

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 12:29 PM
 To: H
 Cc: [REDACTED] MillsCD@state.gov
 Subject: From Sid: Fwd: Counter IED Proposal/US casualties in Afghanistan
 Attachments: White_PaperProvIED.doc

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H: I have sent a proposal (attached and explained below) from Gary Berntsen on how to significantly lower IED casualties in Afghanistan, a practical tactical action with potentially strategic implications. By cutting US casualties, Berntsen estimates perhaps in half, the human and political costs of the war would be diminished while the Afghan army would be given time and space to develop. Berntsen is for real. I met him through mutual friends. Serving for 23 years in the CIA, three times station chief, he was field commander for all CIA forces in eastern Afghanistan from December 2001 through Tora Bora. His account of how Bin Laden was permitted to escape (through decisions taken at the highest level of USG) has not been fully told, despite the publication of his (heavily censored) book, Jawbreaker. From June 2007 to June 2008, Berntsen returned to Afghanistan as a civilian advisor on IED networks for Regional Command East (RC-East), within NATO-led ISAF. He consults for the Canadian army and travels to Afghanistan every month. His son serves with US forces near Kandahar. Berntsen is fluent in Pashtun; his experience is hands-on and up-to-date. It'd be worthwhile, I think, having his idea assessed. He's been unable to break through the bureaucracy with it. Sid

-----Original Message-----

From: gary berntsen [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Thu, Oct 29, 2009 12:02 pm
 Subject: Re: Counter IED Proposal

Hello Sid,

I have attached the proposal. The critical points follow.

1. There is currently no existing C-IED program which includes the Afghans. All existing programs are U.S. and essentially provide electronic jammers to detect cell phone initiated IED's. These jammers do nothing against pressure plate or command wire initiation.
2. The program is low tech, simple for Afghans to execute. They know their own roads, towns and local population.
3. The program is extremely inexpensive. There will be several dozen American Advisors, but we are talking about employing 1,500 to 2,000 Afghans who get paid 250 to 300 dollars a month.
4. We have included a pilot program only because the U.S. Military and Dept of State want to do proof of concept. Unfortunately while you are doing a pilot program and saving a few million dollars we could be losing several hundred more soldiers in the process. We do not need a pilot program.
5. I have developed the C-IED signalling device on my own working with a small company. It is existing technology, not that complicated.
6. Final Point. Reducing IED attacks will reduce casualties. Half of all casualties are from IED attacks. Reducing casualties will buy us time to stand the Afghans up and allow us to ultimately reduce our footprint in Afghanistan. The program will pay for itself in lives saved in the first three months.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Respectfully, Gary Berntsen

--- On Thu, 10/29/09, [redacted] wrote:

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From: [redacted]

Subject: Re: Gary...

To: [redacted]

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009, 9:55 AM

Gary: Just send when you have it. Thanks. Sid

-----Original Message-----

From: gary berntsen [redacted]

To: [redacted]

Sent: Thu Oct 29, 2009 9:50 am

Subject: Re: Gary...

Hello Sid,

I had the proposal written and forwarded from a new laptop with Vista, (not windows) pain in the neck to break out on Windows. I am getting it transfered over and will get it to you shortly. I have someone working on it at the moment.

It was a pleasure meeting with you yesterday. I appreciate you willingness to help on the C-IED effort. It will save lives. Regards, Gary

--- On Thu, 10/29/09, [redacted] wrote:

From: [redacted]

Subject: Gary...

To: [redacted]

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009, 9:46 AM

Good to meet. Please send me materials on what we discussed about IEDs. Cody and I are following up and will get back as soon as we can. It's a terrific project and we're committed to it. Sid