

SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY



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

IRCS

25 MAY 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 377

1. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) **BLUF**. Based on the below findings, this allegation is **NOT CREDIBLE**. All but one of the strikes assessed do not temporally corroborate the allegation, and the BDA and post-strike analysis for the one strike that shows no signs of CIVCAS. CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and make available for immediate public release.

2. (U) **Background**. I considered the following information in making my findings:

a. (U) On 10 March 2017, WebOps Iraq-Syria reported Social media users as well as regional and Gulf media outlets circulated news via Twitter and Facebook that, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, CF airstrikes killed fourteen civilians in al-Matab village, on the outskirts of Raqqa. Moreover, a pro-Syrian opposition social media news aggregator (@SyriaTwitte) tweeted an article from pro-Syrian opposition media outlet, Eldorar, reporting that that, according to activists, CF targeted vehicles belonging to refugees who were fleeing from an SDF attack on their villages as part of operations to isolate the city. The report added that the strikes killed eighteen civilians to include children. This topic trended and resonated at a low level in the Arabic IE.

b. (U) On 15 March 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell requested CFACC to conduct a CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR).

c. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) On 27 March 2017, CFACC, in conjunction with the CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell, determined that none of the CFACC strikes corroborated the allegation. CFACC recommended TF94-7 strikes to be assessed.

d. (U) On 15 April 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell requested TF94-7 to conduct a CCAR.

e. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) On 12 May 2017, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) approved the assessment, finding the allegation to be **NON-CREDIBLE**. TF94-7 recommends no further action be taken.

3. (U) **Credibility Assessment**

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) On 8 and 9 March 17, coalition forces conducted a number of strikes under various target engagement authorities IVO Al-Matab village, near Ar Raqqa, Syria.

b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) At 8 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 2017, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) received a request from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) to target an AR RAQQAH WAREHOUSE ISIL WEAPONS CACHE 001 located at (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed (b)(1)1.4a against

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the primary critical element which was the weapon storage building. A snapshot from (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) targeting pod shown in figure 4 confirms the fighters struck the correct target. The target building is a large storage shed type of building which had previously served as an agricultural storage site. The target was assessed to be a (b)(1)1.4a structure and (b)(1)1.4a removed by (b)(1)1.4a. BDA confirmed that the building was destroyed with no collateral damage.

c. (S//REL USA, FVEY) At 8 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 2017, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) passed a request for (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a targeting FARI ISIL TRAINING CENTER 001. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) executed a strike on the building located at (b)(1)1.4a. A snap from targeting pod video just prior to impact for this target is shown in figure 5 correlated to a target development product. Target development indicated that the building operated as a training center and a headquarters for ISIS commander as well as a location to store military vehicles. The previous function of this building was likely a residence but the facility had been under ISIS control since June 2012 and assessed to be a (b)(1)1.4a removed by (b)(1)1.4a. BDA confirmed that the training center was destroyed with no collateral damage.

d. (S//REL USA, FVEY) At 8 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 2017, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) passed a request for (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a targeting a support building for the weapons cache previously struck by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6). At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) employed (b)(1)1.4a each on the target grid (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a. A snap from targeting pod video just prior to impact for this target is shown in figure 5. BDA confirmed that the training center was destroyed with no collateral damage.

e. (S//REL USA, FVEY) On 9 MAR 2017 T6 (b)(1)1.4a requested a K/S strike to destroy ISIS MSR ISO Operation (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) executed engagement 1 at 9 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 2017 on target grid (b)(1)1.4a. This was followed with engagement 2 at 9 (b)(1)1.4a MAR 2017 on (b)(1)1.4a. The combined munitions employed were (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a. BDA confirmed 3X ISIS MSR cratered. A review of figures 7-11 reveal the location of this engagement to be in a rural area, not the densely populated area described in the social media allegation and accompanying story photos.

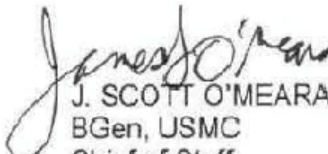
f. (S//REL USA, FVEY) While the allegations were widely circulated by main stream news outlets, the underlying reporting all stems from the SOHR. The organization has been criticized for its lack of transparency and does not reveal its sources. While the allegation contains few details, it is very clear from the story in Figure 2 that the alleged event took place after midnight in the early hours of 9 March (local). There were no strikes conducted under CFACC or CJTF TEA that match that timeline.

4. (U) Action.

(U) I direct closure of this CIVCAS incident and that CJTF-OIR PAO publish the result of this CIVCAS assessment in a press release as soon as practicable.

5. (U) Point of contact is (b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(6)

- 2 Encls
- 1. CCAR
- 2. FIR


J. SCOTT O'MEARA
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Chief of Staff

Pages 46 through 55 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates Numbers 3599-3608

Approved for Release