

COMBINED INVESTIGATION BOARD REPORT



ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL REPORT

**F/A-18 FRIENDLY FIRE INCIDENT'
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE ONE
CARRIER AIR WING SEVEN**

LOCATION: HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5 DECEMBER 2006

BOARD PRESIDENT

SENIOR UK MEMBER

Combined Investigation Board
F/A-18C Friendly Fire Incident
5 December 2006

ADDENDUMS TO FINDING 15

Finding 15. "Incident Royal Marine One was mortally wounded by effects of 20 millimeter strafe."

Addendum 1. The round that was recovered at the site was an unexploded PGU 28 A/B SAPHEI round.

Addendum 2. (U) The CIB's original finding is based upon circumstantial evidence discovered during the investigation. Specifically, the wound pattern that caused [redacted] death suggests a large, solid object struck him.

Witness testimony indicates no other weaponry (small arms fire, mortar, RPG), other than effects of 20 millimeter strafe that could have provided the force or wound pattern, was present in the vicinity of the incident at the time [redacted] was fatally wounded. Therefore, the CIB concluded that a solid, unexploded 20 millimeter round was the cause of the injury. There were no supplementary conclusions to the CIB's original finding that [redacted] was mortally wounded by effects of 20 millimeter strafe.

Bullet response

RAAUZYUW RUCOMFB0737 0192353-UUUU--RUCOSSA.

ZNR UUUUU ZUI RUCOMCA1825 0192358

R 191727Z JAN 07 PSN 082843I25

FM NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA

TO RHBVIKE/STRKFITRON ONE THREE ONE

AIG 11113

ZEN/ENT/OU=DOD/OU=NAVY/OU=ADDRESS LISTS(UC)/CN=AL 11113(UC) ZEN/NAVSURFWARCENDIV

CRANE IN ZEN/NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA INFO RUCOSSA/COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA

RUWFEEA/COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA RUCOSSA/COMNAVAIRFOR SAN DIEGO CA

RUWFEEA/COMNAVAIRFOR SAN DIEGO CA RHBVIKE/COMCARSTRKGRU EIGHT RHBVIKE/COMCARAIRWING

SEVEN RHBVIKE/USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER ZEN/COMNAVAIR5SYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD

ZEN/COMSTRKFIGHTWINGLANT OCEANA VA

ZEN/1/OU=SBDQ1MF11/RFC-822=COMMCENTER(A)

BT

UNCLAS

QQQQ

PAGE 02 RUCOMFB0737 UNCLAS

SUBJ: AMMO (AIRCRAFT) 20MM, 25MM CODR/EI FINAL RESPONSE UNCLASSIFIED// PASS TO OFFICE CODES: FM NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA//674330E// TO STRKFITRON ONE THREE ONE//GUNNER// AIG 11113 NAVSURFWARCENDIV CRANE IN//4022// NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA//671200E/674330E/663300E// INFO COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA//N40C// COMNAVAIRFOR SAN DIEGO CA//N4/N40// COMCARSTRKGRU EIGHT COMNAVAIR5SYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD//PMA-242// COMCARAIRWING SEVEN//WEPS// COMSTRKFIGHTWINGLANT OCEANA VA//ORD// USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER//WPNS// //N08037// MSGID/GENADMIN/DRWEB VIA NAWCWD PT MUGU// REF/A/MSG/STRKFITRON ONE THREE ONE/120827ZJAN07/06-0002// AMPN/REF A IS ORIGINAL DEFICIENCY REPORT.// POC, /NAWCWD PT MUGU CA/TEL:

PAGE 03 RUCOMFB0737 UNCLAS EMAIL

-----NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA/663300E/----- THIS MESSAGE WAS AUTO GENERATED FROM THE DRLOG WEBSITE FOR NON-WEBSITE CAPABLE ORGANIZATIONS. IF RESPONSE VIA WEBSITE IS NOT POSSIBLE, TO: LINE RECIPIENTS SHOULD ADDRESS RESPONSE DIRECTLY TO:

-----NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA/663300E/----- WHEN APPROPRIATE. THIS FINAL RESPONSE WILL BE PROCESSED VIA THE DRLOG WEBSITE. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR REAL TIME STATUS VISIT THE DRLOG WEBSITE AT:

DR. 1. REF A REPORTED AIRCRAFT WAS LOADED 04 DEC 2006 IAW A1-F18AE-LWS-000 01JUL2006 WITH 500 RDS OF PGU-28A/B 20MM HEI AMMO FROM LOT OLM06D149-004. AIRCRAFT FLEW A MISSION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM ON 5 DEC 2006 AND CONDUCTED TWO STRAFING RUNS--A TOTAL OF 363 ROUNDS WERE EXPENDED, 213 DURING THE FIRING RUN IN THIS TARGET AREA. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FLIGHT, SUBJECT ROUND (A

DUD) WAS DISCOVERED IN THE VICINITY OF THE TARGET AREA. IT WAS RETURNED TO USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) ON 9 JAN 2007 WITH AN ESTABLISHED CHAIN OF CUSTODY. AFTER INSPECTION AND X-RAY, THIS ROUND APPEARS TO BE A NAVY PGU-28A/B HEI ROUND, INDICATING THAT IT PAGE 04 RUCOMFB0737 UNCLAS MAY HAVE BEEN FIRED BY SUBJECT AIRCRAFT/GUN. REQUEST A NON-DESTRUCTIVE EI TO DETERMINE IF THE ROUND MIGHT HAVE FAILED DUE TO A MANUFACTURING DEFECT, BEING FIRED OUT OF RANGE, OR IS WITHIN THE STATISTICAL FAILURE RATE FOR PGU-28A/B AMMO. 2. THE EXHIBIT:

NOMENCLATURE: CARTRIDGE, 20MM, 4 SAPHEI, PGU-28A/B

NALC: AA22

NSN: 1305-01-451-8675

LOT NO: OLM060149-004

IS BEING TRACKED AS AWCAP PROBLEM NUMBER: 18768 - PGU-28A/B FAILED TO DETONATE. 3. EXHIBIT IS NOT REQUIRED. 4. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS: BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFERENCE A, A NON-DESTRUCTIVE (NDI) EI ON THE SUBJECT PROJECTILE IS NOT WARRANTED AT THIS TIME.

BASED ON THE PHOTO PROVIDED THERE IS NO INDICATION OF PROJECTILE BODY DEFORMATION OR OTHER SIGNS OF IMPACT WITH A HARD TARGET. THIS, ALONG WITH UNKNOWN CONCERNING TERMINAL PHASE OF PROJECTILE FLIGHT AND OBLIQUITY OF IMPACT WITH UNKNOWN PAGE 05 RUCOMFB0737 UNCLAS TARGET OBJECT MAKE DETERMINATION OF PROPER OPERATION IAW MFG SPECIFICATIONS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE. NDI WILL LIKELY NOT DETERMINE IF A MANUFACTURING DEFECT WAS PRESENT OR IS A LIKELY CAUSE OF A FAILURE TO FUNCTION SITUATION. UNEXPLODED SAPHEI ROUNDS ARE TYPICALLY NOT EVALUATED AFTER FIRING DUE TO INCREASED SENSITIVITY OF THE ENERGETICS WHICH MAKE FOR AN UNSAFE CONDITION IF ATTEMPTING TO DISASSEMBLE PROJECTILE AND GAIN ACCESS TO THE ENERGETICS FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. THIS IS THE

RTTUZYUW RUWFPDD3271 012TEMP-UUUU--RHMCSUU.
ZNR UUUUU
R 12TEMPZ JAN 07 ZYB
FM NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA//674330E//
TO NAVAIRWARCENWPNDIV PT MUGU CA//671200E//
AIG 11113
INFO COMNAVAIRFOR SAN DIEGO CA//N4/N40//

BT
~~UNCLAS~~ //N08037//
MSGID/GENADMIN/DRWEB VIA NAWCWD PT MUGU//
SUBJ/AMMO (AIRCRAFT) 20MM, 25MM CONVENTIONAL ORDNANCE DEFICIENCY
REPORT AND E//
REF/A/DOC/OPNAVINST 8000.16B/01JUN2003//
REF/B/DOC/A1-F18AE-LWS-000/01JUL2006//
NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 8000.16B NAVAL ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM INSTRUCTION. REF B IS A1-F18AE-LWS-000 FA-18A/B/
C/D AIRBORNE WEAPON/STORES LOADING MANUAL.//
POC//

RMKS/SUBMITTED BY STRKFITRON ONE THREE ONE/GUNNER/****
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REPORT WILL BE PROCESSED VIA THE DRLOG WEBSITE. FOR FURTHER DETAILS
OR REAL TIME STATUS VISIT THE DRLOG WEBSITE AT:
DR.

PART I

ALPHA:

1. 63934
2. R63934-06-0002
3. 1800 05DEC2006
4. NORTH ARABIAN SEA
5. USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN-69)
6. OEF STRIKE MISSION
7. IN FLIGHT
- 8.A.1. N/A
2. 165400
- B. ON 05DEC2006 CONDUCTED SECOND OF TWO STRAFING RUNS AT 1816Z AT
A TARGET FROM A AIRCRAFT COMMENCED FIRING
ROUNDS AT AT APPROXIMATELY
AND AIRCRAFT CEASED FIRING AT

NO
IN RANGE CUE WAS PRESENT DURING WEAPONS EXPENDITURE. TACMAN WEAPON
RELEASE CHARTS INDICATE WEAPON WAS IN FACT FIRED OUT OF RANGE.
FIRST STRAFING RUN WAS CONDUCTED IN ANOTHER TARGET AREA.
C. AIRCRAFT CONFIGURED AS FOLLOWS;

D. N/A

BRAVO:

- 1.A. EXPLOSIVE SYSTEMS INVOLVED
(1) CARTRIDGE, 20MM, 4 SAPHEI, PGU-28A/B
(2) N/A

- (3) AA22
- (4) 1305-01-451-8675
- (5) OLM060149-004
- (6) N/A
- (7) N/A
- (8) N/A

1. B. LAUNCH DEVICES

- (1) GUN, 20 MILLIMETER, F-18 C/D GUN SYSTEM
- (2) N/A
- (3) 1005-01-444-6928
- (4) N/A
- (5) SQW-007
- (6) N/A

C. N/A

D. N/A

E. N/A

F. N/A

2. ESTIMATED COST TO REPAIR OR REPLACE

A. \$0

B. \$0

C. N/A

D. \$0

E. \$0

F. N/A

CHARLIE: N/A

DELTA:

3. MALFUNCTION

ECHO:

1. CHAIN OF EVENTS: AIRCRAFT WAS LOADED 04 DEC 2006 IAW REF B WITH 500 RDS OF PGU-28A/B 20MM HEI AMMO FROM LOT OLM06D149-004. AIRCRAFT FLEW A MISSION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM ON 5 DEC 2006 AND CONDUCTED TWO STRAFING RUNS--A TOTAL OF 363 ROUNDS WERE EXPENDED, 213 DURING THE FIRING RUN IN THIS TARGET AREA. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FLIGHT, SUBJECT ROUND (A DUD) WAS DISCOVERED IN THE VICINITY OF THE TARGET AREA. IT WAS RETURNED TO USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) ON 9 JAN 2007 WITH AN ESTABLISHED CHAIN OF CUSTODY. AFTER INSPECTION AND X-RAY, THIS ROUND APPEARS TO BE A NAVY PGU-28A/B HEI ROUND, INDICATING THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN FIRED BY SUBJECT AIRCRAFT/GUN. REQUEST A NON-DESTRUCTIVE EI TO DETERMINE IF THE ROUND MIGHT HAVE FAILED DUE TO A MANUFACTURING DEFECT, BEING FIRED OUT OF RANGE, OR IS WITHIN THE STATISTICAL FAILURE RATE FOR PGU-28A/B AMMO. FST RESPONSE REQUESTED.

2. OTHER DISPOSITION, ACTION ACTIVITY: USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER WEAPONS.

ROUND BEING HELD BY USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WEAPONS DEPARTMENT PENDING DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS. IN ADDITION, ALL 20MM AMMUNITION FROM THIS LOT IS BEING HELD ON BOARD PENDING DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS. ROUND MUST BE PRESERVED AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY MAINTAINED FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE INVESTIGATION.

FOXTROT:

1. CAUSE OF MISHAP OR DEFICIENCY: MATERIAL FAILURE, CAUSE DESCRIPTION: ROUND FAILED TO DETONATE UPON TARGET IMPACT.

2. N/A

3. N/A

4. N/A

5. A. N/A

B. N/A

GOLF: TESTING OF SUSPECTED LOT FOR DEFECTS.

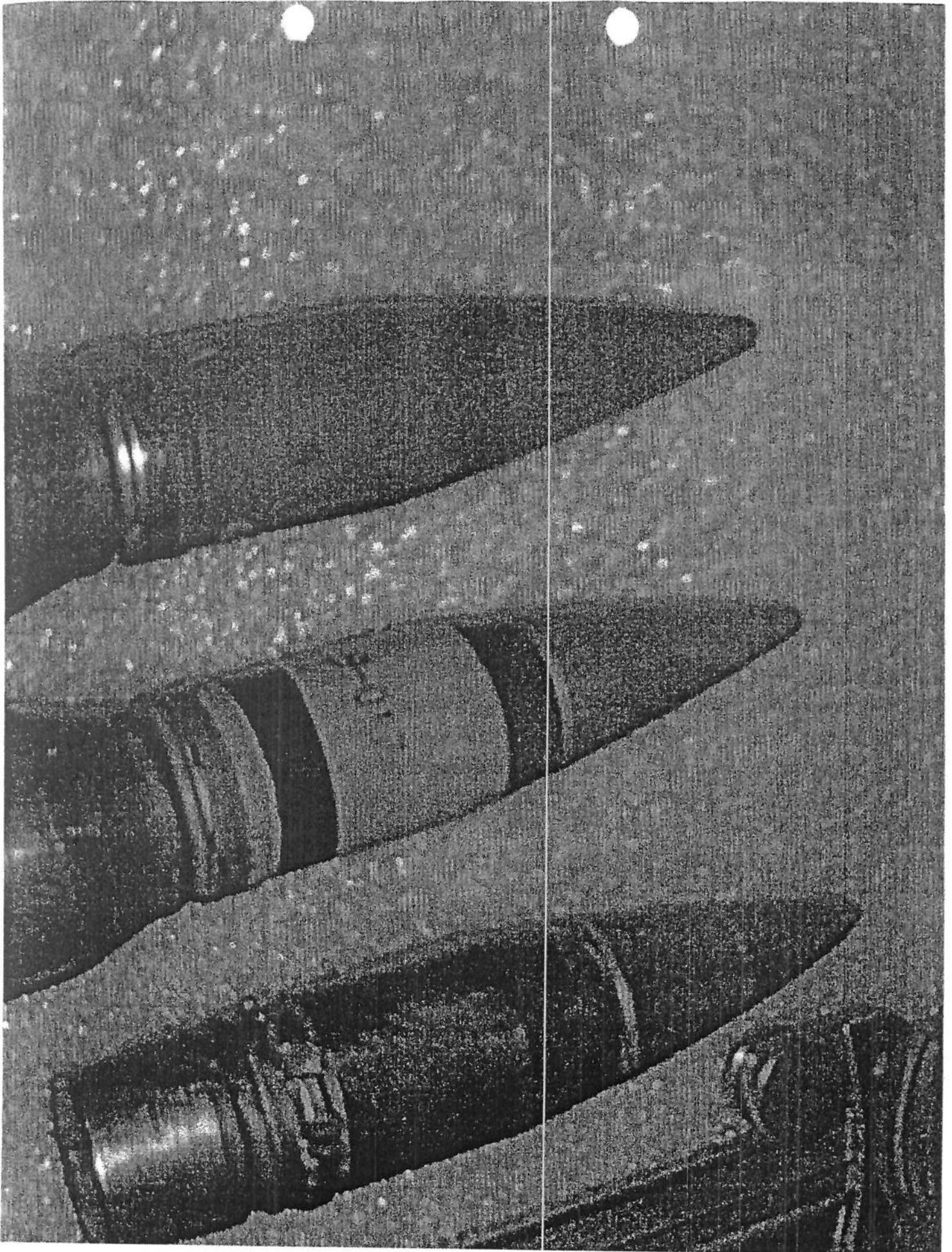
HOTEL:

2. ITEMS/EXHIBITS ARE AVAILABLE.

3. PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE AT WEBSITE.

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT WEBSITE.

PART II N/A//
BT
#3271
NNNN





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND AIR FORCES (USCENTAF)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOV 26 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: USCENTAF/CC

SUBJECT: Addendum to the Combined Investigation Board (CIB) Report Concerning
the F/A-18 Friendly Fire Incident IVO of Helmand Province, Afghanistan on
5 December 2006 Involving United Kingdom Royal Marines

I have reviewed the Addendum to the Combined Investigation Board (CIB) Report concerning the USAF F/A-18C Friendly Fire Incident in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on 5 December 2006. I have reviewed the report and find that the report substantially complies with Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6055.7. Therefore, as the convening authority, I hereby approve the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS USCENTAF
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOV 26 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR UNITED KINGDOM BOARD OF INQUIRY

FROM: USCENTAF/CC
524 Shaw Drive
Shaw AFB SC 29152-5029

SUBJECT: Addendum to the Combined Investigation Board Report Concerning the
5 Dec 06 Friendly Fire Mishap Near Helmand Province, Afghanistan

1. The Board of Inquiry requested further information related to the 20 millimeter round that was discovered at the incident site. I reconvened the Combined Investigation Board to answer the questions proposed by the Board of Inquiry and I have attached the Addendum to the Combined Investigation Board report that is responsive to your request

2. As with previously released documentation, this report and accompanying documentation remain subject to the mutually agreed provisions detailed in the Statement Understanding on the Use of Documents Exchanged between the U.S. – United Kingdom Combined Investigation Board and the United Kingdom Board of Investigation Both Inquiring into the 5 Dec 06 Mishap near Helmand Province, Afghanistan, signed on 5 Aug 07.

3. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the USCENTAF Staff Judge Advocate, Colonel [redacted] who may be reached by email at [redacted] or by telephone through the Headquarters, US Central Command Air Forces Operations Center [redacted]

4. Once again, I appreciate all your help and hard work in this matter.


GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

Attachments:

1. Statement of Understanding, dtd 5 Aug 07
2. CIB Report Addendum

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE USE OF DOCUMENTS
EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE
U.S.-UNITED KINGDOM COMBINED INVESTIGATION BOARD
AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM BOARD OF INVESTIGATION
BOTH INQUIRING INTO THE
5 DECEMBER 2006 INCIDENT IN THE GARMSIR AREA IN HELMAND
PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN INVOLVING UNITED KINGDOM ROYAL MARINES

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this statement of understanding is to establish the agreed rules to govern the use and releasability of information contained in documents and other materials exchanged between the US-United Kingdom (UK) Combined Investigation Board (CIB), convened by Commander, U.S. Central Command Air Forces (CENTAF) on 15 Dec 06; and the UK Board of Inquiry (BOI) convened by Commander Maritime Operations, on 22 Feb 07; both boards chartered to inquire into the friendly fire incident on 5 December involving UK Royal Marines and a U.S. Navy F/A-18 in the Garmsir Area in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

2. **ESTABLISHED RULES:** The following rules apply to the use and protection from release of the information exchanged between the CIB and the BOI:

- a. The transferred information will not be released to a third government, to any non-governmental authority of the two countries or to any persons outside of the UK Ministry of Defence or US Department for Defense without the approval of the government that provided the information.
- b. The transferred information will be afforded the same degree of protection (including, but not limited to, classified information and information protected for privacy purposes) which is available under the domestic law of the government in possession of the transferred information. In this regard, the government in possession of the transferred information will not attach the information to its Board report if, by doing so, the transferred information will lose its protected status under its domestic law.
- c. The transferred information will not be used for other purposes than the one for which the receiving Board requires to fulfill its task.

3. **PROCEDURES:** All information exchanged between the parties is to be subject to this understanding and shall be appropriately marked, to include classification markings where applicable, to ensure that any such information as may be incorporated into any products of the CIB and BOI is properly approved before any future release.

The undersigned commanders, who convened the BOI and CIB, intend this document to be a statement of their mutual understanding of these rules and procedures and their intention to abide by them.


Rear Admiral DJ COOKE MBE
Commander Maritime Operations

08/08/2007


Lt Gen GARY L. NORTH, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF

JUN 06 2007



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

JUL 25 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR USAFCENT/JA

FROM: USAFCENT/CC

SUBJECT: Release of United States Navy Documents as Part of Combined Investigation Board Report – 5 December 2006 Incident Involving United Kingdom Royal Marines

On 11 April 2007 I reviewed and approved the Combined Investigation Board (CIB) report for public release minus United States Navy (USN) originated documents. The USN has reviewed the documents and approved their release subject to the applicable redactions. I hereby approve the release of USN documents as part of the CIB report. Do not release any portion of the report or make any public comments regarding the report until after the next-of-kin notifications to the injured ground forces have been made. All requests concerning the report made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act should be forwarded to the USAFCENT FOIA Manager
via telephone at _____ or email at _____

cc: USCENCOM/CCCC


GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

Atch
CIB Report w/redactions



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL (USAFCENT)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, CARRIER STRIKE GROUP EIGHT

FROM: USAFCENT/CC
524 Shaw Drive
Shaw AFB SC 29152-5029

SUBJECT: Request for Combined Investigation Report Concerning 5 December 2006
Friendly Fire Incident near Helmand Province, Afghanistan

1. I have received your request for a copy of the Combined Investigation Board (CIB) Report and tabs that was convened by me under the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6055.7 and by order of COMUSCENTCOM. I have approved your request subject to limitations.
2. The United Kingdom has convened a Board of Inquiry (BOI) to look into the incident. The BOI has not completed its task, therefore, the Next of Kin (NoK) has not been briefed on what occurred on 5 Dec 06. The US and UK governments have asked that the report and the information contained within it be controlled until the BOI completes its investigation and the NoK is briefed. I have and continue to honor this request. I also recognize your need to evaluate potential command action against the aircrew involved so I have ordered my staff to provide you a copy of the report..
3. Also by this letter I wish to provide you with the understanding of the rules that must apply to me providing you with the CIB Report.
 - a. The transferred information is released to the Commander, CSG-8, his staff judge advocate and other personnel within the CSG-8 command that you deem are required for you to evaluate the facts and circumstances for the limited purpose of arriving at a conclusion regarding any administrative or disciplinary actions against the USN aircrew or other USN personnel involved in the incident;
 - b. The transferred information will not be provided or released to any other person or entity, to include military or civilian defense counsel, personnel involved in the incident, witnesses or any third parties or governments outside the CSG-8 command without the express approval of COMUSAFCENT. If CSG-8 or subordinate command determines that administrative or judicial action is warranted, CSG-8 will coordinate and seek release approval from COMUSAFCENT. This information is being provided with the expectation that the CSG-8 will keep the information in strictest confidence.
 - c. If CSG-8 or subordinate command determines that no administrative or judicial action is warranted the report, tabs and attachments are to be destroyed and notification of that fact is to be provided to this command.

