



~~SECRET // REL TO USA, FVEY~~

REQUEST #73

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND
COMBINED JOINT FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND - OIR
ERBIL, IRAQ
APO AE 09316

IRIZ-JA-OPL

9 April 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR CIVCAS Team, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, Camp Arifjan, APO, AE 09306

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) - Strike (b)(1)1.4a
(b)(1)1.4a (Mortar Commander, 1x Civilian Casualty) (CJFLCC-OIR 45/17)

1. BLUF. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) This allegation is CREDIBLE. A thorough review of all the available intelligence indicates that it is more likely than not that one (1) civilian was either killed or seriously wounded as a result of a Coalition Airstrike.

2. CIVCAS Allegation. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~)

a. *Source.* Self-Reported. Combined Joint Operations Center – Erbil, Combined Joint Land Forces Component Command, Operation Inherent Resolve.

b. *Time and Location.* 04 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, Ibn Khaldūn al Awwal Neighborhood, West Mosul (GRG C. 25, MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a).

c. *Description.* CJOC-Erbil conducted a self-defense engagement against an ISIS Mortar Commander. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed an ISIS Mortar Team load (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a into a pick-up truck and depart the Mortar POO site. CJOC-E engaged the truck with a (b)(1)1.4a sourced from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6). Upon impact, a large secondary explosion occurred, collapsing a portion of a nearby house. A casualty evacuation was observed to occur from the house, indicating one civilian casualty.

3. Strike Narrative and Analysis. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) The following is a chronological breakdown of the strike based on analysis of relevant mIRC logs, FMV footage, and post-strike assessments.

a. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) CJOC-E received a Mortar POO acquisition from TF (b)(1)1.4a Counterfires. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) moved his sensor to the grid. Upon arriving at the tree line, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed ISIS Fighters loading (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a into the bed of a pick-up truck. The pick-up truck then departed the Mortar POO site.

b. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was directed to follow the pick-up truck. The pick-up truck stopped at the target engagement location. Noticing minimal (b)(1)1.4a the TEA authorized the engagement of the pick-up truck under collective self-defense when no civilians were within the collateral hazard area of the aimpoint. This ROE was chosen based upon the fact that CJOC-E has observed,

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and intelligence reporting has indicated, ISIS will utilize the mortar system from a location, and then transport it to another location within minutes and reengage Partner Forces. This hostile intent led to the imminence to reengage the enemy under self-defense provisions.

c. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was cleared hot at approximately (b)(1)1.4a. (b)(1)1.4a was noted in the area, and the clearance was aborted by CJOC-E. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) repositioned for reattack after (b)(1)1.4a cleared, and was cleared hot at (b)(1)1.4a; the weapon impacted at approximately (b)(1)1.4a. Upon weapons impact, the target vehicle went high-order, and collapsed a portion of the house adjacent to the street.

d. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) Post-strike, one civilian was observed being removed from the house in a casualty evacuation. It is assessed by the CJCO-E Imagery Analyst that the target vehicle contained high explosive weapons, based upon the size and damage caused by the explosion. Lastly, two other ISIS Fighters were evacuated from the target area, having been ejected from the vehicle upon impact.

4. Credibility Assessment. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed CREDIBLE. That is, it is more likely than not that the CIVCAS incident did occur killing or seriously injuring one civilian based on the following:

a. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) The secondary effects from the engagement affected the structure the individual was evacuated from. A (b)(1)1.4a does not have the blast or fragmentation power to collapse a structure of that size when impacting 15-meters away.

b. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) The method in which the individual was removed from the building and loaded into a vehicle, is consistent with casualty evacuation actions.

5. (U//~~FOUO~~) The point of contact for this CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report is the undersigned at (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)

3 Encls

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)

Operational Law Attorney

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I have conducted a legal review of the information in this CCAR and the supporting evidence. Based upon all reasonably available information at this time, I find that:

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(5)

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)

Staff Judge Advocate

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I have reviewed the information contained in this CCAR and the supporting evidence. Based upon all reasonably available information at this time, I find that:

___ The evidence supports a finding of CREDIBLE. That is, it is more likely than not that the CIVCAS incident occurred. I direct an investigation be conducted by this command.

4 The evidence supports a finding of CREDIBLE. That is, it is more likely than not that the CIVCAS incident occurred. However, at this time I direct no investigation be conducted by this command, as no additional information could be discovered by further investigation.

___ The evidence supports a finding of NOT CREDIBLE. Without additional evidence, I direct that no further action be taken by this command.


JOSEPH M. MARTIN
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

APR 11 2017

Pages 445 through 460 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement.

Approved for Release