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**U.S. Airstrikes in Yemen  
RTQ Sheet**

Statement on U.S. Strikes in Yemen

U.S. forces conducted a series of precision strikes in Yemen against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, in the early morning of March 2 (Yemen time). More than 20 strikes targeted AQAP militants, equipment and infrastructure in the Yemeni governorates of Abyan, Al Bayda and Shabwah.

The strikes were conducted in partnership with the Government of Yemen, and were coordinated with President Hadi. The Government of Yemen is a valuable counter-terrorism partner, and we support its efforts to bring stability to the region by fighting known terrorist organizations like AQAP.

The strikes will degrade the AQAP's ability to coordinate external terror attacks and limit their ability to use territory seized from the legitimate government of Yemen as a safe space for terror plotting. Targets of the strikes included militants, equipment, infrastructure, heavy weapons systems and fighting positions.

AQAP has taken advantage of ungoverned spaces in Yemen to plot, direct, and inspire terror attacks against the United States and our allies. U.S. forces will continue to work with the Government of Yemen to defeat AQAP and deny it the ability to operate in Yemen.

**STRIKES**

**Q1. (U) We've received reports of airstrikes in Yemen. Was it the U.S.?**

A1. (U) U.S. forces conducted a series of precision strikes against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula militants, equipment and infrastructure in Yemen's Abyan, Al Bayda and Shabwah Governorates, in the early morning of March 2nd (Yemen time). The strikes were part of on-going operations in Yemen against AQAP to degrade the group's ability to coordinate external terror attacks and limit their ability to use territory seized from the legitimate government of Yemen as a safe space for terror plotting.

**Q2. (U) What did you target?**

A2. The strikes targeted AQAP militants, equipment, infrastructure, heavy weapons systems and fighting positions—all of which contributed to AQAP's safe spaces and freedom of movement within Yemen. For too long, AQAP has taken advantage of ungoverned spaces in Yemen to plot, direct and inspire terror attacks against America, its citizens and allies around the world.

**Q3. (U) Where were they conducted?**

A3. The strikes hit AQAP targets in Abyan, Al Bayda and Shabwah Governorates in southern Yemen.

**Q4. (U) Did you kill any AQAP militants in the strike? Any HVIs?**

A4. Several AQAP militants were killed during this series of strikes against AQAP targets in Yemen. None of the militants targeted were assessed to be among AQAP's senior leaders.

**Q5. (U) How many strikes did you conduct, and what platforms were they fired from?**

A5. Approximately 20 strikes were conducted against AQAP targets. Multiple manned and unmanned platforms were used throughout the operation.

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IF PRESSED: I'm not going to discuss the specific weapons systems we have in the region.

**Q6. (U) How were the targets determined?**

A6. Military commanders decided that these strikes against known targets would be the best course of action and are part of expanded operations to degrade, and disrupt AQAP within their perceived safe haven.

**Q7. Was the intel for strikes last night connected to the intel gathering raid on 28 JAN?**

A7. Every bit of intelligence is important against AQAP, one of America's most formidable threats. We have been planning these strikes for several months. The intelligence that drives each operation is related but not necessarily connected, in this case the intelligence gathering raid from Jan 28 did not drive targeting for last night's strikes.