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Central Command.  
See FOIA Case #07-0160

## 15-6 FRATRACIDE INVESTIGATION

### M1A1 TANK ENGAGEMENT AGAINST COP GRANT AR RAMADI, AL ANBAR PROVINCE, IRAQ 2 FEBRUARY 2007

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**TAB B**

Derived from: MNF-I SCG, 31 Mar 07  
Reason: 1.4a, 1.4c  
Declassify on 20170205

**EXSUM:**

- On 2 February 2007, during fierce fighting in the Milaab District, City of Ar Ramadi, in Al Anbar Province, two U.S. Soldiers were killed as a result of an intense explosion against Combat Outpost (COP) Grant's eastern rooftop wall.
- Killed early that morning were PVT Matthew Zeimer, 1-3 ID, and SPC Alan McPeck, 1-1 AD. The two Soldiers from different brigades were in the final stages of their Relief in Place / Transition of Authority (RIP-TOA).
- These two young Soldiers were killed when an M1A1 tank, Blue 3, C/2-37 AR Battalion, fired a 120mm U.S. M830A1 HEAT-MP-T type round into the Eastern wall of the U.S. occupied COP Grant.
- The crew that fired the main tank round were not new to the area. They were however, operating as a three man crew; without current map and graphics; with a tank commander who had just rejoined the crew; and with a gunner who fired his first main gun round ever that morning.

- A heavy QRF, consisting of tank section C31 and 33, 2-37AR (AKA Blue 1 and Blue 3) supported COP Eagles Nest during that night's engagement.
- Blue 3 fired the QRF's only main gun engagement, using an M908 OR (Obstacle Reducing) round at 0138 hrs, the same time that the COP was hit.
- The M908 has the same body composition as an M830A1 MP-T.
- Pieces of metal fragmentation and a stabilizing tail fin from the explosion were found at the scene of the explosion the next morning. EOD compared these fins and pieces to those of a 120mm U.S. M830A1 HEAT-MP-T round provided by 3-69 AR. EOD positively identified these as remnants from that type of munition.
- UAV captured a round traveling east to west along and just north of Farouk Way at 0137 hrs, a minute prior to the logged report of Blue 3's shot. Trajectory analysis shows the round traveling on the same line that a round from Blue 3 would travel to strike COP Grant. Velocity analysis indicates that the round was traveling 1340 M/S, a velocity consistent with an M830A1 round and inconsistent with insurgent weapon systems.
- Blue 3 had a clear Gun Target Line from Milaab Street to COP Grant's roof, and due to error in target acquisition and validation arising from confusion over the proper target, Blue 3's main gun engagement struck COP Grant.

## Comparative Analysis

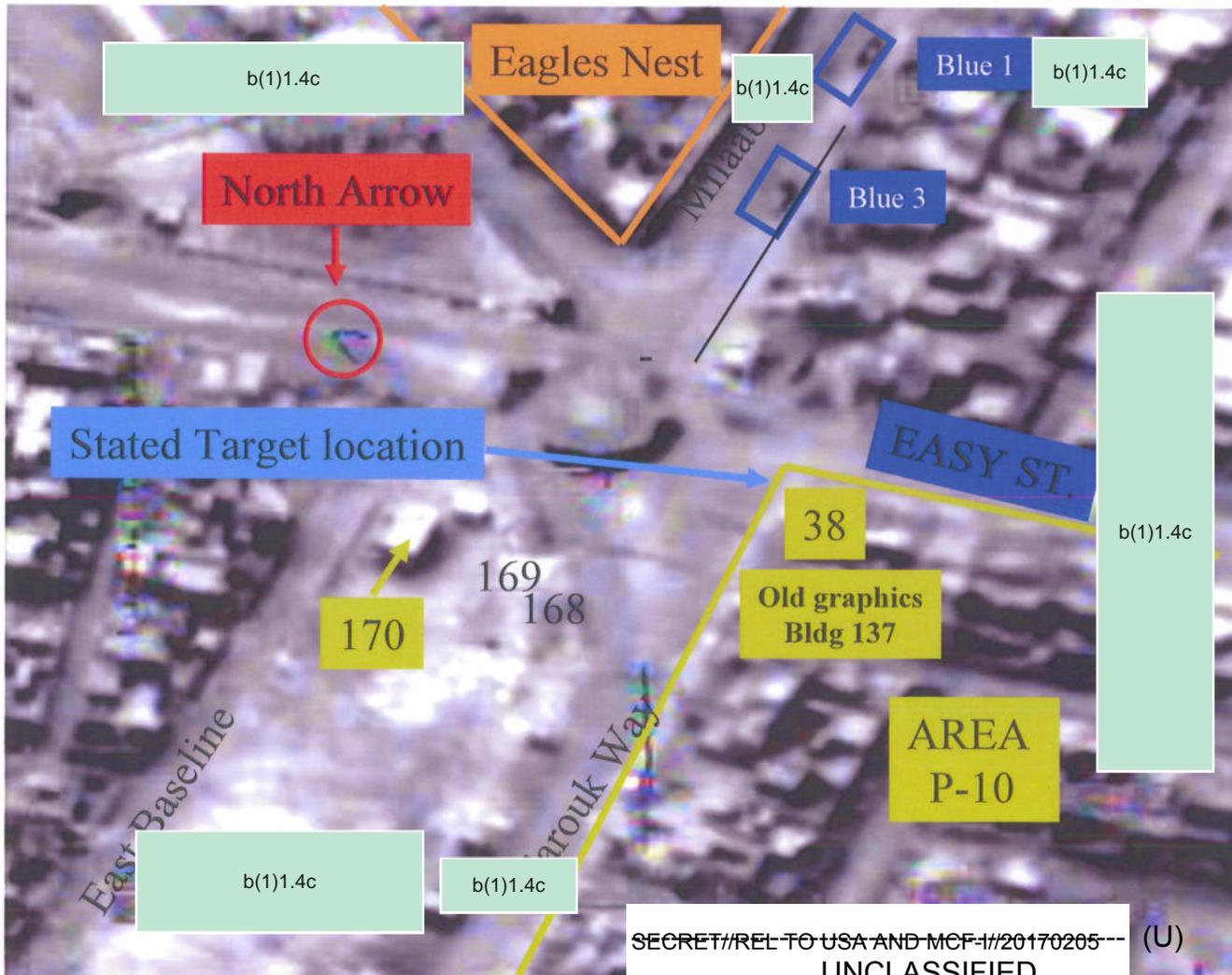
**Pioneer UAV Video – 2 February 2007**

**with**

**C/2-37 Armor's Log Journal**

UAV still shot 0136.13 hrs, 2 February 2007

Two Tanks at intersection South of COP Eagles Nest



**Pioneer UAV: QRF (Blue 3 & Blue 1) arrayed in column just south of Eagles Nest & east of Easy Street three minutes after the GMLRS strike and Blue 1's request to use Main Gun (0133 hrs).**

**LOG ENTRIES C/2-37:**

**0125: "Blue 1 & Blue 3 RP Eagles Nest"**

**0130: "Blue 1 is engaging Bldg 170" (small arms)**

**0133: "Blue 1 requesting Main Gun on Zone P10 Building 137." (Old graphics building 137 – currently it is Bldg 38)**

UAV Still shot 0136.47 hrs

### Empty Intersection West of COP Eagle's Nest



3 minutes have passed since Blue 1's request to use main gun to fire at a target on the Northeast corner of area P-10. This picture shows area P-10. Note the tanks still cannot observe the stated target due to masking on South side of Milaab.

**LOG ENTRY C/2-37:**  
 0138: "DOG 6 reports Blue 1 engaged building 137 Main Guns."\*  
 \*actually Blue 3 fired.  
 This report records the completion of the main gun engagement.

At 0136.58hrs, one minute prior to the log entry capturing Blue 3's engagement (reported as Blue 1's engagement (0138)), the Pioneer UAV observes one round traveling from East to West along and slightly North of Farouk Way. This is still shot # 1 of 4.



UAV Still shot 0136.58 hrs

Picture of Projectile over Farouk Way. Still shot # 2 of 4



UAV Still shot 0136.58 hrs

Picture of Projectile over Farouk Way. Still shot # 3 of 4



UAV Still shot 0136.58 hrs

Picture of Projectile over Farouk Way. Still shot # 4 of 4



UAV Video 0142.07 hrs thru 0142.47 hrs  
 (electronic version only – must have UAV disc 2 in drive to play)  
 Tank South of COP Eagle's Nest. Machine Gun Engagement Due West



This UAV video is a 40 second view of machine gun rounds firing from the QRF towards COP GRANT

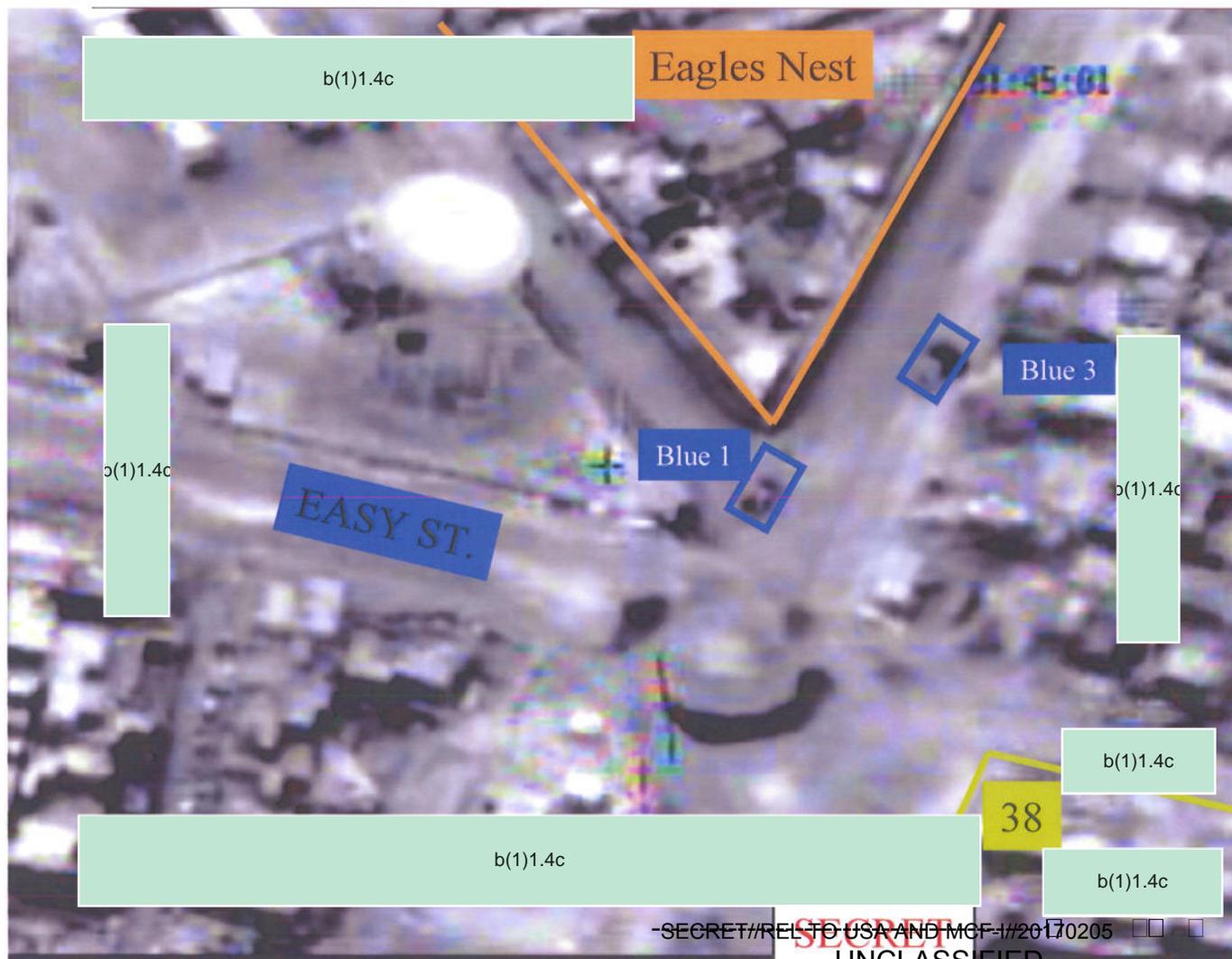
The UAV traces the fire back to the QRF tanks seen firing either .50 Cal or coax in a Westerly direction.

LOG ENTRY C 2-37:

0142: "Blue 3 engaging enemy on roof top with coax."

UAV still shot 0145.01 hrs

Two tanks at COP Eagles Nest staggered left.



3 minutes after the previous machine gun engagement the QRF section remains staggered but still East of Easy.

LOG ENTRY C 2-37:

0145: "Blue 1 & Blue 3 report 2 enemy KIA"

0147: "Blue 1 & Blue 3 engaged and destroyed 6 EKIA"

0148: "Manchu 6 calls for cease fire due to fire spilling over into 1-37 AR Sectors"

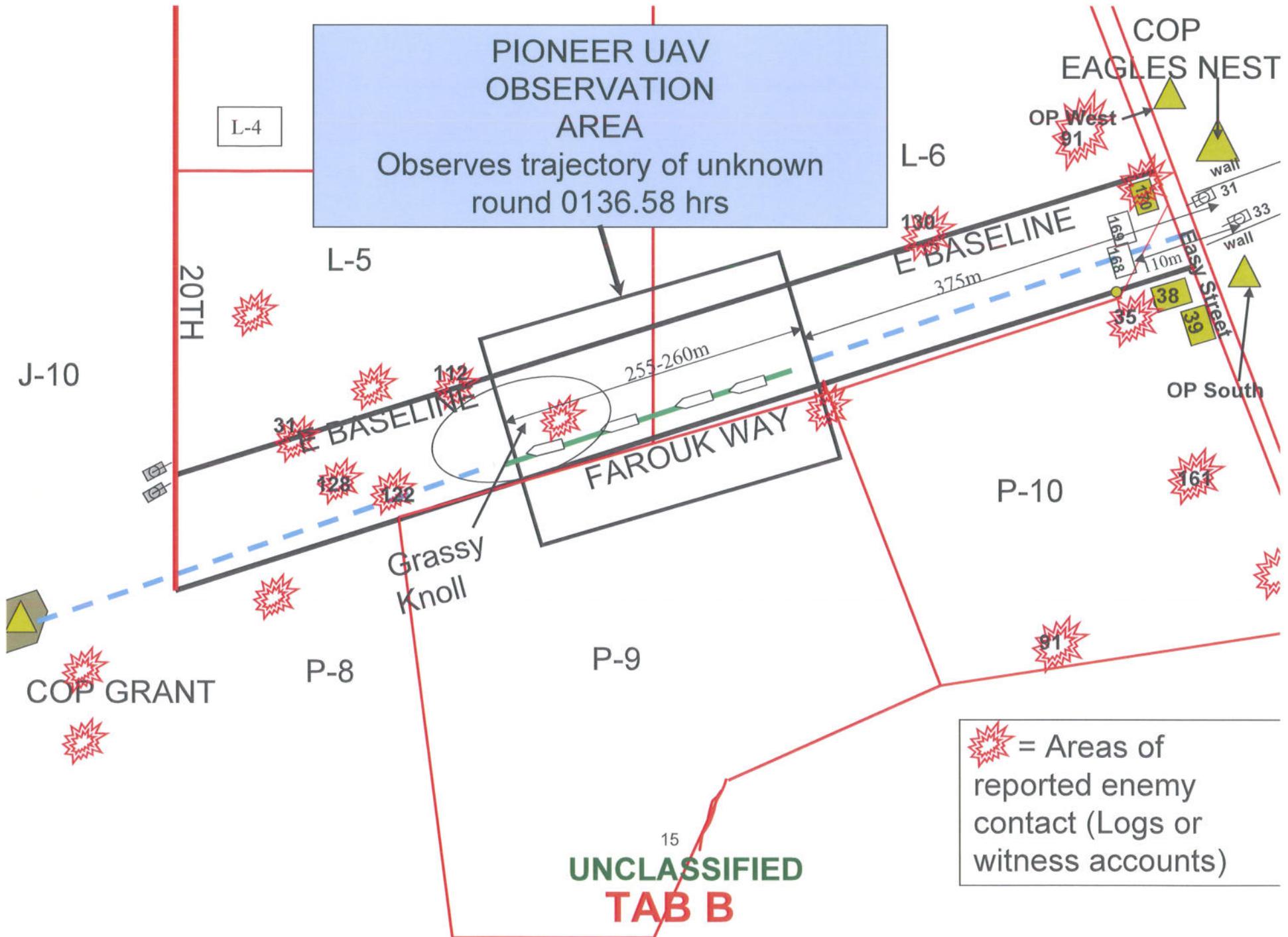
# Trajectory Analysis

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- The following depicts the trajectory observed on the previous UAV still shots in the context of the operational graphics. The rounds are depicted in white, the green line connects the observed rounds, and the light blue dotted line completes the trajectory from a point of origin in the east to a point of impact in the west.

b(1)1.4a, 1.4c





# Speed Analysis

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- Using MovieMaker Software, our IMO broke the observed UAV flight down into three frames, each .07 seconds apart. The round is observed in the first frame roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way across the screen (unobserved in the previous .07 second frame), and is observed leaving the viewing area two .07 second frames later. Thus, the round traveled through the entire viewing area in less than .021 seconds. Given the initial position of observation and the distance it travels between frames, it appears that it takes .19 seconds to travel through the viewing area.
- Overlaying the UAV viewing area on the Falcon View map, it appears that the distance of observation was roughly 355-360 meters, at a distance 300-400 meters from the tanks (depending on their exact position on Milaab).
- As the round traveled 355M/.19Sec, its estimated velocity is 1342 meters/second.
- This is consistent with an M830A1 round's velocity at 300-400 meters which would have an expected velocity of 1328-1348 M/S. This is inconsistent with other insurgent munitions (Recoilless rifle 400-700M/S).

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# EOD Photos

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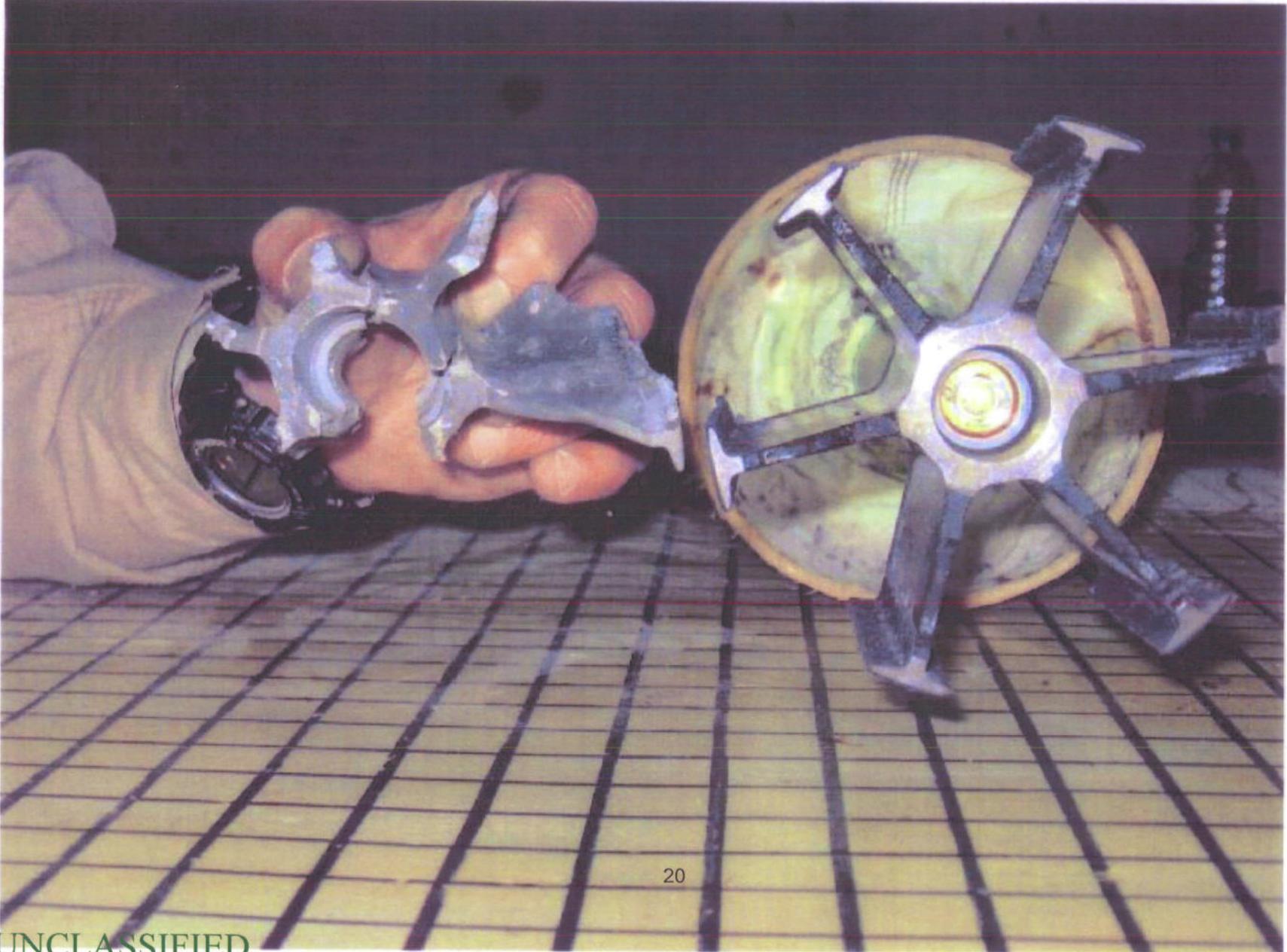
- The following are pictures provided by EOD comparing the remnants found at COP Grant with a 120mm M830A1 HEAT MP-T round.



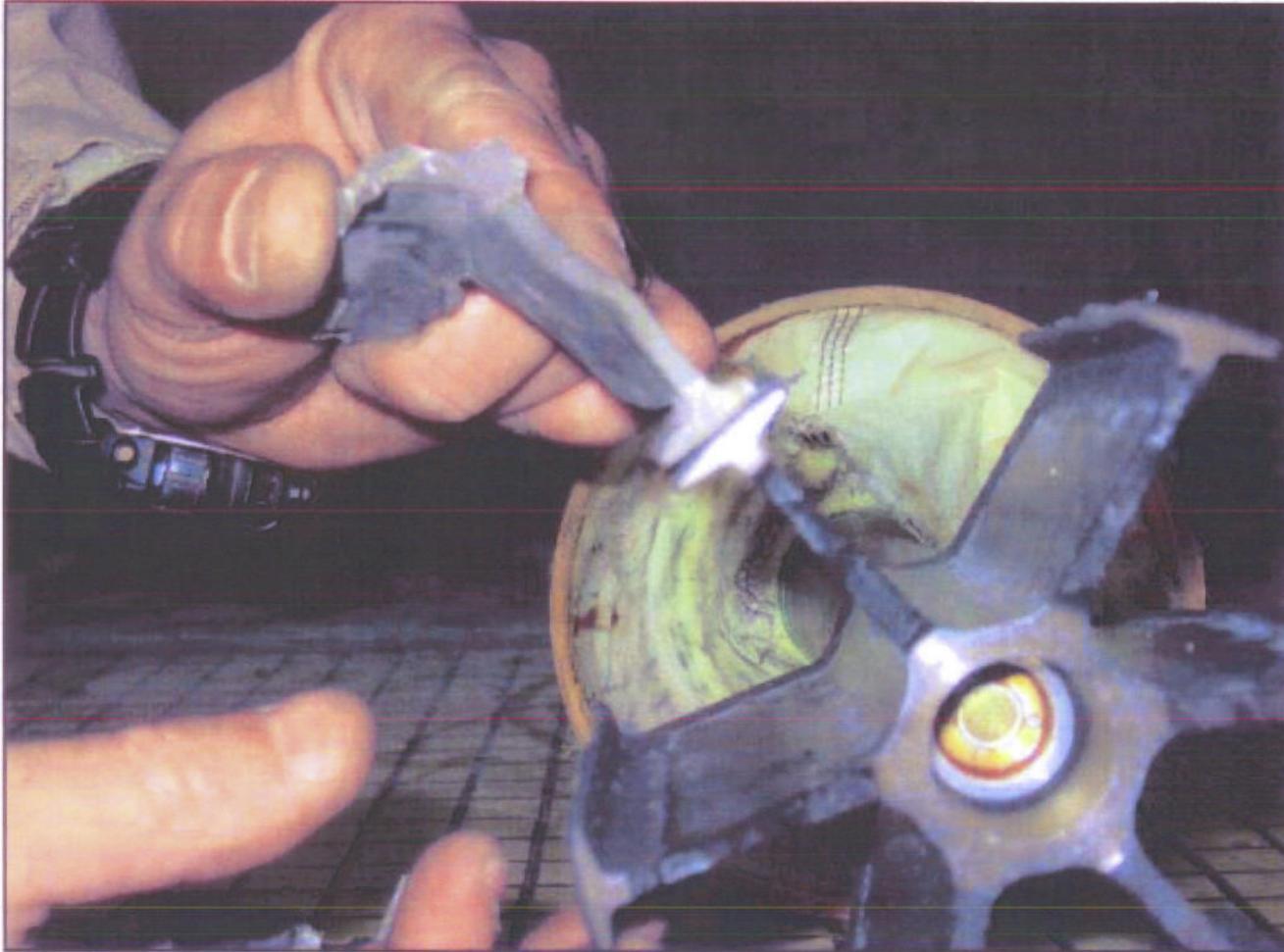


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8. Pictures with titles:







## CONCLUSION:

The intensity of that morning's combat, which included multiple enemy positions both around and in-between two U.S. COPs, complicated by the degraded three man crews, caused the temporary loss of situational awareness during the critical moments leading up to the one main gun engagement from the QRF. This engagement, fired by Blue 3 in the early hours of 2 February 2007, was further compounded by the non-existent main gun live fire training and minimal gunnery training afforded the new gunner, as well as the lack of accurate maps, graphics, and a fully functioning coaxially mounted machine gun.

These events led to fratricide when this M1A1 tank from C Company, 2-37 Armor, fired one 120mm tank round into a U.S. Combat Outpost – COP Grant.

As a result, PVT Matthew Zeimer, 1-3 ID, and SPC Alan McPeek, 1-1 AD, were both killed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS:

6.

7.

8.

9.

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