



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US NATIONAL COMMAND ELEMENT
REGIONAL COMMAND - SOUTH
KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09355

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NCE-IO

9 April 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Informal Review of Recovered Bullets

1. Following the firefight at FOB Robinson on the night of 28-29 March 2006, ETT personnel recovered two bullets from the ETT compound area. One bullet was recovered from the mud wall on the roof of the ETT building (bullet 1) embedded in the south side of the wall at approximately the same location where CPT (b)(6); (7)(c) suffered his hip gunshot wound. This bullet was recovered by an ETT officer the morning after the engagement, and passed to LTC (7)(c) the initial AR 15-6 investigator, who then provided the projectile to the Kandahar Airfield Criminal Investigation Division (CID). It remains in the custody of Special Agent (b)(6);

2. A second bullet (bullet 2) was recovered from the south side of the exterior mud wall south of the ETT building from an area of the wall that displayed multiple, fresh, bullet holes. It was also recovered by an ETT officer, and provided to LTC (7)(c) who then provided the bullet to KAF CID. It remains in the custody of Special Agent (b)(6);

3. I examined and photographed both bullets on 9 April 2006¹. (Exhibit J8). These bullets bear several indicators of their caliber, construction and origin, which are unique characteristics that separate them from other bullets.

4. At the time of the firefight, Coalition rifles and machine guns included:

a. 5.56mm NATO: M4/M16/C7 rifle (US, Canada); M249/C9 Squad Automatic Weapon (US, Canada).

b. 7.62x51mm NATO: M240/C6 Medium Machine Gun (US, Canada).

c. .50 caliber: M2 Heavy Machine Gun (US).

5. At the time of the firefight, enemy small arms included:

a. 7.62x39mm: AK-47/AKM rifle (China/Former Soviet Union (FSU)); (possible) RPK light machine gun 7.62x39mm (China/FSU).

b. 7.62x54R: PK medium machine gun (China/FSU).

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6. Both bullet 1, and bullet 2, are similar in construction and bear characteristics that indicate they are 7.62x51mm NATO projectiles. They are clearly not 5.56mm NATO in origin, neither are they 7.62x54R or 7.62x39mm rounds. The only firearms present during the engagement that fired 7.62x51mm NATO were US M240 and Canadian C6 medium machine guns.

a. Both bullets measure approximately 7.6-7.8mm across the base. This is characteristic of a fired .30 caliber (7.62mm) projectile, as there will be some amount of deformation upon impact. The 5.56mm round is a .22 caliber projectile and significantly smaller than the .30 caliber rounds in use.

b. The bullets exhibit a copper-jacket. The vast majority of .30 caliber/7.62mm projectiles used by the enemy are copper-washed (similar to electroplating), steel jacketed. (steel sees much wider use in the Former Soviet Republics and in China in ammunition manufacture due to the lower cost compared to copper or copper alloys). Steel jacketed ammo is clearly different in appearance from copper-jacketed bullets. It is also magnetic, while the copper-jackets are not. These projectiles did not have magnetic jackets.

c. These projectiles both have aluminum base cups, which is another feature that is present in NATO manufacture ammo, but not in Soviet/FSU/Chinese production.

d. Both bullet 1 and bullet 2 either contain, or bear evidence of, a steel-slug core and a steel-tip insert. This construction is characteristic of 7.62x51mm NATO Armor Piercing (AP) projectiles.

e. Under magnification (10x loupe), bullet 1 exhibits what is likely some residual black paint, which is the standard marking for AP ammo (called 'black tip').

4. POC for this memorandum is the undersigned at (b)(6); (7)(c)

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MAJ, IO

4/10 (MTN) Information Operations

¹My informal qualifications for this analysis include: Extensive experience with foreign weapons and ammunition as a Technical Intelligence Detachment Commander (C/203d MI). Experience includes analytical training as well as significant live-fire testing and familiarization. Seven years experience as a tactical-level MI officer, which included extensive study of foreign weapons, ammunition and capabilities. One combat tour in Iraq. Personal ownership of foreign weapons firing both the 7.62x39mm and 7.62x54R ammunition. Over 12 years experience handloading a wide variety of ammunition and calibers which has necessitated an understanding and exhaustive study and research of bullet construction and performance, cartridge components and external ballistics.