

From: Anna Varfolomeeva
To: [Pahon, Eric J CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Cc: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] inquiry (Syria announcement)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:23:35 AM

Good morning Eric,

Hope all is well!

There are reports this morning that the announcement on Syria made by the White House yesterday was not coordinated through any national security agencies. Spicer tweeted out a warning of a US military response should the Assad regime in Syria launch another chemical attack. Reports claim that officials at Centcom and the Pentagon were reportedly unaware not only that the statement would be released, but of the origin of the intelligence of such an attack by the Assad regime. Could you please provide a comment on these reports? Was the announcement coordinated?

Thank you!

Best regards,
Anna Varfolomeeva

News Writer,
Washington, DC

(b)(6)

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Kristina Wong](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:59:29 AM

Hi Kristina,
I hope you are well.

On-the-record:

Q: What activity was seen? Advance coordination?

A: I'm not going to discuss intelligence matters, but the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons against its own people is well-documented.

DOD knew about the White House statement and provided edits in advance of its release. Anonymous leaks to the contrary are false or misinformed.

VR,
Dana
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
From: Kristina Wong
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:28 AM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

Hi Dana!

Hope you're well! Wanted to ask re: WH statement on Syria what activity we see around Shayrat that prompted the statement, and also ask whether the DOD knew about the WH statement beforehand? Several media outlets reporting it didn't know beforehand.

Thanks and safe travels!

Kristina

--

Kristina Wong
Pentagon reporter, Breitbart News

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Cc: [OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM](#)
Subject: Can you review short statement on the CW statement? (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:34:22 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Can you review this? I'd like a short statement to use for chasers...

Attributable to me:

Over the past few days, the intelligence community observed activities at Shayrat Air Base suggestive of an impending chemical weapons attack. These activities were consistent with the preparations the IC observed when Syrian regime forces conducted a chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun, Syria, and were at location on Shayrat Air Base that was associated with the attacks in April. In the last 24 hours, our information on these activities became significantly more complete and compelling, prompting the White House to its statement on this subject yesterday.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region. Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Defense Press Operations
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon, Room 2D961
Tel: (b)(6)
Blackberry: (b)(6)
Main: (b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0054

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#); [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Beckman, Kristi L \(KB\) Lt Col USAF OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:47:16 PM

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:09 PM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

Thank you! :-)

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

From: "White, Dana W SES OSD (US)" <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:59am
To: "Kristina Wong" (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

Hi Kristina,

I hope you are well.

On-the-record:

Q: What activity was seen? Advance coordination?

A: I'm not going to discuss intelligence matters, but the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons against its own people is well-documented.

DOD knew about the White House statement and provided edits in advance of its release. Anonymous leaks to the contrary are false or misinformed.

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Dana

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Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

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Thanks and safe travels!

Kristina

--

Kristina Wong
Pentagon reporter, Breitbart News

(b)(6)

A rectangular black box used for redaction, covering the contact information of Kristina Wong.

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#); [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Beckman, Kristi L \(KB\) Lt Col USAF OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:47:16 PM

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:09 PM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

Thank you! :-)

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To: "Kristina Wong" (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

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Dana

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Thanks and safe travels!

Kristina

--

Kristina Wong
Pentagon reporter, Breitbart News

(b)(6)



From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Donnelly, Sally B SES \(US\)](#)
Subject: Possible statement from me
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:48:07 AM

If pressed:

I recommend providing the following, or close to it:

(b)(5)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Tom Bowman](#)
Subject: RE: Fwd: can someone check on this ? U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:24:00 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Yes.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

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

From: Tom Bowman [<mailto:TBowman@npr.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US) <(b)(6)>
Subject: Fwd: can someone check on this ? U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN

This right? Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Rushlow <KRushlow@npr.org> <Caution-<mailto:KRushlow@npr.org>>>
Date: June 27, 2017 at 9:36:35 AM EDT
To: NatSec <NatSec@npr.org> <Caution-<mailto:NatSec@npr.org>>>, Tom Bowman <TBowman@npr.org> <Caution-<mailto:TBowman@npr.org>>>
Cc: NewsCast Prod <NewsCastProd1@npr.org> <Caution-<mailto:NewsCastProd1@npr.org>>>, Newsdesk-Eds <Newsdesk-Eds@npr.org> <Caution-<mailto:Newsdesk-Eds@npr.org>>>
Subject: can someone check on this ? U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN

09:33

rtr 1 OVR 17 L1N1JO0JK

U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0059

U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS
FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN =

U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS
FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN

2017-06-27T13:33:20.000Z

| Kathleen Rushlow | Senior Producer, Newscast |

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: [Gordon Lubold](#)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 12:46:00 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Gordon,

The following is attributable to (b)(6) Defense Department Spokesman:

=====

We have observed activities at Shayrat Air Base that suggest possible intent by the Syrian regime to use chemical weapons again. These activities are similar to what we observed prior to the regime chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun in April.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region.

Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners.

=====

V/R,
CDR Patrick Evans, APR
Defense Press Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
1400 Defense Pentagon, RM 2D961, Washington, DC 20310-1400

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

From: Gordon Lubold [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:20 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

Was there a Davis quote that went out by email on Syria this morning?

gl.

--

Gordon Lubold
Pentagon reporter

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0061

The Wall Street Journal.

m: (b)(6)

o: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Dozier, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Anything to add from DOD side on Spicer's Syria statement?
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:03:31 PM

I have nothing.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

From: Dozier, Kim
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:02 PM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Anything to add from DOD side on Spicer's Syria statement?

Hi there - sorry to bug late but the Syria statement just came out and I'm wondering if the Pentagon is doing any related planning?

Kim Dozier • Senior NatSec Correspondent •
Pentagon (b)(6)
Cell/Signal App/WhatsApp (b)(6)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary

The United States has identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children. The activities are similar to preparations the regime made before its April 4, 2017 chemical weapons attack.

As we have previously stated, the United States is in Syria to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. If, however, Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price.

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0063

###

From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: [Grace Wyler](#)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Comment on WH Syria Chemical Weapons Statement
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:29:48 PM

Off the record, I don't. Sorry. Just referring to the WH statement.

Defense Press Office, Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
The Pentagon
From: Grace Wyler
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:55 PM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment on WH Syria Chemical Weapons Statement

Hi -

Can you confirm the White House statement just now that the US has identified preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime in Syria? Can you provide any further details? Does the Pentagon have any plans to respond?

Please let me know.

Best regards,

Grace

--

--

Grace Wyler | BuzzFeed News | News Editor | (b)(6) (b)(6)
6824 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038

From: [Stump, Adam M CIV \(US\)](#)
To: [Deng, Boer](#); [OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM](#)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] NOON DEADLINE: Query for The Times-- Syria chemical intelligence and comment (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 12:04:00 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Boer

You can attribute the following to me, a Defense Department spokesman:

"We have observed activities at Shayrat Air Base that suggest possible intent by the Syrian regime to use chemical weapons again. These activities are similar to what we observed prior to the regime chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun in April.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region.

Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners."

Adam Stump
Defense Department Spokesman (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia)
Defense Press Operations
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon, Room 2D961
Tel: (b)(6)
Email: Adam.m.stump.civ@mail.mil

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

From: Deng, Boer [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:45 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM <osd.pentagon.pa.list.dpo-centcom@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NOON DEADLINE: Query for The Times-- Syria chemical intelligence and comment

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

----- Forwarded message -----

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0066

From: Deng, Boer <(b)(6)> <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >
Date: 27 June 2017 at 08:17
Subject: Query for The Times-- Syria chemical intelligence and comment
To: Michelle Baldanza <(b)(6)> <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >

Hi Michelle,

I hope this message finds you well. Does the Pentagon have a statement about the WH statement warning Syria against conducting another chemical attack? Are you at liberty to discuss what kind of intelligence was uncovered to spur the statement?
Was it coordinated with the DOD?

Please let us know ASAP before noon

Thanks,
Boer

--

Boer Deng
Washington Correspondent, The Times

(b)(6) <(b)(6)>
(b)(6) <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> > (b)(6)

--

Boer Deng
Washington Correspondent, The Times

(b)(6)
(b)(6) <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >
(b)(6)

--

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: [Loree Lewis](#)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Press inquiry: Syria chemical weapons (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 5:40:00 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Here you go. The following is attributable to (b)(6) Defense Department Spokesman:

=====

We have observed activities at Shayrat Air Base that suggest possible intent by the Syrian regime to use chemical weapons again. These activities are similar to what we observed prior to the regime chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun in April.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region.

Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners.

=====

V/R,
CDR Patrick Evans, APR
Defense Press Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
1400 Defense Pentagon, RM 2D961, Washington, DC 20310-1400

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

From: Loree Lewis [mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:18 PM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Press inquiry: Syria chemical weapons (UNCLASSIFIED)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hi CRD Evans,

I'm writing to follow up about this request -- are you able to provide any additional information about the WH

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0069

assertion?

I've seen reporting that the DOD saw activity at the Shayrat airbase.

Thanks for your time and assistance.

Loree

On Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 9:28 AM, Loree Lewis <(b)(6)>
Caution-[<mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](mailto:(b)(6)) wrote:

Hi CDR Evans,

Thank you.

Loree

On Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 9:24 AM, OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
<osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil < Caution-[<mailto:osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil>](mailto:osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil) > > wrote:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Hi, Loree. Please stand by. We'll have something for you son.

V/R,

CDR Patrick Evans, APR

Defense Press Duty Officer

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

1400 Defense Pentagon, RM 2D961, Washington, DC 20310-1400

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

From: Loree Lewis [Caution-[<mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](mailto:(b)(6)) < Caution-[<mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](mailto:(b)(6)) >]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 8:15 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil < Caution-[<mailto:osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil>](mailto:osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil) > >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Press inquiry: Syria chemical weapons

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hi OSD PA,

I'm writing with a press inquiry on behalf of Talk Media News.

Are you able to offer any details about the White House allegation last night that the Syrian government under Assad was readying a chemical weapons attack?

Thanks for your time and assistance.

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0070

Respectfully,
Loree Lewis

--

Loree Lewis

Defense Correspondent

Talk Media News

(b)(6) < Caution-mailto:(b)(6) > < Caution-mailto:(b)(6) >
Office: (b)(6) < tel:%28703%29%20695-7019 >
Cell: (b)(6) < tel:(b)(6) >
(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

--

Loree Lewis

Defense Correspondent

Talk Media News

(b)(6) Caution-mailto:(b)(6) >
Office: (b)(6) tel:(b)(6) >
Cell: (b)(6) < tel:(b)(6) >
(b)(6)

--

Loree Lewis

Defense Correspondent

Talk Media News

(b)(5) < Caution-[mailto:\(b\)\(5\)](#) >

Office: (b)(5)

Cell: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: WH statement on Syria chemical weapons
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:16:11 AM

Off the record, I don't. Sorry. Just referring to the WH statement.

Gary

Defense Press Office, Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
The Pentagon

Original Message

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 11:05 PM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: WH statement on Syria chemical weapons

Adding my colleague Yara Bayoumy

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(6)

> On Jun 26, 2017, at 10:58 PM, Torbati, Yeganeh (Reuters News) <(b)(6)>
wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> Was the White House statement on a chemical weapons attack in Syria coordinated with the Pentagon? Do you
have any comment on the WH statement?
>
> Thanks,
> Yeganeh
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> (b)(6)

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Burns, Robert](#)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Syria -CW prep
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:03:16 PM

I have nothing.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

Original Message

From: Burns, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:00 PM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Syria -CW prep

Thanks. On background can you offer any insight on what has caused the concern? CW weapons being loaded on aircraft?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 26, 2017, at 9:58 PM, Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US) <jeff.a.davis.mil@mail.mil> wrote:

>

> Not that I would anticipate.

>

>

>

> Jeff A. Davis

> Captain, U.S. Navy

> Director of Defense Press Operations

> E-mail: (b)(6)

> Office: (b)(6)

> Mobile: (b)(6)

> Original Message

> From: Burns, Robert

> Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:54 PM

> To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)

> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Syria -CW prep

>

>

> Jeff,

> As off-the-record guidance, should I be standing by tonight for further action in Syria regarding the WH statement warning of CW attack signs?

>

> Bob

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0074

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From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: [Jared Keller; CENTCOM Macdill AFB CENTCOM HQ Mailbox CCCI Media Desk; CENTCOM GLOBAL CJTF OIR Mailbox CJTF OIR Media Ops](#)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY: WH statement on Syria chemical attack
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:13:44 AM

Off the record, I don't. Sorry. Just referring to the WH statement.

Defense Press Office, Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
The Pentagon
Original Message

From: Jared Keller
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:55 PM
To: CENTCOM Macdill AFB CENTCOM HQ Mailbox CCCI Media Desk; CENTCOM GLOBAL CJTF OIR Mailbox CJTF OIR Media Ops; OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY: WH statement on Syria chemical attack

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hey guys,

Just wanted to get your response to this statement from the White House

Caution-<https://twitter.com/jacqklimas/status/879518780757598208>

Let me know if you have any thoughts on this

Best,

J

--

Jared Keller
Senior Editor, Task & Purpose

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0076

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Helene Cooper](#)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source]
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:04:15 PM

I have nothing

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

Original Message

From: Helene Cooper
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:51 PM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

Hey Jeff what's going on with this chemical weapons in Syria thing?
Did dod provide the intel?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations](#)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#); [Rigler, Tara M CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#); [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Are you tracking
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:15:23 PM

BuzzFeed has already sent a query asking for DoD comment.

I'll refer to WH statement.

Vr

(b)(6)

Defense Press Office, Duty Officer
Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
The Pentagon
From: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:46 PM
To: Rigler, Tara M CIV OSD PA (US); White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Cc: Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA (US); OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations; Rankine-Galloway, Adrian J Maj USMC OSD PA (US); Rojas, Herlinda K CDR USN OSD PA (US); Seal, Laura M CIV OSD PA (US)
Subject: Re: Are you tracking

Plus duty. I'm not tracking the info behind this, but stand by for phone to blow up. I suppose we send queries back to WH.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

From: Rigler, Tara M CIV OSD PA (US)
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:03 PM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Cc: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US); Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)
Subject: Re: Are you tracking

Will be a press sec statement

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 26, 2017, at 8:42 PM, Rigler, Tara M CIV OSD PA (US) (b)(6)
<[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)> wrote:

Chief of staff cleared this; will be posted shortly.

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0078

The United States has identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children. The activities are similar to preparations the regime took before the April 4, 2017 chemical weapons attack.

As we have previously stated, the United States is in Syria to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. If, however, Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 26, 2017, at 7:54 PM, White, Dana W SES OSD (US) <dana.w.white6.civ@mail.mil> <<mailto:dana.w.white6.civ@mail.mil>> wrote:

+ Jeff & Mark

Hi Tara,

No. White House is putting this out? Do you have the statement? I'm on the SD's plane.

Thanks,

Dana

From: Rigler, Tara M CIV OSD PA (US)
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 11:46 PM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Subject: Are you tracking

Hello Dana,

A Syrian statement on chemical weapons from my area tonight?

Many thanks,
Tara

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Stump, Adam M CIV \(US\)](#)
To: [Aidan Johnson](#); [OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM](#)
Subject: RE: BBC News: Syria Shayrat Airfield Confirmation (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:54:00 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Aidan

You can attribute the following to me, a Defense Department spokesman:

"We have observed activities at Shayrat Air Base that suggest possible intent by the Syrian regime to use chemical weapons again. These activities are similar to what we observed prior to the regime chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun in April.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region.

Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners."

Adam Stump
Defense Department Spokesman (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia)
Defense Press Operations
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon, Room 2D961
Tel: (b)(6)
Email: Adam.m.stump.civ@mail.mil

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

From: Aidan Johnson [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:00 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM <osd.pentagon.pa.list.dpo-centcom@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] BBC News: Syria Shayrat Airfield Confirmation

Hello,

I'm wondering if someone can provide us some information about recent reports that the United States saw activity at Syria's Shayrat Airfield concerning chemical weapons. Any statement you can pass along would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, we're wondering if you can confirm the validity of the statements below:

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0080

1) US saw chemical weapons activity at Syrian base struck in April

MUNICH, June 27 (Reuters) - The United States saw what appeared to be active Syrian preparations for a possible chemical weapons attack at Shayrat airfield, the same Syrian airfield the United States struck in April, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said on Tuesday.

"This involved specific aircraft in a specific hangar, both of which we know to be associated with chemical weapons use," Davis said, speaking by phone from Washington.

2) U.S. SAW ACTIVITY AT SYRIA'S SHAYRAT AIRFIELD SUGGESTING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE - PENTAGON SPOKESMAN

Aidan Johnson

Picture Producer

BBC News (Washington)

(b)(6) (Office)

(b)(6) (Mobile)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Carla Babb](#)
Subject: RE: Can you confirm the AP statement about Syria-chemical weapons? (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:05:00 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

We have seen activity at Shayrat Air Base similar to what we saw in April prior to the chemical attack.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

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

From: Carla Babb [[\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6))]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US) <(b)(6)>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Can you confirm the AP statement about Syria-chemical weapons?

Hi, Jeff.

Ap reports that the Pentagon says US has seen chemical weapons activity at Syrian air base used in past chemical attack. Can you confirm? Which base are they talking about?

Thanks,

Carla

--

Carla Babb

Pentagon Correspondent

VOA News

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0082

From: (b)(6)
To: [Hennigan, William](#); [OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM](#)
Subject: RE: LAT (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:45:16 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

This is what I can get to you now:

As the President stated on April 6, the use of chemical weapons threatens U.S. vital national interests. The statement last night was clear and reinforces this message. We have seen indications that the Syrian regime is preparing another major chemical attack. The President warned the regime of consequences should they proceed.

Check with me in a bit.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Defense Press Operations
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon, Room 2D961
Tel: (b)(6)
Blackberry: (b)(6)
Main: (b)(6)

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

From: Hennigan, William [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:04 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM <osd.pentagon.pa.list.dpo-centcom@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] LAT

Got anything on Syria CW prep?

Thanks,

Bill

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0083

From: (b)(6)
To: [Hennigan, William; OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM](#)
Subject: RE: LAT (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:52:43 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Attributable to me:

We have observed activities at Shayrat Air Base that suggest possible intent by the Syrian regime to use chemical weapons again. These activities are similar to what we observed prior to the regime chemical weapons attack against Khan Sheikhoun in April.

The Department of Defense remains focused on operations to defeat ISIS. Nevertheless, the continued brutality of the Asad regime and his use of chemical weapons presents a clear threat to regional stability and security as well as the national security interests of the United States our allies. Asad's actions, highlighted by the chemical weapons attacks in April, have fueled the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, displaced millions of Syrians, and destabilized the region.

Weapons of mass destruction use by any actor lowers the threshold for others that may seek to follow suit and threatens the international legal regime prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons in an unstable country where internationally recognized terrorist groups operate and control territory also raises our intense concern about the potential for these dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists who seek to harm the US, our allies, or our partners.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Defense Press Operations
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon, Room 2D961
Tel: (b)(6)
Blackberry: (b)(6)
Main: (b)(6)

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

From: Hennigan, William [<mailto:William.Hennigan@latimes.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:04 AM
To: OSD Pentagon PA List DPO CENTCOM <osd.pentagon.pa.list.dpo-centcom@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] LAT

Got anything on Syria CW prep?

Thanks,

Bill

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0084

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#); [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Re: SANITY CHECK ME. [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:43:02 AM

Hi Kristina,
I hope you are well.

You may quote me on the record.

Q: What activity was seen? Advance coordination?

A: I'm not going to discuss intelligence matters, but the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons against its own people is well-documented.

DOD knew about the White House statement and was invited to provide edits in advance of its release. Anonymous leaks to the contrary are false.

VR,
Dana
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
From: Kristina Wong
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:28 AM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Question re: Shayrat

Hi Dana!

Hope you're well! Wanted to ask re: WH statement on Syria what activity we see around Shayrat that prompted the statement, and also ask whether the DOD knew about the WH statement beforehand? Several media outlets reporting it didn't know beforehand.

Thanks and safe travels!

Kristina

--

Kristina Wong
Pentagon reporter, Breitbart News

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Beckman, Kristi L \(KB\) Lt Col USAF OSD PA \(US\)](#); (b)(6) [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Re: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:29:31 AM

No worries.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:58 AM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Cc: Beckman, Kristi L (KB) Lt Col USAF OSD PA (US); (b)(6) Wright,
Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)
Subject: RE: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Understood. It was more of a group RTQ.

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

From: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US); (b)(6)
Cc: Beckman, Kristi L (KB) Lt Col USAF OSD PA (US) <(b)(6)> (b)(6)
(b)(6) Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)
<(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)

It's ok but we should have linked up before you gaggled.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:53 AM
To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)
Cc: Beckman, Kristi L (KB) Lt Col USAF OSD PA (US); (b)(6) Wright,
Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)
Subject: RE: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Copy. Sounds like I may have gotten out a bit ahead of him.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

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

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0086

From: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:07 AM

To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US) (b)(6)

Cc: Beckman, Kristi L (KB) Lt Col USAF OSD PA (US) <kristi.l.beckman.mil@mail.mil>; (b)(6)

(b)(6); Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)

OK. Sorry I didn't turn this faster to you, but (b)(5)

Also of note, the statement was coordinated between the principals. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) the WH gets to do whatever it wants when it wants how it wants

So just because everyone didn't know doesn't mean it wasn't known within orgs.

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Dana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US)

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:27 AM

To: White, Dana W SES OSD (US)

Cc: Beckman, Kristi L (KB) Lt Col USAF OSD PA (US); Higgins, Sarah C CDR USN OSD PA (US); Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA (US)

Subject: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

I just did a quick impromptu gaggle with our TV reporters (the only ones here at this hour). Told them on the record that we had seen activity at Shayrat Airfield, the same airfield we struck in April, that indicated active preparations for chemical weapons use. Declined process questions (i.e., when did we learn of the WH statement, etc.). I conferred with Chief ahead of time so he was aware.

Jeff A. Davis

Captain, U.S. Navy

Director of Defense Press Operations

E-mail: (b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Mobile: (b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0087

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [Paul McLeary](#)
Subject: RE: Syrian airfield (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:10:00 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Yes to both.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

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

From: Paul McLeary [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](#)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA (US) <(b)(6)>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Syrian airfield

Capt. Davis,

Hope all's well. Can you confirm reports that the US has seen movement at the Shayrat Airfield in Syria, the place where April's chemical weapons attack originated that is consistent with preparations for another chemical attack?

Are there still Russian troops at the base?

Thanks,
Paul

--

Paul McLeary
Senior Reporter | Foreign Policy
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

JONES/1:17-cv-01921-KBJ/0088

From: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#); [Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Statement from Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Dana W. White
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 7:45:02 AM

Re: WH Statement on Potential Syria Chemical Weapon Attack

(b)(6)

Please push this out to the journalists after the off-the-record.

"As usual, we monitor these situations and are prepared for any outcomes."

Dana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [Davis, Jeff A CAPT USN OSD PA \(US\)](#)
To: [White, Dana W SES OSD \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Kristi L Lt Col USAF OSD OSD Beckman \(US\) \(kristi.l.beckman.mil@mail.mil\);](#) (b)(6)
[\(US\); Wright, Mark E CIV OSD PA \(US\)](#)
Subject: Syria / chem (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 8:57:00 AM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

I just did a quick impromptu gaggle with our TV reporters (the only ones here at this hour). Told them on the record that we had seen activity at Shayrat Airfield, the same airfield we struck in April, that indicated active preparations for chemical weapons use. Declined process questions (i.e., when did we learn of the WH statement, etc.). I conferred with Chief ahead of time so he was aware.

Jeff A. Davis
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Defense Press Operations
E-mail: (b)(6)
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED