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RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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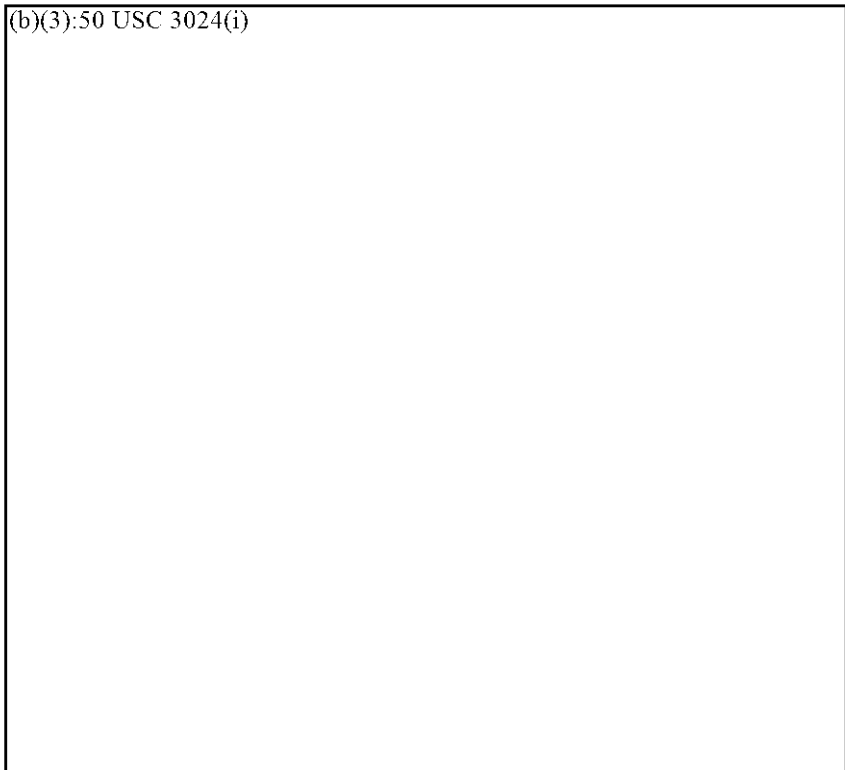
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BODY (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: DIA [REDACTED] ANALYTICAL PRODUCT - (U) AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN CLAIM ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF U.S. VICE PRESIDENT

(S) AT APPROXIMATELY 0540Z ON 27 FEBRUARY, A SINGLE SUICIDE BOMBER WEARING A VEST DETONATED HIMSELF OUTSIDE THE FRONT GATE OF BAGRAM AIRFIELD, KILLING BETWEEN 13 AND 18 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING ONE U.S. SOLDIER AND ONE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR. AFTER THE BOMBING, A TALIBAN SPOKESPERSON CONTACTED THE PRESS AND CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK, STATING IT HAD TARGETED THE U.S. VICE PRESIDENT, WHO HAD STAYED OVERNIGHT AT THE AIRBASE. THE ATTACK WAS NOT LIKELY INTENDED TO BE A REALISTIC ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, BUT WAS LIKELY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN ORDER TO GENERATE PUBLICITY AND THE PERCEPTION OF A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AGAINST A SENIOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

" (S) QARI YOUSIF AHMADI, A REGULAR TALIBAN SPOKESMAN, CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE ATTACK ON BEHALF OF THE TALIBAN. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

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(S) AL-QAIDA WILL PROBABLY ENDORSE THE ATTACK IN FUTURE PROPAGANDA,

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

AL-QAIDA WILL SEEK TO PROMOTE THE ATTACK AS AN EXAMPLE THAT THE INSURGENCY IS ENTRENCHED AND SUCCEEDING INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. IN ADDITION, AL-QAIDA WILL LIKELY PORTRAY SUCH ATTACKS AS THE DUTY OF LOCAL AFGHANS IN THE GLOBAL JIHAD.

(U) OUTLOOK

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" (U) IN A 4 JANUARY INTERVIEW, MULLAH OMAR STATED, "WE HAVE NEVER FELT THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, THEY [AL-QAIDA] HAVE SET JIHAD AS THEIR GOAL WHILE WE HAVE SET THE EXPULSION OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN AS OUR TARGET. THIS IS THE COMMON GOAL OF ALL THE MUSLIMS."

