



UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

SEP 12 2002

CCJA

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER IN CHIEF, UNITED STATES SPECIAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND, 7701 Tampa Point Boulevard
MacDill AFB, Florida 33621-5323

SUBJECT: Investigation of Civilian Casualties, Oruzgan
Province; Operation FULL THROTTLE, 30 June 2002

1. (U) An investigation was conducted into an incident that occurred over the night of 30 June - 1 July 2002 at the outset of Operation FULL THROTTLE. An AC-130 providing on-call close air support engaged compounds from which AAA fires that were threatening coalition ground and airborne personnel. Significant civilian casualties resulted from these engagements. As a result, pursuant to DOD Instruction 6055.7, I directed an investigation into the matter. That investigation is now complete.

2. ~~(S)~~ The Investigation Board found as causal factors: 1) that active AAA weapons fired into the air and in close proximity to helicopter landing zones and objective area and while U.S. aircraft were overhead; 2) that the AC-130 engaged those fires with proportionate and necessary force; and 3) that women and children were in close proximity to the AAA fires and were killed or injured by ordnance from the AC-130. Ultimate responsibility for these deaths and injuries was placed on those who deployed weapons to residential areas and willfully placed at risk innocent lives.

3. (U) The Board made two recommendations, 5-D and 5-E concerning AC-130 TTPs and hardware. I am forwarding the Investigation Report to you for such action as you may deem appropriate with regard to these recommendations.

TOMMY R. FRANKS
General, USA

Encl
Investigation Report

Document approved for release
by U.S. Central Command. See
FOIA Case #04-063

~~Secret~~



UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

SEP 12 2002

CCJA

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commander, U.S. Central Command Air Forces, Shaw Air Force Base,
South Carolina 29152-5000
Commander, U.S. Army Forces Central Command, Fort McPherson,
Georgia 30330-5000
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, FPO AE 09501-6008
Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Central Command, Camp H.M. Smith,
Hawaii 96861-5001
Commander, Special Operations Command Central, MacDill AFB,
Florida 33621-5101
Commander, Combined/Joint Task Force 180, APO AE 09354

SUBJECT: Investigation of Civilian Casualties, Orúzgan
Province; Operation FULL THROTTLE, 30 June 2002

REF: DoD Instruction 6055.7, Accident Investigation, Reporting,
and Recordkeeping

1. The Report of Investigation in the above captioned matter was prepared in compliance with the reference. The Report, as amended by the Commander, CJTF-180, is approved subject to modification as detailed below. The findings of fact, analysis, conclusions, opinions as to the cause of the incident, and contributing factors are approved. The Report's recommendations are forwarded for evaluation and action as directed herein.

2. COMCJTF-180, in his endorsement, amended the Report to change conclusion 4-D from "non-causal" to "causal" and deleted the second paragraph of the Board's commentary to the conclusion. I do not fully concur with this change. I approve the Board's original conclusion that this factor was "non-causal." However, I modify the second paragraph of the Board's commentary to read:

"If a CD assessment had been conducted, there would have been no reason to believe that large numbers of women and children would be present in a compound where AAA was operating. Therefore, the decision to conduct the operation would have been based on estimates of normal occupancy and not on the unusual and unforeseeable

REGRADED TO UNCLASSIFIED
WHEN SEPARATED FROM
CLASSIFIED IN 3

CCJA

SUBJECT: Investigation of Civilian Casualties, Oruzgan Province; Operation FULL THROTTLE, 30 June 2002

concentration on personnel present on the night of 30 June 2002. Based on this reality, it is unlikely the operation would have been conducted in a substantially different manner. While too speculative to be "causal," had senior leadership been apprised of the CD issue, the possibility that changes in the operation may have been directed cannot be excluded."

I approve the other exceptions/substitutions to the Report made by COMCJTF-180.

3. A copy of the report is enclosed and actions regarding the recommendations will be taken as indicated below.

a. Commander, Combined/Joint Task Force 180 (CJTF 180) is directed to take for action the recommendations numbered 5-B, 5-C, 5-F, 5-G, 5-H, and 5-L. In formulating your response, you will solicit inputs from the other components. All components are directed to support this effort. No later than 45 days from the date of this memorandum, submit to the Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, recommended courses of action that you deem appropriate to implement each of these recommendations. Your response should also address the Board's finding 1-300-A and what, if any, corrective action you deem appropriate.

b. Commander, Combined/Joint Task Force 180 (CJTF 180) and Commander, U.S. Central Command Air Forces (USCENTAF), are directed to take for action recommendations 5-I and 5-J. Submit a joint report to the Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, no later than 45 days from the date of this memorandum identifying actions taken or proposed to implement these recommendations. Progress reports will be submitted every 30 days thereafter until all contemplated actions are complete. Additionally, you will address the Board's finding 2-200-A and what, if any, corrective action you deem appropriate.

c. Commander, Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) is directed to take for action recommendations 5-D and 5-E. As I have also requested through Commander, USSOCOM, that Air Force Special Operations Command review these recommendations,

CCJA

SUBJECT: Investigation of Civilian Casualties, Oruzgan Province; Operation FULL THROTTLE, 30 June 2002

you should coordinate within those channels. Submit an initial report to the Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, no later than 45 days from the date of this memorandum identifying actions taken or proposed to implement these recommendations. Progress reports will be submitted every 30 days thereafter until all contemplated actions are complete.

d. USCENTCOM reserves for review recommendations 5-A, and 5-K.

4. All component commanders will review the entire report for lessons learned and incorporate those lessons into their training programs.

5. USCENTCOM will make an unclassified public release regarding the report. All requests concerning the report made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act should be forwarded to USCENTCOM FOIA Manager.



TOMMY R. FRANKS
General, USA

Encl
as