

\*\*\*CORRECTED COPY\*\*\*

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET//USA,FVEY~~(U) Addendum to 23 April 2015 CAOC CIVCAS Credibility Assessment – 24 June 2016

(~~S//REL USA, MEST~~) BLUF: Upon review of all available mission materials and open-source reporting pertaining to the Coalition airstrike on an AL HADAR ISIL CHECKPOINT 001 within the Hatra District, Iraq on 13 March 2015 (b)(1)1.4a the CAOC reaffirms its assessment that the CIVCAS allegations described below are CREDIBLE. We also assess the number of potential civilian casualties may be greater than was initially reported.

1. (U) Original CIVCAS Allegation Source: The CAOC conducted a CIVCAS credibility assessment between March and April of 2015 in response to an e-mail from (b)(6) (b)(6) (Attachment 1) (b)(6) claimed a driver, two women, and three children were passengers in her car which was destroyed in a Coalition airstrike. In addition, (b)(6) indicated an unknown number of individuals (a family) traveling in a GMC Suburban were also killed in the strike. On 23 April 2015, DCFACC deemed the allegation CREDIBLE. As a result, an investigation into the target development and nomination process was conducted. That investigation, which was later released to the public under FOIA, assessed the strike resulted in four potential civilian casualties. (Attachment 2)
2. (U) Updated CIVCAS Allegation Source: On or about 9 June 2016, The Washington Post ran an article alleging there were in fact more than four civilian casualties resulting from this strike, as indicated in the report released under FOIA. The additional alleged casualties were reportedly family members of a Lieutenant Colonel in the Iraqi Police Force. According to the Post article, these family members were traveling in the GCM Suburban accompanying (b)(6)'s vehicle; its passengers included the Suburban's driver, the Lieutenant Colonel's wife and his three children. All together, the Washington Post reported up to eleven civilians were killed in the strike.
3. (U) During the initial credibility assessment, there were no identified open source allegations of CIVCAS associated with this incident. Apart from the Washington Post article, no other open source allegations have been identified. There are multiple references to the incident in open source, but all center on releases from CENTCOM in the November 2015 timeframe and relate to the investigation released under FOIA. The target area was an ISIL checkpoint in the Hatra district of Iraq. The online search period covered dates from 13 March 2015 to 23 June 2016.
  - a. (U) Search criteria:
    - i. Hatra, Iraq
    - ii. Mosul, Iraq
    - iii. Airstrike
    - iv. ISIL checkpoint
    - v. Civilian casualties
    - vi. Bomb(ing)
    - vii. Coalition
    - viii. KIA or Suburban
  - b. (U) Sources searched:
    - i. Airwars.org
    - ii. Iraqbodycount.com
    - iii. Twitter

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- iv. FaceBook
- v. Google

4. (U) Coalition Strike Activity

- a. (U) No changes to original CIVCAS assessment dated 23 April 2015.

5. (U) Target Development

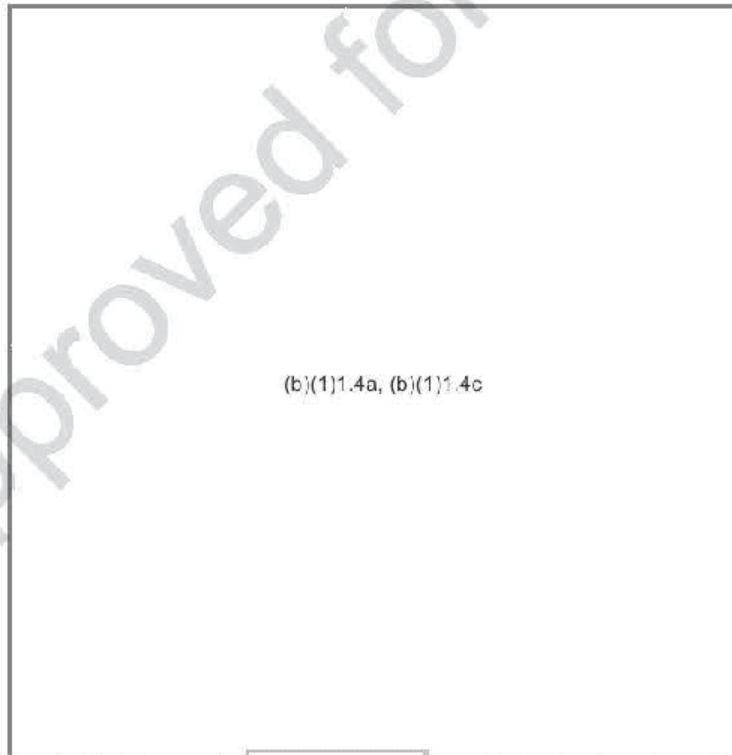
- a. (U) No changes to original CIVCAS assessment dated 23 April 2015.

6. (U) Execution

- a. (U) No changes to original CIVCAS assessment dated 23 April 2015.

7. (U) Possible CIVCAS

- a. (~~S//REL USA, IRKS~~) When available WSV was paired against the updated allegation of 11 potential civilian casualties, there appear to be 9 PAX visible immediately preceding the first strafe pass of (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) as outlined in Figure 1. During the first strafe pass, the PAX in front of the SUV escapes to the south. The PAX exiting the SUV falls to the ground 3 meters away. It is not possible to determine what happened to PAX within or on the other side of vehicle. However, there are PAX or bodies in that location 30 seconds later, but prior to the second strafe pass. All 6 PAX northwest of the vehicles appear to escape from the target area.



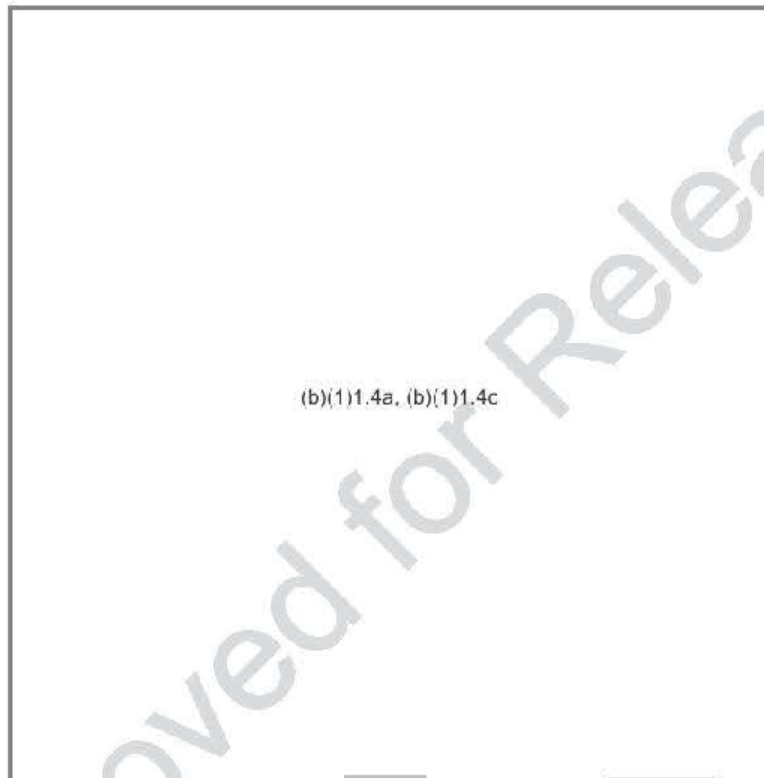
(~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Figure 1. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) for ISIL checkpoint prior to (b)(1)1.4a strike

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- b. (~~S//REL USA, IRKS~~) In the 10 seconds prior to (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) strafe pass, there are 5 PAX IVO the 2 vehicles. One PAX is motionless in the location where he/she fell during the (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass. There are 2 PAX visible around the SUV, with a third emerging just prior to the (b)(1)1.4a strike. Five seconds prior to the (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass, one SUV PAX walks over to the sedan to assist a PAX attempting to pull something from within the sedan (figure 2). When the smoke clears 16 seconds post-strike, the northernmost PAX at the sedan is still moving around the sedan. Available post-strike WSV did not reveal the disposition of the other 4 PAX observed prior to the (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass.

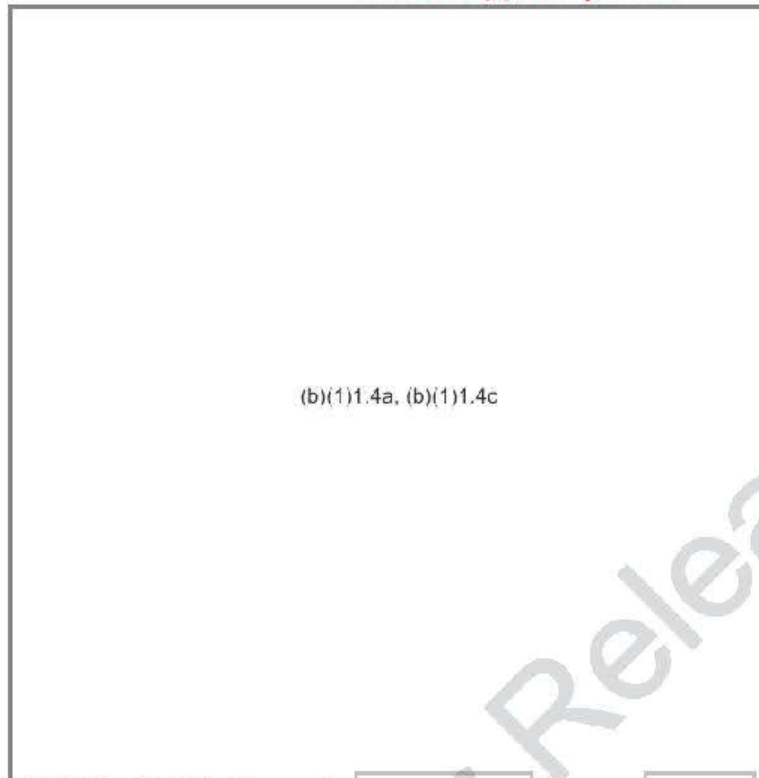


(~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Figure 2 (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) sensor before (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass

- c. (~~S//REL USA, IRKS~~) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed (b)(1)1.4a onto the checkpoint guard shack after the (b)(1)1.4a strafe passes. During employment of the (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) WSV revealed both vehicles were on fire (Figure 3). Additionally, the SUV had at least 1 large hole in the passenger compartment, likely caused by a hit from a (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a round.

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~~(S//REL USA, FVEY)~~ Figure 3. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) for post (b)(1)1.4a attack

8. (U) Conclusions

- a. ~~(S//REL USA, IRKS)~~ Based on video evidence from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) and considering the “more likely than not” standard of proof, the CAOC re-affirms the original CIVCAS credibility report dated 23 April 2015 regarding the strike on AL HADAR ISIL CHECKPOINT 001 in Hatra, Iraq as CREDIBLE.<sup>1</sup>
- b. ~~(S//REL USA, IRKS)~~ Neither the Iraqi Lieutenant Colonel nor the family of the passengers in (b)(6)'s vehicle have sought redress from the U.S. or otherwise reported the incident to U.S. authorities. As a result, the status of casualties or total number of casualties cannot be definitively ascertained. However, given the available footage, there appeared to be 3 PAX IVO the vehicles during the (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass and 5 PAX IVO the (b)(1)1.4a strafe pass. The 11 casualties claimed in the Washington Post article may indeed be factually accurate, but cannot be proved or disproved based on available evidence.
- c. ~~(S//REL USA, IRKS)~~ Having considered all of the available evidence, and given an investigation has already taken place, the CAOC recommends no additional CIVCAS investigation. Further investigation would not offer additional insights on the question of potential CIVCAS beyond those provided in the original credibility assessment, the subsequent investigation, and this assessment.

Approved by the Deputy Commander, Combined Force Air Component, on 24 June 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the CENTCOM CIVCAS Standard Operating Procedure, a credible CIVCAS incident is one that is assessed as being more likely than not to be caused by coalition personnel.

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**From:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: ~~[S//REL TO USA, FVEY] [S//RTUF] [S//REL TO USA, MESS] [S//RTUM]~~ Possible CIVCAS - Hatra Checkpoint Strike  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2015 2:22:58 PM

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Sir,

Just inquiring, but I am going through the CIVCAS allegations and trying check on the status of outstanding investigations/credibility assessments. However, I did not see the below investigation- recent allegation reported to the Embassy for a 13 March strike, on the tracker. I spoke to CAOC and they are/have conducted a credibility assessment. The assessment is likely to be credible. Is CENTCOM tracking this CIVCAS? Also, if you have any updates on the most recent 5 allegations, if possible, please send them to me so that I can make sure my information is up to date.

v/r,

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2015 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US)  
**Subject:** FW: ~~[S//REL TO USA, FVEY] [S//RTUF] [S//REL TO USA, MESS] [S//RTUM]~~ Possible CIVCAS - Hatra Checkpoint Strike

**Classification:** ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY~~

This is the CIVCAS I need to know about so we can start the claims process.

VR,

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2015 6:42 PM  
**To:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US)  
**Subject:** RE: ~~[S//RTUF] [S//REL TO USA, MESS] [S//RTUM]~~ Possible CIVCAS - Hatra Checkpoint Strike

**Classification:** ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY~~

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US)



Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 17:34

To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)

Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY CENTCOM CENTCOM HQ (US)

Subject: RE: [S//REL TO USA, MESP] [S//RTUM] Possible CIVCAS - Hatra Checkpoint Strike

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESP~~

Sir

Acknowledged. In the meantime, I will try to reach (b)(6) and get their concurrence on the proposed way ahead.

VR,

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

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)

Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:23 AM

To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US)

Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY USARCENT (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY CENTCOM CENTCOM HQ (US)

Subject: [S//RTUM] Possible CIVCAS - Hatra Checkpoint Strike

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESP~~

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

I cannot explain why this was routed the way it was. Bottom line is we have a suspected CIVCAS and a potential claim for losses during the same strike.

The CIVCAS has been reported. Since we do not even have to accept claims under the FCA, I believe we can simply draft a letter once this is looked into and explain to the allegor that we cannot pay for her car. However, since this appears to be a first case, we should have a meeting of the minds with ARCENT, CENTCOM and USARCS.

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

Who: (b)(6) (allegor); CAOC (Strike Cell involved).

What: (b)(6) reports two civilian vehicles occupied by her civilian family members were destroyed in an airstrike at an ISIL checkpoint. She alleges the civilians were killed in the airstrike.

When: Unknown Time on Friday, 13 March 2015.

(b)(1)1.4a

Why: CAOC confirmed it conducted a dynamic strike on an ISIL checkpoint on Friday, 13 March 2015. The BDA for the strike was listed as 4x EKIA, 1x Guard Shack, 2x Vehicles.

-----Original Message-----

From: Cherrey, John A. (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 10:26  
To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USAF (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USAF (US); Laroche, Patrice FN-CA BrigGen  
USAF AFCENT CAOC/Director  
Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USAF AFCENT CAOC/CD; Miller, Ronald B (Bruce) Maj Gen USAF AF-A8 (US);  
Weidley, Thomas D BGen USMC CENTCOM (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) IJD CJFLCC-I Chief of Staff;  
(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Subject: FW: ~~S/RTUM~~ Hatra Checkpoint Strike

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CAOC.

(b)(6) Not sure who runs the wickets for CIVCAS allegations at the CAOC, but I'm sending a NIPR e-mail along with e-  
 (b)(6) (c)(3) 10 USC 1308 (b)(6) (b)(6) 10 USC 1308 (b)(6) 10 USC 1308 (b)(6)  
 (CFLCCJ-JA) with questions.

Of note, Army Claims Service has the hammer on reimbursement for the car. Although she doesn't seem too broke up over the deaths, she claims that civilians were killed when she lost her car.

VR,  
John

JOHN A. CHERREY, Brig Gen, USAF  
CFLCC-I/JACCE Director  
Baghdad, Iraq

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US) (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 07:41  
To: Cherrey, John A.  
Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US) (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US) (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US) (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
Subject: RE: ~~IS/OTL/M~~ Hatra Checkpoint Strike

~~Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, MEX~~

Sir,

We need to provide this SIPR email trail and a correlated NIPR email trail on this issue to the CAOC.

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

[Original Message](#)

From: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 21:34

To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Subject: RE: [S//RTUM] Hatra Checkpoint Strike

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESE~~

(b)(6) I sent it over on the NIPR side.

We do not have to make a determination that it is CIVCAS nor do we even have to make a credibility determination since it was not our strike. The policy states, "All allegations of possible or suspected CIVCAS, received through any source, will be promptly reported..." We have met that very low burden.

This is the CAOCs issue, they own the CIVCAS problem at this time. Since the Army has single service claims responsibility in Iraq, however, we own any potential claim. I will ensure any claim is appropriately handled.

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

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 20:57  
To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Subject: RE: [S//RTUM] Hatra Checkpoint Strike

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESE~~

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

Attach the letter and translation of it so we can see it.

We should know what intel drove the strike before we think it was civcas or not (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) what more do we know about the intel that initiated this strike?

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

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 16:38  
To: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Cc: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US); (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) USARMY 1 ID (US)  
Subject: FW: [S//RTUM] [S] Hatra Checkpoint Strike

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESE~~

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

Last week, the POL-MIL section at the Embassy forwarded a letter by an Iraqi woman who claims her vehicle was destroyed in a Coalition airstrike on 13 March. She is seeking reimbursement for her vehicle, which was being



driven by a friend. She claims that her vehicle along with another vehicle were destroyed by an air strike as they drove by a Da'ish checkpoint near Hader. While we cannot pay claims for combat damage under the Foreign Claims Act, her letter raises a suspicion of CIVCAS (multiple occupants of both vehicles were killed). I asked the Strike Cell to track down any strikes that could have resulted in the CIVCAS and apparently the CAOC did control a strike that could have resulted in the CIVCAS. Neither of our Strike Cells were involved.

Oddly, the woman did not express outrage that her friends/family were killed in the strike but she was upset that her car was destroyed.

IAW CENTCOM CIVCAS Policy, we are required to report this to CJTF and CENTCOM. While the CAOC has been made aware of the allegation, they are not going to look into it until it is reported.

Recommend we report IAW the policy to the CJTF COS, CUOPS, J3, and SJA.

I will work the Claim IAW US Army Claims Service (USARCS) policy. Since we do not yet have approval to process claims, USARCS will likely respond to the claimant.

(b)(3) ~~(b)(1)~~ USC 130b; (b)(6)

Here are the 5Ws with the information I currently have.

Who: (b)(6) (alleged); CAOC (Strike Cell involved).

What: (b)(6) reports two civilian vehicles occupied by her civilian family members were destroyed in an airstrike at an ISIL checkpoint. She alleges the civilians were killed in the airstrike.

When: Unknown Time on Friday, 13 March 2015.

Where: Hader (aka Hatra) -- (b)(1)1.4a

Why: CAOC confirmed it conducted a dynamic strike on an ISIL checkpoint on Friday, 13 March 2015. The BDA for the strike was listed as 4x EKIA, 1x Guard Shack, 2x Vehicles.

Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESE~~

Derived From: IAW CENTCOM Classification Guide, CCR 380-14 Declassify On: 04/05/2025

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Classification: ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MESE~~

Derived From: IAW CENTCOM Classification Guide, CCR 380-14 Declassify On: 04/05/2025

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

Derived From: IAW CENTCOM Classification Guide, CCR 380-14 Declassify On: 04/06/2025

Approved for Release