

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2011 12:20 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Pakistan to launch operation in N. Waziristan-report (Reuters)

Trying to track down more info.

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2011 11:52 PM
To: NEWS-Pakistan; NEWS-SCT; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O_OS; SES-O_Shift-I; SES-O_SWO
Subject: Pakistan to launch operation in N. Waziristan-report (Reuters)

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Pakistan has decided to launch a "targeted military offensive" in North Waziristan, the main sanctuary for al Qaeda and Taliban on the border with Afghanistan, a newspaper reported on May 30.

The United States has long demanded that Pakistan launch an offensive in the region to hunt down the Haqqani network, one of the deadliest Afghan factions fighting American troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been reluctant, but has come under intense U.S. pressure to attack militancy after it was discovered that Osama bin Laden had been living in Pakistan.

The local News newspaper quoted unnamed "highly placed sources" as saying Pakistani airforce planes would soften up militant targets under the offensive before ground operations were launched.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.