

01 FEB 2017

From: (b) (6) [redacted] Commander

Subj: MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

[redacted] Credibility Assessment on Potential Civilian Casualties

BLUF: We assess there were between 4 and 12 civilian casualties (CIVCAS) associated with OPERATION (b) (1) (A) [redacted] raid on RAC 6 IVO al-Bayda, Yemen POD 28-29 January 2017. The exact number of CIVCAS is indeterminate.

BACKGROUND: On 28 January 17, TF 94-7 in conjunction with (b) (1) (A) [redacted] Special Operations Command TF 66 conducted a bilateral intelligence raid in Yemen's Al Bayda Province. The mission targeted al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) with the intent to capture AQAP leaders, exploit captured enemy material, and increase understanding of AQAP's external operations network and planning.

WHO: 4-12 CIVCAS; exact number indeterminate

WHAT: We assess there were between 4 and 12 CIVCAS associated with OPERATION (b) (1) (A) [redacted]. The exact number is indeterminate.

WHEN: 28 - 29 January 2017

WHERE: Rawdat al Athabah Compound (b) (1) (A) [redacted] Yemen

ASSESSMENT:

The credibility assessment consisted of the following:

1. Narrative of Actions on the Objective from the after action review (AAR);
2. Full Motion Video (FMV) Reviews of Pre-and Post-OP Feeds;
3. Post-Strike Sensitive Intelligence

1. Narrative of Actions on the Objective from the AAR.

The assault force (AF) maneuvered up a knoll north of the objective (b) (1) (A) [redacted] on the force's final approach to the target. The AF was immediately engaged by enemy combatants located in (b) (1) (A) [redacted] 80 meters north of the AF. The AF established a blocking position (BP) to provide suppressive fire on the (b) (1) (A) [redacted] while the AF moved down the eastern side of (b) (1) (A) [redacted]. Once the AF received effective fire from the south, the (b) (1) (A) [redacted] buildings. The hostile fire came from enemy taking cover in buildings where we assess women and children were located.

(b) (1) 1.4(a) (b) (c) (d)



CONCLUSION: We assess there were between 4 and 12 non-combatant casualties, however the exact number is indeterminable. The Assault Force was enveloped by effective enemy fire and sustained four casualties, one fatal, in the exchange of gunfire. The AF was engaged from 360 degrees, from more than a dozen compounds, by both male and female combatants. The enemy on the objective was able to engage the assault force with effective fire until partially suppressed by close air support. Despite the ferocity of the fight, the assault force worked through close quarters to discriminate noncombatants from the enemy. However, enemy fire from every direction, a propane tank fire that engulfed the 10-series, the proportional use of close air support, and combatants intermingled with noncombatants, resulted in civilian casualties.

(b) (6)

