTD FOR UR INFO.  
QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L PESHAWAR 00926

USIA FOR NEA - WINCHESTER

LONDON FOR POL - TUELLER

PARIS FOR POL - ALLEGRONE

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DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/CEN - KENNEDY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/06

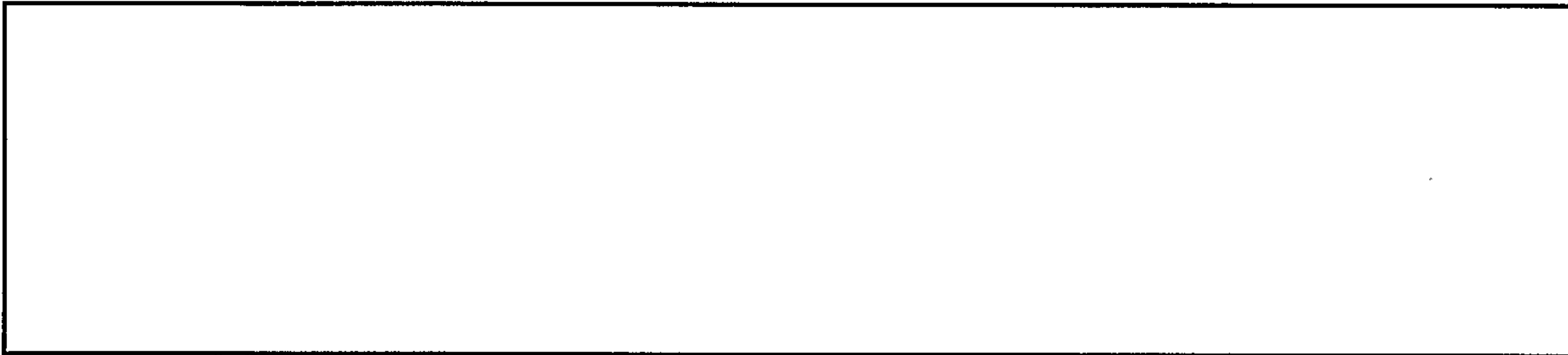
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN BIODATA

REF: JAKARTA 7113 (NOTAL)

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: BRAD HANSON, PRINCIPAL OFFICER,  
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR. REASON(S): 1.5(D).

2. (C) FOLLOWING ARE THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF TALIBAN LEADERS BASED  
ON EMBASSY ISLAMABAD AND CONSULATE'S REPORTING AS WELL AS



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MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR  
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3. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR WHO WAS PROCLAIMED "AMIR UL-MOMINEEN"  
(LEADER OF THE FAITHFUL) BY A GATHERING OF AFGHAN ULEMA IN  
KANDAHAR IN APRIL IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS THE FINAL VOICE OF  
AUTHORITY WITHIN THE LOOSELY ORGANIZED TALIBAN HIERARCHY. OMAR  
IS APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD FROM THE MAIWAND DISTRICT  
OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE HOTAK BRANCH OF THE  
GHILZAI TRIBE. EDUCATED IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI MADRASAS, HE

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SERVED AS DEPUTY COMMANDER TO HARAKAT-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI (NABI  
MOHAMMADI) COMMANDER MAULAWI FAIZULLAH IN KANDAHAR. OMAR  
COMMANDED RESISTANCE EFFORTS IN KANDAHAR, ZABUL, HERAT, AND FARAH  
PROVINCES. DURING THE JIHAD, HE LOST ONE OF HIS EYES. AFTER THE  
FALL OF THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN APRIL 1992, OMAR BEGAN  
TEACHING IN A MADRASA LOCATED IN HOME DISTRICT OF MAIWAND AND  
FUNDED BY KANDAHAR BUSINESSMAN HAJI BASHAR. IN ADDITION TO  
ADVISORS FROM WITHIN THE TALIBAN EXECUTIVE SHURA, OMAR ALSO  
CONSULTS WITH TWO CLOSE FRIENDS MULLAH YARANA AND MULLAH BIRATHER

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WHO DO NOT HOLD ANY OFFICIAL POSITIONS IN THE TALIBAN ORGANIZATION. KANDAHARI MULLAHS FROM THE POPOLZAI TRIBE, YARANA AND BIRATHER HELPED OMAR STAGE THE UPRISING AGAINST KANDAHAR COMMANDERS IN THE FALL OF 1994 WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF KANDAHAR. (NOTE: THE SPELLING "BIRATHER" REFLECTS THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE NAME WHICH IN DARI AND PASHTU IS THE WORD FOR BROTHER. END NOTE.)

MULLAH MOHAMMAD RABBANI  
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4. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD RABBANI HAS BEEN TAPPED BY OMAR TO HEAD THE RECENTLY FORMED SIX-MEMBER "NATIONAL" INTERIM SHURA AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SOME AFGHAN TALIBAN WATCHERS AS A "MODERATE." (COMMENT: THE TERM MODERATE HAS BEEN APPLIED IN THE PAST TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN WILLING TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER FACTIONS. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY MEANING IN THE CONTEXT OF TALIBAN SOCIAL POLICIES. END COMMENT.) RABBANI WHO IS IN HIS LATE THIRTIES HAILS FROM THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE AND BELONGS TO THE KAKAR TRIBE. FORMERLY A STUDENT IN ONE OF PAKISTAN'S MADRASAS, RABBANI SERVED AS A DEPUTY COMMANDER UNDER HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) (HIK) COMMANDER ABDUL

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RAZAQ FROM 1987-1992. IN 1993, HE STAGED AN UNSUCCESSFUL UPRISING AGAINST COMMANDERS IN KANDAHAR. AFTER THE MID-SEPTEMBER TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF NANGARHAR AND OTHER EASTERN PROVINCES RABBANI WAS APPOINTED REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF THE EASTERN ZONE.

MULLAH MOHAMMAD GHAUS  
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5. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD GHAUS SERVES ON THE SIX-MEMBER INTERIM

SHURA AS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR. BORN IN 1965 IN URUZGAN PROVINCE, GHAUS, A NURZAI-DURRANI PASHTUN, NOW USES THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR AS A HOME BASE. HE WAS STUDYING AT A MADRASA IN THE DEHRAUD DISTRICT OF URUZGAN WHEN SOVIET FORCES INVADED AFGHANISTAN IN 1979. GHAUS SERVED FROM 1979 TO 1992 AS A GROUP COMMANDER UNDER HIK COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ IN KANDAHAR. HE LOST ONE EYE DURING THE JIHAD. GHAUS JOINED THE TALIBAN STAGED

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UPRISING AGAINST KANDAHAR COMMANDERS IN THE FALL OF 1994 AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME THE TALIBAN POINT MAN FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. GHAUS IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE CHILD. HE HAS TRAVELLED TO PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, GERMANY, AND THE U.S. (JUNE-JULY 1996). GHAUS SPEAKS DARI AS WELL AS HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE PASHTU.

MULLAH MOHAMMAD HASSAN  
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6. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD HASSAN SERVES AS ONE OF THE SIX-MEMBER "NATIONAL" INTERIM SHURA. HIS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE SHURA ARE UNKNOWN. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, HASSAN BELONGS TO THE BABAR TRIBE AND COMES FROM THE MOHALLAJAT NEIGHBORHOOD OF  
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KANDAHAR CITY. HE STUDIED IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI MADRASAS BEFORE JOINING THE MUJAHIDEEN RESISTANCE AS A COMMANDER IN THE KANDAHAR CITY AREA UNDER THE HIK BANNER. HASSAN JOINED THE TALIBAN UPRISING AGAINST THE KANDAHAR COMMANDERS IN THE FALL OF 1994 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF KANDAHAR. HE LEFT THAT OFFICE IN THE SPRING OF 1996 TO BECOME THE TALIBAN'S REGIONAL GOVERNOR FOR THE SOUTHERN ZONE (KANDAHAR PLUS A FEW OTHER SOUTHERN PROVINCES.)

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM SHURA  
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7. (C) LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED SHURA: (1) FAZEL MOHAMMAD WHO HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF INTERNAL SECURITY; (2) MULLAH GHIASUDDIN; AND (3) COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ WHO LED TALIBAN FORCES IN THE TAKEOVER OF EASTERN AFGHANISTAN AND KABUL. (NOTE: HE IS NOT HIK COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ MENTIONED ABOVE. END NOTE.) (NOTE: SEE REFTEL PARAS 7 AND 8 WHICH CONTAIN SOME BIODATA ON FAZEL MOHAMMAD AND ABDUL RAZAQ. END NOTE.)

MULLAH EHSANULLAH  
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8. (C) MULLAH EHSAN EHSANULLAH HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN ORGANIZING THE TALIBAN ADMINISTRATION IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1996. HE SERVED IN A SIMILAR

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CAPACITY IN THE FALL OF 1995 IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES CAPTURED FROM ISMAIL KHAN IN SEPTEMBER 1995. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, EHSANULLAH IS A POPALZAI-DURRANI AND COMES FROM THE DAMAN NEIGHBORHOOD OF KANDAHAR CITY. HE STUDIED IN A PAKISTANI MADRASA

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HEADED BY MAULANA SAMIULHAQ WHERE HE REMAINED THROUGHOUT THE JIHAD. HE RETURNED TO KANDAHAR TO JOIN THE TALIBAN UPRISING AGAINST THE KANDAHAR COMMANDERS IN THE FALL OF 1994.

MULLAH ABBAS  
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9. (C) MULLAH ABBAS SERVES AS THE TALIBAN'S ATTORNEY GENERAL. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, ABBAS IS AN ACHAKZAI-DURRANI PASHTUN FROM THE SPIN BOLDAK DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE. HE STUDIED IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI MADRASAS WHERE HE COMPLETE HIS EDUCATION BEFORE BECOMING A COMMANDER WITH HARAKAT-I-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI (NABI MOHAMMADI). ABBAS SERVED AS MAYOR OF KANDAHAR BEFORE TAKING THE POSITION OF AG IN THE SPRING OF 1996.

MULLAH WAKIL AHMAD  
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10. (C) MULLAH WAKIL AHMAD WHO IS WIDELY CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE TALIBAN'S INNER OR EXECUTIVE SHURA IN KANDAHAR OFTEN ACTS AS THE MOVEMENT'S SPOKESMAN WITH FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, AHMAD IS A MEMBER OF THE KAKAR TRIBE FROM KANDAHAR CITY. HE WAS A STUDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY A TEACHER IN A PAKISTANI MADRASA WHERE HE REMAINED DURING THE JIHAD. HE JOINED THE TALIBAN IN OUSTING THE KANDAHAR COMMANDERS FROM POWER IN THE FALL OF 1994.

MULLAH YAR MOHAMMAD  
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11. (C) MULLAH YAR MOHAMMAD, WHO HAS BEEN THE GOVERNOR OF HERAT SINCE THE FALL OF 1995, HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING MORE OF A "MILITARY MAN" THAN A DIPLOMAT. THE GOVERNOR REPORTEDLY BECAME EMBARRASSED AND CALLED FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF A MULLAH WHEN HERATI WOMEN ATTEMPTED TO PETITION HIM AFTER TALIBAN AUTHORITIES CLOSED GIRLS' SCHOOLS AND PROHIBITED MOST WOMEN FROM WORKING IN HERAT. IN HIS LATE THIRTIES, YAR MOHAMMAD IS A POPALZAI-DURRANI PASHTUN FROM THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE. HE STUDIED IN MADRASAS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, LATER BECOMING A COMMANDER IN THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT. HE HAS A REPUTATION AMONG AFGHANS AS A BRAVE COMMANDER WHOSE COURAGE WAS REPORTEDLY REWARDED BY A GIFT OF FIFTEEN STINGER MISSILES. HE WAS ARRESTED BY AHMAD SHAH MASOOD IN THE SPRING OF 1995 WHEN HE TRAVELLED INTO KABUL GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED TERRITORY AS A PART OF A DELEGATION SENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH MASOOD. YAR MOHAMMAD WAS RELEASED A FEW MONTHS LATER IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE ORGANIZED BY PAKISTANI JUI (JAMIAT-I-ULEMA-I ISLAM) LEADER FAZLUR REHMAN.

HANSON  
UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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