



Memorandum Report of Interview

Regarding

Team 23 Interviews: Nicholas Slatten, Paul Slough, Dean Wagler, Jeremy Skinner, Justin Heard, Thomas Vargas, Edward Randale, Matthew Murphy, Jim Watson, Kevin Rhodes, Jeremy Krueger, and Jeremy Ridgeway

DS Case Number

RS-2007-0339

Office Case Number (If applicable)

CI-2007-0916

Case Title

VBIED/EOF IZ DIHIR R23/4

Date

09/16/2007

Time

1715-2030

Location

US Embassy Baghdad, Iraq

On 09/16/2007, Assistant Regional Security Officers (ARSO) Lisa Lopez (RA) and Dave Motley (RA) interviewed the following members of Team 23 following the Nisur Square incident. Each member was asked their position, involvement in the engagement, and any significant details they may have witnessed throughout the engagement.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At 1800 hours, RAs interviewed Dean WAGLER. WAGLER was a fire team member in vehicle number three, the follow vehicle. He stated that he maintained focus on his sector which was on the right side the entire engagement. He took fire from his sector, but did not return fire because he could not but could not identify a target. WAGLER believes the team took fire approximately two hundred meters after leaving the circle.

At 1803 hours, RAs interviewed Jeremy SKINNER. SKINNER was the driver of vehicle number two, the right side drive emergency recovery vehicle that towed the command vehicle. He stated that he saw muzzle flashes coming from median and between vehicles on the left side. He did not engage any individuals. When the command vehicle went down, he aligned his vehicle to provide cover for his team members to get out attach tow strap. He then towed the command vehicle back to safety in the International Zone.

Reporting Agent

Date

Distribution

Lisa M. Lopez
Approving Official (If applicable)

09/28/2007
Date

9-28-07

DS Form (April 2000)

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BWT-003313

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At 1813 hours, RAs interviewed Thomas VARGAS. VARGAS was the tactical commander in vehicle number four, the follow vehicle. He was focus on map at beginning of engagement, but then saw two Iraqi Police (one wearing baby blue shirt with a patch and dark pants/one wearing beige camouflage pants and a brown shirt) firing into command vehicle. He also saw one civilian crawling on the ground dragging AK by the strap. He relayed information to team over the radio. He believes his vehicle received two shots, one to each side. The team broke contact after taking the right turn that put them out of the line of sight of the traffic circle.

At 1818 hours, RAs interviewed Edward RANDALE. RANDALE was the driver of vehicle number four, the follow vehicle. He stated that his attention was focused on the front sector when he saw command vehicle take and return fire. He then heard his own vehicle take fire on left side. He did not see any muzzle flashes or return fire. He proceeded counter flow with the other vehicles once they started to move again and saw a white vehicle (different than the first one that was engaged) backing up. He then saw the command vehicle fire couple of rounds into trunk. Once the team had passed this vehicle, they jumped median and turned right off of road.

At 1825 hours, RAs interviewed Matthew MURPHY. MURPHY was the lead gunner on the front turret of vehicle number two, the right side drive emergency recovery vehicle that towed the command vehicle. He stated that the team was trying to clear vehicles out of circle when they received fire from the rear towards the left. He did not engage at any time because he maintained scan of his sector in the front. He saw Iraqi Police at his 1000 and waved at them to get down. He then continued to wave traffic out of way of the team.

At 1833 hours, RAs interviewed Jim WATSON. WATSON was the shift leader in vehicle number three, the command vehicle. He stated that he tried to turn team around to return to Check Point 12 as ordered, but he had to take the team around the traffic circle to get back. His vehicle received fire from left side and went down. His vehicle was hooked up and towed out by the emergency recovery vehicle. They were towed to Check Point 2. He did not fire any rounds.


At 1841 hours, RAs interviewed Kevin RHODES. RHODES was the medic in vehicle number two, the right side drive emergency recovery vehicle that towed the command vehicle. He stated that the team received fire from left side. He maintained scan of sector (NE). A white car approached the command vehicle which then engaged the white vehicle. When the command vehicle went down, he and two other fire team members got out to attach the tow strap. He heard shots to the right side of the vehicle. He did not fire any shots.

At 1945, RAs interviewed Jeremy KRUEGER. KRUEGER was a fire team member in vehicle number two, the right side drive emergency recovery vehicle that towed the command vehicle. He stated that he heard shots in traffic circle, but could not determine direction. He then heard "contact" relayed over radio. Approximately 30 meters from command vehicle, a white compact vehicle slow rolled towards the team, but he did not see anyone in vehicle. He did see an individual popping up and down between shots next to the white vehicle then crawl out of sight. He could not identify targets therefore did not fire. He saw IPs take cover two hundred meters up road. He does not believe anyone in his vehicle fired shot. He did see 203 shots fired from team. He then heard "break contact" and "vehicle down" over radio. The lead vehicle provided cover for team members to hook up tow strap. He stopped hearing fire once out of circle.

At 2005, RAs interviewed Jeremy RIDGEWAY. RIDGEWAY was the front gunner of vehicle number four, the follow vehicle. He stated that he heard fire before his vehicle stopped. He saw a white vehicle being pushed towards team by Iraqi Policeman in white shirt, and then fired into the driver's side window. He saw muzzle flashes on both side of street, and returned fire on the right side target. He went through one full M-4 magazine between both engagements. After the traffic circle, a second white vehicle stopped on right side of his vehicle. He made eye contact, gave hand signals, and threw water bottle at driver to get him to stop moving in the vehicle. The driver drove his vehicle into the fender of follow vehicle. He fired four to five rounds into roof of white vehicle. The driver got out and "fiddled with something black in his hand." He fired approximately three rounds center mass to the driver. He maintained scan of sector once the team started to move again. They continued counter flow until they jumped the median and turned right off of road.

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BWT-003314

 Memorandum Report of Interview	DS Case Number	
	RS-2007-0339	
	Office Case Number (If applicable)	
	RS-2007-00339	
Case Title		
20070917 VBIED/EOF Izdihar R23 & R4		
Regarding Team 23 Interviews	Date	Time
	16 SEP 2007	1753-2035
	Location	
Embassy Annex		

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL T. SCOLLAN and MARIO RETA

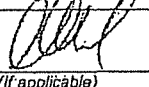
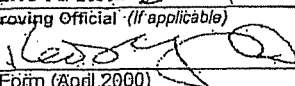
Interview of Cory Wainscott, Raven 23 Tactical Commander

16SEP07 ARSO's Scollan and Reta interviewed Cory Wainscott regarding the Escalation of Force at Nisur Square on the 17th of September. Wainscott stated the following:

On the day in question he was the Tactical Commander in the front left seat of the lead Mamba vehicle. Wainscott heard over radio that Team 4 reported "Contact, Contact, Contact" Then additionally reported there had been a large explosion near their venue. Wainscott stated that his team, Raven 23 headed to Checkpoint 12. Raven 23 approached traffic circle Gray-87, and their Shift Leader ordered the team to lock down traffic circle. Raven 23 vehicles assumed defensive U shaped position around south end of Gray-87 facing north to facilitate movement of Team 4 and Team 22 to approach the circle from the South in the oncoming lanes. Wainscott stated that he heard small arms fire that sounded like multiple gunmen from multiple locations.

Wainscott stated that radio traffic described three distinct locations of hostile gunman; the "treeline" approx 50 - 60 meters South of position, "berm and bongo truck" approximately 50 -60 meters South-Southwest location from the team position, and from "IPs" at a guard shack. Wainscott heard his Team engaging the above threats. Wainscott saw a white sedan on fire with several gunshot holes in the windshield. The vehicle was stationary and on fire in the north bound traffic lane approximately 30 meters South.

Break Contact was ordered by shift leader approximately a few minutes after the team came under attack. Raven 23 initiated breaking contact while still under fire. The command vehicle, KBR Bearcat went down due to having been shot through the radiator. The command vehicle was successfully towed out under fire, and the team broke contact.

Reporting Agent	Date	Distribution
Mario A. Reta 	28SEP 2007	
Approving Official (If applicable)	Date	
	9-28-07	

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Wainscott did not identify any targets, and therefore did not engage the enemy. During the engagement, Wainscott saw one enemy fighter lying near the guard shack wearing a white horizontal striped shirt and "dickie" type blue pants with the stock of a weapon lying next to his body. This individual was not wearing an Iraqi Police uniform.

Interview terminated 1830

Interview of Daniel Childers, Raven 23 Lead Driver, driving Mamba-5

09/16/07 1837

ARSO's Scollan and Reta interviewed Daniel Childers regarding the Escalation of Force at Nisur Square on the 17th of September. Childers stated the following:

On the day in question he was the driver of the lead Mamba vehicle. Raven Team 23 departed check point 12, and drove to traffic circle Gray -87 to lock it down and assist Raven 22 and Raven 4. Raven 4 had been attacked by a VBID near their location, and Raven 22 was supporting their evacuation. Raven 23 locked down the circle, and were there approximately 45 seconds before they started receiving hostile small arms fire. Childers heard gunfire, and reports on the radio, but did not see the engagement. Childers remained focused on his area of responsibility north-north-east of his position. The firefight lasted approximately 5 minutes. Raven 23 initiated "Break Contact," however the command vehicle went down. The command vehicle was successfully towed and the team broke contact while receiving fire from the six o'clock position. Childers did not see any enemy combatants during the conflict. He did see Iraqi Police on the South-East corner of Gray-87. Childers has previously seen Iraqi Police posted at this position.

Interview terminated 1855

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Interview of Adam Frost, Fire Team Leader Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)

09/16/07 1915

ARSO's Scollan and Reta interviewed Adam Frost regarding the Escalation of Force at Nisur Square on the 17th of September. Frost stated the following:

Frost was riding in the second vehicle in team formation. Raven 23 responded to Gray 87, and Frost was in rear turret area which did not have a weapon in it. Frost was covering area of responsibility to the north. Frost heard gunfire at his six o'clock. Frost heard team members calling out that they had "contact," and also heard a team member from the rear vehicle report that there was an Iraqi Police officer behind the bushes shooting at them. Frost remained focused on his area of responsibility.

Frost stated that after approximately two to three minutes the team evacuated. During the evacuation, the command vehicle went down. The lead vehicle blocked while Frost dismounted and connected the tow strap to the Command vehicle. Doc and Jeremy Krueger provided cover to the North-East. Raven Team 23 then successfully broke contact.

Terminated 1923

Interview of Dustin Hill, Fire Team Member in Lead Mamba

09/16/07 1924

ARSO's Scollan and Reta interviewed Dustin Hill regarding the Escalation of Force at Nisur Square on the 17th of September. Hill stated the following:

Raven 23 responded to Traffic Circle Gray-87. Hill heard over radio that the team was receiving contact, and then heard the team respond. Throughout the contact, Hill did not see any enemy combatants, and did not fire his weapon. Hill remained in the vehicle. Hill's area of responsibility was to the west of the traffic circle. He saw what he believed to be an unarmed Iraqi Police wearing a light blue shirt, holding a radio, attempting to keep traffic out of the traffic circle while the team was receiving hostile fire.

Terminated 1933

Interview of Mark Mealy, Lead Vehicle Lead Gunner

09/16/07 1934

ARSO's Scollan and Reta interviewed Mark Mealy regarding the Escalation of Force at Nisur Square on the 17th of September. Mealy stated the following:

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On the day in question he was the lead gunner in the lead vehicle. Raven 23 responded to a traffic circle known as Gray-87 to support Raven-4 and Raven 22, and saw several Iraqi Police in the center and south-west area of the traffic circle. Mealy also saw either Iraqi Army or police wearing green and brown camouflage uniforms at the "Black Gate" just south of the traffic circle. Raven 23 secured the circle, and Mealy covered his area of responsibility to the north-north-east. Mealy saw two bunkers on top of a two story building north-west of the traffic circle that appeared to be manned with Iraqi Army soldiers observing the team. Heard team members calling out over the radio that they had enemy contact, and heard team engaging the enemy. Mealy did not see any Iraqi Police or Iraqi Army personnel engage Raven 23. Mealy did not see any enemy combatants during the conflict. While breaking contact, Mealy saw a white sedan on fire in the south-west portion of the traffic circle.

Terminated 1947

[REDACTED]

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