NOFORN-NOCONTRACT

SSO KIRTLAND

SSO TAC//INOS

SSO MCCLELAN//USACMLS

SSO SDC

SSO 15 AF//INZEST/GENEVA//START

SSO USAFE//KEEP AND PASS INOA

SSO LNDSEY//DET 3/FTD

SSO USAF

SSO AU

SSO MSD

TAWC CAEWIS

SSO BSD

SSO ESD//INS

CINCLANTFLT VA

SSO NME

CMC//INTE

SSO GRNVAL

SSO NESEA//PASS TO NATO

N SIR

NST/GENEVA//DEFENSE AND SPACE SIR

NST/GENEVA//SCC SIR

NST/GENEVA//NTT SIR

NST/GENEVA//CD SIR

FICEURLANT//NORFOLK VA/25

SSO NME//NAVAIRSYSCOM

SSO NME//SSPO

CIA//PASS TO CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

ZEM

CONTROLS

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SECTION 1 OF 6

BODY

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND WEAPONS REVIEW CABLE.

SW SWRC

28 SEPTEMBER 1990

IRAQ: THE LASER HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF

RANGEFINDERS ON IRAQI TANKS POSE THE PRIMARY LASER EYE HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE GULF; AIRBORNE LASER TARGET DESIGNATORS MAY ALSO BE A THREAT. FROM EVIDENCE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, WE JUDGE IT UNLIKELY THAT IRAQ HAS FIELDED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING WEAPON.

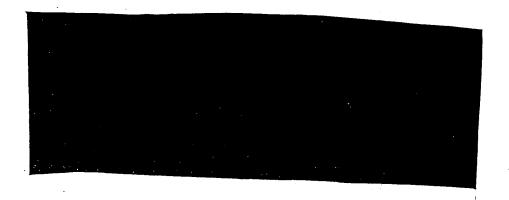
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1. IRAQ: THE LASER HAZARD TO US FORCES IN THE PERSIAN

THE IRAQIS HAVE FIELDED TANKS THAT INCORPORATE LASER RANGEFINDERS (LRFS).

Andrew (mc/s).

SEVERAL MODELS OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT INCORPORATE LASER TARGET DESIGNATORS (LTDS).

HAVE A GROUND-BASED LTD.

THE IRAQIS ARE NOT KNOWN TO



COMMENT:

WE ASSESS THAT:

X -- THE PRIMARY EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI FORCES EXISTS FROM THEIR TANK LRFS; AIRBORNE LTDS MAY ALSO POSE A THREAT. IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES, US GROUND FORCES WILL BE THE MOST VULNERABLE. AIRCREWS OF HELICOPTERS ALSO MAY BE VULNERABLE IF IRAQI TANK CREWS USE LRFS TO ENGAGE THE HELICOPTERS WITH THEIR MAIN GUN, AS MANY ARMIES TRAIN TO DO. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT US SAILORS OR AIRCREWS OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT WILL BE EXPOSED TO HAZARDOUS LEVELS OF LASER RADIATION FROM IRAQI

<u>ADMIN</u> #4018

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SSO NESEA//PASS TO NATC

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NST/GENEVA//DEFENSE AND SPACE SIR

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FICEURLANT//NORFOLK VA/25

SSO NME//NAVAIRSYSCOM

SSO NME//SSPO

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BODY

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND WEAPONS REVIEW CABLE,

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X -- IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE ACQUIRED OR DEVELOPED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING WEAPON.

THE EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI LRFS

IRAQI TANK LRFS MAY PRESENT AN EYE HAZARD TO UNPROTECTED US

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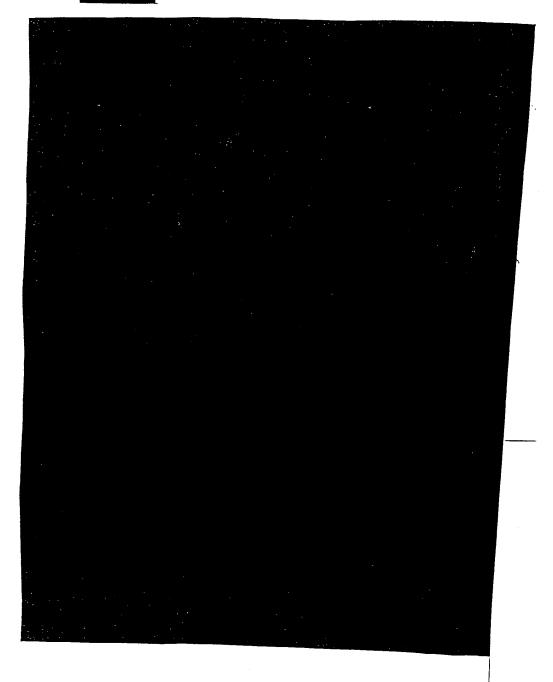
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SOLDIERS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE LOOKING THROUGH A MAGNIFYING OPTIC SUCH AS M-19 7-POWER BINOCULARS. SINCE MOST IRAQI GROUND-BASED LRFS ARE INCORPORATED INTO TANKS, THE MOST LIKELY TARGETS TO BE IRRADIATED IN BATTLE WILL BE US ARMOR AND INFANTRY. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FIXED-WING, HIGH-PERFORMANCE US AIRCRAFT WILL BE IRRADIATED BY THESE TANK LRFS.



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FICEURLANT//NORFOLK VA/25

SSO NME//NAVAIRSYSCOM

SSO NME//SSPO

CIA//PASS TO CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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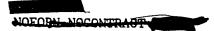
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THE EYE HAZARD FROM IRAQI LTDS-1-

BECAUSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT DOCTRINE WE WOULD EXPECT FOR THE LTDS IN THE IRAQI INVENTORY, WE ASSESS THAT THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT PRESENT A SIGNIFICANT EYE HAZARD TO US FORCES:

ADMIN
#4020

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X-1- THE EYE HAZARDS DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE BASED ON EXPOSURE TO A SINGLE LASER PULSE.]

X -- MANY OF THE TARGETS FOR IRAQI LASER-GUIDED MUNITIONS (LGMS) WILL BE OF HIGH VALUE AND LARGE--SUCH AS BRIDGES OR SURFACE SHIPS -- SO THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF IRRADIATING A PERSON IS LOW.

X -- THE LTDS WILL BE AIMED AT GROUND OR SEA TARGETS ONLY.

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SSO NME//SSPO

CIA//PASS TO CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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AND WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT A SCIENTIFIC/COMERCIAL LASER CAN BE

EASILY WEAPONIZED AND FIELDED AND COULD HAVE CAUSEDTHE REPORTED THOUSANDS OF IRANIAN EYE CASUALTIES.

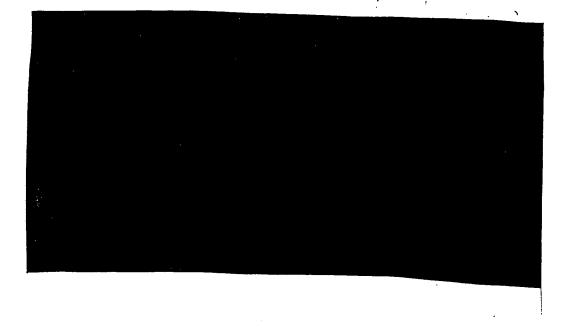
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NOFORN NOCONTRACT

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THUS, THOUGH IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT THE IRAQIS MAY HAVE DEVELOPED OR MODIFIED A
LASER FOR USE AS A BLINDING WEAPON, THE
AT THIS TIME PREVENTS US FROM PROJECTING THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE
FIELDED A DEDICATED LASER BLINDING WEAPON.



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