

## Davidson, Melissa MRS

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**From:** Budd, Henry MR  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 September 2017 2:50 PM  
**To:** 'Payne, Marise (Private)'  
**Subject:** TPs on the airstrikes [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

### UNCLASSIFIED

Hi

Here are the TPs on the airstrikes – I'm just waiting on CJOPs to make sure he is OK with the language:

- Any loss of civilian life is highly regrettable and we treat all allegations with the utmost seriousness.
- Following a review of two separate air strikes during the Mosul campaign in Iraq, Defence has confirmed that ADF personnel were involved in two probable civilian casualty incidents.
- The coalition and ADF reviews found that, based on the information available at the time, the personnel involved complied with the laws of armed conflict and Australian rules of engagement.
- The ADF does its utmost to minimise the risk of civilian casualties and to ensure targeted locations are clear of civilians before and during air strikes. Any loss of civilian life is highly regrettable and we treat all allegations with the utmost seriousness.
- Daesh is a ruthless enemy.
- We know that many Iraqi civilians have been killed as a result of Daesh actions. Streets and buildings are booby trapped, and Daesh fighters capture civilians, holding them hostage in a cowardly attempt to protect themselves, or worse, deliberately stage incidents that cause casualties.
- Strike operations to destroy Daesh's combat capability and to enhance Iraqi ground force manoeuvre are crucial to the success of the campaign, but the despicable tactic of [using human shields](#) is designed to complicate and impede Coalition support to the Iraqi Security Forces on the front line.
- Unlike Daesh, the ADF is always discriminate and proportionate when targeting enemy forces and all ADF personnel operate under strict rules of engagement designed to protect our forces, our partner forces, and minimise the risk of injury to civilians while complying with Australia's obligations under domestic and international law.

If asked about the individual strikes

**On 7 June 2017**, two Australian aircraft conducted an airstrike in support of Iraqi Security Forces who were under direct fire from enemy fighters in Mosul. Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were also involved in the Coalition approval process.

A single precision guided munition was released, striking the target and destroying a section of a building used by Daesh as a defensive fighting position.

During the post-airstrike review process, ADF personnel reported it was possible that civilians may have been present in the strike location.

Based on the Coalition information available at the time, the personnel involved complied with the laws of armed conflict and Australian rules of engagement.

**On 30 March 2017**, Coalition forces conducted airstrikes in support of Iraqi ground forces against suspected Daesh military forces. No Australian aircraft were involved in the incident. ADF personnel were involved in the Coalition approval process.

Based on the information available, an airstrike was authorised and tragically seven civilians were unintentionally killed or injured.

ADF personnel self-reported the incident in accordance with ADF policy.

Based on the Coalition information available at the time, the personnel involved complied with the laws of armed conflict and Australian rules of engagement.

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