

CIVCAS Tracker

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

RELEASABILITY: ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

Allegation

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASABILITY: ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

ALLEGATION
NUMBER: 383

ALLEGATION STATUS: Closed

INCIDENT DATE: 11-Mar-2017
00:00

COUNTRY: SYRIA

OPENED DATE: 12-Mar-2017
00:00

LOCATION OF
INCIDENT: Kasrat IVO (MGRS:
(b)(1)1.4a
)

MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a
(b)(1)1.4a

NEAREST MAJOR CITY: Not Reported

COORDS UNKNOWN: No

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASABILITY: ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

ALLEGATION DATE: 12-Mar-2017 00:00

SOURCE: WebOps

SOURCE TYPE: Social Media

DESCRIPTION:

Allegation of CIVCAS as a Result of US Airstrike on a School in Raqqa:
At approximately 1430Z on 12 MAR 2017, pro-ISIS user @Medol_009 first reported that 17 women and children were killed and 15 others injured as a result of an American airstrike targeting a school housing displaced persons in the Kasrat area in southern Raqqa. Pro-ISIS users are widely circulating this news with one user @hasoouu alleging that "the US will, as usual, say that this was an ISIS tactical unit and their supporters will clap for them." This topic trended highly and resonated at a medium level in the Arabic IE.

Initial Assessment

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

RELEASABILITY: REL TO USA, FVEY

INITIAL DATE: 28-Mar-2017 08:46

INITIAL ASSESSMENT:

Casualty Estimate 17 KIA 15 WIA possible CIVCAS
 When 11 March 2017
 Where Kasarat, SY
 What Allegation of CIVCAS as a Result of US Airstrike on a School in Raqqa: At approximately 1430Z on 12 MAR 2017, pro-ISIS user @Medol_009 first reported that 17 women and children were killed and 15 others injured as a result of an American airstrike targeting a school housing displaced persons in the Kasrat area in southern Raqqa. Pro-ISIS users are widely circulating this news with one user @hasoouu alleging that "the US will, as usual, say that this was an ISIS tactical unit and their supporters will clap for them." This topic trended highly and resonated at a medium level in the Arabic IE. Additional Information Three strikes were conducted in Kasrat area on 12 March: (b)(1)1.4a
 Non US Coalition Involvement
 Unit Recommendation Recommend conducting CCAR

Assessment Details

Assessment

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

RELEASABILITY: ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

ASSESSMENT UNIT: Not Reported

ASSESSMENT TASK DATE: Not Reported

NON-US COALITION NATION: Not Reported

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR) for allegation of CIVCAS at Kasrat, SY school in Raqqa (Allegation 383)

1. (U) BLUF: I assess that the allegation of civilian casualties (CIVCAS) on 1430Z on 12 March 2017 in Kasrat area in southern Raqqa 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: Online and social media trending atmospherics . Allegation of CIVCAS as a result of US Airstrike on a School in Raqqa: by pro-ISIS user @Medol_009

ASSESSMENT RESPONSE:

b. (U) Time and Location: At approximately 1430Z on 12 March 2017

c. (U) Description: Report indicated that 17 women and children were killed and 15 others injured as a result of an American airstrike targeting a school housing displaced persons in the Kasrat area in southern Raqqa. Pro-ISIS users are widely circulating this news with one user @hasocuu alleging that "the US will, as usual, say that this was an ISIS tactical unit and their supporters will clap for them." This topic trended highly and resonated at a medium level in the Arabic IE.

3. (U) Analysis of Coalition Strike Activity: a. (U) Strike number (b)(1)1.4a

(1) (S /REL USA, FVEY) Overview: Strike number (b)(1)1.4a was a Deliberate Strike that occurred on 11 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 17 under ROE (1) that targeted KASRAT AL FARAJ ISIL WEAPONS STORAGE 001 at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a . An (b)(1)1.4a aircraft struck the target with (b)(1)1.4a The (1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a was flown by (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a US asset. The strike resulted in two JDP Is struck and severe damage to the building. Distance from strike to the Kasrat school is 3.13

kilometers.

SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY

(2) (S//REL USA, IRKS) Review of WSV/FMV: The FMV showed 10 seconds prior to the strike impact and there was no visible activity outside the compound. Pattern of Life and Pattern of Activity analysis was pending prior to the strike. The intel pack showed planned ISR on 15 and 17 February but I did not discover any evidence that the ISR ever occurred.

(3) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Review of Supporting Intelligence: The intel pack shows multiple reports (4) from the Spring and Fall of 2016 that this structure functioned as a weapons cache. There was no Pol nor PoA analysis conducted, but ISR was pending for February. There is no evidence to show that this occurred. In terms of collateral concerns, there was one mosque 499 meters to the W and possible residential buildings 15-50 meters S, E, and W of the Target.

(4) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Target Validation: This target is a known weapons storage facility. The COE was a likely due to the relatively close residential structures but the actual target was (b)(1)1.4a. There were (b)(1)1.4a target aimpoints and the goal was to destroy the structure. The (b)(1)1.4a and the strike was restricted to (b)(1)1.4a.

(5) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Battle Damage Assessment: Two weapon impacts are seen on the BOA and FMV. Both impacts are visible and are assessed to have caused severe damage. There does appear to be secondary explosions shortly after the initial strike. There appears to be no damage to any of the surrounding structures or collateral concerns as a result of the strike.

b. (U) Strike number (b)(1)1.4b

(1) (SI//REL USA, FVEY) Overview: Strike number (b)(1)1.4b was a Deliberate Strike that occurred on 11 (b)(1)1.4b MAR 17

under ROE (1) that targeted KASRAT SHAYKH JUMAH ISIL MEETING LOCATION 001 at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a. An (b)(1)1.4a aircraft struck the target with (b)(1)1.4a was flown by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a US asset. The strike resulted in one of two JDPIs struck (one dud) and severe damage to the building. Distance from the strike to Kasrat school is 7.43 KMs.

(2) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Review of WSV/FMV: ISR successfully observed the target on two separate occasions in September 2016 for (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a Pattern of life analysis showed that civilians were not permitted into the target compound and there were often vehicles present. FMV showed 1 minute and 37 seconds prior to the strike impact and there was no visible activity outside the compound. FMV does show one bomb impacting the target and the pilots commenting that one bomb was a dud. The pilots accounted for the dud munition.

(3) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Review of Supporting Intelligence: The intel pack assess this target as an ISIL meeting location and a senior ISIL leader residence. This is based on a body of multi-source (b)(1)1.4c (low confidence), (b)(1)1.4c and FMV as recent as 23 SEP 16. The target is (b)(1)1.4a and there was one collateral concern: a farm shed 50m E of the target.

(4) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Target Validation: The Target is a known ISIL meeting location and senior ISIL leader residence. The COE is (b)(1)1.4a likely based on this being a residence yet it was not assessed as (b)(1)1.4a There were (b)(1)1.4a target aimpoints and the goal was to destroy the structure. (b)(1)1.4a and the strike was restricted to (b)(1)1.4a

(5) (S//REL USA, IRKS) Battle Damage Assessment: One bomb impact is seen on the BOA. The impact is assessed to have caused severe damage. There appears to be no damage to any of the surrounding structures or collateral concerns.

c. (U) Strike number (b)(1)1.4a

(1) (SI/REL USA, FVEY) Overview: Strike number (b)(1)1.4a was a deliberate strike that occurred on 11 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 17 under RQ5 (b)(1)1.4a that targeted AR RAQQAH ISIL STAGING AREA 015 at MGRS (b)(1)1.4a aircraft struck the target with (b)(1)1.4a was flown by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4a US asset. The strike resulted in six JDPIs struck and two buildings destroyed. Distance from the strike to Kasrat School is 4.37 KMs.

(2) (SI/REL USA, IRKS) Review of WSV/ FMV: ISR successfully observed the target for over eight hours since 16 January 2017 and over 16 hours since 13 October 2016. Pattern of life analysis shows one adult male and two children in the NE corner of one of the buildings but that civilian activity ceased in early January 2017. Reports also indicated that ISIL was keeping civilians away by using manned checkpoints and by using ISIL trucks for transportation. Imagery did show four children herding livestock south of the target on 17 January 2017 but the children did not interact with the compound. The FMV showed 10 seconds prior to the strike impact and there was no visible activity outside the compound.

(3) (SI/REL USA, IRKS) Review of Supporting Intelligence: The intel pack assesses the target as an ISIL warehouse that mainly stores vehicles and raw materials (sulfur - an explosives precursor). The facility's previous function was residential in nature. The facility has been under ISIL control since at least 6 May 2016. This facility is assessed (b)(1)1.4a Intel confidence is moderate. There are two collateral concerns: residential buildings 20m W and 60m NW of the target.

(4) (SI/REL USA, IRKS) Target Validation: The target is a known ISIL staging

area. The facility supports ISIL fighters by facilitating operations and maintaining equipment and weaponry. The COE (b)(1)1.4a and is not assessed as (b)(1)1.4a There are (b)(1)1.4a aimpoints and the goal is destroy ISIL equipment and

defensive positions. (b)(1)1.4a

(5) (SI//REL USA, IRKS) Battle Damage Assessment: (b)(1)1.4a bomb impact are seen on the BOA and FMV, destroying six JDPIs. The impact is assessed to have destroyed both target buildings. There appears to be no damage to any of the surrounding structures or collateral concerns

4. (U) Credibility Assessment: Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed NOT CREDIBLE. There is FMV video to show munition impacts for all three targets. These findings were based on the following :

a. ~~(SI//REL USA, IRKS)~~ All three of the relevant CJTF airstrikes occurred at least three kilometers away (3.13 km, 7.43 km, 4.37 km) from the Kasart, School (the alleged location of the CIVAS). Based on this data and that there is excellent BOA and FMV to account for on-target ordinance drops, I feel confident assessing the CIVCAS allegations are NOT CREDIBLE.

b. (U) The intel and target packs demonstrate appropriate due diligence to ensure the military nature of all targets and to mitigate CIVCAS as best as possible.

c. ~~(S//REL USA, IRKS)~~ The one strike (b)(1)1.4a that experienced a dud upon ordinance drop, had FMV and good pilot situational awareness (based on the FMV audio) of the engagement and weapons employment; i.e. the dud was accounted for by the pilots.

d. (U) I made my assessment based on the allegation from WEBOPS , an initial assessment , the Strike Log, intel packs, target packs, BOA, and FMV of all three strikes.

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)(6)

ASSESSMENT CIVCAS: No

FURTHER ACTIONS DIRECTED: Not Reported

LESSON LEARNED/ROOT CAUSE: Not Reported

ASSESSMENT KILLED: 0

ASSESSMENT INJURED: 0

Status

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED RELEASABILITY: ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

INVESTIGATION STATUS: NONE CLOSED DATE: 10-May-2017 00:00

US INVESTIGATION REPORT DATE: Not Reported CLOSED AT: CCAR

EX GRATIA: No CIVCAS: NO

COMMENTS: Not Reported

KILLED: 0 INJURED: 0

PAO RELEASE DATE: 07-Jul-2017 10:36 NA: No

REASON FOR NO RELEASE: Not Reported