

MARK,

WELCOME BACK. WE ARE UP TO ABOUT 2,500 MEN ON THE HAND LABOR WORK CREW IN THE AREAS OF MARJA, NAD-I-ALI AND GIRISHK. DESILTING PROGRESSING WELL. WE ALSO NOW HAVE 2 UNEX BACKHOES AT WORK ON THE CANAL, ~~ONE ON EACH SIDE. THE SKILLS OF THE OPERATORS ARE~~ OUTSTANDING, BANK SLOPE NEAR PERFECT, FOLLOWED UP WITH HAND LABOR TO TAKE OFF THE ROUGH EDGES. ONE OPERATOR TRAINED AT THE TIME OF MORRISON-KNUTSON. THEY LEFT AFGHANISTAN IN 1957. I DONT HAVE A RECENT UPDATE ON THE KMS. COMPLETED BY EACH OF THE METHODS OF DESILTING. WE HAVE GRADED/IMPROVED MORE THAN 50 KM. OF SERVICE ROAD. YOU CAN NOW TRAVEL ON CENTRAL HELMAND SERVICE ROAD ALL THE WAY TO MARJA AT A REASONABLE SPEED AND NOT BREAK A SPRING.

AZIZ PUMPED OUT THE MARJA SIPHON THAT HAD BEEN BLASTED. WE DONT HAVE THE TIME THIS SEASON TO MAKE ANY REPAIRS EVEN IF WE HAD THE SKILLS. IT WILL TAKE A FULL WORK SEASON FOR THE CONCRETE WORK. WE ARE CLEANING AROUND AND IN FRONT OF THE SIPHON WHICH WILL HELP THE FLOW. THERE IS A LOT OF SILT WHERE THE WATER SLOWS BEFORE GOING THROUGH THE DAMAGED SIPHON. BUT VIRTUALLY NO CONCRETE BLOCKING THE NARROWED ENTRANCE.

ON SILT: THROUGH THE NAD-I-ALI AREA THERE IS ALMOST NO SILT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CANAL. THE CONCRETE TOPS OF THE UNDERDRAINS ARE CLEAR. THERE ARE SPOTS OF EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE BUT FEW. VIRTUALLY ALL THE SILT DEPOSITS ARE IN THE SHOULDERS, NARROWING THE CHANNEL OF FLOW. WIDE SHOULDERS ON THE INSIDE OF THE TURNS WHERE THE WATER WOULD SLOW AND COMMONLY SOME DAMAGE TO THE OPPOSITE BANK BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE. A LOT OF EROSION DAMAGE ON THE DOWN STREAM SIDES OF ALL STRUCTURES, THE RESULT OF NON-CONTROL AT THE INTAKE IN THE PAST DURING TIME OF FLOOD. IN MARJA THERE IS A LOT OF SILT ON SHOULDERS AND IN BOTTOM BUT MOST IS CLEARLY WIND BLOWN, NOT WATER CARRIED. THE DESERT DOWN THERE HAS MORE BLOWING SAND. I SUSPECT THAT MOST OF THE DEPOSITS IN CENTRAL HELMAND ARE WIND BLOWN RATHER THAN WATER CARRIED. MOST OF THE RIVER SILT WILL BE DROPPED ABOVE THE POWER STATION WHERE IT SLOWS DOWN, BUT NOT ALL. ALL OF THE MANY DROP STRUCTURES WILL SLOW THE FLOW AS WELL.

A LOT OF CANAL BANK DAMAGE IS BEING CAUSED BY THE FARMERS PUTTING STONES IN THE WATER ACROSS THE CANAL AS A DIVERSION/LIFT STRUCTURE AT MOST LATERAL INTAKES. THE PILES OF STONE ACROSS THE CANAL CAUSES TURBULENCE THAT EATS AWAY AT THE BANKS, PROBABLY ESPECIALLY IN FLOOD. MOST OF THIS STONE PILING WAS DONE AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS LITTLE WATER IN THE CANAL AND THE LIFTS WERE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS. MOSTLY AT THIS TIME, THE STONES SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT BUT POLITICALLY THIS MIGHT PROVE TO BE A DIFFICULT TASK. MOST PROBABLY DONT SEE THAT THESE ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY AND THE TALIBAN MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND EITHER. WE WILL TRY ON A COUPLE OF LOCATIONS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. A LOT OF QUALIFIERS IN THIS PARAGRAPH.

PAYENDA HAS A CREW THAT HAS BECOME EXPERT AT REPAIRING AND STABILIZING THESE DAMAGED AREAS THAT ARE ENDANGERING THE CANAL BANKS AND UNDER CUTTING THE SERVICE ROADS. SEVEN PLACES REPAIRED SO FAR, THE LARGEST ABOUT 63 METERS LONG.

WE DAMAGED THE PICKUP I WAS USING. WE LENT IT TO AZIZ'S DRIVER TO DELIVER SUPERVISORS BACK TO SITES AFTER LUNCH IN VILLAGE MARJA. IT SEEMS HE WAS DRIVING TOO FAST, HIT A FOOT HIGH LINE OF EARTH IN THE CENTER OF THE SERVICE ROAD LEFT BY THE GRADER, LOST CONTROL AND ENDED IN THE SAND BOTTOM OF A DRY BOGHRA. TWO PEOPLE IN VEHICLE, NONE HURT BADLY. I HAD THEM EXAMINED BY A DOCTOR HERE WITH X-RAYS. I HAVE NOT DECIDED ON THE FATE OF THE DRIVER. MUCH WILL BE DECIDED BY THE OUTCOME OF INTERVIEWS BY RAHMATULLAH OF THOSE THAT WERE THERE. HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS.

WE TOOK THE HEAD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAULAVI HASHIM, ON A TOUR OF THE WORK SITE ON FRIDAY. HE HAD AGREED TO TALK TO THE WORKERS ABOUT THE SIN OF POPPY CULTIVATION. WE GOT A GROUP OF WORK SUPERVISORS, ABOUT 40 MEN, TOGETHER AND HE SPOKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES ON EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD AGREED TO SPEAK ON. KARIM KHAN WOULD NOT LET THE WORKERS STOP SHOVELING SILT. HASHIM NOTED THAT FOREIGN HELP HAS COME FOR THE BOGHRA AND IN EXCHANGE HAS ASKED THAT POPPY BE REDUCED, WHICH IT SHOULD BE. HE TOLD THE SUPERVISORS TO GIVE THE MESSAGE TO THE WORKERS WHO SHOULD TAKE IT TO THEIR VILLAGES. IT WAS NOT EXACTLY AN ULTIMATUM BUT A GOOD START. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE SO FAR. OTHER TALIBAN HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT IN MEETINGS BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN WILLING TO SPEAK PUBLICLY, UNTIL NOW. WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER MEETING ON WEDNESDAY WITH THE MEN WHO SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. HE WILL ASK WHY THEY SIGNED SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND AFTER SIGNING WHY, AS MUSLIMS, THEY DO NOT LIVE UP TO THEIR AGREEMENT. WE WILL SEE WHAT ELSE HE SAYS. WHEN THE TALIBAN SPEAK THE FARMERS TEND TO LISTEN, IF NOT ACT. AND HE IS NOT REALLY TELLING THEM TO DO ANYTHING. JUST INFERENCE.

KARIM KHAN SUGGESTED WE TAKE THESE MEN ON A TOUR OF THE WORK SITES AFTER THE MEETING TO SHOW WHAT WE HAVE DONE, TO INSURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE LIVING UP TO OUR SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO THE BOGHRA. I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE WORK COMPLETED SO FAR IS IMPRESSIVE. IN HALF A DAY, WE CANT COVER IT ALL IN A TOUR FROM GIRISHK TO MARJA BUT WE CAN START AT LOY MANDA AND END IN MARJA. A LOT OF WORK DONE THROUGH THIS AREA, A LOT OF MEN WILL BE WORKING AND THE SERVICE ROAD IS NOW PASSABLE THROUGH THE ENTIRE AREA, IF IT DOES NOT RAIN.

IF WE HAD HAD THIS SORT OF TALIBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER WE WOULD POSSIBLY BE IN BETTER SHAPE NOW. BUT AT THAT TIME, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE JUST AFTER THE ROCKETS AND WE HAD NOT YET DONE THE WORK. LETS SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SPOKEN TO MCHUGH, I WOULD SUGGEST YOU DELAY THAT ACTION UNTIL WE SEE: 1.) WHAT COMES OUT OF THE SURVEY

RAHMATULLAH JUST DISTRIBUTED. (NOT VERY SCIENTIFIC BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING) 2.) WHAT KIND OF RESULT WE CAN GET OUT OF THESE TALIBAN INVOLVED MEETINGS. WE WILL OFFER VEGETABLE/WATERMELON SEEDS, FOR A FEE, FOR ANYONE WHO TAKES OUT SOME POPPY. NOT REALLY AN INDUCEMENT BUT IT IS BETTER THAN NOTHING. IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS, SOME FARMERS SAID THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE OUT SOME POPPY BUT NOTHING CAME OF IT. THE WOLISWAL APPARENTLY TOLD THEM THAT THEY WERE NOT TO DO IT.

24TH...BACK FROM THE MEETING IN NAD-I-ALI. WE HAD A PRE-MEETING MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE FARMER MEETING BUT SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH US AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING THE FARMERS.

AT THE MEETING WE HAD ABOUT 75 MEN IN ONE ROOM AT THE WOLISWALI. THE WOLISWAL AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAN ATTENDED. THIS MAN OPENED THE MEETING AND SPOKE ABOUT 45 MINUTES. FARMER REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE. FIRST SAYING THAT THEY DID NOT AGREE TO 80 % IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I PRESENTED THEM WITH THE PROBLEM AGAIN ABOUT POPPIES, THE 80% AGREEMENT AND THE APPARENT INCREASE IN PLANTING, AND IF THEY WANTED THE WORK TO CONTINUE NEXT WORK SEASON. MANY POINTS WERE THROWN IN. RAHMATULLAH CAN FILL YOU IN ON DETAILS. HE OFFERED VEGETABLE SEEDS IF ANYONE WANTED TO TRY. JAWED POINTED OUT THAT EARLIER THEY HAD AGREED TO PLOW UP POPPY BUT THE WOLISWAL HAD GOTTEN IN THE WAY. THE FARMERS AGAIN SAID THAT THEY WOULD PLOW UP SOME POPPY. THEY NEEDED A COUPLE OF DAYS TO GET THE LIST TOGETHER. THE DAY WAS SET. I AM TO GET BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF THE FIELDS. WE WILL RECORD JERIBS IN EACH FIELD PLOWED. IT SOUNDED GOOD. AND THEY WERE SERIOUS AND THEY SAID IT IN FRONT OF THE TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES WHICH MAKES IT BINDING. THEY WILL DO IT. IT IS A MATTER OF HOW MUCH. SOME IS BETTER THAN THE WAY WE WERE. WE WILL SEE. I AM OPTIMISTIC. AFTER THE MEETING WE TOOK THEM ON A BUS OF A TOUR OF THE WORK SITES. THEY WERE IMPRESSED. MOST HAD NOT SEEN THE WORK. ONE SAID THAT WE HAD DONE MORE WORK IN A SEASON THAN THEY USED TO DO WITH THE MACHINES, BEFORE THE WAR. HE WAS BEING NICE BUT THEY COULD NOT BE ANYTHING BUT IMPRESSED. A LOT OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE AND IS CONTINUING. EVEN THE TWO UNEX BACKHOES WERE WORKING...IMPRESSIVE TOO. MORE THAN 2000 MEN, MANY OF WHOM HAD TO BE RELATIVES OF THE GUYS ON THE BUS.

AS IN THE WRITTEN MEMO, IF YOU AGREE, I WOULD STAY ON THE JOB FOR ANOTHER MONTH, THROUGH MARCH. THE RAIN SHOULD CLOSE DOWN MUCH OF THE WORK BY THAT TIME. SO FAR THE RAIN HAS BEEN LIMITED OTHER THAN THE MAJOR FLOOD. WE HAD SOME RAIN TWO NIGHTS AGO BUT THE DAY WAS OK. IT IS A VERY BUSY TIME FOR EVERYONE HERE. SOME WORK IN THE WASHES TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT FLOOD. AND ALWAYS THE WORRY THAT ABDUL SAMAD WILL OPEN THE CANAL WITHOUT TELLING US AGAIN. I WILL TRY TO GIVE YOU A CALL ON FRIDAY IF WE CAN KEEP THE TELEPHONE OFFICE OPEN. THEY USUALLY CLOSE FOR FRIDAY. WE WILL TRY FOR AN APPOINTMENT. FRIDAY MORNING. RAHMATULLAH WILL ALSO GIVE

YOU THIS MESSAGE ORALLY.HOPE TO TALK TO YOU ON FRIDAY. IF YOU HAD
RATHER I DEPART, I CAN BE OUT OF HERE ON SATURDAY AND BE IN
QUETTA ON SUNDAY, THE LAST DAY OF THE CONTRACT. I CALLED THE
OTHER DAY TO DISCUSS THIS BUT YOU HAD ALREADY LEFT.

TALK TO YOU ON FRIDAY, HOPEFULLY. DICK SCOTT
