

**From:** (b)(3), (b)(6) USA LCDR USN USFOR-  
**To:** (b)(3), (b)(6) USA Capt USAF USFOR-A PAO  
**Subject:** FW: Stephen Farrell rescue op background  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2009 6:57:30 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Finally...

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**From:** (b)(3), (b)(6) USA LCDR USN USFOR-A  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2009 8:50 PM  
**To:** (b)(3), (b)(6) USA RDML USN ISAF; (b)(3), (b)(6) USA COL USFOR-A  
**Cc:** (b)(3), (b)(6) CAPT USCENCOM/C  
**Sub** ell rescue op background  
**Importance:** High

Sir,

As requested, follow is a talking-points summary of the info shared with us earlier today by the British SOF that could be shared on background to stem the tide of negative stories on this issue:

\*\* This rescue operation was the best chance for safely recovering the two men. History has shown that the window for rescues is 2-3 days. Further, strong evidence indicated that the hostages were being prepared for movement, and likely handover to higher-level insurgents. Reports of successful negotiations for release are incorrect.

\*\*The operation was intended to rescue both Sultan Munadi and Stephen Farrell. Rescuers brought body armor for both men.

\*\*The forces arrived to heavy assault. As the helicopters landed and troops exited, they faced heavy fire.

\*\*Several assault teams entered the area for the rescue. All came under similar fire. They eliminated somewhere around dozen enemy sentries. The heavy fire continued throughout the entire rescue operation.

\*\*One of the assault teams heard women's voices as they approached. To ensure civilians were protected to the greatest degree possible, they elected not to enter with significant force.

\*\*The assault teams made contact with Farrell, who reported that Munadi had been killed in a different location. The forces were still taking heavy fire, and remained at significant risk. Searching for Munadi would have put troops at risk that could not be justified when it was known that he was dead.

\*\*Farrell has confirmed that one of the first questions he was asked was "where is your interpreter?"

\*\*The forces left the area with Farrell under continued heavy attack. All of the helicopters were hit repeatedly, and all of the forces remained in significant engagement. That only one rescuer lost his life is nothing short of amazing.

If this looks good, I'll call (b)(3), (b)(6) five minutes, and we'll get one of our Afghans to call immediately after.

(b)(3), (b)(6)