

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND
COMBINED JOINT FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND - OIR
FOB UNION III, BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO, AE 09348

IRIZ-JA-OPL

26 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 Strike - School) (CJFLCC-OIR 60/17)

1. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **BLUE**. This allegation is NOT CREDIBLE. A thorough review of all available strike records indicates that it is more likely than not that the alleged civilian casualties did not occur as a result of a Coalition strike.

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

a. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Source.** On 18 Apr 17, a prominent Iraqi political leader asked a Coalition leader to look into a constituent's complaint about possible CIVCAS attributed to Coalition forces. The constituent specifically identified (b)(1)1.4d artillery as the source of the fires causing the casualties.

b. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Time and Location.** 15 Apr 17, Zinjali neighborhood, West Mosul.

c. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Description.** Coalition field artillery was alleged to have caused civilian casualties.

3. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Analysis.** CJFLCC-OIR J34 and CJOC-E reviewed all available records to determine whether any Coalition strikes, including air to surface and surface to surface fires, from 14-16 Apr 17 could possibly correlate with the allegation. Of note, TF (b)(1)1.4a does not conduct fire missions within Mosul due to (b)(1)1.4d national caveats associated with CDE levels. Nevertheless, seven Coalition strikes in and around the Zinjali neighborhood were identified as potential matches. The location and details of these strikes are enclosed. The following is an overview of each of these Coalition strikes, based on strike logs, FMV footage, mlRC chat logs, and post-strike assessments.

a. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strike 1:** 15 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, Ibn Al Athir neighborhood, West Mosul (b)(1)1.4a // SPLASH (b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: TF (b)(1)1.4a // 1X MTR DESTROYED, 1x EKIA // AXIS GHAZLANI // REQUESTER: CJOC-E. On 15 April 2017, the CJOC-E prosecuted an ISIS mortar position. (b)(1)1.4a counter-fire radar identified a total of six (6) mortar points of origin (POO) correlating with a historic PCO site (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6)

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(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was cued to the area and observed a mortar located in the doorway of a school firing on friendly forces. From (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) feed, the TEA determined that there was minimal civilian transient traffic in the area. Noting the proximity of the target to a protected object, the TEA selected (b)(1)1.4a as the optimal weapon to neutralize the target while minimizing collateral damage to the school and limiting risk to potential civilian transient traffic on a nearby road. The TEA approved the strike pursuant to collective self-defense ROE, and the mortar was engaged at (b)(1)1.4a. The round impacted directly on target and its effects were contained within the wall of the school facility, and had little to no effect on the school itself. During the (b)(1)1.4a that the (b)(1)1.4a was in flight (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) continued scanning for civilian traffic, with no civilians observed either within the target location or on the street next to the school. The post-strike BDA indicated that there was 1 x EKIA, 1 x MTR DESTROYED.

b. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strike 2:** 14 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, An Najjar neighborhood, West Mosul (MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a) // SPLASH (b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) // 1 X VBIED DESTROYED // AXIS ATSHANAH // REQUESTER: TF (b)(1)1.4a CJOC-Erbil conducted a defensive strike against an ISIS VBIED located 1.9KM from the FLOT. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) conducted (b)(1)1.4a scans prior to and after the strike, and did not observe the presence of civilians in the target location. The aircrew observed a high order detonation of the target, and did not report any possible civilian casualties post-strike.

c. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strikes 3 and 7:** 14 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, Abi Tamam neighborhood, West Mosul, (MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a) // SPLASH (b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) // 1 X WPNS CACHE DESTROYED // AXIS ATSHANAH // REQUESTER: (b)(1)1.4a CJOC-Erbil conducted an offensive, planned dynamic strike against a weapons cached located 965M from the FLOT in an assessed to be disused commercial structure. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) conducted (b)(1)1.4a scans prior to and after the strike, and did not observe the presence of civilians in the target location. The aircrew observed the impact on the target, and not note report any possible civilian casualties post-strike.

d. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strike 4:** 15 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, Bab Sinjar neighborhood, West Mosul, (MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a) // SPLASH (b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) // 1 X ROAD CRATER // AXIS TIGRIS // REQUESTER: (b)(1)1.4a CJOC-Erbil conducted an offensive strike to emplace a road crater in support of ISF maneuver. CTS (b)(1)1.4a observed this strike and did not report the presence of civilians in the target location.

e. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strike 5:** 14 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017, Bab Sinjar neighborhood, West Mosul, (MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a) //

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(b)(1)1.4a Mortar Strike - School (CJFLCC-OIR 60/17)

SPLASH (b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6)

1 X ROAD CRATER // AXIS TIGRIS // REQUESTER: (b)(1)1.4a CJOC-

Erbil conducted an offensive strike to emplace a road crater in support of ISF maneuver. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed this strike and did not report the presence of civilians in the target location.

f. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Strike 6:** 16 (b)(1)1.4a April 2017 Ash Shifa' al Awwal neighborhood (i.e. Zinjali area additional strike #6), west Mosul, (GRG: B. 60, MGRS:

(b)(1)1.4a // SHOOTER: TF

(b)(1)1.4a / ORD: (b)(1)1.4a / GRID: (b)(1)1.4a // ROE:

(b)(1)1.4a BDA: MTR SUPPRESSED // AXIS: TIGRIS // REQUESTER: TF (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a This counterfire mission struck the curtilage of a large commercial building 800 meters west of the Zinjali neighborhood. The strike occurred at (b)(1)1.4a making it unlikely that there were civilians in the vicinity of the target location.

4. (~~SECRET // REL TO FVEY~~) **Credibility Assessment.** On the basis of the details contained in the allegation and a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed NOT CREDIBLE. First, none of the Coalition strikes that occurred in and around Zinjali from 14-16 Apr 17 targeted objects likely to result in significant civilian casualties such as a house or other residential structure. Second, an examination of all available records related to those strikes does not disclose any civilian activity either before or after the strikes that would be consistent with the generation of civilian casualties. Although it is beyond the scope of this CCAR to make any findings of fact in relation to partner forces, it is possible that the CIVCAS allegation could be related ISF military activity in the area (particularly FEDPOL clearance operations in the vicinity of Zinjali) during the period in question.

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

Encl.

1. Zinjali Strikes 14-16 APR

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

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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)(5)

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

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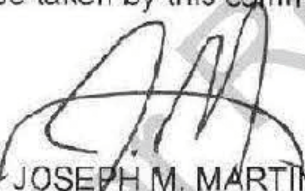
I have reviewed the information contained in this CCAR and the supporting evidence. Based upon all reasonably available information at this time, I find that:

____ 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.

____ 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.

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

MAY 03 2017


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

Pages 152 through 156 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates Numbers 3317-3321

Approved for Release