



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

REQUEST #99

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

IRJA

14 December 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR CIVCAS Team, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, APO, AE 09306

SUBJECT: Civilian Casualty Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) for Allegation 1784, IVO Abu Kamal, Dayr Az Zawr (DAZ) Province, Syria, 18 October 2017

1. (U//~~FOUO~~) **BLUF:** I assess that the allegation of civilian casualties (CIVCAS) on 18 October 2017 IVO Abu Kamal, DAZ Province, Syria is **NOT CREDIBLE**. This assessment is based upon a thorough review of all reasonably available information, including information provided by CJTF-OIR and open source material.

2. (U) **References.**

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

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

3. (U) **CIVCAS Allegation.**

a. (U) **Source:** Self-report.

b. (U) **Time and Location:** 18 October 2017, 1314-1319Z, IVO Abu Kamal, DAZ Province, Syria.

c. (S//~~REL~~) **Allegation:** (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) were extended to work with (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) to prosecute a tgt in (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was using (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) for collateral scans, looking for a window in the heavy traffic that would allow (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) to drop on a (b)(1)1.4a. Although (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) requested the NCV and offered to help with collateral scans, a NCV was not passed. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was tasked with scanning to ensure no pax were in front of the tgt building, but (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) stated that they did not want (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) to abort the pass, only to pass number of pax to (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) dropped (b)(1)1.4a, however both wpns failed to function. (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) called in for an immediate reattack using (b)(1)1.4a on the same (b)(1)1.4a roles were swapped as (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) reattacked, and (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) loaded out multiple pax in front of the tgt building prior to weapons release, which (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) acknowledged. At one sec prior to impact targeting pod imagery showed 5 individuals observed in the vicinity. The status of these individuals after impact is unclear, as they were not seen after the dust clears; however, the closest was assessed to be approximately 5 meters from the building at wpn impact." (Encl 1).

d. (S//~~REL~~) **Discussion:** In summary, The CAOC reported that a reattack on a target located at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a possibly resulted in five CIVCAS.

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4. (~~S//REL~~) **Summary of Coalition Strike Activity:** On 18 October 2017, one Coalition airstrike was conducted IVO the alleged CIVCAS location, dynamic strike number (b)(1)1.4a. There were two engagements (b)(1)1.4a. A total of five munitions were dropped. The intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) asset on station was (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) (Encls 2-3). (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) obtained pre and post-strike full motion video (FMV), which will be discussed in para. 5.e. below.

5. (~~S//REL~~) **Strike (b)(1)1.4a Overview:** Strike (b)(1)1.4a was a dynamic strike that occurred on 18 October 2017 under rule of engagement (ROE) (b)(1)1.4a. During engagement one (b)(1)1.4a following occurred: a (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed two (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a against an ISIS Weapons Cache (Target (b)(1)1.4a at 1314Z; and a (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) followed on for a reattack and employed two additional (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a against Target (b)(1)1.4a at 1318Z. During engagement two (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed one (b)(1)1.4a against Target (b)(1)1.4a at 1340Z. The target engagement authority (b)(1)1.4a. The strike resulted in destruction of the target at 1340Z. (Encls 2-4).

a. (~~S//REL~~) **Review of Supporting Intelligence:** CJTF-OIR CJ2T assessed Target (b)(1)1.4a as an ISIS Weapons Cache IVO Abu Kamal, SY located at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a (Encl 5). The target compound consisted of a southern building and a northern building. (Encl 6). As this was a true dynamic target, there is minimal supporting intelligence to review.

(b)(1)1.4a utilized to positively identify the target as a valid military objective. The structure was characterized as a CAT II facility and assessed to be dual-use. (Encls 7-8).

b. (~~S//REL~~) **Collateral Damage Estimate (CDE):** The dual use, CDE call for this target (b)(1)1.4a. There was one collateral concern (CC), a residence located sixty-one feet east southeast of aimpoint 1. The target itself was included in the total casualty estimate (CE) because of its dual-use assessment. (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a (End 8).

c. (~~S//REL~~) **Battle Damage Assessment (BDA):** The BDA was "one Weapons Cache destroyed," ground commander's intent (GCI) met. (Encl 3). The bombs (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed during engagement one successfully impacted the southern building but did not detonate, which resulted in a reattack by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6). The bombs (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed during engagement one successfully impacted the southern building. (Encl 4). Secondary explosions were observed inside the building, and one possible RPG was fired from the building. The RPG was assessed to have been fired without an operator and a result of the kinetic strike. (Encl 9). Because a portion of the southern building remained intact, GCI was not met. The bombs (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed during engagement two successfully impacted the target and resulted in destruction of the target, which met GCI. (Encl 4).

d. (U) **Review of Chat Logs.**

(1) (~~S//REL~~) **Prior to Initial Impact:** (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) began monitoring the target at 1111Z on 18 October 2017. Upon arrival to the target, no significant activity was observed and the slant



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(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

(2) (~~S//REL~~)

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)6

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

e. (U) **Review of FMV/Weapon Sight Video (WSV).**

(1) (~~S//REL~~) Prior to Initial Impact: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)6 obtained approximately two hours of

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

(2) (U) Post Initial Impact.

(a) (~~S//REL TO USA, IRKS~~) FMV: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)6 obtained approximately (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

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(b)(1)1.4c

(b)(1), 4c

(b) (~~SECRET~~) WSV: There is approximately fifty-five seconds of WSV coverage post initial impact. However, WSV documenting the reattack was not obtained. Following initial impact of the bombs employed by (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(1) individuals were observed running out of the southern building towards the vegetation mentioned in paragraph 5.e.(2)(a) above. It appears the second engagement destroyed the southern building of the target compound. Following the second engagement, no significant activity was observed other than rubble in the road located south of the target compound. (Ends 12, 17).

f. ~~(S//REL)~~ CJTF-OIR Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) Legal Note: A judge advocate (JA) was present for the entirety of the strike. (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a was a sensitive target and noted the (b)(1)1.4a. Additionally, the JA stated that two (b)(1)1.4a were employed, splash occurred at 1315Z, there were two duds, and (b)(1)1.4a immediately prior to impact (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c (b)(1)1.4a in the JA's report, as well as the following: one building destroyed; and multiple large secondaries. Three was added to the five day CE because the ADF and two children observed within the target compound were assessed to be civilians. De-confliction was performed with (b)(1)1.4a The JA's note makes no mention of CIVCAS (End 7).

g. ~~(S//REL TO USA, IRKS)~~ **Additional Information:** (b)(1) 1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a The products indicate that the 1318Z reattack did not affect the vegetation along the wall located west of the southern building. Photos captured at the time of impact and immediately after impact show that the eastern portion of the southern building was damaged, which resulted in rubble and debris in the road south of the southern building. However, the western portion of the southern building, which is the portion located closest to the vegetation, does not appear to be damaged and remained standing. Additionally, there is what appears to be no to little debris west of the southern building following the reattack. The chat log mentions an ADF - observed carrying an unidentified object - who exited the southern building and ran towards the west wall within the target compound prior to reattack (see para. 5.d.(2) above).

	(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c
(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c	

h. ~~(S//REL)~~ **CIVCAS Assessment:** Based on all reasonably available evidence, it is more likely than not that no CIVCAS occurred. First, the CAOC indicated that the status of the five individuals after impact was "unclear." They did not make a definitive statement. (Encl 1).

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed Target (b)(1)1.4a or approximately (b)(1)1.4a which is much longer than either (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) observed the target. (Encl 10). (b)(1)1.4a

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to reattack at 1318Z was most likely (b)(1)1.4a and all of the individuals were within the vegetation along the wall west of the southern building. (Encls 6, 9, 11, 13, 16). Based on the PED products, it is unlikely that the reattack affected either the west wall or the vegetation along that wall. (Encls 6, 9). Following the reattack, no movers or squirters were observed within the target compound. Finally, at the conclusion of engagement two, (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a

(Encl 10).

6. (~~S//REL~~) **Credibility Assessment:** Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed NOT CREDIBLE. That is, the body of evidence available and reviewed does not corroborate this allegation.

7. (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)(6)

10 Encls

1. (U) First Impression Report, 19 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~)
2. (U) CJTF-OIR Strike Log, 18 OCT 17 (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~)
3. (U) CJTF Target Engagement Script, 18 OCT 17 (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~)
4. (U) Mission Report, 18 OCT 17 (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~)
5. (U) CJTF-OIR CJ-34 Storyboard, 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~)
6. (U) PED (9 Slides), 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA, IRKS~~)
7. (U) SJA Dynamic Strike Report, 18 OCT 17 (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~.)
8. (U) CDE, 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~.)
9. (U) PED (27 Slides), 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA, IRKS~~.)
10. (U) Chat Log, 18 OCT 17 (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~.)
11. (U) FMV (1314Z), 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA, IRKS~~)
12. (U) WSV (1314Z), 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL~~.)
13. (U) FMV (1318Z), 18 OCT 17, (Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA,~~



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- ~~IRKS)~~
14. (U) FMV (1321Z), 18 OCT 17,  
(Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA,~~  
~~IRKS)~~
  15. (U) FMV (1324Z), 18 OCT 17,  
(Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA,~~  
~~IRKS)~~
  16. (U) FMV (1340Z), 18 OCT 17,  
(Document is Classified ~~S//REL TO USA,~~  
~~IRKS)~~
  17. (U) WSV (1340Z), 18 OCT 17,  
(Document is Classified ~~S//REL.~~)

Classified By: (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (d)(6)

Derived From: Multiple Sources

Declassify On: 14 December 2042

IRCS

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Abu Kamal, Dayr Az Zawr, Syria 18 October 2017

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.

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(6) 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.

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

22 Sep 2018

KENNETH L. KAMPER  
BG, US ARMY  
Chief of Staff