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REQUEST #103

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

IRJA

6 June 2017

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

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) for Allegation 455, Al Qa'im, Anah City, Iraq, 7-9 May 2017

1. (U) BLUF: I assess that the allegation of civilian casualties (CIVCAS) on 7-9 May 2017 in Al Qa'im, Anah City, Iraq is **NOT CREDIBLE**. This assessment is based upon a thorough review of all reasonably available information, including information provided by Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) and open source material.

2. (U) CIVCAS Allegation:

a. (U) Source: Social media, Iraqi Spring Media Center, Yaqein news Agency, Iraq News Center, Al Jazeera

b. (U) Time and Location: 9 May 2017, Al Qa'im and Anah, Iraq

c. (U) Description: Various local sources reported on 9 May 2017 that 25-38 civilians killed in "aerial bombardments" or strikes in or around Al Qa'im, Iraq.

(1) (U) At 1527Z on 9 May 2017, approximately one hour after Sunni anti-Government of Iraq (GoI) media outlet, Yaqein News Agency (@wakaltyaqein) (wakaltyaqein), posted news that the cities of Anah and al-Qa'im were under intense aerial bombardment, a Twitter account linked to Sunni Islamists with ISIS sympathies, (@IraqiSpringMC), tweeted that "aerial bombardment" killed 27 civilians and injured 50 others in Anah and al-Qa'im in western Anbar, according to "news agencies." Earlier, a prominent Sunni pro-Gol media outlet, Alhadath (@AlHadath), cited the Iraqi Ministry of Defense (MoD) as saying that an airstrike killed 47 ISIS fighters in al-Qa'im.

(2) (U) Airwars' synopsis: Local Sources, Iraqi Spring Media Center, said that 27 civilians were killed and 50 wounded in strikes on the town of Ana and Qaim, in western Anbar. Yaqein put the death toll at 38 and 50 wounded. Iraq News Center also reported, 38 deaths but said 11 were members of ISIS. Al jazerra cited government sources which claimed a series of strikes in western anbar. It suggested that up to 100 ISIL fighters and 25 civilians died.

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3. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Analysis of Coalition Strike Activity: Because no date was specified in the allegation, the CIVCAS assessment team analyzed Coalition Forces (CF) strike activity in the Al Qa'im and Anah areas on 9 May 2017 and the preceding 48 hours. There were no strikes in Al Qa'im on 8 or 9 May 2017, and Anah saw only one strike against ISIS equipment on 9 May 2017. However, CF struck one ISIS facility in Al Qa'im on 7 May 2017. This report will assess this strike as most likely to corroborate the allegation.

a. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Strike 21212 Overview: Strike number (b)(1)1.4e was a deliberate strike that occurred on 07 (b)(1)1.4z MAY 2017 under ROE (b)(1)1.4f that targeted AL QAIM ISIL SAFE HOUSE 002 (b)(1)1.4a at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a in the vicinity of Al Qa'im, Iraq. An (b)(1)1.4a struck the target with (b)(1)1.4a was flown by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a an American asset. The strike resulted in two Joint Desired Points of Impact (JDPIs) struck.

b. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Review of Supporting Intelligence: AL QAIM ISIL SAFE HOUSE 002 was a wall-secured structure with a single functional area and a courtyard located in Al Qa'im, Iraq approximately two kilometers SE of the Iraq/Syria border. Functional characterization of the target facility as an ISIS safe house, with a secondary function as a weapon storage facility, was supported with low intelligence by (b)(1)1.4c (b)(1)1.4c reports as recent as 20 February 2017. The facility's former function was residential. The facility was assessed to have been under the exclusive use and control of ISIS since at least February 2016 and was no longer serving a civilian function. Pre-strike aerial reconnaissance captured (b)(1)1.4a of Full Motion Video (FMV) producing a slant of 2/0/0.

c. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Collateral Damage Estimate (CDE)/Battle Damage Assessment (BDA): The CDE call for this facility was (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a was attached to the target. There were no collateral concerns within the weapons effects radii of the weaponeering solution. The BDA call for this strike was 1 X SAFE HOUSE CONFIRMED SEVERE DAMAGE. FACILITY SEVERE FUNCTIONAL DAMAGE/LIM-OP.

d. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Review of WSV/FMV: Approximately 34 seconds of FMV footage shows two weapons penetrating the roof of the target facility and exploding from within. The blast effects of the weapons appear to have been fully contained within the target structure. I observed no transient activity around the facility in the footage pre- or post-strike.

4. (U) Credibility Assessment: Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed **NOT CREDIBLE**. That is, there is insufficient evidence to corroborate this allegation. These findings were based on the following:

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a. (U) Allegations appear to have been largely circular and did not include any visual evidence substantiating CIVCAS.

b. (~~S//REL TO FVEY~~) Based upon the weaponeering solution applied to this facility, no casualties were anticipated from this strike. Weapons appeared to have functioned properly and the blast effects were effectively contained within the target structure. Given that the target was assessed to have been under the exclusive control and occupation by ISIS, any individuals within the facility who could have been killed in the strike would be characterized as enemy killed-in-action (EKA) in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

c. (U) This finding of NOT CREDIBLE should not be interpreted as a denial of a CIVCAS incident, but rather as an acknowledgement that there is insufficient evidence available to find that it is more likely than not that CIVCAS resulted from the strike under assessment. Discovery of further evidence may warrant re-assessment.

5. (U) The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at:

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

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

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

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

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1. 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:

a. ☐ 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.

b. ☐ 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 further investigation, as no additional information could reasonably be discovered. Accordingly, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and CJTF-OIR PAO shall publish the results of this assessment in a press release as soon as practicable.

c. ☒ The evidence supports a finding of NOT CREDIBLE. Without additional evidence, I direct that no further action be taken by this command. Accordingly, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and CJTF-OIR PAO shall publish the results of this assessment in a press release as soon as practicable.

*Kenneth L. Kamper* 25-12017  
KENNETH L. KAMPER  
BG, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff, CJTF-OIR

Pages 368 through 393 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates Numbers 4164-4189

Approved for Release