

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Nides, Thomas R <NidesTR@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 6:57 PM
To: H
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Responding to Ignatius' Op-Ed

Madam Secretary,

[Redacted]

B5

To set the record straight: our civilian surge efforts have been impressive and have met the commitment made by you and the President in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Strategy in March 2009 as well as his West Point Speech in December of 2009. As we committed, we have more than tripled our civilian numbers in Afghanistan – going from 320 personnel and barely 40 in the field in January, 2009, to 1134 interagency civilians with 407 of those personnel in the field as of May, 2011. In many cases, our civilians are operating in extremely dangerous situations right alongside the military. Moreover, each year we recruit, train, and deploy a nearly complete replacement team – as the military does, only with a far smaller base of personnel.

[Redacted]

I suggest you call David Ignatius sometime next week laying this out as well as the broader issue.

Tom