

~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~

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

IRPE

25 October 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN CASUALTY ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR STRIKE NUMBER (b)(1)1.4a
OCCURRING ON 20 APRIL 2015 IN VICINITY OF ADAN, EAST OF MOSUL, IRAQ

Ref: (a) CJTF-OIR 11 1900Z OCT 16 DAILY FRAGO TO OPORD 16-001 (OPERATION
INHERENT RESOLVE

Encl: (1) AirWar.org Allegation 107 dtd 20 Apr 15
(2) Targeting Package
(3) MISREP Strike (b)(1)1.4a
(4) Initial Strike Report
(5) BDA Strike (b)(1)1.4a
(6) Target Assessment
(7) CIVCAS Sources and Notes

1. (~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~) Tasking. Combined-Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) CJ1 received Reference (a), a CJTF-OIR daily Fragmentary Order (FRAGO) tasking the directorate with conducting a Civilian Casualty (CIVCAS) Credibility Assessment Report (CCAR). This CCAR addresses allegations of potential civilian casualties from Coalition Force (CF) airstrikes in Adan, near Mosul, Iraq, on 20 April 2015.

2. (~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~) BLUF. I assess that it is possible that a potential CIVCAS incident occurred as a result of the collateral effects of CF airstrike (b)(1)1.4a in the vicinity of (IVO) Adan, Iraq on 20 (b)(1)1.4a APR15. However, I further assess that the allegation of CIVCAS made by AirWar.org is NOT CREDIBLE. The information contained in the allegation does not corroborate the mission report (MISREP), the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA), or imagery of the strike and its effects.

3. (~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~) Source. This incident was reported to AirWar.org on an unknown date (Enclosure (1)).

4. (~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~) Strike Summary. The reported incident most closely correlates a CJTF-OIR deliberate strike conducted by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6). The deliberate strike was conducted as follows:

a. (~~SECRET//REL USA, FVEY~~) Strike Number (b)(1)1.4a Strike was executed over three passes made by the same aircraft beginning at 20 (b)(1)1.4a APR15 and targeting the Hamdaniyah Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Factory 001 (Enclosure (2)). At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) released (b)(1)1.4a (b)(1)1.4a all weapons impacted correct coordinates. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) released (b)(1)1.4a all weapons impacted correct coordinates. At (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) reattacked two targets because desired

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weapons effects were not achieved; the aircraft released (b)(1)1.4a and achieved desired effects. The strike resulted in 18 of 18 Joint Designated Points of Impact (JDPI) being struck. See Enclosure (3) and (4). The platform layout and munitions breakdown for this strike is as follows:

(1) (~~S//REL USA, MEGF~~) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6)
(b)(1)1.4a All of these munitions were (b)(1)1.4a which increases their accuracy.

5. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Review of Imagery.

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Strike Number (b)(1)1.4a Video was captured by (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(6) through the targeting pod. Three videos show the warehouses within the target area, with a highway to the south and a residential area to the north. Buildings within the target area are engaged, but it is difficult to see exactly which buildings are engaged due to smoke, debris, and the altitude at which the video was recorded. The video is not close enough to show individuals; vehicles transiting the highway are very small and difficult to see. Debris can be seen flying through the air as a result of the impacts; some of the debris appears to land up to two blocks away.

6. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Review of Post-Strike BDA Graphic. Enclosure (5), which is the post-strike imagery obtained on 220750ZAPR15, shows that all of the targets were confirmed destroyed. Two additional buildings within the target area were confirmed to be severely damaged. The imagery does not clearly show damage to surrounding buildings, nor does it provide any information about civilian casualties.

7. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Review of Collateral Damage Estimate (CDE) Strike Number (b)(1)1.4a
The pre-strike CDE in the target package (Enclosure (2)) assessed the target as being (b)(1)1.4a
(b)(1)1.4a

8. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Review of Additional Information.

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) CJTF-OIR Lethal Fires provided Enclosure (6), which includes information and imagery from the original targeting package. The Hamdaniyah ISIL IED Factory target was validated by the Commanding General, CJTF-OIR (at the time Lieutenant General Terry). The target was determined to be a legitimate military objective and a lawful object of attack pursuant to the Law of Armed Conflict based on the information available at the time of legal review.

b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) On 24 October 2016 CJTF-OIR Information Operations reported that no additional social media reports specific to this allegation were known (Enclosure (7)).

9. (U) Allegations and Analysis.

a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Allegation. In the allegation, one eyewitness reported that there were three separate strikes, which is consistent with the three passes the aircraft made. However, the eyewitness states that the third strike occurred (b)(1)1.4a after the second and that the munition did not explode, which is inconsistent with the MISREP, imagery, and BDA. The third strike actually occurred (b)(1)1.4a after the second. The other eyewitness reported that people

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were trapped under rubble as a result of the strike(s). Again, this is not consistent with the MISREP, imagery, and BDA, which confirmed that all munitions hit their targets. It is unlikely that collateral damage from debris or concussion would cause a nearby building to collapse. The photographs included in the allegation show two wounded people and well as damage to buildings and cars. The damage observed in these photographs includes scorch marks, broken windows, and a crushed vehicle. This level of damage is not consistent with the damage a direct hit from a (b)(1)1.4a would create, but could have been caused by flying debris. The captions of the photographs say they were taken "near Mosul" and "at Karama," which is a suburb of Mosul that lies south of Adan. It is possible that these photographs were taken at another strike site or on another date.

b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Allegation Sources. The Fiscal Times article referenced in the allegation states that the building that was destroyed was a house being used by ISIL for arms storage. It is unlikely that the multiple large warehouses inside a walled industrial compound targeted in the subject strike would be considered a single "house" by eyewitnesses. Most of the other media sources are no longer available, however of the three that could be viewed, one corresponds with the Coalition's description of the events and the other two were copied and/or re-posted from ISIL's propaganda website, Dawaalhaq (Enclosure (7)).

c. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Timeframe. A report by AirWar.org provided the first indication of a potential CIVCAS. The allegation references several news articles and social media sites, which reported the alleged incident between 20 April 2015 and 10 June 2015. The allegation from AirWar.org is undated. The allegation also states that between 19 and 20 April 2015, the Coalition reported four strikes IVO Mosul and that between 20 and 21 April 2015, the Coalition reported four airstrikes IVO Mosul. CJTF-OIR Lethal Fires confirmed that one other airstrike occurred on 19 (b)(1)1.4a APR15 IVO Mosul, which was a strike on an ISIL staging area in West Mosul.

d. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Locations. The alleged CIVCAS incident occurred in a residential area located adjacent to the Hamdaniyah ISIL IED Factory, which was previously a storage facility for an electricity company. The factory is located inside a walled compound. The CDE Graphic (Enclosure (2)) depicts the targets within a facility outline, with two residences identified as situated 121 feet north of target (b)(1)1.4a and 88 feet north of target (b)(1)1.4a respectively. These residences are part of what appears to be a large residential area separated from the target area by a wall and a two-lane paved road. Additionally, the target area is located approximately 230 meters east of the Mosul Automobile Service Station Qazah and approximately 840 meters northeast of Al Mawsil School (Enclosure (6)).

e. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) CF Correlation. Post-strike assessments confirmed all 18 targeted buildings were destroyed. Two other buildings in the same compound as the Hamdaniyah ISIL IED Factory (determined to be single-use, i.e. only used by ISIL and not for civilian purposes) were also confirmed to be severely damaged.

f. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Non-CF Correlation. No additional strikes by host nation, adversarial, or other non-coalition forces are known to have been conducted IVO the Hamdaniyah ISIL IED Factory.

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10. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Conclusions. I assess that it is possible that a potential CIVCAS incident occurred as a result of the collateral effects of CF airstrike # (b)(1)1.4a IVO Adan, Iraq on 20 (b)(1)1.4a APR15. However, I further assess that the allegation of CIVCAS made by AirWar.org is NOT CREDIBLE. Based on the CDE, BDA, MISREP, and available imagery, it is possible that the buildings, cars, and people pictured in the allegation were damaged/injured by the subject strike. However, given the discrepancies in the eyewitness accounts, I have determined that it is not more likely than not that the alleged CIVCAS were caused by Coalition personnel.

11. (U//~~FOUO~~) Further Information. The point of contact for this Memorandum for the Record is

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)
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I have reviewed the information contained within this CCAR and the supporting evidence regarding this incident. 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 above CIVCAS incident occurred. In accordance with the USCENCOM OIR Standard Operating Procedure on Civilian Casualty Reporting and Response Proceedings, an investigation will be directed by this command.

___ The evidence supports a finding of CREDIBLE. That is, it is more likely than not that the above CIVCAS incident occurred. However, at this time no investigation is directed by this headquarters as no additional information could be provided by further investigation at this level.

___ The evidence supports a finding of NOT CREDIBLE. Without additional evidence, no further action will be directed by this command.

SCOTT A. KINDSVATER
Major General, USAF
Deputy Commanding General Operations

Pages 56 through 83 redacted for the following reasons:

Exhibits removed per agreement - Bates Numbers 3377-3404

Approved for Release