



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

CJ33

03 November 2017

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

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) for Allegation 1255, Al Qaim, IZ, 9-10 SEP 17

1. (U) References:

a. (U) CJTF-OIR Policy for Reporting and Responding to CIVCAS Incidents, 27 SEPTEMBER 2017, UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

b. (U) CJTF-OIR Security Classification Guide, 20 OCTOBER 2016, UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

c. (U) Saturn Arch Image Science Assessments, 31 AUGUST 2017, S//REL USA, FVEY

2 (U//FOUO) BLUF: I assess that the allegation of civilian casualties (CIVCAS) on 9-10 SEP 17 in Al Qaim, IZ 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.

3. (U) CIVCAS Allegation:

a. (U) Source: WebOps Rollup, Airwars

b. (U) Time and Location: Time unknown, 9-10 SEP 17, AI Qaim and Rawah, IZ

c. (U) Allegation: Two allegations are combined for this CCAR; 1 from WebOps and 1 from Airwars.org

1. (U//FOUO) WebOps: A security source in Anbar province, stated that CFs conducted several airstrikes that targeted ISIS locations in Al-Qaim, Annah and Rawah, west of Anbar. The source added that the strikes killed 17 ISIS fighters, and left 5 civilians wounded, with two of them in serious condition. Source: garidaty.net

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 (U) September 10th 2017: (1644) القائم وعنه و رواه (Al Qaim, west of Anbar) province, Iraq. Summary: Civilian casualties were claimed by a number of sources from possible Coalition actions at Al Qaim - although reporting was confused. A number of sources reported government attacks on Anah and Rawa, coupled with Coalition air or possible guided missile strikes at AI Qaim, west Anbar province. According to a subsequent report by Yagin, "the warplanes renewed heavy bombardment of areas and cities in western Anbar province and focused on the westernmost city of Al-Qa'im while continuing the suffocating siege on those cities facing imminent intrusions by the joint forces with the Militia and US occupation forces supported by the International Military coalition." Al-Rafidain reiterated Yagins claims that the Coalition aircraft had operated in "conjunction with government bombing" and noted that "the magnitude of the losses" following the bombing was unknown. "Shelling of residential neighbourhoods" on the "outskirts of Anah and Rawa reportedly took place. Iraq News alleged the attacks were "preparation for the start of military operations to control the areas mentioned from the grip of state organization". Civilians reported killed: Unknown Civilians reported injured: 2 or more Quality of reporting: Contested. Weak.

3. (U) RFI Response From Airwars.org: Aerial and artillery bombardment as well as guided missile strikes mentioned in reporting. Al Qaim reported as being the most heavily targeted. The reporting also mentions Anah: "According to local sources in Anbar, the artillery of the government forces shelled residential areas in the outskirts of the districts of # Rawa and # Anah in conjunction with the bombing of international coalition aircraft." (News of Iraq FB) According to Al-Fafidain: "Security sources said that the government artillery shelled sites in the outskirts in Anah and Rawa of western Anbar province. The sources confirmed that the government bombing came in conjunction with the bombing carried out by the aircraft of the international coalition in the western districts, without knowing the magnitude of the losses resulting from the bombing. This was a security source has revealed the launch of 5 guided missiles from the base of Ayn al-Assad on the Qaim district west of Anbar province." The sources have no exact locational details. However, both Anah and Rawa are small: Anah: 34.372699, 41.986442 [middle point]. Extents of the town marked with white, 1 km radius marked with yellow. Rawah: 34.372699, 41.986442 [middle point]. Extents of the town marked with white, 1 km radius marked with yellow. Al Qaim coordinates: 34.372500, 41.051111. Time: Evening of Sept 10

d. (U) **Discussion:** The allegations claim that Coalition strikes occurred in Rawah, Al Qaim, and Anah on the 9-10 SEP 17 and resulted in no more than 7 civilian casualties (7 injured). The RFI Response details the allegations in Rawa and Anah, and provides a refined date and time, the evening of 10 SEP 17, for those alleged locations.

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4. (S//REL USA, MESF) Summary of Coalition Strike Activity: 2 X Strikes were conducted by the Coalition, in Al Qaim, on 9-10 SEP 17. On 09 SEP 17, 1 X Strike was conducted against an ISIS staging area by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) and was observed by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) On 10 SEP 17, 1 X Strike was conducted against an ISIS Home Made Explosive (HME) production site by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) and observed by (b)(1)1.4a (Encls 1, 2). No coalition strikes occurred the evening of 10 SEP 17, in Rawa or Anah.

5. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Strike (0)(1)1.4d Overview: Strike number (0)(1)1.4d was a Dynamic strike that occurred at (0)(1)1.4Z on Air Tasking Order (ATO) day (1)1.4under Rule of Engagement (ROE)(1)1.4targeting 1 X Building/ISIS Staging Area at

 (b)(1)1.4a
 A US
 (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6)
 struck the target with
 (b)(1)1.4a

 (b)(1)1.4a
 The strike resulted in 1 X Building / ISIS Staging Area Destroyed

 (Encls 3, 4).

a. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of Supporting Intelligence: At the time of the dynamic strike, As Salam ISIS Staging Area 001 was being developed as a future deliberate target. The Joint Targeting Coordination Board (JTCB) process was not yet complete; however the JTCB provides additional information that is used concurrently with the CJ-34 Strike Script for this CCAR (Encls 5, 9). As Salam ISIS Staging Area 001 was a [b)(1)1.4a

two-story rectangular shaped building and associated courtyard, located at (b)(1)1.4a CJ-34 assessed the target facility as an ISIS Inghimasin Bed Down and Staging Area with a secondary function as an ISIS HQ. This assessment was made with Moderate confidence, and supported by (b)(1)1.4c reports as recent as 02 AUG 17. The facility formerly functioned as a civilian residence. The target facility was assessed to have been under the use and control of ISIS since at least MAR 16. The target facility was not (b)(1)1.4a and was assessed to be (b)(1)1.4a (Encl 5, 9).

(b)(1)1.4g

(b)(1)1.4g (Encl 5).

b. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Collateral Damage Estimate (CDE): The CDE call for this facility was (5)(1)1.4a There were 5 X Collateral Concerns (3 X Residence, 2 X Shed) within the weapons effects radii of the weaponeering solution. The nearest collateral concern was a Shed that was (1)(1)(4a) There were 5 X Collateral Concerns (3 X Collateral Concerns (3 X Collateral Concerns) (3 X Col

c. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Battle Damage Assessment (BDA): On 13 Sep 17, imagery was collected IOT asses the target facility for BDA. The BDA call for this strike was 1 X Staging Building Confirmed Destroyed. The target facility was assessed to be

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Functionally Destroyed and Not Operations Capable. There appeared to be no visible damage to any of the adjacent buildings as pictured in the Battle Damage Assessment Graphic (BDAG) (Encl 4, 9).

d. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of Chat Logs: At reported (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) that 1)1.48, (bhad eyes on the target building and reported that there were 4 X Vehicles and no personnel visible. bi(1)1.4 continued to observe the target facility and surrounding area, making note of any personnel movements. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) explained that the target facility was being worked for a strike that will be executed once the requirement for POL is fulfilled. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) reported that there was a lot of activity IVO the target facility, but no personnel interacting with the target facility or associated vehicles. Between Z there was discussion of a bongo (b)(1)1.4a truck that departed from the vicinity of the target facility but it was assessed to not be related. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) stated that a strike was being "spooled" for the target facility. At reported that a silver van departed to the (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) north from the vicinity of the target facility. At (b)(1)1.4a (b)(6) reported that 1 X Adult Male (Adm) and 1 X person (possibly child), departed a building north of the target facility, entered a bongo truck, and departed north. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) reported that no personnel were in the target facility or associated white truck, and (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) requested notification and a follow of any Adms exiting the target facility that enter the white truck. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed 6 X Children run through a courtyard of a compound south of the target facility. At (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a requested and (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) confirmed that no one had left the target facility. At requested confirmation that the target facility was (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) currently in the crosshairs. At(b)(1)1.4Z splash was reported to have occurred on the target facility. At (b)(1)1.4a. (b)(6) reported that the target facility was completely destroyed and personnel have begun to gather to the north and south of the target facility for a combined SLANT of 12/0/2. At reported that no (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) evidence of EKIA has been observed. At reported that 5 x (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) Adms were searching for EKIA. At reported that the Adms (b)(1)1.4a. (b)(6) were still performing BDA and debris removal, and that there were no observations of EKIA or CIVCAS at that times (1)1 4a, (then shifted to the next ISR target (Encl 10).

e. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of Full Motion Video (FMV)/Weapon Sight Video(WSV): FMV and WSV was available from this strike. The FMV captured slight activity before, and significant activity after the strike. A request was made to Distributed Ground Station (DGS) for Processing, Estimation, and Dissemination (PED) analysis of the FMV. The request was fulfilled by the 609th Air Operations Center and the results are included below.

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facility into the center of the FOV, and 1 X Transient can be seen walking eastbound, partially obscured by the buildings, on the far side of the street adjacent the target facility to the north. At 00:16, 1 X Transient can be seen in the courtyard between the target facility and the building immediately to the south, and at 00:18, the Transient moves south around the corner of the building. At 00:20, splash occurs. The target facility and building to the south are immediately obscured from view, and a fireball can be seen moving into the roadway to the west. At 00:21, a large quantity of debris can be seen being ejected from the blast, and a large piece appears to deflect off a compound wall nearly a block away to the south causing minimal damage. At 00:24, (b)(1)1.4a. (bzooms on the target facility and the 1 X Transient that was walking eastbound can be seen crossing to the south side of the road and taking cover near a compound wall, approximately two compounds to the east of the target facility. The target facility, adjacent roads, and building to the south are still obscured from view. At 01:20, the smoke and dust clears enough that 1 X Transient can be seen walking southbound on the road adjacent the target facility to the west. At 1:28, the target facility can be seen, and has been reduced to rubble. The 1 X Transient that had taken cover near the compound wall is still present, and 1 X Transient can be seen entering the FOV from the east on the same road. At 01:34, 1 X Transient enters the FOV northbound from the south on the road west of the target facility and moves towards the 1 X Transient who was previously seen walking southbound on the same road. At 01:40, 1 X Transient exits a building onto the road to the west of the target facility from a building across the street to the north of the target facility. At 01:42 (1)1.4a. (200ms on the target facility. The Transient from the building to the north can be seen standing in the middle of the roadway. At 01:48, the 1 X Transient that was moving northbound enters the FOV from the south, and 2 X Transients exit the building to the north and join the Transient already in the roadway. Between 01:50 and 02:30, approximately 9 X Transients can be seen exiting into the courtyard and roadway from the building to the south, some of the transients appear to be carrying objects (NOTE: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) identified 6 X Children run through the courtyard of this building 22 minutes before splash). During this time, additional Transients enter the road to the west of the target facility from buildings across the same road. By 02:30, there are more than one dozen transients in the vicinity of the target facility. At 02:30(1)1.4a. (bzooms out and more than two dozen Transients can be seen in the vicinity of the target facility. Between 02:30 and 03:15, multiple Transients can be seen running towards and entering the building to the south of the target facility, re-emerging with objects in their arms and departing the FOV to the north and south. At 03:15, a car backs out of a garage from a building across the road to the north of the target facility and 1 X Transient, that appears to be carrying an object, can be seen running towards it from the building to the south of the target facility. At 03:40, the Transient, that appears to be carrying an object, and one additional Transient enter the car and, at 03:50, the car departs the FOV to the north. During the remainder of the video, Transients continue to interact with the building to the south of the Target Facility and a few inspect the debris of the target facility (Encl 21).

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2. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Assessment From 609th Air Operations Center: "Our assessment is that both of the civilians mentioned in the feed remain unharmed. The [possible] male in the courtyard was the one that cut it close but it appears as if he made it to a safe point just before splash. None of the civilians were harmed in the strike. After the splash it appears that they are possibly removing children from the building next to the one that was struck, but I'm assessing that the children are just frightened and are unharmed" (Encl 22).

3. (S//REL USA, FVEY) WSV From (1)1.4a, (\$)(Approximately 30 seconds of WSV was provided by (1)1.4a, (b)(6The video begins at 00:06 with the target facility in the center of the FOV. There is considerable shaking of the camera and the video quality is degraded. At 00:10x1)1.4a, (bzooms further on the target facility. At 00:1(b) 1)1.4a, (bzooms out, and splash is observed at 00:14. As the blast, smoke, and dust engulfs the target facility, a fireball can be seen moving westward into the intersection adjacent the target facility. At 00:15, the fireball dies out, and a piece of debris can be seen ejected from the target facility at a high rate of speed to the south, crossing a north-south road that is adjacent the target facility. By 00:16, the ejecta has departed the FOV and appears to have missed any structures or vehicles. At 00:2(b) 1)1.4a, (bzooms on the target facility, which is completely obscured by smoke and dust. The video cuts at 00:26 for Bomb Hit Assessment, and resumes at 00:28. The assessment begins with the building adjacent the target facility to the south in the center of the FOV. There appears to be 2 X Persons in the road to the northeast of the target facility. The target facility has been reduced to rubble. At 00:30, 111.40, (badjusts the scan to the center of the target facility. At 00:35, 1 X person can be seen entering a building approximately one block to the east of the target facility. There appears to be additional persons IVO the target facility's rubble, but the video quality prevents an accurate review (Encl 20).

f. (S//REL USA, FVEY) CJTF-OIR Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) Legal Notes)(1)1.4a, (\$)(5)

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

g. (S//REL USA, FVEY) CIVCAS Assessment: Based on reasonably available evidence, it is more likely than not that no CIVCAS occurred as a result of this strike.

6. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Strike (b)(1)1.4a Overview: Strike number (b)(1)1.4a was a Dynamic strike that occurred at (b)(1)1.4Z on ATO day()(1)1.4under ROE()(1)1.4 atargeting an ISIS HME Production Site at (b)(1)1.4a A US (c)(1)1.4a struck the target with (c)(1)1.4a The strike resulted in 1 X HME Production Site Destroyed (Encls 1, 2).

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a. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of Supporting Intelligence: The target named "ISIS HME Production Site" was a compound consisting of a multi-level house and walled courtyard located at (b)(1)1.4a . Based on observation and reporting by Saturn Arch, CJ-34 Fires assessed the target compound as an HME Production Site (b)(1)1.4c (Encls 13, 18). uses (b)(1)1.4a to identify, with varying confidence levels, the presence of explosive materials (Ref c). Reporting on 10 SEP 17 identified the presence of "Highly Probable Weaponized Ammonium Nitrate (AN) Material" inside the courtyard of the target compound and also identified a "Probable AN Spill" inside an adjacent compound. The detected "Highly Probable Weaponized AN Material" was the target selected for this strike (Encl 18). The facility's former function was not assessed. Pre-strike aerial reconnaissance captured approximately 55 minutes of FMV before splash with a slant of 0/0/0 (Encl 19).

b. (S//REL USA, FVEY) CDE: The CDE call for this compound was (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a There were 5 X Collateral Concerns (3 X Residence, 2 X Shed) within the weapons effects radii of the weaponeering solution. The nearest collateral concern was(1)1 west-northwest of the targeted area. The CDEG included a warning that secondary explosions were possible due to the nature of the target (Encl 15).

c. (S//REL USA, FVEY) BDA: The BDA call for this strike was 1 X ISIS HME Production Site destroyed:)(1)1.4a, (was on station throughout the strike and provided imagery for post-strike analysis. The post-strike imagery shows a black plume of smoke during splash, which was assessed to be indicative of HME, and a resultant crater. The nearest collateral concern was the only structure assessed to have sustained damage as a result of the strike, however imagery shows the shed still erect and it appears to have suffered minimal effects from the blast (Encl 17).

d. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of Chat Logs: At posted (bi(1)1.4a, (b)(6) the text from the detect by (b)(1)1.4c and then at(b)(1)1.4Z requested ISR shift to the new arid. At (b)(1)1.4a. (b)(6) reported the nearest (b)(1)1.4awas a mosque approximately 300m to the west. At (b)(1)1.4a reported that no personnel, vehicles, or significant activity was visible at the target compound, slant 0/0/0. At announced the scan radius for collateral assessment (b)(1)1.4a and (b)(1)1.4a considerations was b)(1)1.4a Between (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) continued to scan for (b)(1)1.4a and reported that none were observed. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) announced that the CJTF SJA was present and the strike could continue. Atb)(1)1.4Z. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) stated that though the collateral effects radius was(b)(1)1.4p personnel inside a building or behind a wall would be protected at (b)(1)1.4a range. At b)(1)1.4Z, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) requested a final scan of the area for (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) confirmed the area was clear. Splash was called by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) Z with no personnel or activity observed post-strike(1)1.4a, (premained on station until(b)(1)1.4Z, during that time ISR conducted analysis on the response of personnel potentially

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associated with the HME Production Site. There is no discussion of damage to the surrounding buildings or evidence of CIVCAS as a result of the strike (Encl 19).

e. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Review of FMV/WSV: Video was available from (1)1.4a, (band (b)(1)1.4a, (b) for review.

1. (S//REL USA, FVEY) FMV From (1)1.4a. (b)(Approximately 25 seconds of FMV was provided by (1)1.4a. (b)(The video begins at 00:04 with the target compound in the center of the FOV. The "Highly Probable Weaponized AN Material" is visible in the courtyard of the compound as a dark mass on the ground. Splash occurs at 00:11 and a dark cloud of smoke is produced. At 00:16)((1)1.4a, (b)zooms on the target compound, which is partially obstructed by the smoke. There is no debris visible as a result of the strike)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) continues to observe the cloud for the remainder of the FMV; there appears to be no damage to the collateral concerns and no transient personnel (Encl 12).

2. (S//RELUSA, FVEY) WSV From (1)1.4a, (b) (Approximately 32 seconds of WSV was provided by (1)1.4a, (b) (6) he video begins at 00:05 and shows the target "Highly Probable Weaponized AN Material" in the center of the FOV and crosshairs as a blurred shape and different shade of gray on the ground. All of the collateral concerns are also visible. Splash occurs at 00:12 and the image is obscured by the blast. At 00:18, the dark cloud is visible and a small amount debris appear to be falling from the cloud. At 00:30, the WSV cuts to BDA with a view from directly overhead the target compound. A crater is visible where the target material was previously located and the nearest collateral concern (Shed) appears slightly damaged. The courtyard wall and other collateral concerns appear unaffected by the blast (Encl 16).

f. (S//REL USA, FVEY) CJTF-OIR SJA Legal Note: SJA presence during the strike is confirmed through analysis of the Chat Logs, but no notes were available for this CCAR (Encl 19).

g. (S//REL USA, FVEY) CIVCAS Assessment: Based on reasonably available evidence, it is more likely than not that no CIVCAS occurred as a result of this strike.

7. (S//REL USA, FVEY) Additional Information: During strike (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was on station for approximately 2 hours. Though (1)1.4a, (preported on movements of personnel and vehicles, a SLANT was not given until after the target facility was struck (Encl 10).

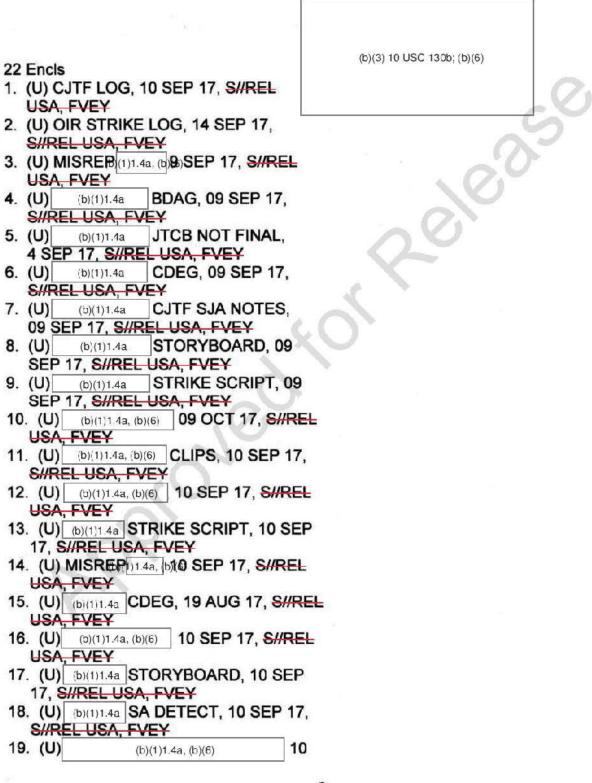
8. (S//RE USA, FVEY) Credibility Assessment: Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed NOT CREDIBLE. That is, there is insufficient evidence to corroborate this allegation.

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

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

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OCT 17, <u>S//REL USA, FVEY</u> 20. (U) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) , 09 SEP 17, <u>SREL USA, FVEY</u> 21. (U) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) 09 SEP 17,

S//REL USA, FVEY 22. (U) (b)(1)1.4a ISE Assessment, 29

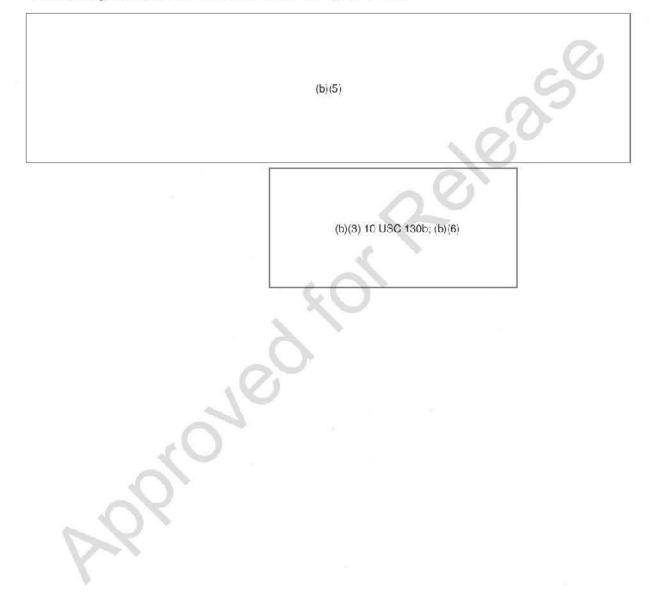
OCT 17, S//REL USA, FVEY

Classified By: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) Derived From: Multiple Sources Declassify On: 03 November 2042

IRJA

SUBJECT: Legal Review of CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) – Allegation #1255, Al Qaim, Iraq, 9-10 September 2017

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



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IRCS

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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 <u>CREDIBLE</u>. 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 <u>CREDIBLE</u>. 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. <u>V</u> The evidence supports a finding of <u>NOT CREDIBLE</u>. 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.

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KENNETH L. KAMPER BG, US ARMY Chief of Staff Pages 288 through 360 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates Number

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