

UNCLASSIFIED

AR 15-6 Investigation

)1.4 a, (b)(2)

Operation Cnoclaw  
Non-Combatant Death

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CENTCOM 020640

# Event

~ 0930 on 31 December 2006

(b)(2)High

Mortar Platoon attempted mortar registration

of target

(b)(2)High

— Mortar round landed

— Mortar round struck house of

(b)(6)

— Killed

son,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

— Wounded

daughter

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

— Significant damage to the house

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(S)(C)  
(S)(C)

MISSION: [redacted] (1)  
[redacted] (2)H

TO: 30 0001C DEC 06

OWNING UNIT/CITY: 1-1AD, Al Bai

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

310300C DEC - [redacted] (2)H Mortar Platoon commences registration from location A. The desired Point of Impact was location B.

0935C [redacted] (1) (BN FSO) suspended registration after observing initial round out of impact [redacted] (2)H cancelled registration after initial report from [redacted] (BN FSO).

0950C - A HQ patrol arrives at the POI and determined the following:

- 1 x [redacted] (2)H round impacted house #16, location C.
- The round struck the roof of the house, penetrated, and detonated on the floor. The fuse was set on delay.
- The subsequent detonation killed the male instantly. He was the only person inside at the time of detonation.
- The [redacted] (b)(6) female (victim's sister) received injuries from flying glass. She was outside the house with the rest of the family at the time of impact.
- She was treated at the scene by a [redacted] (1) medic and released to her uncle.

1050C - [redacted] (2)H (BN SCO) initiated 15-6 investigation upon return from patrol. Mortar registration is suspended until procedural review / safety and FDO verification are complete.

RESULTS:

- 1 x LN KIA, [redacted] (b)(6) was killed by [redacted] (2)H mortar round.
- 1 x LN WIA, [redacted] (b)(6) received a minor injury (laceration to elbow).

(S)(C)  
(S)(C)

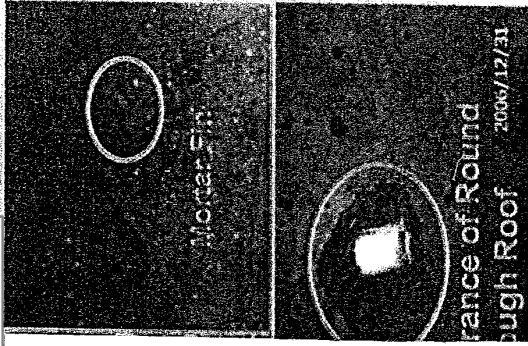
CENCOM 020842  
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(S)(C)  
(S)(C)

(S)(C)

~~SECRET FOR CONVEYANCE TO~~  
SPECIAL STORVEBOARD  
OPN CHOCTAW  
(2)Hic

(S)(C)



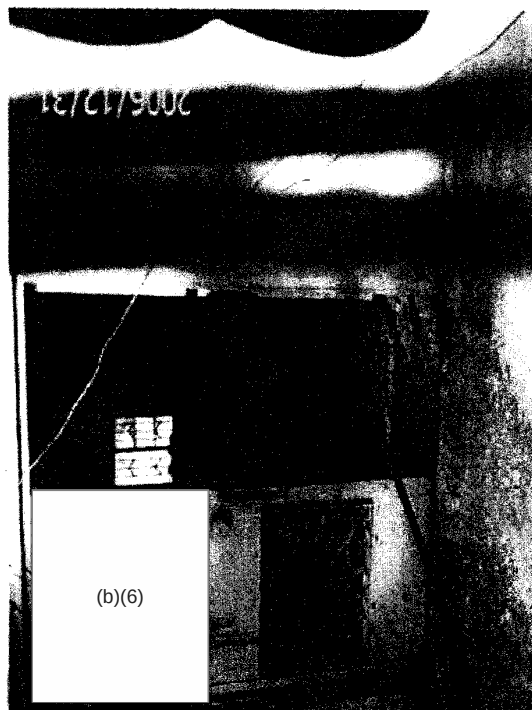
(S)(C)

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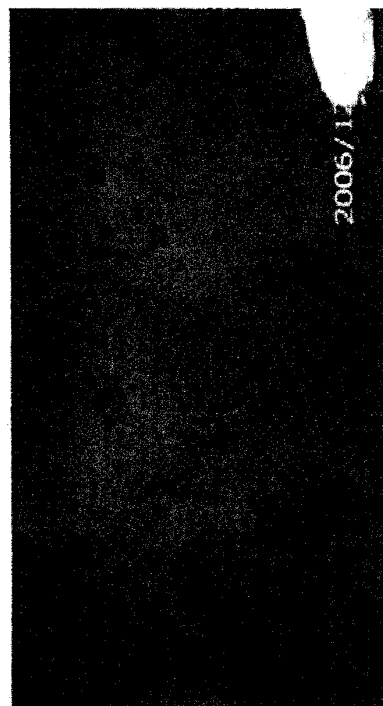
~~SECRET FOR CONVEYANCE TO~~

UNCLASSIFIED

# Photos of House Post-Impact



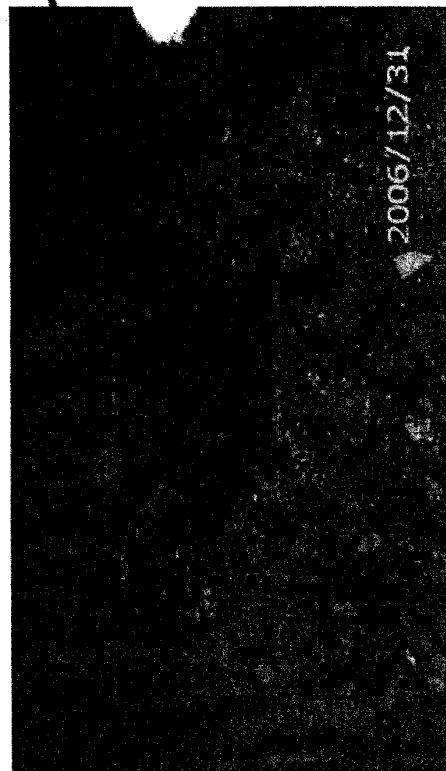
Front door



Interior wall



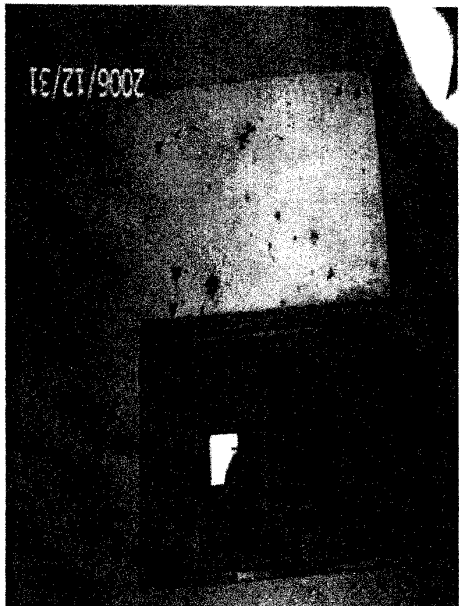
Exterior - broken glass and shattered door



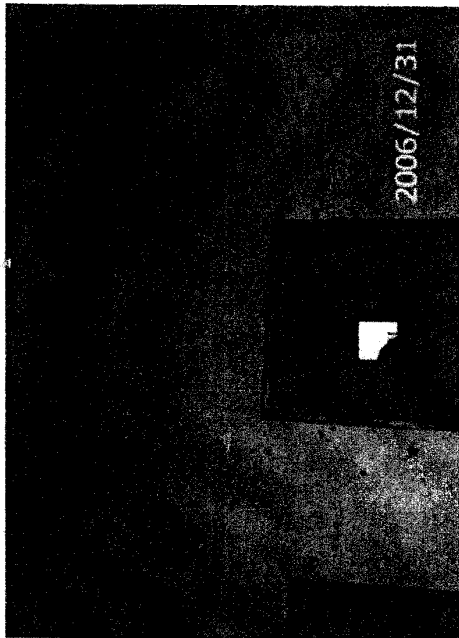
Crater in floor from detonation

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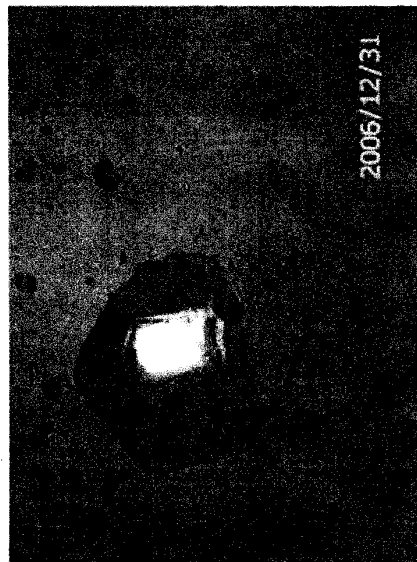
# Photos of House Post-Impact



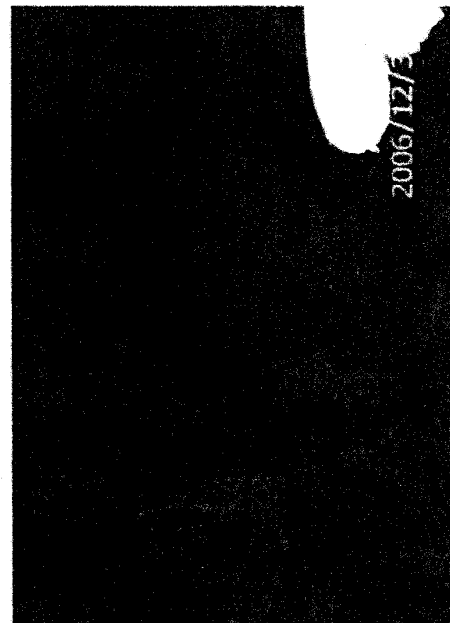
Interior - looking into kitchen area



Interior wall

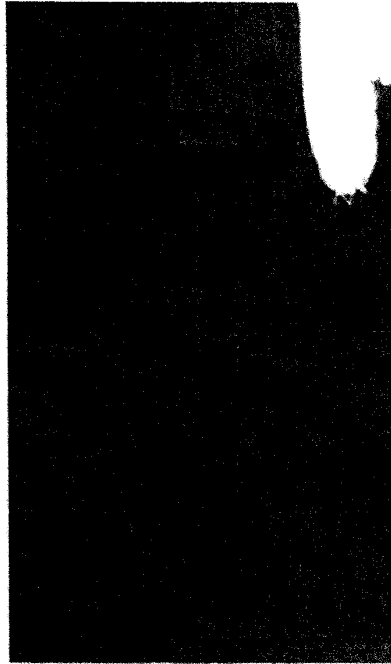


Entrance of round through Roof

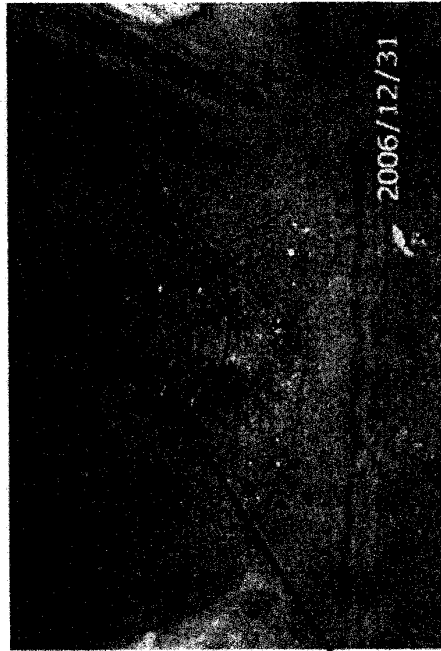


Interior room

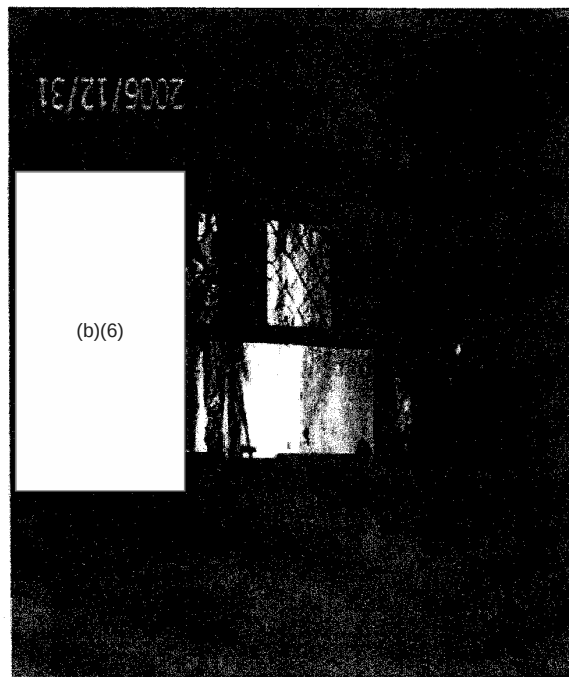
# Photos of House Post-Inspect



Interior room



view from outside front door - looking into house



interior - looking toward front door

Mortar Fin

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# Overview

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High, (b)(3),(b)(6)

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## Sequence of Events

- ~ 0815 CPT [REDACTED] departs ACP to ID registration target area.
  - 2LT [REDACTED] and 8-man security patrol.
- CPT [REDACTED] observes 2 MAVs watching the location.
  - Concerned about pending village between patrol and ACP.
  - Does not continue to the northwest.
- CPT [REDACTED] selects registration.
  - Assesses target to be [REDACTED] from the village.
- Data passed & verified to mortar crew.
- ~ 0930 Mortar launched IAW proper procedures.
- Round impacts [REDACTED] of intended target.



## Sequence of Events - 2

(b)(2)High

called

-- Proper procedures by the mortar crew

CPT

(b)(6)

moves patrol into village to investigate

Discover that mortar round killed

(b)(6)

local national

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# Overview - 2

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6)

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Commander's Guidance

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High

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# Overview - CO

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6)

Mortar Inspection

Mortar was properly maintained prior to event

(b)(2)High

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# Conclusions

(b)(5), (b)(2)High, (b)(6)

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# Conclusions - 2

(b)(5), (b)(2)High, (b)(6)

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Conclusions - 3

(b)(5), (b)(2)High

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Conclusions - 4

(b)(5), (b)(2)High, (b)(6)

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High, (b)(5), (b)(6)

SECRET

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Diagram showing probable impact area for reclassification  
Based on Appendix C (Safety Procedures) of  
(b)(2)High

(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High

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(b)(1)1.4 a, (b)(2)High

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