## <u>Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's</u> <u>Call With Afghan President Ashraf</u> <u>Ghani</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC May 17, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary Mike Pompeo spoke by phone with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Secretary Pompeo reinforced our enduring investment in Afghanistan, as outlined in the President's South Asia strategy, and expressed support for the Afghan military's defense of the city of Farah. He also commended President Ghani for his commitment to building a secure and prosperous future for his country and noted the government's efforts to reform their institutions to ensure the upcoming elections are transparent, credible, and carried out on time. The two discussed the strong partnership between the United States and Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism and our support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process.

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