



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT APO AE 09306

IRCS February 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 1990, Karanij, Syria, 9 January 2018

- 1. (U) **BLUF**. Based on the below findings, this allegation is **CREDIBLE**. A thorough review of all available strike records indicates that it is more likely than not that five civilians were killed as a result of a Coalition strike. CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and make available for immediate public release.
- 2. (U) Background. I considered the following information in making my findings:
- a. (S//REL) On 10 January 2018, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell received a self-report from 形面 1) 4a stating that on 9 January 2018 during a strike against a VBIED in the vicinity of Karanij, Syria, multiple vehicles and personnel were present and potentially injured.
- b. (S//REL) On 10 January 2018, CJFT-OIR CIVCAS Cell directed TF 94-7 to conduct a CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR).
- c. (S//REL) On 13 February 2018, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) approved the assessment, finding the allegation to be **CREDIBLE**. TF 94-7 recommends no further action be taken.

3. (U) CIVCAS Credibility Assessment

- a. (S//REL) On 9 January 2018, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed multiple ISIS fighters coordinating within 100m of the Syrian Defense Force forward line of troops. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) maintained positive identification and targeted an ISIS commander who, along with multiple armed personnel, was loitering near a white truck that was assessed to be a VBIED. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) engaged the target with (b)(1)1.4a The ground commander made a proportionality determination based on the immediate threat to the partner force and ordered the strike.
- b. (S//REL) At impact, multiple vehicles were in the vicinity of the target. Two motorcycles and another truck were passing the target at the time of impact. Post-strike, one motorcycle can be seen leaving the scene. The truck subsequently crashes, and the driver does not emerge. The second motorcycle is not visible after impact. Additionally, two personnel seen in the vicinity were not observed after the strike.
- c. (S//REL) Based on the vehicles and personnel present prior to the strike that were not observable after, it is more likely than not that at least five civilians were killed as a result of this strike.
- d. (S//REL) All reasonably available evidence was reviewed. Further, the strike complied with LOAC and was authorized under the relevant ROE.

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4. (U) Action.

3. CCAR

(U) I direct closure of this CIVCAS incident and that CJTF-OIR PAO publish the result of this CIVCAS assessment in a press release as soon as practicable.

5. (U) Point of contact is (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)

3 Encls
1. FIR
2. IA

