

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 5:54 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Potential ABC This Week segment on USAID in Afg

Fyi

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

From: Hammer, Michael A
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 05:22 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Zeya, Uzra S; Grossman, Marc I
Cc: Klevorick, Caitlin B; Toiv, Nora F; Laszczych, Joanne; Nuland, Victoria J; Toner, Mark C
Subject: Potential ABC This Week segment on USAID in Afg

USAID just alerted us to a story that may air on ABC's This Week this Sunday on USAID's work in Afghanistan. Below is what AID reports on the upcoming story:

ABC News Afghanistan & Pakistan reporter Nick Schifrin interviewed Alex Thier, Director of USAID's Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan a few weeks ago. The interview discussed the civilian surge.

Schifrin interviewed Alex in the context of three Afghans with whom he spoke: a farmer, a government worker (Bamyan) and a man involved with the rule of law. His questions focused on a premise that with the drawdown, this may be the last time for the US and civilian surge to get it right – and whether Afghans were ready to learn as well as take responsibility for their government. Schifrin also asked with budget cuts from the Hill, how the USG was prepared to do more with less. Finally he asked about whether extraction of minerals could be done in time, knowing that Schifrin had spoken to Paul Brinkley, who was negative on USG effectiveness.

Schifrin stated that USAID would like some segments of the story, but that there were other parts that were critical of our work.

We'll report if it airs and be ready to work with USAID to respond if it results in stray voltage.