

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY~~**(U) CAOC CIVCAS Credibility Assessment 5 March 2016**

~~(S//REL)~~ BLUF: After review of all available mission materials and open-source reporting following the Coalition airstrike on a compound IVO Mosul, Iraq on or about 5 March 2016 (ATO RK), the CAOC assesses the CIVCAS allegations described below as CREDIBLE.

1. (U) CIVCAS Allegation Sources: Initial reports of an American airstrike killing 18 civilians first appeared in a WebOps report, which cited two pro-ISIL sources. The first source was a pro-ISIL media outlet, *Ama'q News Agency*; the other, a pro-ISIL Twitter user, named **@altakriti6975**. On 19 March 2016, NRN News released several photographs claimed to have been from the "right side of Mosul" that resulted in 18-21 civilian casualties. Some of these photos will be addressed later.
2. (U) Searches for **@altakriti6975** one week after the initial report yielded no findings. The user account was no longer accessible on Twitter and any mention of the user was unrelated to the CIVCAS allegation. A thorough search of open-source media utilized the following key words and sources.
  - a. (U) Search criteria:
    - i. Mosul
    - ii. Facility
    - iii. Civilian casualties
    - iv. Bomb(ing)
    - v. Airstrike
    - vi. ISIL
    - vii. NRN News
  - b. (U) Sources searched:
    - i. Google search engine
    - ii. Twitter
    - iii. Facebook

(U) Results of an open-source media search yielded an article in Airwars.org referencing 18-21 civilian deaths as a result of a strike on an abandoned industrial complex used by ISIL (<http://airwars.org/civcas-2016>). The article stated that in addition to 10 ISIL fighters being killed in the strike, there were also 18-21 civilian deaths, specifically:

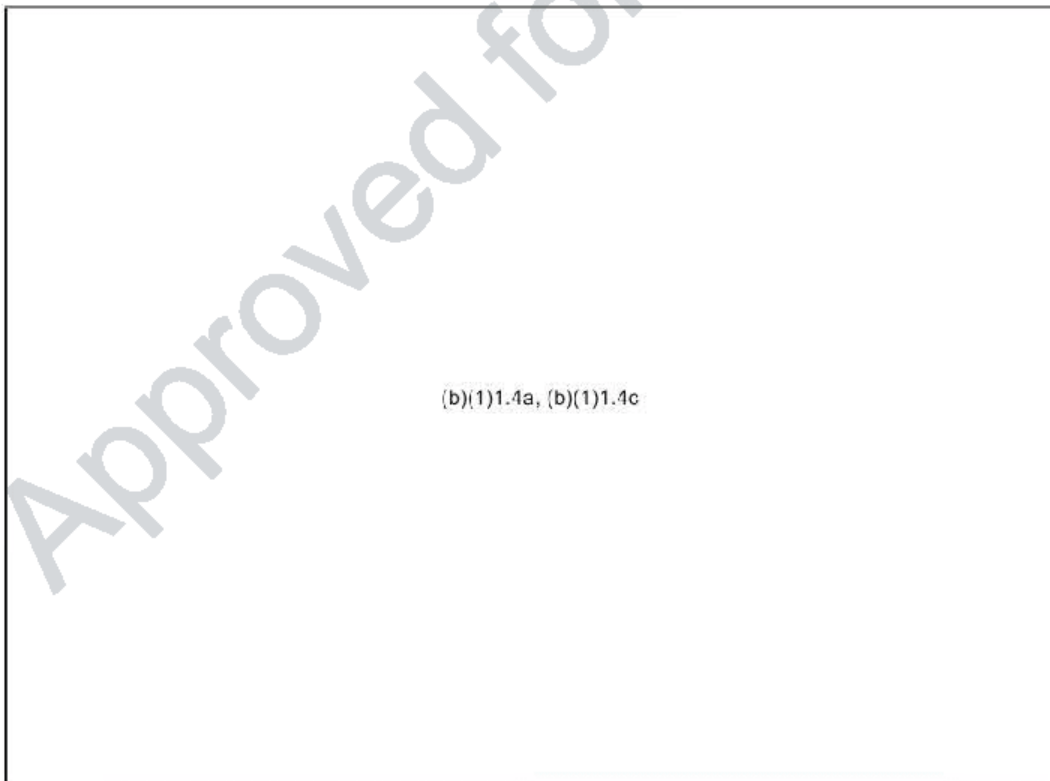
1. *Ali Fathi Zeidan Al-Manaawi* with wife
2. *Hussein Ali Fathi Zeidan* with wife and 6 children
3. *Hassan Ali Fathi Zeidan* with wife and 3 children
4. *Ghazala Ali Fathi Zeidan* with husband and 3 children
5. Daughter (unnamed) of *Ali Fathi Zeidan* (under 10 years old)

(U) No further information was found for these named individuals. The Airwars.org article goes on to say that the source for this information originated from the *Nineveh Reporters Network (NRN) News*. NRN News is an Iraq-based conglomeration of independent reporters. They frequently report on Coalition airstrikes and CIVCAS allegations. NRN News is not known to have any pro-ISIL affiliations and in fact, NRN News has spoken out against ISIL at times. As of 19 March 2016, ISIL continues to

attempt to kidnap and punish NRN reporters and has been successful on occasion. The primary method the NRN News relays stories are via social media (e.g., Facebook). On 5 March 2016, NRN News relayed a Coalition airstrike had occurred in Mosul and updates would continue to be relayed; however, this was the only mention of the airstrike on its Facebook page. On 19 March 2016, photographs were found on the NRN News Facebook page. The photos showed the bodies of several deceased and injured children. Additionally, there were scenes from the site of the allegation, which will be addressed later.

3. (U) Coalition Strike Activity

- a. ~~(S//REL)~~ The allegations correlate with a Coalition airstrike targeting the (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a on 5 March 2016 as shown in Images 1 and 2. The strike package consisted of (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) and (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(8). Image 2 displays the geographic target location within Mosul for all dynamic and deliberate strikes in the greater Mosul area between 2 and 5 Mar 2016 (the allegation originated on or about 5 March). Thus, the only airstrike IVO Mosul, Iraq during the relevant time period was the deliberate strike on (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a.



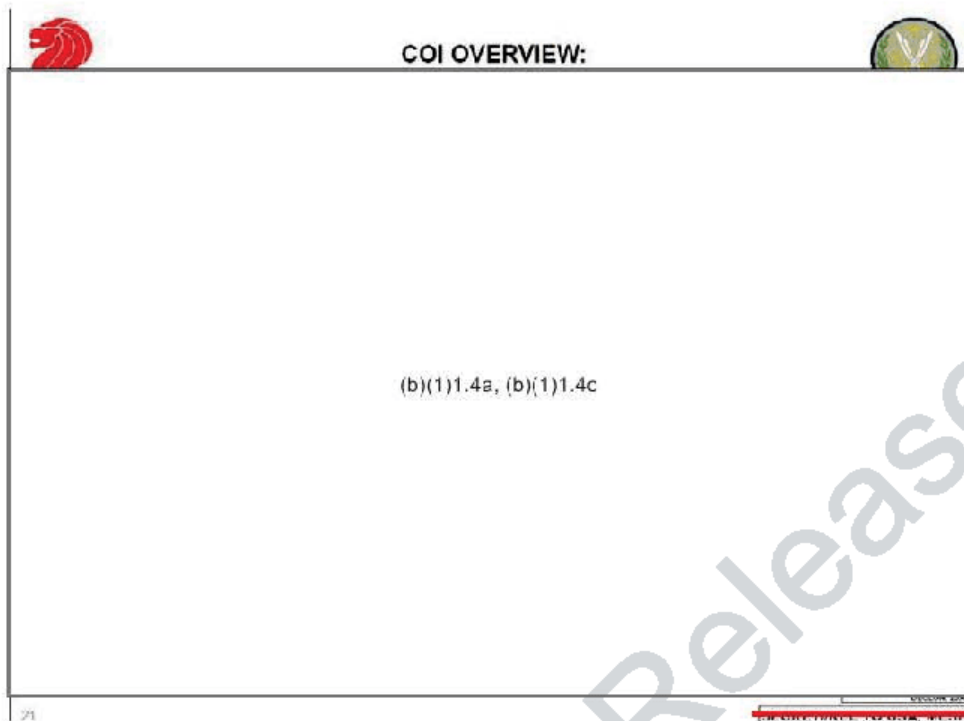
~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Image 1. (b)(1)1.4a



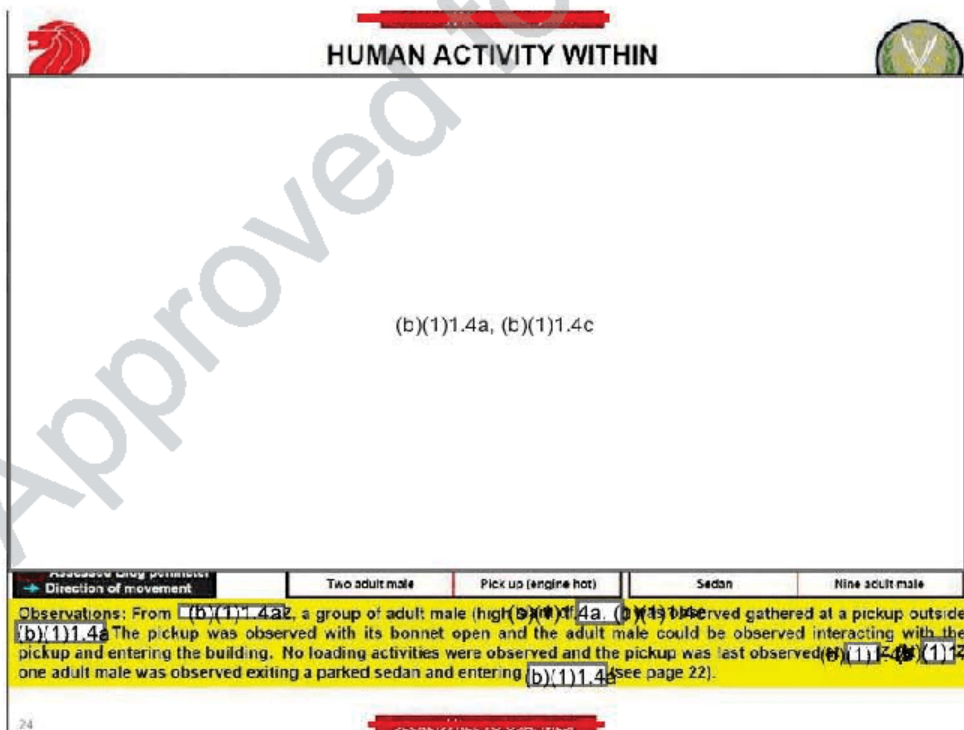


~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Image 2. Kinetic Airstrikes within Mosul Area 2-5 March 2016

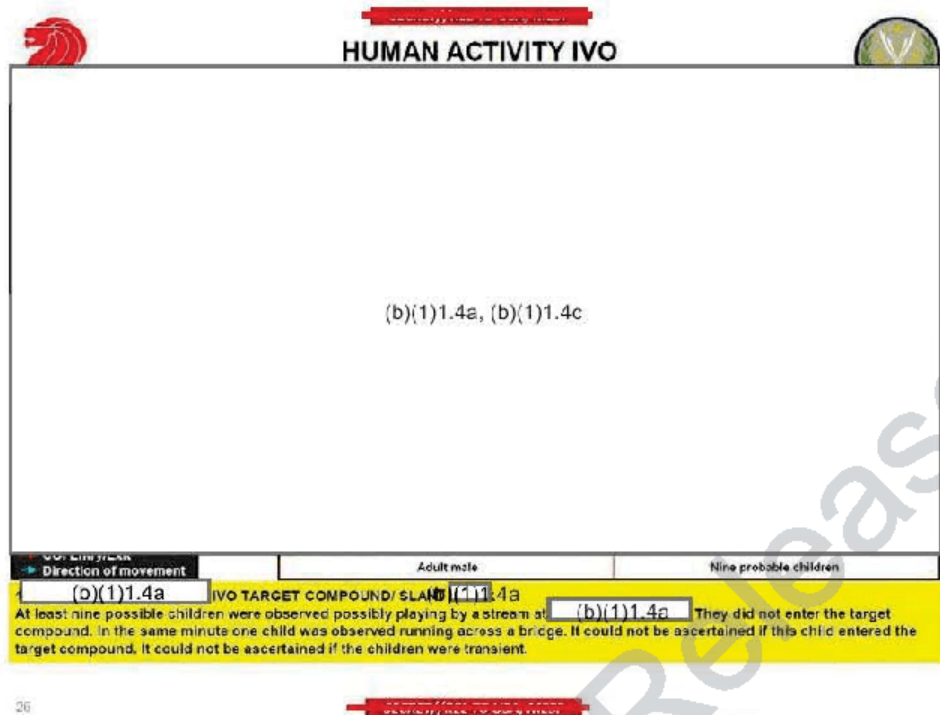
- b. Intelligence indicated no civilian activity within the (b)(1)1.4a for (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a during (b)(1)1.4a of total Full Motion Video (FMV) coverage prior to the strike. There were 10 children observed adjacent to the (b)(1)1.4a but those children were not observed interacting with the target. Multiple adult males, some in chemical protective clothing were observed within the (b)(1)1.4a. These personnel are highlighted through Images 3-5. The target was (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a. During the target validation process on 2 March 2016, (b)(6) a USAID representative at CJTF-OIR, voiced concerns over the intelligence assessment in relation to the group of children outside the (b)(1)1.4a. The concern stemmed from her assertion that the children were not transient, as described in the assessment, and that they most likely originated from a dwelling nearby. Additionally, it was believed by (b)(6) that the parents of the children would also be nearby due to societal aversions to allowing their children to separate themselves from the parents in the current environment. These statements were confirmed with (b)(6) once again by (b)(6) on 22 March 2016.



~~(S//REL USA, MESEF)~~ Image 3. Male in Chemical Protective Suit within Compound



~~(S//REL USA, MESEF)~~ Image 4. Multiple Males within Compound

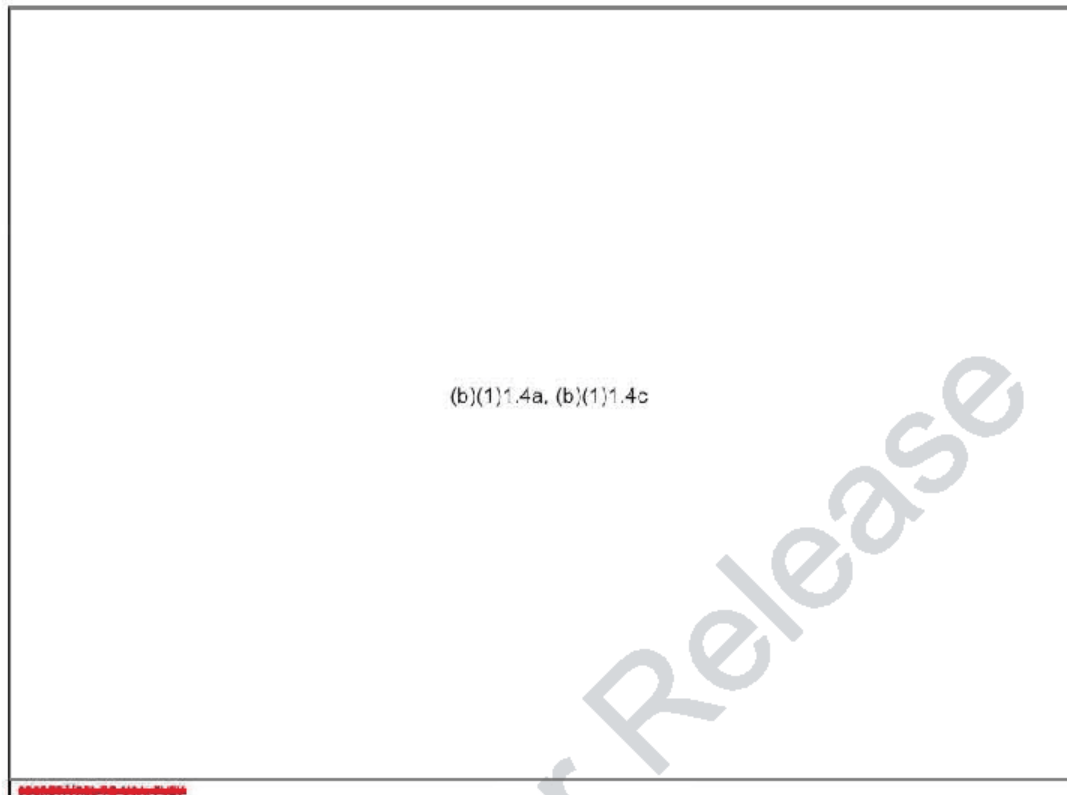


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~~(S//REL USA, MESE)~~ Image 5. "Probable" Children Outside Compound

#### 4. (U) Execution

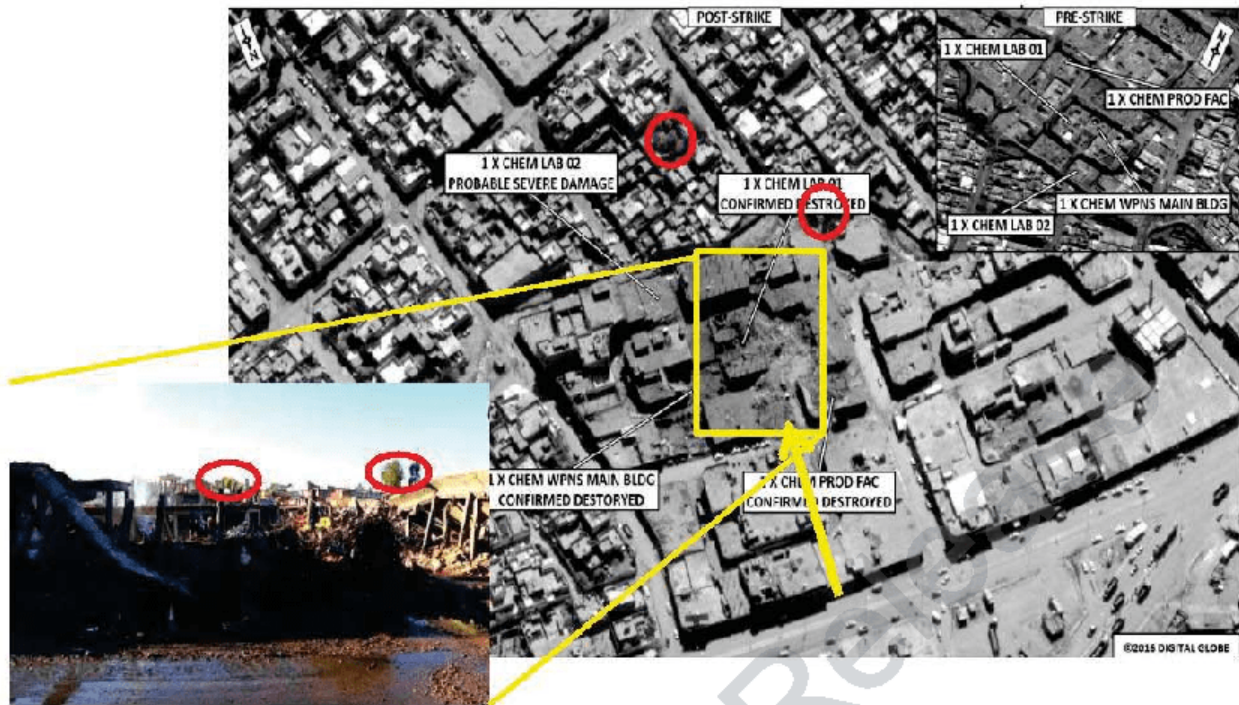
- a. ~~(S//REL)~~ (b)(1)1.4a and (b)(1)1.4b flights employed a total of (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4c weapons on the target. All weapon release parameters were valid and indications, both during the strike and in post-strike analysis, show the weapons hit the intended coordinates with high-order detonations. Image 6 shows post-strike Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) of the target.



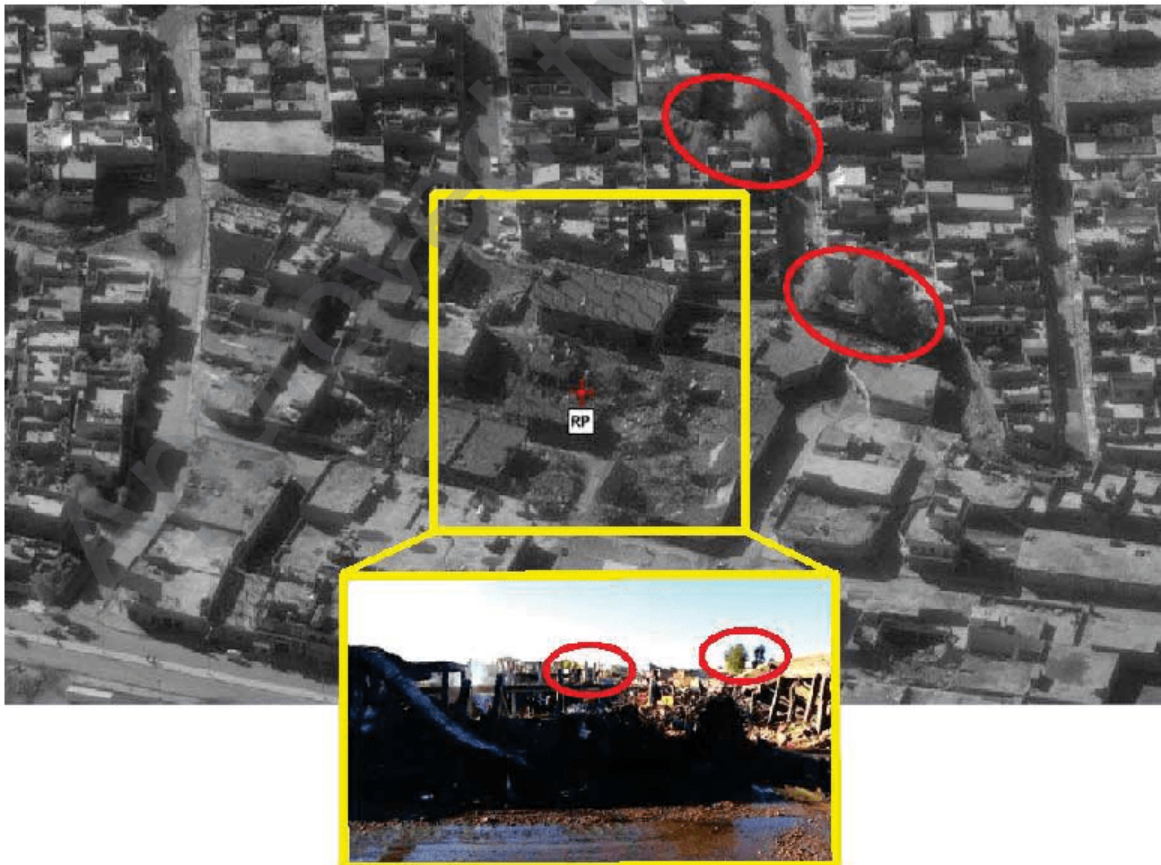
~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Image 6. Kinetic Strikes within Mosul Area 5 March 2016

- b. (U) Photos from the NRN News Facebook page 19 March update apparently correlate with characteristics of the target set as was outlined in Images 7 and 8. The trees in the middle and right of the photo background correlate to those in the TARPAC. Additionally, there are correlations with the single-story unfinished building with columns on top in the mid ground and the two-story unfinished building with columns on top in the background.





(UNCLASSIFIED) Image 7. Post-strike Imagery of Target Complex



(UNCLASSIFIED) Image 8. Post-strike Imagery of Target Complex (18MAR16 0530Z)





(UNCLASSIFIED) Image 9. Post-strike Imagery of Target Complex

- c. (S//REL) (b)(1)1.4a and (b)(1)1.4a formations executed their attacks at (b)(1)1.4a, which was the beginning of their TOT window ((b)(1)1.4a Z). During employment, both (b)(1)1.4a and (b)(1)1.4a flights utilized target pods to monitor the target area for weapon impacts. No human activity was observed IVO the target at the time of the airstrike during the available weapon delivery videos (each approximately 30-40 seconds in length). Image 10 is the target pod Weapon System Video (WSV) from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) indicating the lack of observable activity prior to impact. (b)(1)1.4g (b)(1)1.4g beyond all doubt, that no civilians were IVO the target at the time of the airstrike. This analysis also applies to Image 11, which depicts a similar scene from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) target pod.





~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Image 10. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g Target Pod WSV Pre-Strike



~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Image 11. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g Target Pod WSV Pre-Strike

5. (U) Possible Collateral Damage/CIVCAS

a. (U) The WebOps report that mentioned @altakriti6975 did not result in any attributable information pertaining to this Twitter user. However, independent discovery utilizing the Airwars.org casualty tracker webpage did result in credible information that correlated to the CIVCAS allegation with the attack on Mosul ISIL Weapons Production Facility 003. The NRN News article that provided pictures that correlated to the strike scene also provided several pictures of deceased and injured children which were not included in this report. Image 12 does show one of the casualties along with two notes that were translated as:

1. Disc Number: Unknown baby girl  
Sent by Ambulance  
Date Received: 6 March 2016  
Place of Accident: Old Industrial Area  
Gender: Female  
Cause of Death: Explosion
2. Disc Number: Ahmed Hussein  
Sent by Ambulance  
Date Received: 6 March 2016  
Place: [Blank]  
Gender: Male  
Cause of Death: Explosion



(UNCLASSIFIED) Image 12. Photo of Casualty

6. (U) Conclusions

- a. ~~(S//REL)~~ The CAOC assesses the open-source allegations of a CIVCAS event resulting from a Coalition airstrike IVO Mosul, Iraq on or about 5 March 2016 (ATO RK) are CREDIBLE.
- b. ~~(S//REL)~~ While the CAOC assesses the allegation to be credible, to the extent civilians may have been injured or killed in this airstrike, their deaths arguably resulted from Da'esh's refusal to separate and/or distinguish valid military targets from civilians and civilian objects IAW well-established Law of War (LOW) principles. Intelligence associated with the target did not reveal civilian pattern of life within the ~~(b)(1)~~ <sup>1.4a</sup> Pre-strike target pod video also did not reveal any obvious sign of human activity IVO the target. The timing of the strike ~~(b)(1)~~ <sup>1.4a</sup> L) was specifically chosen IOT avoid harm to transient civilians. In short, the Coalition fully complied with the LOW and, in face, went beyond what is required in terms of harm mitigation.
- c. ~~(S//REL)~~ The CAOC assesses the CIVCAS allegations CREDIBLE resulting from the Coalition airstrike on ~~(b)(1)~~ <sup>1.4a</sup> on 5 March 2016 and an investigation is recommended into the target development and intelligence process utilized to determine pattern of life. Specifically, the justification process executed during the target development process needs to be evaluated. During this process, a group of 10 children were noted near the ~~(b)(1)~~ <sup>1.4a</sup> and they were assessed to be transient, even after voiced disagreement with this assessment during the target validation process..

Approved by the Deputy Commander, Combined Forces Air Component, on 11 April 2016.



This report distributed to: CJTF-OIR CJ3 CIVCAS Cell  
Report Source: CIVCASINGEST by ADMIN

## CIVCAS TRACKER

**Classification:** ~~SECRET~~ **Releasability:** ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

## ALLEGATION

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED **Releasability:** ~~FOUO~~

**Allegation Number:** 147 **Allegation Status:** Closed

**Incident Date:** 05-Mar-2016 00:00 **Country:** IRAQ

**Opened Date:** 06-Mar-2016 00:00 **Location Of Incident:** al-Sina'ah

**MGRS:** (b)(1)1.4a **Nearest Major City:** Mosul

**Coords Unknown:** No

**Reopened Date:**

**Purpose For Reopening:** Not Reported

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED **Releasability:** ~~FOUO~~

**Allegation Date:** 06-Mar-2016 00:00

**Source:** Webops **Source Type:** Social Media

**Alleged Killed:** Not Reported **Alleged Injured:** Not Reported

**Description:** (U) CIVCAS Claims from American Airstrikes in Mosul: Twitter users circulated news from pro-ISIL media outlet, Ama'q News Agency, claiming that American airstrikes allegedly killed 18 people, most of them children, in the area of al-Sana'ah al-Qadimah in Mosul city on the night of 05 MAR. One pro-ISIL user (@atakriti6975) posted the news and referred to two prominent Saudi Arabian clerics in a slanderous way and said, "Will we hear Sudais and Shuraim comment about this?" Users did not post photos of CIVCAS. This topic trended at a high level and resonated at a low level in the Arabic IE. (1)

## Initial Assessment

**Classification:** ~~SECRET~~ **Releasability:** ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

**Initial Date:** Not Reported

**Initial Assessment:** Not Reported

## Assessment Details

## Assessment

**Classification:** ~~SECRET~~ **Releasability:** ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

Assessment Unit: CFACC Assessment Task Date: 15-Jun-2016 07:12

Non-US Coalition Nation: Not Reported

Assessment Response: The CAOC assesses the CIVCAS allegation as CREDIBLE resulting from the Coalition airstrike on Mosul ISIL Weapons Production Facility 003 on 5 March 2016 and an investigation is recommended into the target development and intelligence process utilized to determine pattern of life. Specifically, the justification process executed during the target development process needs to be evaluated. During this process, a group of 10 children were noted near the FO and they were assessed to be transient, even after voiced disagreement with this assessment during the target validation process.

Assessment CIVCAS:

Yes

Further Actions Directed:

Investigation

Lesson Learned/Root Cause:

Not Reported

Assessment Killed: 10

Assessment Injured: 0

Status

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Releasability: FOUO

Investigation Status: CLOSED

Closed Date: 15 Jun 2016 00:00

US Investigation Report Date: 04 Jul 2016 07:12

Closed At: Investigation

Ex Gratia: No

CIVCAS: Yes

Comments: "Assigned in 8 Mar 16 night orders. Unknown CIVCAS numbers up to 10.

Killed: 10 Injured: 0

15-6 was tasked to CJTF on 15 June 2016 NO's."

PAO Release Date: 09 Nov 2016 00:00

NA: No

Reason For No Release: Not Reported