



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

IRCS

14 October 2017

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 871

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 four civilians were killed and two civilians were injured 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 1 June 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell received an allegation from Airwars.org stating, "four civilians were reported killed and other injured in an alleged Coalition strike on al Tabaqa," on 4 February 2017. Airwars.org further stated, "According to the Euphrates Post "four people were martyred including two children and two others injured following international coalition raids on al Tabaqa." Raqqa is Being Slaughtered reported major destruction in the town, noting that the strikes targeted the First neighbourhood [Al Hayy al Awwal]."

b. (~~S//REL~~) On 21 August 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell directed CFACC to conduct a CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR).

c. (~~S//REL~~) On 5 October 2017, MG Nahom approved the assessment, finding the allegation to be **CREDIBLE**. CFACC recommends no further action be taken.

3. (U) **CIVCAS Credibility Assessment**

a. (~~S//REL~~) A search for potentially corroborating strikes correlates returned one result. The potentially corroborating strike was a deliberate strike carried out by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) on 4 February 2017.

b. (~~S//REL~~) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was tasked to strike TABAQAH ISIS FF C2 AND MEETING SITE 001. The strike was carried out by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) Z IAW the tasking.

c. (~~S//REL~~) The target was assessed to be a (b)(1)1.4a civilian market and ISIS C2 node and meeting location. The installation included three critical elements, and seven JDPIs were identified to be targeted with (b)(1)1.4a each.



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d. (~~S//REL~~) Pre-strike intelligence collection consisted of 7 (b)(1)1.4c reports, 3 (b)(1)1.4c reports, and two periods of (b)(1)1.4c FMV collected on 22 January 2017, observed no transient civilian activity in market areas to the north and northeast of the target, in the park to the west, or around the mosque in the southeast. That period of observation, however, did note the presence of 10 adult males, 2 children, and 8 vehicles interacting with the target building.

e. (~~S//REL~~) On 15 January 2017, the target validation authority determined that the target was a valid military objective and designated it as (b)(1)1.4a. Prior to 24 January 2017, population density tables and the Collateral Damage Estimation Methodology (CDM) were used to reach a civilian casualty estimate (CE) for striking the target building. The resulting CE call was (b)(1)1.4a.

f. (~~S//REL~~) On 25 January 2017, the target engagement authority (TEA) approved the attack on the target. The TEA approved an intelligence-based pattern of life override of the CE that had been reached using (b)(1)1.4a. Citing the FMV collection from 22 January 2017, the TEA set the night CE at (b)(1)1.4a rather than (b)(1)1.4a.

g. (~~S//REL~~) The target building was originally scheduled to be struck on 27 January 2017; however, the target could not be engaged (b)(1)1.4a.

(b)(1)1.4a

h. (~~S//REL~~) On 1 February 2017, the TEA approved a restrike attempt. Concurrently,

(b)(1)1.4a

i. (~~S//REL~~) At (b)(1)1.4a on 4 February 2017, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) (b)(1)1.4a on three JDPIs, and (b)(1)1.4a on one JDPI. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a targeted one weapon per JDPI. At the same time, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a employed (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a on three JDPIs. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a targeted one weapon per JDPI.

j. (~~S//REL~~) (b)(1)1.4g therefore no WSV was available to confirm weapons impact.

k. (~~S//REL~~) Post-strike imagery shows at least three JDPIs were serviced. One impact crater appeared in the southwest corner of the enclosed courtyard in the eastern half of the target structure. There was no visible impact location for the three remaining weapons.

l. (~~S//REL~~) The (b)(1)1.4a nature of the target and associated CE value of (b)(1)1.4a makes it likely that civilians were present in or around the target at the time of the strike. The procedural irregularity noted in the pattern of life override may warrant attention by others. Whether the TEA's actions were in excess of CDRUSCENTCOM's delegation is a matter other headquarters may wish to explore.

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**4. (U) Action.**

(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)

at DSN

USC 130b; (b)(6)

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

2 Encls

1. Initial Assessment
2. CCAR

  
KENNETH L. KAMPER  
BG, US ARMY  
Chief of Staff

Approved for Release

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