

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

(b) 6 thanks...and welcome back! V/r, (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharp, Walter L., LTG, JCS J5

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 12:47 PM

To: DJS - Casey, George; J2 - (b)(6) Jr., (b)(6) J3 -

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: FW: MORTAR ATTACK ON THE AL RESHEED HOTEL

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

(b)(6)

First hand account of this mornings mortar attack from my guy in Baghdad...very interesting.

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(3), (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(3), (b)(6)]

Sent: 27 September 2003 7:07 AM

To: (b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5

Cc: Sharp, Walter L., LTG, JCS J5; Sullivan, William D, RADM,

JCS

J5; Casey, George W, LTG, JCS DJS; (b)(6) CIV, JCS J5;

(b)(3), (b)(6), JCS J5; (b)(6) CIV, JCS J5; (b)(3), (b)(6)

(b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5; (b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5; (b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5;

(b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5; (b)(6) CIV, JCS J2;

(b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5; (b)(3), (b)(6) JCS J5; (b)(3), (b)(6)

JCS, J5

Subject: MORTAR ATTACK ON THE AL RESHEED HOTEL

Sir,

SUMMARY: We had an interesting morning here in Baghdad as we were awakened at 0640L to the sounds of what appeared to be mortar rounds impacting the Al Rasheed hotel. As you know, this is the hotel which houses most of the CPA staff. With the smell of fresh cordite permeating the halls, we quickly moved people to the ground floor and conducted a thorough sweep of the premises. BLUF, no injuries and no casualties.

What has been determined as of now is as follows. At approximately 0630, our security OP, posted on the roof of the Al Rasheed hotel, spotted what he believed to be a white Toyota in the Al Alaam neighborhood north of the Hotel, at a distance of about 600M. The OP observed men moving around the trunk of the car. It appeared that they were changing a tire. At approximately 0640, the OP felt a jolt and heard an explosion. Seconds later, a second round impacted the north end of the building at the 14th

floor which could be heard throughout the building. The OP observed a wall of flames coming up over the building. There was a third launch but the projectile went over the Rasheed, with impact area unknown at this time.

The ordnance which was used appears to be 57mm rockets which were launched from a home made MLRS. The MLRS was made of two rows of four steel tubes each, connected to two 12V motorcycle batteries and a square black box with a number of toggle switches. Four of the eight tubes were empty. The device was aimed in the direction of the hotel. What is remarkable is that the hotel sustained only minor damage. One room had the interior wall, which consists of 6" reinforced concrete, pushed out about three inches. The facade of the emergency escape tower was damaged where the projectile(s) impacted. There was no other damage to the hotel.

The Al Raheed hotel was constructed at the direction of Saddam in 1988 by a Finnish company. It was made to withstand an attack. Along with reinforced walls and special glass, the hotel has an elaborate bunker system below the first floor. To give you an idea of the soundness of the hotel, the rounds impacted room 1402. I live in 1433 and although I heard the explosions, which were extremely loud, I never felt any movement of the building. In fact, some residents living just a few doors away felt nothing more than a little jolt. Drew Carey was in town and in the lobby when the rounds impacted. I guess he will have a few new story lines for his show.

OSI and 2BCT/1AD are continuing the investigation. Things are already back to normal. I called NMCC early this morning and provided an initial SPOTREP to (b)(3), (b)(6). Nothing else to report at this time. Will provide follow-up if significantly new information arises.

Very respectfully,

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