



(S)(1)

TF 714

25 November 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) Hig, Balad, Iraq

SUBJECT: AR 15-6 Investigation, (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) 11 OCT 07

1. (U) Background.

a (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) The purpose of this investigation was to examine the circumstances and events surrounding (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) 11 Oct 07 (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) Iraq. to kill or capture (k/c) Highly Valued Individuals (HVIs) (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(2) The operation resulted in 15 noncombatant casualties.

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b. (U) This investigation focused on the following specific issues:

(b)(2)High

(4) the number of collateral (noncombatant) deaths and/or injuries.

2. (U) Executive Summary.

(b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2)

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(S)(2)



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(b)(1)

INVESTIGATION LOGIC FLOW

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(1)
(b)(2)

b. (U) This investigation finds no evidence of war crimes, violations of the Rules of Engagement, or the Law of Armed Conflict.

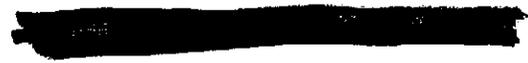
c. (U) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) was a legitimate military target within the Rules of Engagement (ROE), resulting in the detention of the HVIs.

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(b)(2)

(b)(2)High

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Page 3 redacted for the following reason:

(b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2)

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against those diabolical and wicked groups; therefore, during military operations there might be innocents killed."

(b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) Findings.

a. (U) What were the circumstances surrounding the (b)(2)High fires on (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2)

(1) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) he decision to conduct a (b)(2)Highstrike. (b)(2)High fires was based on the day's earlier events on (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) and the intelligence that indicated the presence of an HVI. The action upon the HVIs arrival at (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) had the signature of a high level AQI meeting and presented what was believed to be a high threat environment for the assault force.

(2) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) considered the use of (b)(2)High as a course of action but felt that the potential collateral damage was not acceptable. (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) made the decision to conduct (b)(2)High fires with the platform (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) that would cause the least amount of unwanted damage and provide significant effects on his desired target. This decision was well within (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) authority and the ROE.

(3) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) No formal or field CDE was conducted prior to the strike being ordered. During the investigation both a formal and field CDE were complete and showed that the target was a CDE 5 LOW (See ENCL 12, Tabs A and B). CDE 5 LOW is within (b)(2) authority for (b)(2)Highstrikes.

b. (U) Was there a breakdown in communications between the JOC and the strike aircraft?

(b)(2)High, (b)(5), Nonresponsive

[REDACTED]

(S)(1)
(S)(2)

[REDACTED]

COMMUNICATIONS FLOW

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(b)(1)

(b)(2)

(b)(2)High, (b)(5), Nonresponsive



(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High, (b)(5), Nonresponsive

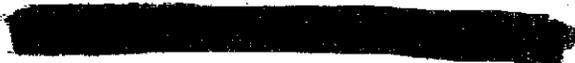
(b)(2)High



(b)(1)

(b)(2)

(b)(2)High, (b)(5), Nonresponsive



[REDACTED]

c. (U) Were the actions on (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) in accordance with the ROE and reasonable under the circumstances as known at the time?

(1) (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) considering the credible and corroborated intelligence that led the (b)(2) High (b)(2) High to (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) and the events of (b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) the (b)(2) High's actions (declaring the OBJ hostile and the use of (b)(2) High fires and a support by (b)(2) High position) appear to have been within the ROE and reasonable under the circumstances the task force members knew at the time (tab 8).

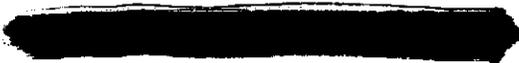
(b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2)

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(b)(2) High, (b)(5)

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(b)(1)
(b)(2)



(b)(2)High, (b)(5)

d. (U) How many collateral (noncombatant) deaths and/or injuries occurred and what was the cause?

(b)(1) 1.4a, (b)(2) Noncombatants were killed and wounded during the mission:

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(b)(1)

(b)(6)

(4 (b)(6) KIA: Young adult female (age unknown) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(5 (b)(6) KIA: (b)(6) child (sex unknown) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(6 (b)(6) KIA: 6 females of unknown ages and 9 children of unknown ages, unable to determine exact cause of death, based on the location of the bodies (see tab 9)(2)High diagram) it is highly probable that these deaths were caused by pre-assault fires, most likely from (b)(2)High but possible that they were the result of direct fire from the (b)(2)High gunners or the (b)(2)High force (b)(2)High

(b)(6) Would coalition forces pay condolence payments? (b)(5)

(b)(5)



(b)(1)
(b)(2)

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(b)(5)

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5. (U) Recommendations:

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(b)(3), (b)(6)

(S)(6)

Investigating Officer

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(S)(2)