Investigation into Civilian Casualties Resulting from an Engagement on 12 July 2007 in the New Baghdad District of Baghdad, Iraq

Report of Investigation UP AR 15-6
MAJ (b)(6), (b)(3) , Investigating Officer
2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
2ND INFANTRY DIVISION (MND-B)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division (MND-B) Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Baghdad, Iraq 09390



AFZC-B-CDR

JUL 1 7 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, MND-B and 1st Cavalry Division

SUBJECT: Legal Review of AR 15-6 - Investigation into Civilian Casualties Resulting from an Engagement on 12 July 2007 in the New Baghdad District Of Baghdad, Iraq

I have reviewed the investigation and recommend you approve the findings and recommendations.

(b)(6),(b)(3)

COL, IN Commanding

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 - Recovered by Media Exploitation Team from Canon EOS Media Cards vic (b)(2)High
- Exhibit R Photos of US Army HMMWV Dated 12 July 2007. Recovered by Media Exploitation Team from Canon EOS Media Cards vic (b)(2)High .
- Exhibit S Reuters News Story dated 12 July, 2007.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division (MND-B) Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Baghdad, Iraq 09390



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

AFZC-B-JA

JUL 1 7 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 2BCT/2ID (MND-B)

SUBJECT: Legal Review of AR 15-6 – Investigation into Civilian Casualties Resulting from an Engagement on 12 July 2007 in the New Baghdad District Of Baghdad, Iraq

- 1. In accordance with AR 15-6, paragraph 2-3, I reviewed the AR 15-6 investigation into the facts surrounding the death and injuries to apparent civilians resulting from the engagement by Apache helicopters on 12 July 2007 in the New Baghdad District of Baghdad, Iraq. This investigation complies with the Commanding General's directive to investigate the death or injury of apparent civilian non-combatants contained in FRAGO 352 to MNC-I OPORD 05-03 (17 Apr 06).
- 2. The investigation is legally sufficient. The investigation finds by a preponderance of evidence that affiliates of Reuters, Mr. Namir Noor-Eldeen and Mr. Saeed Chmagh, were killed and that two children were injured during the engagement. I make the following determinations:
- a. The proceedings comply with the legal requirements under AR 15-6 and contain no material errors or violate any individual's substantial rights.
 - b. Sufficient evidence supports the findings.
 - c. The recommendations are consistent with the findings.
- 3. The approval authority for the investigation is the Commanding General.

4. Point of contact for this legal review is the undersigned at or VOIP (b)(6)

(b)(6), (b)(3)

(b)(6), (b)(3)

6), (b MAJ, JA Brigade Judge Advocate



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADOUARTERS, 2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAN 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION-BAGHDAD CAMP LOYALTY, IRAQ APO AE 09390



AFZC-B-CDR

JUL 1 3 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJ (b)(6), (b)(3) 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, FOB Loyalty, Iraq APO AE 09390

SUBJECT: Appointment as Investigating Officer under AR 15-6

- 1. You are hereby appointed as an Investigating Officer pursuant to AR 15-6, Procedures for Investigating Officers and Boards of Officers, to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the civilian loss of life during a military engagement by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade vicinity grid (b)(2)High on 12 July 2007.
- 2. You will investigate the injuries caused to any apparent civilian noncombatants resulting from the enemy engagement by aviation in the vicinity of Zone 30 in order to comply with FRAGO 352 to MNC-I OPORD 05-03 task 10 (17 Apr 06). Provide a brief narrative description of the events that occurred on or about 0950 hours 12 July 2007. You will limit the areas of your inquiry to—
- a. Describe the nature of the injuries of two local national children discovered by 2-16th Infantry Battalion. Make a recommendation whether any condolence or claims payment is warranted.
- b. Assess whether Mr. Namir Noor-Eldeen or Mr. Saeed Chmagh was killed during the hostile fire engagement based on all available evidence. Make a finding, if possible, as to their involvement in the engagement.
- c. Include in your investigation any photos or operational graphics that are relevant to your findings and recommendations.
- 3. Your legal advisor is MAJ (b)(6), (b)(3) 2nd Brigade Operational Law Team, VOIP who will give you an in-brief before you begin your investigation and be available to assist you during the investigation.
- 4. You may speak with any and all individuals that you believe have information pertinent to your investigation. You will obtain guidance from your legal advisor if in the course of your investigation you determine that completion thereof requires examining the conduct or performance of, or may result in Findings and Recommendations adverse to any person.
- 5. All witness statements will be sworn and, if possible, submitted on DA Form 2823. If circumstances preclude you from obtaining a sworn statement, or if you obtain a statement

AFZC-B-CDR

SUBJECT: Appointment as Investigating Officer under AR 15-6

telephonically or through an interpreter, you will summarize such a statement in a Memorandum for Record and swear to the accuracy of your summary.

- 6. Your report will be submitted to this office on DA Form 1574 together with all evidence marked as Exhibits, and an Index to said Exhibits. Your Findings must be based on the evidence you include as Exhibits and your Recommendations must be based on your Findings.
- 7. You are directed to begin your investigation upon receipt of these unsigned orders from your legal advisor. Your complete report will be submitted to this office no later than 19 July 2007. Requests for delays should be made to your legal advisor.

(b)(6), (b)(3)

COL, IN Commanding

	REPORT OF PRO	CEEDINGS BY INVEST For use of this form, see AR				FICERS	3			
	IF MORE SPACE IS	REQUIRED IN FILLING OUT				DDITIONAL	LSHEETS	-	-	
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Appointed by	(b)(6), (b)(3)	COL, IN, Commandir	ng			1				
			(Appointing	g authority)		Ī				
on13 .	July 2007 (Attach i	nclosure 1: Letter of appointme	ent or summary	of oral appointr	ment data.) (See	para 3-15,	AR 15-6.)			
		SECTIO	N II - SESSIO	NS						
The (investigate	ion) (board) commenced	FOB RUSTAMIYAH,		q		at	200			
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The (investiga	ting officer) (board) finished	d gathering/hearing evidence at		2000	0	n	13 July 2			_
			2222	(Time)		10.7	(Date			
and completed	indings and recommendation	ns at	2300		on		(Date)			
(4)			(Time)				(Date)			
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		from the appointing authority?				-		H	H	X
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f. Explanation	Control of the state of the sta	or board of any unusual delay	rs, difficulties, i	rregularities, or	other problems					\boxtimes
O Control of the Cont		board not included on page 1	of this report?							X
		n evidence) relating to admin	istrative aspec	ts of the investig	ation or board?					X
FOOTNOTES: 1	Explain all negative answers Use of the N/A column cons	on an attached sheet. titutes a positive representation	that the circums	stances described	d in the question of	did not occu	ır in this invest	igation		

or board.

DA FORM 1574, MAR 1983

2	Exhibits (para 3-16, AR 15-6)	YES	NO1/	NA2/
	a. Are all items offered (whether or not received) or considered as evidence individually numbered or lettered as exhibits and attached to this report?	\boxtimes		
	b. Is an index of all exhibits offered to or considered by investigating officer or board attached before the first exhibit?	X		
	c. Has the testimony/statement of each witness been recorded verbatim or been reduced to written form and attached as an exhibit?	\boxtimes		
	d. Are copies, descriptions, or depictions (if substituted for real or documentary evidence) properly authenticated and is the location of the original evidence indicated?	\boxtimes		
	e. Are descriptions or diagrams included of locations visited by the investigating officer or board (para 3-6b, AR 15-6)?			\boxtimes
	f. Is each written stipulation attached as an exhibit and is each oral stipulation either reduced to writing and made an exhibit or recorded in a verbatim record?			\boxtimes
	g. If official notice of any matter was taken over the objection of a respondent or counsel, is a statement of the matter of which official notice was taken attached as an exhibit (para 3-16d, AR 15-6)?			\boxtimes
3	Was a quorum present when the board voted on findings and recommendations (paras 4-1 and 5-2b, AR 15-6)?		П	X
В.	COMPLETE ONLY FOR FORMAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS (Chapter 5, AR 15-6)	The second second		23
4	At the initial session, did the recorder read, or determine that all participants had read, the letter of appointment (para 5-3b, AR 15-6):			
5	Was a quorum present at every session of the board (para 5-2b, AR 15-6)?		T	
6	Was each absence of any member properly excused (para 5-2a, AR 15-6)?			
7	Were members, witnesses, reporter, and interpreter sworn, if required (para 3-1, AR 15-6)?			TT
8	If any members who voted on findings or recommendations were not present when the board received some evidence,			9-1
	does the inclosure describe how they familiarized themselves with that evidence (para 5-2d, AR 15-6)?			
-	COMPLETE ONLY IF RESPONDENT WAS DESIGNATED (Section II, Chapter 5, AR 15-6)	1		
9	Notice to respondents (para 5-5, AR 15-6):			
	a. Is the method and date of delivery to the respondent indicated on each letter of notification?		-	
	b. Was the date of delivery at least five working days prior to the first session of the board?			
	c. Does each letter of notification indicate _			
	(1) the date, hour, and place of the first session of the board concerning that respondent?			
	(2) the matter to be investigated, including specific allegations against the respondent, if any?			
	(3) the respondent's rights with regard to counsel?			
	(4) the name and address of each witness expected to be called by the recorder?			
	(5) the respondent's rights to be present, present evidence, and call witnesses?			
	d. Was the respondent provided a copy of all unclassified documents in the case file?			
	e. If there were relevant classified materials, were the respondent and his counsel given access and an opportunity to examine them?			
10	If any respondent was designated after the proceedings began (or otherwise was absent during part of the proceedings):			
	a. Was he properly notified (para 5-5, AR 15-6)?			
	b. Was record of proceedings and evidence received in his absence made available for examination by him and his counsel (para 5-4c, a	AR 15-6)?		
11	Counsel (para 5-6, AR 15-6):			
	a. Was each respondent represented by counsel?			
	Name and business address of counsel:			
	(If counsel is a lawyer, check here	17-8		
	b. Was respondent's counsel present at all open sessions of the board relating to that respondent?			
	c. If military counsel was requested but not made available, is a copy (or, if oral, a summary) of the request and the action taken on it included in the report (para 5-6b, AR 15-6)?			
12	If the respondent challenged the legal advisor or any voting member for lack of impartiality (para 5-7, AR 15-6):			
1.5	a. Was the challenge properly denied and by the appropriate officer?			
	b. Did each member successfully challenged cease to participate in the proceedings?			H
13				
13	a. Be present with his counsel at all open sessions of the board which deal with any matter which concerns that respondent?			
	b. Examine and object to the introduction of real and documentary evidence, including written statements?		H	H
	c. Object to the testimony of witnesses and cross-examine witnesses other than his own?		H	H
	d. Call witnesses and otherwise introduce evidence?		+	
	e. Testify as a witness?			
1	f. Make or have his counsel make a final statement or argument (para 5-9, AR 15-6)?		1	
4.4	N. Ashara was proceeding the control of the control			The same
14	arranging for the presence of witnesses (para 5-8b, AR 15-6)?			
	Are all of the respondent's requests and objections which were denied indicated in the report of proceedings or in an inclosure or exhibit to it (para 5-11, AR 15-6)?			
FC	OOTNOTES: 11 Explain all negative answers on an attached sheet. 21 Use of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the question did not occur in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the property of the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the N/A column constitutes and the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances described in the N/A column constitutes and the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances are constituted as the N/A column constitutes and the N/A column constitutes a positive representation that the circumstances are constituted as the N/A column constitutes and the N/A column constitutes are constituted as the N/A column cons	nis investigation	7	

SECTION IV - FINDINGS (para 3-10, AR 15-6)	
The (investigating officer) (board), having carefully considered the evidence, finds:	
See attached memorandum.	
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	V.
SECTION V - RECOMMENDATIONS (para 3-11, AR 15-6)	N-7-
In view of the above findings, the (investigating officer) (board) recommends:	
See attached memorandum.	

HC DEDORT O		ICATION (para 3-17, AR 15-6)
	ne reason in the space where his signature should ap	E. (If any voting member or the recorder fails to sign here or in Section \opensorpear.)
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		(b)(c) (b)(2)
		(b)(6), (b)(3) (b)(6), (b)(3)
		(4)
	West Name	MAJ (b)(6), (b)(3)
	(Recorder)	(Investigating Officer) (President)
	(Member)	(Member)
	West value	Marked .
	(Member)	(Member)
	SECTION VII - MINORITY	REPORT (para 3-13, AR 15-6)
the extent indi		o(es) not concur in the findings and recommendations of the board.
		lation in which the dissenting member(s) do(es) not concur. State the
asons for disag	greement. Additional/substitute findings and/or recor	mmendations may be included in the inclosure.)
-	(Member)	(Member)
	APPRO	
n ur	SECTION VIII - ACTION BY APPOIN	The state of the s
ne findings and abstitutions). (If	the appointing authority returns the proceedings to the	rd) are (approved) (disapproved) (approved with following exceptions/ he investigating officer or board for further proceedings or
orrective action,	attach that correspondence (or a summary, if oral)	as a numbered inclosure.)
I ratify t	the appointment of the investigating	officer, MAJ))(6), (b)(
The recomm	mendation that:	
-(10a) Men	mbers of the press be encouraged or r	required to wear identifying vests or distinctive
		(disapproved) (remanded to the BCT Cdr).
_		
-(10b) Coa	alition Forces be notified when membe	ers of the press are operating in their AORs is
(approved)	(disapproved) (remanded to the BCT	Cdr).
-(10c) Cor	ndolence payments be made to families	s of the two children wounded in this engagement
is (approv	ved) (disapproved) (remanded to the B	CT Cdr).
I remand t	the matter to the 2/2ID Cdr for appro	opriate action.
		VINCENT K. BROOKS

Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (2ID)
MULTINATIONAL DIVISION-BAGHDAD
FOB LOYALTY, IRAQ APO AE 09390



AFZC-B-IO

17 July 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (MND-B), Baghdad, Iraq

SUBJECT: 15-6 Investigation of Civilian Casualties Resulting from an Engagement on 12 July 2007 in the New Baghdad District of Baghdad, Iraq

- 1. The purpose of this memorandum is to detail the findings and recommendations of my 15-6 investigation into the presence of noncombatants during an engagement that occurred on the morning of 12 July, 2007 in Zone 30, Mualameen Muhallah, of Tisa Nisan District, East Baghdad, as part of OPERATION ILAAJ (CURE).
- 2. The appointing authority (Colonel (b)(6), (b)(3) 2BCT Commander) directed me to issue findings and recommendations covering the following areas of inquiry:
- a. Describe the nature of the injuries of two local national children discovered by 2-16th Infantry Battalion. Make a recommendation whether any condolence or claims payment is warranted.
- b. Assess whether Mr. Namir Noor-Eldeen or Mr. Saeed Chmagh (Employees of Reuters News Corporation), were killed during the hostile fire engagement based on all available evidence.
- c. Assess any relevant issues, including the use of force, by members of 2nd Brigade Combat Team. If you come into any evidence concerning the conduct of other individuals, refer the matter to your legal advisor.
- 3. I began the investigation by contacting MAJ b)(6). (b)(3)(2-16 IN S3) and arranging to interview the Bravo Company, 2-16 Infantry soldiers who first arrived at the scene at the engagement after the helicopter engagement. Once these interviews were completed, I reviewed the gun-camera tapes from the 1st Cavalry Division's Apache Helicopters that were in direct support of the ground maneuver elements for OPERATION ILAAJ, the clearance of Zone 30 in the Mualameen Muhallah of Tisa Nisan (New Baghdad).
- 4. From the witness statements and the Apache gun-camera film (Screen Print Exhibit A), I determined that the engagement in which the Iraqi children were injured and the two Reuters News employees were killed began at 1020 hours (local Baghdad time, Zulu +4), at grid coordinates (b)(2)High The Bravo Company 2-16 soldiers were within 100 meters of the location of a group of armed insurgents and two individuals carrying cameras when Apache helicopters engaged the insurgents with 30mm gunfire. The engagement concluded with the evacuation of casualties at 1041 hours.

- 5. Bravo Company 2-16 Infantry had been under sporadic small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire since OPERATION ILAAJ began at dawn on the morning of the 12th of July. The company had the mission of clearing their sector and looking for weapons caches. Two Apache helicopters from the 1st Cavalry Division's Aviation Brigade (call signs "Crazyhorse 18" and "Crazyhorse 19") were in direct support to the ground maneuver force and were monitoring the Bravo Company radio frequency.
- 6. The following sequence of events is derived from a review of the gun-camera film. The gun camera film was a video burned onto a compact disc which I received from my legal advisor. The video provided me an accurate timeline of events and allowed me to corroborate or deny other eye witness testimony received into evidence. However, it must be noted that details which are readily apparent when viewed on a large video monitor are not necessarily apparent to the Apache pilots during a live-fire engagement. First of all, the pilots are viewing the scene on a much smaller screen than I had for my review. Secondly, a pilot's primary concern is with flying his helicopter and the safety of his aircraft. Third, the pilots are continuously tracking the movement of friendly forces in order to prevent fratricide. Fourth, since Bravo Company had been in near continuous contact since dawn, the pilots were looking primarily for armed insurgents. Lastly, there was no information leading anyone to believe or even suspect that noncombatants were in the area. Although useful, an analysis of the engagement captured on the video is beyond the scope of my investigation and the subject of a collateral investigation. The digits appearing before the exhibit are the time derived from the Apache video footage. 0619:37 is 0600 hours, 19 minutes, and 37 seconds, Greenwich Mean or ZULU Time. Baghdad local time is 4 hours later.
- a. 0619:37 Z (Exhibit A Photo). As the Apaches orbit counterclockwise, eleven military-aged males dressed in Western-style pants and shirts, are seen walking northward toward a wall vic (b)(2)High Two individuals can be seen carrying cameras with large telephoto lenses slung from their right shoulders. While two other males can be seen carrying an RPG launcher and an AKM. The cameras could be easily mistaken for slung AK-47 or AKM rifles, especially since neither cameraman is wearing anything that identifies him as media or press.
- b. 0620:07 Z (Exhibit B Photo). Two individuals are seen openly displaying an RPG and an AKM, while a third individual carries what appears to be an RPG round. The rest of the military-aged males are obscured by the building in the foreground.
- c. 0620:34 Z (Exhibit C Photo). One of the cameramen is seen peering from behind the wall looking west toward the approaching Bravo Company soldiers. The voice on the gun tape mistakenly identifies the long telephoto lens as an RPG.
- d. 0620:38 Z (Exhibit D). The cameraman raises the camera to sight through the viewfinder and his action appears prompts one of the pilots to remark "He's getting ready to fire." Photos later recovered from the camera show a US Army HMMWV sitting at an intersection, less than 100 meters away from the camera. The digital time/date stamp on the photo indicates that these photos were the ones taken as the cameraman peered from behind the wall (Exhibit R). Due to the furtive nature of his movements, the cameraman gave every appearance of preparing to fire an RPG on US soldiers.

- e. 0621:07 Z (Exhibit E Photo). As the Apache continues his orbit and clears the buildings he gains a clear view of the insurgents. Both cameramen are visible within a very tight circle of armed insurgents. An RPG launcher and an AKM are also visible at this point and all militaryaged males are clustered within a two-meter radius. The Apache engages seconds later, apparently killing eight of the nine military-aged males.
- f. 0626:03 Z (Exhibit F Photo). As ground forces approach the engagement area, A black van with white paint on the roof (erroneously reported as both a white van and a bongo truck) arrives. Two military-aged males and the vehicle's driver then attempt to load one of the wounded insurgents into the van. The Apache pilot requests permission to engage the van in order to prevent the escape of the insurgents. Bushmaster 7 responds "This is Bushmaster 7, Roger, engage." The Apaches engage disabling the van seconds later.
- g. 0631:53 Z (Exhibit G Photo). The first elements of Bravo Company, 2-16 Infantry arrive on scene and begin to secure the area. They discover two RPGs and an AK-47 or AKM among the group of insurgents clustered near the wall. They also discovered two Canon EOS digital cameras with large telephoto lenses attached in the immediate vicinity of the bodies. The Soldiers gathered the two Canon digital cameras at the site as evidence for analysis. Two of the Military-aged males are still alive and the soldiers on scene render first aid and call for a medic.
- h. 0639:44 Z (Exhibit H Photo). Bravo Company soldiers searching the van find an Iraqi girl approximately four years old with penetrating wounds to her torso, and evacuate her to FOB LOYALTY.
- i. 0641:11 Z (Exhibit I Photo). Another Bravo Company soldier finds that an Iraqi male approximately eight years old is still alive after sustaining several penetrating wounds to various parts of his body, and evacuates that child as well. Both children were evacuated to FOB LOYALTY and then to 28th CSH on 12 July. Both children were then transferred to Medical City, an Iraqi controlled treatment facility, on 13 July 2007.
- j. (Exhibits J-P Statements). As Bravo Company secured the scene, they continued to take small arms fire and were not able to conduct a detailed sensitive site exploitation of the engagement area. Pictures taken at the time (Exhibit P), reveal one of the digital cameras with a sand-colored telephoto lens attached as well as an AK/AKM and an additional RPG launcher with a loaded round still in it. The body lying closest to the camera had an RPG round underneath it (later destroyed by EOD). Not one of the soldiers present recalled seeing any indications of either media/press badges or photographers' vests to indicate that noncombatants were on scene. Bravo Company soldiers remained on scene until Iraqi Security Forces arrived to take charge of the bodies and weapons. The two digital cameras were turned in for analysis when Bravo Company elements returned to FOB RUSIMYAH later that afternoon.
- k. By the late afternoon of 12 July, Iraqi Security Forces had recovered the press identification badges from the bodies of the Reuters employees and returned them to Reuters. I was unable to determine exactly where and when the identification was returned, and inquiries to Reuters have not yet been answered. By the afternoon of July 12th, Reuters was running the

story that two of their personnel had been killed on assignment in Baghdad in an engagement with US Forces (Exhibit S).

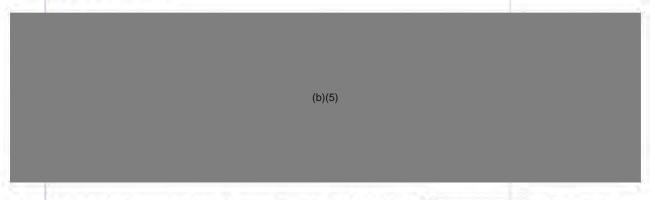
7. The Document Exploitation Team at FOB RUSTIMYAH conducted an examination of the media cards in the cameras and extracted hundreds of photos from each. Of significance are photos of MG Lynch taken at a press conference on 24 June, 2007, indicating that the photographer had press credentials in order to gain access to the Coalition Press Information Center (CPIC), in Baghdad's Green Zone (Exhibit R). Additional photos from one of the Canon digital cameras recovered on site (see Exhibit Q) show a male who appears to be Namir Noor-Eldeen based on the fact he is wearing an identical shirt to the one shown in the Reuters article (Exhibit S).

8. Conclusions.

- a. I have nothing which conclusively identifies the bodies of the two Reuters affiliates. The ground forces were still receiving small arms fire and did not have sufficient time or personnel to photograph or search the bodies for identification. Once Iraqi Security Forces arrived, that tasked was assumed by the Iraqi Police.
- b. I know that two military-aged males are seen carrying cameras which match the description of the CANON EOS cameras carried by Mr. Noor-Aldeen. Those cameras were recovered at the scene by soldiers from Bravo Company 2-16 IN, and the images recovered from their media cards showed images consistent with professional photographers and images which appear to be of Mr. Noor Aldeen himself.
- c. I conclude that the two Reuters affiliates were in the company of the armed insurgents who had been firing on members of Bravo Company, 2-16 Infantry, at the time of the engagement, as Bravo Company and Iraqi Security Forces attempted to clear Zone 30 as part of OPERATION ILAAJ on the morning of 12 July, 2007. The preponderance of the evidence leads me to conclude that Mr. Namir Noor-Eldeen and Mr. Saeed Chmagh were killed on 12 July during the engagement by Apache helicopters.
- d. I conclude that the presence of the Reuters employees was not known to any of the US Forces operating in the area that morning. The cameramen made no effort to visibly display their status as press or media representatives and their familiar behavior with, and close proximity to, the armed insurgents and their furtive attempts to photograph the Coalition Ground Forces made them appear as hostile combatants to the Apaches that engaged them. Furthermore, the mere fact that two individuals carried cameras instead of weapons would not indicate that they were noncombatants as the enemy commonly employ cameramen to film and photograph their attacks on Coalition Forces.
- 9. As to the presence of the children in the black van, it is obvious from the radio transmissions on the gun-camera tapes that the Apache pilots thought the van was to be used as a means of escape for the wounded insurgents. The van arrives as if on cue, and is immediately joined by two military-aged males who appear from the nearby courtyard. The children are never seen, while the driver slides open a door and then retakes his seat while two other males attempt to

load the first insurgent into the vehicle. It is unknown what, if any, connection the van had to the insurgent activity.

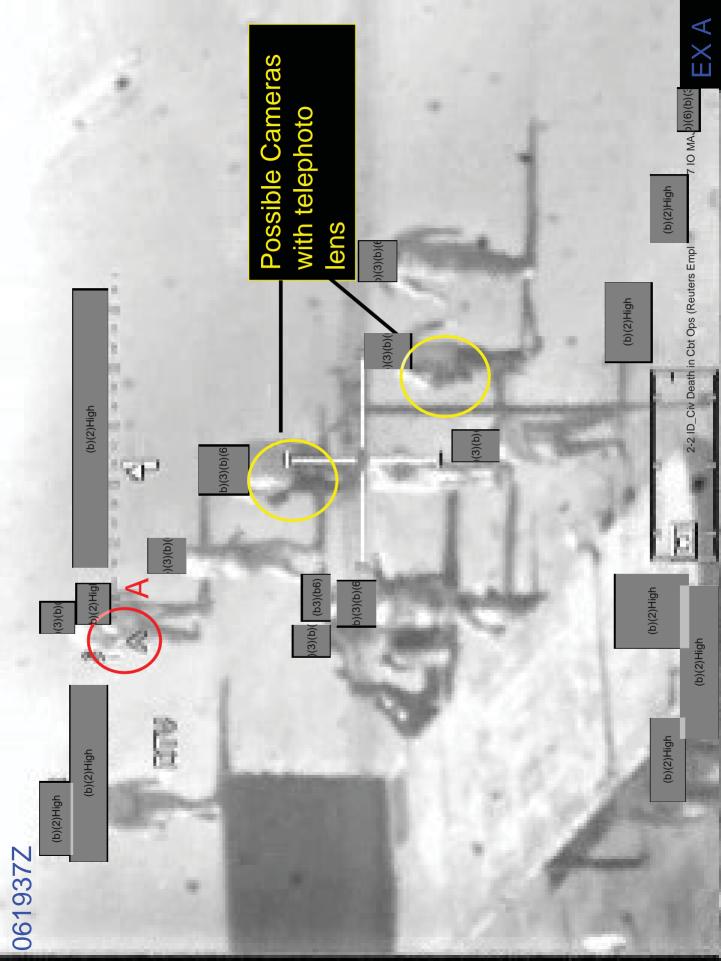
10. Recommendations. My recommendations to reduce the likelihood of similar casualties in the future are as follows:



11. POC for this investigation is the undersigned at VOIP phone (b)(2)High or SIPR email (b)(2)High

(b)(6), (b)(3)

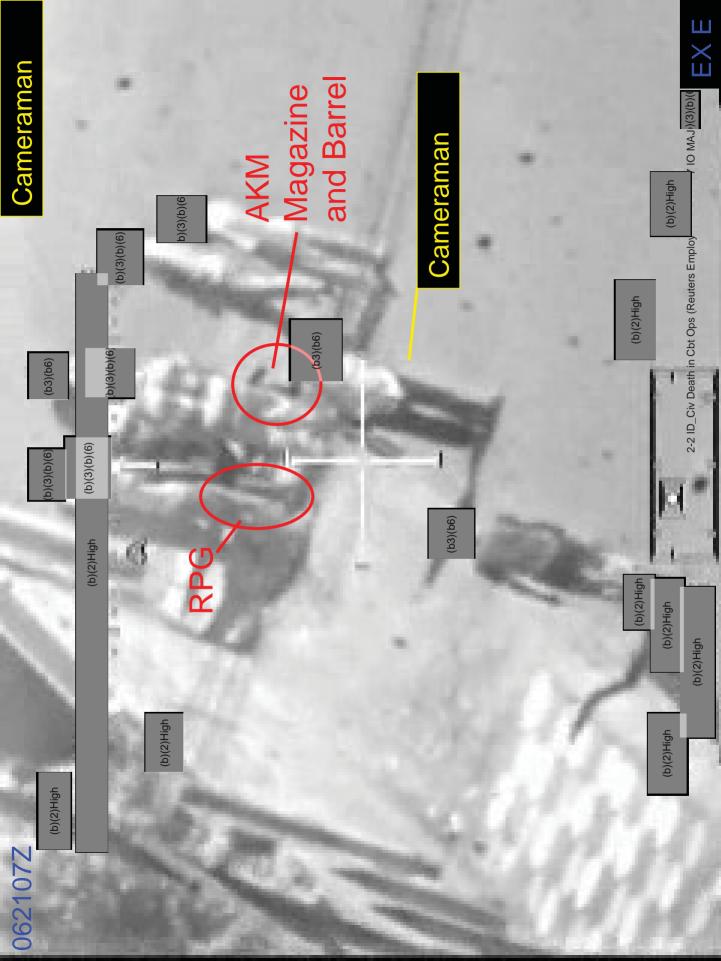
MAJ, IO Investigating Officer









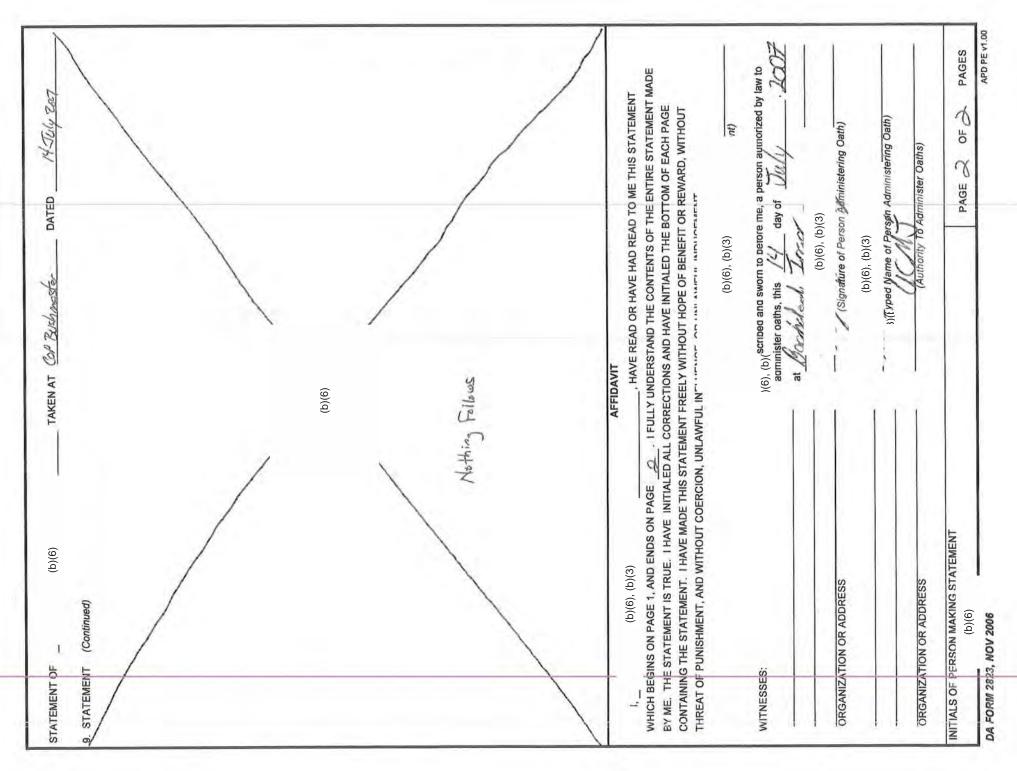




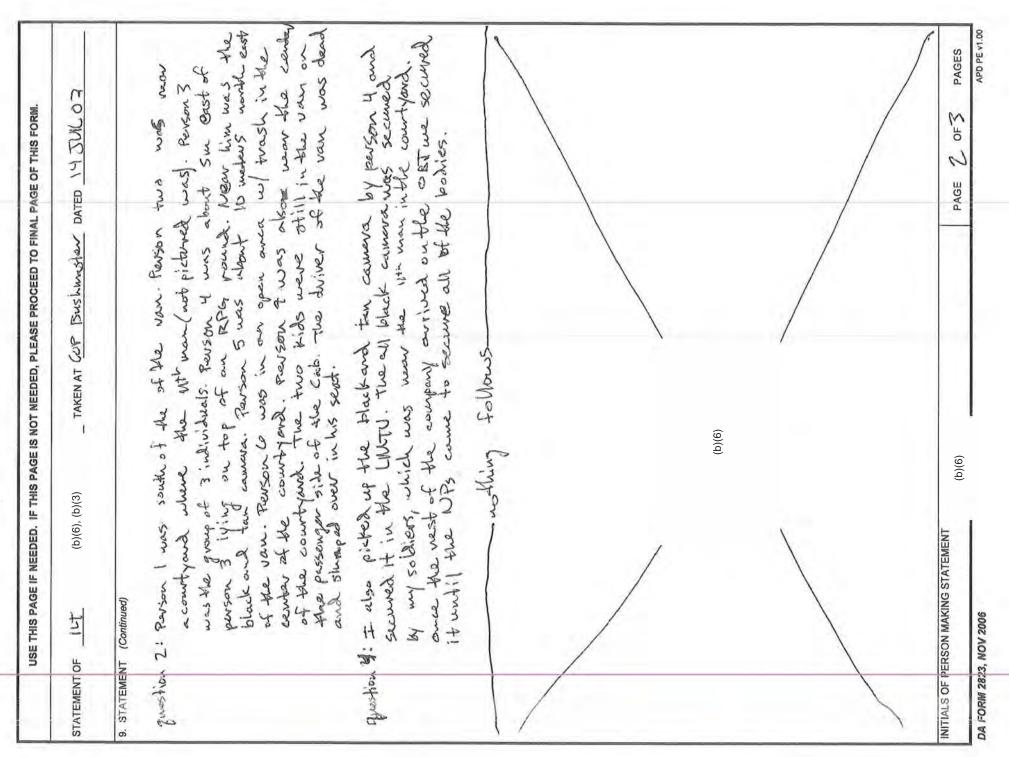


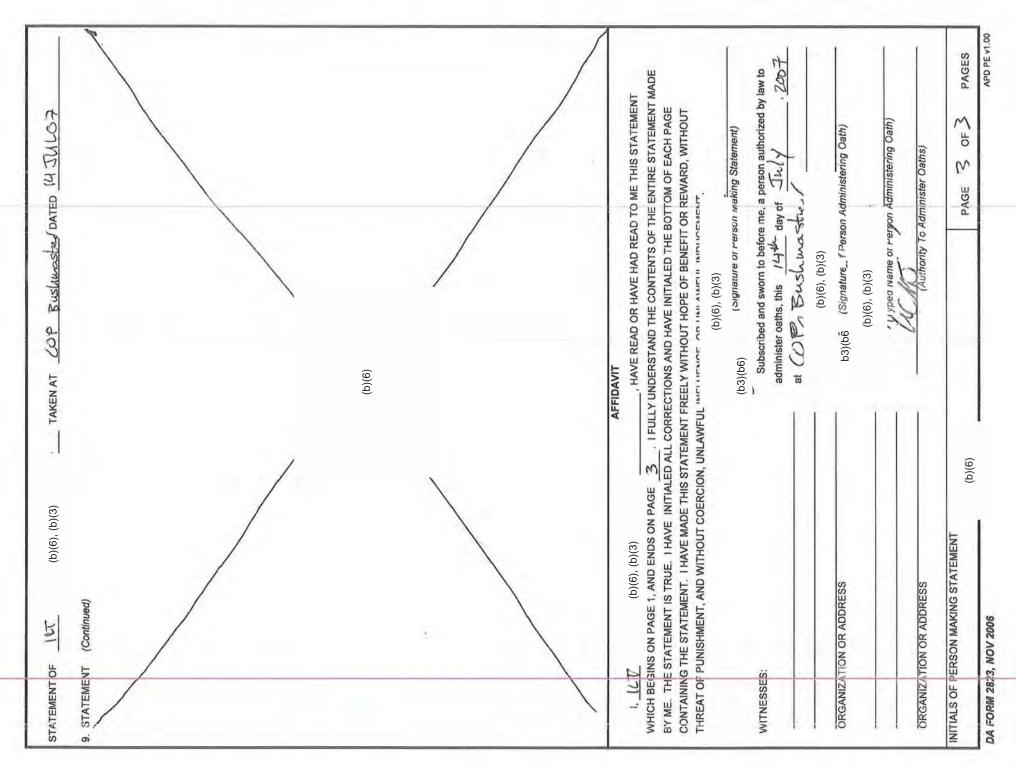


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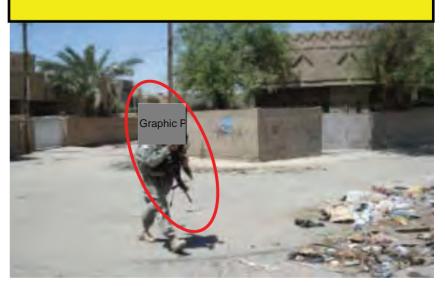


Exhibit O

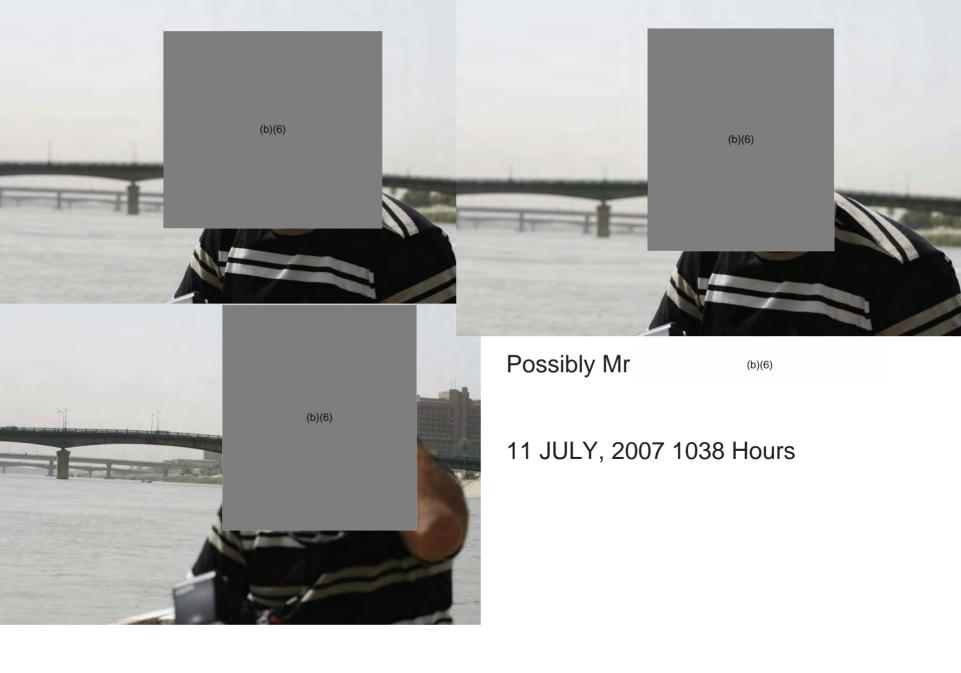
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MG Lynch Press Conference at Coalition Press Information Center, International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq.

24 JUNE, 2007 1437 Hours







Bravo Company, 2-16 IN HMMWV 12 JULY, 2007 1026 Hours

2-2 ID_Civ Death in Cbt Ops (Reuters Employees) 12JUL07 IO MAJ)(6), (b)(HIBIT R

Reuters employees killed in Iraq

Thu Jul 12, 2007 6:08PM BST

Email This Article Print This Article RSS

-Text+LONDON (Reuters) - An Iraqi photographer and driver working for Reuters in Iraq were killed in Baghdad on Thursday in what police said was American military action and witnesses described as a helicopter attack.

Photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen, 22, and driver Saeed Chmagh, 40, were killed in eastern Baghdad, the international news and information company said.

The U.S. military said it was looking into the reports but had no immediate statement.



A preliminary police report obtained by Reuters said Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh had been killed by a "random American bombardment" that killed nine other people.

The report was issued by the al-Rashad police station, the closest station to the scene. Reuters obtained a photocopy of the report. It was based upon witness accounts of the incident and signed by a lieutenant-colonel, the head of the station.

Noor-Eldeen had called a Reuters colleague to say he was taking photographs of a damaged building.

Witnesses interviewed by Reuters in the al-Amin al-Thaniyah neighbourhood said Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh, who also worked as a cameraman's assistant, were near the building around the time a U.S. helicopter fired on a minivan.

"The aircraft began striking randomly and people were wounded. A Kia (minivan) arrived to take them away. They hit the Kia and killed ... the two journalists," said one witness, Karim Shindakh.

Shindakh and three other witnesses said U.S. soldiers came and took Noor-Eldeen's camera equipment, which has not been recovered

A witness has returned Noor-Eldeen's press cards to Reuters.

TV footage showed the front of the minivan had been badly mangled. There was a large hole in the roof. A pool of blood lay near the curb, while shrapnel marks pocked the wall of a house.

The deaths take to six the number of Reuters employees killed in Iraq since U.S.-led forces invaded the country in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein.

"Once again we are left mourning colleagues who have met an untimely death while doing their job in Iraq," said Reuters chief executive Tom Glocer.

"Our sympathies and thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues today," added Glocer.

"Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh's outstanding contribution to reporting on the unfolding events in Iraq has been vital. They stand alongside other colleagues in Reuters who have died doing a job that they believe in."

Reuters Editor-in-Chief David Schlesinger said the deaths were a tragic reminder of the risks journalists face in covering the war in Iraq.

"The job our reporters do is a critical one - telling the world what is happening on the streets of Iraq on a daily basis," said Schlesinger.

"Reuters will continue to do all it can to protect journalists who must work in dangerous and difficult conditions but still have a right to do their jobs."

Noor-Eldeen was single. Chmagh was married with four children.