



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

IRCS

29 March 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 301

1. (U) **BLUF.** Based on the below findings, this allegation is **NOT CREDIBLE**. 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 6 January 2017, Twitter users from A'maq News Agency, the media source operated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and the scrolling television banner (the "ticker"), asserted that there were unconfirmed civilian casualties as a result of a Coalition Force airstrike in the Al Zira'l neighborhood of Eastern Mosul on 6 January 2017.

b. (~~S//REL TO USA, IRKS~~) Following the receipt of this allegation, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell conducted an initial assessment of the allegation and found that strike (b)(1)1.4a hit the Al-Zira'l neighborhood, eastern Mosul, IZ on 6 January 2017.

c. (U) On 19 February 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell requested CJFLCC to conduct a CIVCAS Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR).

d. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) On 07 March 2017, Maj General Martin, Commander CJFLCC, approved CJFLCC's CCAR, finding the allegation to be not credible, i.e., more likely than not that no CIVCAS resulted from coalition strikes. CJFLCC recommended no further action be taken.

3. (U) **CJFLCC's CCAR Findings.**

a. (U) Coalition Strike Activity

(1) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) CJFLCC's review of strike records confirmed that strike 17941.1 was in Al Zira'l on 6 January 2017. The targeted facility was located 1KM East of the Tigris River in the Al-Zira'l neighborhood. The primary function of the facility was an ISIS Foreign Fighter HQ and bed down location, and secondarily as an ISIS artillery staging location. The facility's function prior to ISIS control was a civilian residence. Significant ISIS presence was identified in and around the facility which had been utilized by ISIS since at least 14 June 2016. Pre-strike deliberate planning assessed this strike as a COE 4 Low, indicating there was no expectation of possible CIVCAS.

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(2) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) The strike observed by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was conducted by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) Following Target Engagement Authority approval, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) dropped (b)(1)1.4a on the target at 0305z, resulting in the destruction of targeted buildings 1 and 2, and moderate damage to targeted building 3. There were no restrikes conducted on this target.

b. (U) Review of Full Motion Video Recording/mIRC Chat:

(1) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) The Internet Relay Chat (i.e. mIRC) did not indicate the presence of civilians prior to strike or at the time of weapons release. The full motion recorded video does not indicate that any civilians were injured or killed by the strike, as there were no civilians that appeared in the video either during the strike or immediately afterwards. However, the video recording only recorded 1:22 of the strike with the mIRC chat continuing for several minutes after the strike. The post-strike chat does reflect that several adult males (ultimate slant of 15/0/0) appeared from buildings IVO of the targeted buildings, with at least one wounded adult male being assisted from the remains of the targeted buildings, however, the adult male is assessed to be associated as an ISIS fighter living in this target location. All of the adult males appeared to be headed to a building to the north of the targeted buildings IVO (b)(1)1.4a. At no time does either the video recording or mIRC chat indicate there were civilian casualties from this strike.

c. (U) Credibility Assessment

(1) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this potential civilian casualty is deemed not credible. Pre-strike assessment of the target concluded that there were no civilians in the target facility, and there is no evidence on the face of the strike indicating that civilians were killed or injured as a consequence of the strike. Consequently, CJFLCC concluded that it is more likely than not that no civilian casualties were caused as a consequence of this strike.

4. (U) Action.

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

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

(b)(6)

- 2 Encls
1. CCAR
2. FIR

J. SCOTT O'MEARA
BGen, USMC
Chief of Staff

CIVCAS CELL INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Allegation #	802		
Source(s)	Airwars	Date Received	22 August 2017
Casualty Estimate	Killed: 4-7		
Incident Date	6 Jan 17, dawn (7:19 local / 4:19Z)		
Location	Central Mosul, IZ IVO (b)(1)1.4a		
Allegation	<p>January 6th, 2017: الحي الزراعي Agricultural neighbourhood, Mosul, Nineveh province, Iraq</p> <p>Summary: Local sources said that a family of three children and their grandmother were killed after their house was hit by a missile during raids in the Agricultural residential neighborhood in central Mosul area, which is still under ISIL control.</p> <p>Mosul Ateka (Facebook) reported that the boy (b)(6) was killed together with his two sisters and their grandmother, while they were asleep in their beds at dawn on 6th January 2017. A relative said in a comment that they were killed in a “bombing by a plane” – while the area is still under ISIS control.</p> <p>Raedlay posted a video showing the effects of what was reported as an US airstrike. In a later post, it put the death toll at seven.</p> <p>Civilians reported killed: 4-7</p> <p>Civilians reported injured: unknown</p> <p>Sources: Mosul Ateka [Arabic] [Archived], Raedlay [Arabic] [Archived], Raedlay (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Mosul Ateka (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Coalition monthly civcas report (March 2017),</p> <p>Quality of Reporting: Fair</p> <p>January 6th, 2017: (I333) المزارع Al Zirai/ Farm neighbourhood of Mosul, Nineveh province, Iraq</p> <p>Summary: Local sources and relatives of victims said that more than 20 civilians from three families were killed, including children and women, after Coalition airstrikes targeted their houses in front of Saddam mosque at the entrance of Farms district, north of Mosul. Mosul Ateka reported that “18 people were killed in the Farms district after three houses were bombed in that area.” In comments below the post it was said that (b)(6) and his wife and his son (b)(6) House (b)(6) were among the victims, which was reportedly carried out by the Coalition. In a later post by Mosul Ateka, including photos, (b)(6) and his wife and his son (b)(6) were also reported as killed in the strikes.</p> <p>Nineveh Media Center said that “a medical source confirms the deaths of more than two dozen people as a result of aerial bombardment [which] targeted the wrong homes of unarmed civilians in the agricultural district of the northern city of Mosul.” Ajel Al Mosul (Facebook) also reported the incident, and spoke of 20 civilians killed in the raids in the farms neighbourhood. Sunni Muslim (Facebook) posted a video showing “The effects of the</p>		

international coalition aircraft bombed the Farms district in the left side of the city of Mosul.”

In a later investigation into the event, AFP interviewed eyewitness (b)(6) who said the strike came at dawn on January 6th: ““Everything collapsed around me. I pushed the debris around me, I got up and I asked my brother if he was still alive. He was wounded in the leg. I told him to come into my bed and I started looking for my little brother, my father and my mother. I screamed but nobody answered.”

On March 4th the Coalition announced that it was assessing the event: “Currently, 19 reports of civilian casualties are still being assessed... Jan. 6, 2017, near Mosul, Iraq, via social media report.” An official confirmed to Airwars that this was a reference to the al Zuraiq allegation.

On April 30th the Coalition flagged the event as ‘not credible’ noting: “Jan. 6, 2017, near Mosul, Iraq, via social media report: After a review of available information and strike video it was assessed that no Coalition strikes were conducted in this geographic area that correspond to the report of civilian casualties.”

Based on available evidence Airwars continues to assess this event as fair.

A UN report on the protection of civilians in context of Nineveh operations and the retaking of Mosul stated: ‘In the morning of 6 January, airstrikes targeting an ISIL gathering in the Ziraie neighbourhood of central Mosul killed 17 civilians, including seven women and four children, and wounded 11 others, including four women and two children.’

Civilians reported killed: 17-20
Civilians reported injured: 11

Sources: Mosul Ateka [Arabic] [Archived], Mosul Ateka (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Mosul Ateka (3) [Arabic] [Archived], Mosul Ateka (4) [Arabic] [Archived], Nineveh media center [Arabic] [Archived], Ajel Al Mosul (Facebook) [Arabic] [Archived], Iraqi Spring Media Center [Arabic] [Archived], Sunni Muslim (Facebook), [Arabic] [Archived], Agence France Presse [Archived], Coalition monthly civcas report (March 2017), Coalition monthly civcas report (May 2017), UNAMI and OHCHR report [archived]

Quality of reporting: Fair.

Coalition position: For January 5th-6th, the Coalition noted: “Near Mosul, three strikes engaged two ISIL tactical units; destroyed three ISIL-held buildings, three supply caches, two mortar systems, a fighting position, and a VBIED; damaged 24 supply routes; and suppressed two mortar teams.”

For January 6th-7th it stated that: “Near Mosul, six strikes engaged five ISIL tactical units; destroyed six fighting positions, two VBIEDs, two ISIL-held buildings, two heavy machine guns, two weapons caches, an IED, a mortar system, a homemade explosives facility, an ISIL headquarters building, a supply cache, and a mobile artillery system; damaged 21 supply routes; and suppressed five tactical units.

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE INQUIRY:

2. Houses of (b)(6)

Approximate Date: 1/6/17
Town: Mosul, Saddam Mosque Neighborhood
GPS Coordinates: (b)(1)1.4a

Air Force Response: This was #3 in the first batch of coordinates we provided, and we received the following response: “PROBABLE nearest strike was approx 20 meters away on 1/6/2017 against a known ISIS HQ facility.”

	<p>16 Civilians Killed; 3 Civilians injured: According to our reporting, the following occurred: Early on 1/6/17, airstrikes struck three family homes next to each other near the Saddam Mosque in Mosul. ISIS snipers had been using the Mosque, but the homes were full of civilians, and 16 civilian men, women and children died. In the first home, where the family of (b)(6) was living, 9 civilians were killed. In the second home, where (b)(6) and his family were living, 3 civilians were killed, and two family members survived. And in the third home, where (b)(6) was living, 4 civilians were killed. (b)(6) survived, as did his 10 year old son, (b)(6) (b)(6) although they had serious injuries. The dead include:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">(b)(6)</p> </div>
<p>Analysis</p>	<p>1. Is this allegation a self-report? NO If yes, add details of corroborating strike below and task a CCAR. If no, move to 2.</p> <p>2. Does the allegation include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) video/photo evidence of CIVCAS NO b) a general location, e.g., Tabaqah, Manbij, Tel Afar; if in Mosul, or similarly sized city, must provide neighborhoods, e.g., Zanjili.. YES, Agricultural neighborhood. AND c) a way to identify the date or a 48 hour date range? YES <p>If yes to all three, move to 6. If any are no, then move to number 3.</p> <p>3. Does the allegation contain a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General Day, YES AND b) Specific location, e.g., MGRS or specific building? NO <p>If yes to the two, then move to 6. If any are no, move to number 4.</p>

4.a. Is the allegation from a single source (even if there are multiple sources, look at whether the sources lack independence, i.e., all derived from one source)? **NO** If yes, move to 4.b. If no, move to 5.

~~4.b. Is the single source a high quality source or does it provide specific facts that may warrant a CCAR. If yes, move to 6. If no, then move to 4.c.~~

~~4.c. Has media interviewed witnesses and/or victims? If yes, then contact journalist and re-assess. If no, then close the allegation.~~

5.a. Are any of the sources high quality? **YES.** If yes, move to 6. If no, move to 5.b.

~~5.b. Are there at least two corroborating sources (total of 3) that independently reported the allegation, **OR** does it provide specific facts that may warrant a CCAR? If yes, move to 6. If no, close the allegation.~~

6. Does the allegation contain sufficient information on the time, location and details to make an assessment of credibility? **YES, searched for strikes on the 6th of January between 0400Z to 0500Z .** I.e., does it provide enough information to determine the date within 48 hour; does it provide enough information to determine a neighborhood, landmark, or other way to where the alleged incident occurred within a .5km radius? If yes, move to 7. If no, close the allegation.

7. Are there any potentially corroborating strikes? If yes, answer the below questions and task CCAR. If no, close allegation. **YES**

1. Assessed date of incident: 6 JAN 17

2. Location: Central Mosul @ MGRS: (b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a

Non-US Coalition Involvement	None.
Decision	<p>CJFLCC conduct a CCAR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The allegation states the incident occurred on the 6th of January at dawn.• Dawn was found to be 07:19 AM local time.• There was a potentially corroborating strike that occurred at 0605 AM local time.
Report Approved By:	<div>(b)(3)10 USC § 130b, (b)(6)</div>

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

2. Houses of [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Approximate Date: 1/6/17

Town: Mosul, Saddam Mosque Neighborhood

GPS Coordinates: [REDACTED] (b)(1)1.4a

Air Force Response: This was #3 in the first batch of coordinates we provided, and we received the following response: "PROBABLE - nearest strike was approx 20 meters away on 1/6/2017 against a known ISIS HQ facility."

16 Civilians Killed; 3 Civilians injured: According to our reporting, the following occurred: Early on 1/6/17, airstrikes struck three family homes next to each other near the Saddam Mosque in Mosul. ISIS snipers had been using the Mosque, but the homes were full of civilians, and 16 civilian men, women and children died. In the first home, where the family of [REDACTED] (b)(6) was living, 9 civilians were killed. In the second home, where [REDACTED] (b)(6) and his family were living, 3 civilians were killed, and two family members survived. And in the third home, where [REDACTED] (b)(6) was living, 4 civilians were killed. Rafi Al Iraqi survived, as did his 10-year-old son, [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6) although they had serious injuries. The dead include:

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Contact Information: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Before & After Satellite Imagery:

[REDACTED] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g

MISSILE FRAGMENTS RECOVERED AT SITE OF AIRSTRIKE





PHOTOS OF AIRSTRIKE RUBBLE



PHOTOS OF DEAD AND INJURED IN (b)(6) HOME



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

BEING RESCUED FROM RUBBLE

(b)(6)

AND HIS TWO SONS — ALL KILLED

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

KILLED

(b)(6)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE



~~SECRET // REL TO USA, FVEY~~
 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE
 CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
 APO AE 09306

IRIZ-JA-OPL

2 March 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR Civilian Casualty Team, Combined Joint Task Force- Operation Inherent Resolve, APO, AE 09306

SUBJECT: Civilian Casualty Credibility Assessment Report for Strike# (b)(1)1.4a
 (b)(1)1.4a in-vicinity-of (IVO) (b)(1)1.4a (CJFLCC-OIR 19/17)

1. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Conclusion:** The allegation of civilian casualties associated with (b)(1)1.4a, IVO (b)(1)1.4a is not credible.

2. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Civilian Casualty Allegation:**

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Source:** (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) Civilian Casualty Officer-in-Charge, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, based upon information from Twitter users from A'maq News Agency, the media source operated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and the scrolling television banner (aka ticker).

b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Time and Location:** The potential civilian casualties occurred on 6 January 2017 at approximately (b)(1)1.4a IVO (b)(1)1.4a

c. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Description:** The allegation asserted that there were unconfirmed civilian casualties as a result of a Coalition Force airstrike in the Al Zira'l neighborhood of East Mosul.

3. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Strike Narrative and Analysis:** The allegation is not credible. Although a Combined Joint Forces Land Coalition Component – Operation Inherent Resolve - J34 and Combined Joint Operations Center – Erbil review of strike records revealed a strike on a target in Al Zira'l on 6 January 2017, the Full Motion Video recording of the strike does not show any civilians being injured or killed as a result of the strike.

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) **Target Information:** The target was located 1KM East of the Tigris River in the Az-Zira'l neighborhood. The primary function of the facility was an ISIS Foreign Fighter HQ and bed down location, and secondarily as an ISIS artillery staging location. The facility's function prior to ISIS control was a civilian residence. Significant ISIS presence was identified in and around the facility which had been utilized by ISIS since at least 14 June 2016. Pre-strike deliberate planning assessed this strike as a (b)(1)1.4a indicating there was no expectation of possible CIVCAS.

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

IRIZ-JA-OPL

SUBJECT: Civilian Casualty Credibility Assessment Report for Strike# (b)(1)1.4a
(b)(1)1.4a, in-vicinity-of (IVO) (b)(1)1.4a (CJFLCC-OIR 19/17)

b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) US/Coalition Strike Activity: The strike, observed by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) was conducted by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6). Following Target Engagement Authority approval, (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) dropped (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a on the target at (b)(1)1.4a, resulting in the destruction of targeted buildings 1 and 2, and moderate damage to targeted building 3. There were no restrikes conducted on this target. The Internet Relay Chat (i.e. mIRC) did not indicate the presence of civilians prior to strike or at the time of weapons release.

c. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Review of Full Motion Video Recording/mIRC Chat: The full motion recorded video does not indicate that any civilians were injured or killed by the strike, as there were no civilians that appeared in the video either during the strike or immediately afterwards, however, the video recording only recorded 1:22 of the strike with the mIRC chat continuing for several minutes after the strike. The post-strike chat does reflect that several adult males (ultimate slant of 15/0/0) appeared from buildings IVO of the targeted buildings, with at least one wounded adult male being assisted from the remains of the targeted buildings, however, the adult male is assessed to be associated as an ISIS fighter living in this target location. All of the adult males appeared to be headed to a building to the north of the targeted buildings IVO (b)(1)1.4a. At no time does either the video recording or mIRC chat indicate there were civilian casualties from this strike.

4. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Credibility Assessment: Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this potential civilian casualty is deemed not credible. Pre-strike assessment of the target concluded that there were no civilians in the target facility, and there is no evidence on the face of the strike indicating that civilians were killed or injured as a consequence of the strike. Consequently, I conclude that it is more likely than not that no civilian casualties were caused as a consequence of this strike.

5. (U) The point of contact for this memorandum is (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) at (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6).

FOR THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE:

5 Encls

1. CJFLCC-OIR (b)(1)1.4a
2. CDE Graphic.
3. (b)(1)1.4a Legal Review.
4. (b)(1)1.4a CG Brief.
5. mIRC Chat.
6. FMV video (Available at OSJA, CJFLCC-OIR).

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

IRIZ-JA-OPL

SUBJECT: Civilian Casualty Credibility Assessment Report for Strike#

(b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a

, in-vicinity-of (IVO)

(b)(1)1.4a

(CJFLCC-OIR 19/17)

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)

Approved for Release

IRIZ-JA-OPL

SUBJECT: Civilian Casualty Credibility Assessment Report for Strike#

(b)(1)1.4a

(b)(1)1.4a

in-vicinity-of (IVO)

(b)(1)1.4c

(CJFLCC-OIR 19/17)

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.



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

MAR 07 2017

Pages 24 through 38 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates 3082-3096

Approved for Release