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SUBJ:

(U//~~FOUO~~) AQAP's Al-Masra Newlseltter
Discusses 'Failed' US
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 785556

WARNING: Topic: ~~FOUO~~, DISSENT, TERRORISM
SERIAL:TRR2017030982954324

COUNTRY: United States, Yemen

SUBJ: (U//~~FOUO~~) AQAP's Al-Masra Newslsletter Discusses 'Failed' US
Airdrop, US Operations, Trump Policies in Yemen

REF: 1. Yemen: Pro-AQAP Al-Masra Newsletter Publishes 42nd Issue
TRR2017030662786324 Twitter English,Arabic 0000 GMT 06 Mar 17
(U//~~FOUO~~)

2. Revision: Yemen: AQAP Leader Condemns 'Crusader Raid,' Names
Casualties TRR2017020509670037 Twitter English,Arabic 0000 GMT 04
Feb

17 (U//~~FOUO~~)

SOURCE: Twitter in English, Arabic 06 Mar 17 (U//~~FOUO~~)

TEXT:

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AT 1648 GMT on 6 March, Twitter user " Al-'Izzah Web Paneh"
(@Alizzaa2; user ID 827767856578363392) tweeted a link to the 42nd
issue of Al-Masra, a weekly Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula
(AQAP)

newsletter. Page 3 of the publication contains an article titled "A
Failed American Airdrop Operation in Abyan -- Air Support for
Huthis

in Rada'" that discusses US involvement in Yemen, details an
"American defeat" days after "a failed airdrop operation," and
calls

for honoring a 2011 anti-US fatwa by 150 Yemeni scholars. Below is a
translation of the article.

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Image included in article. Arabic text: "Observers stated that the American shelling on Al Bayda in Yemen come as a benefit to Huthi movements against Sunnis."

Image in article. Arabic text reads: "Observers stated that the American shelling on Al Bayda' in Yemen serves Huthi movements against Sunnis."

"A Failed American Airdrop Operation in Abyan -- Air Support for Huthis in Rada'

"It seems that the new American administration under Trump has not learned from the setback the 'American Seals' forces suffered in an airdrop in Yakla, in central Yemen's Qayfah region in January. The administration has tried to remedy the American defeat with a number of operations, including a failed airdrop in the Mujan region in Wilayah Abyan in southern Yemen.

"In a similar way, the American Army carried out an airdrop last Thursday at dawn on Mujan village in the coastal region of Shaqrah, which is east of Zinjibar in Abyan Governorate, aimed at the al-Qa'ida presence there, using American air cover assisted by Arab coalition jets led by Saudi Arabia. The source stated that the organization's members were aware of the airdrop before it took place, clashed with the American force, and forced it to withdraw. The source added that following its withdrawal, this region was shelled. According to the same source, there were no human losses. It is not known whether American jets or frigates conducted this shelling.

"The al-Qa'ida organization issued a statement about the airdrop, describing it as a failure and as having accomplished nothing. The organization added in the statement, posted on its Telegram account, that the Ansar al-Sharia correspondent in Abyan had reported the failure of the American troops' airdrop on Thursday dawn on Al Nakhilah beach on the Arabian Sea coast close to Mujan village in Abyan. A large number of American spy aircraft as well as Arab coalition military jets were seen in the skyies over the region. The correspondent stated that locals on the night watch saw lights in the mountains close to the coast and fired on them.

"The correspondent added that the American soldiers escaped after understanding they had been discovered, and as American frigates,

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American spy planes, and Arab coalition military jets randomly shelled [the area] to provide air cover as they retreated. Eyewitnesses said they saw the soldiers' footprints and some of their belongings, such as water bottles and other things, in addition to police dog paw prints.

"In the same context, sources said that Apache jets, most probably Emirati, launched about 12 missiles on Mujan village. They started flying over the region at 0130 in the morning and began shelling the area from 0200 to 0300 on Friday morning. This is the second time the region has been shelled within days. According to the source, there were no human losses.

"Supporting Huthis in the North

"On another note, American jets conducted several raids last Thursday against many regions in Wilayah Al Bayda where the mujahideen and Sunni tribes are waging fierce battles against Huthis. Local sources in Al Bayda Governorate stated that the air force conducted more than 25 raids on the center of the As Sawma'ah administrative division and the Ja'ir region in the same division, but caused no human losses.

"As part of the American-Huthi collaboration, American jets have carried out a number of operations lately on the posts of Sunni tribes and the al-Qa'ida organization in the Qayfah region in northern Wilayah Al Bayda. These posts were recently reclaimed by these tribes and al-Qa'ida from the Huthis. American jets killed five Ansar al-Sharia mujahideen and tribal members and wounded two others in airstrikes on Al Jasimah, Za'j, and Nufan as well on the Yakla highway.

"Additionally, four Ansar al-Sharia mujahideen were killed in American airstrikes on Al Hajib and the Khat al Jawf checkpoint in the same Yakla region. According to sources, those killed were identified as Hamzah al-Barad'I, Mu'awiyah al-Jawfi, Abu-al-Hur, and another unidentified person.

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"The American-Huthi collaboration incidents were repeated in [other]

Wilayah Al Bayda regions where [Americans] intervened on behalf of the Huthis as the latter launched attacks on Sunnis. The latest was an American unmanned aircraft that last Tuesday destroyed a 23-mm caliber heavy machine gun belonging to al-Qa'ida that was positioned

on a hill on the Al Jasimah front in the Qayfah region. The source added that the destruction of the machine gun took place at the same

time as a large Huthi campaign against the same region. The Americans

acknowledged that they carried out these attacks and coordinated them

with the government and [Yemeni President Abd Rabuh Mansur] Hadi. A series of tweets posted by the official Twitter account of the American Department of Defense, the Pentagon, stated that it has launched more than 20 raids on purported al-Qa'ida posts in the provinces of Abyan, Al Bayda, and Shabwah. The department affirmed that the airstrikes it has conducted in Yemen have been in collaboration with the Yemeni government and President Hadi. It added: 'The Yemeni government has been a valuable partner in counterterrorism. The United States plans to continue working with the Yemeni government to defeat al-Qa'ida.'

"Huthis: America Has To Collaborate With Us

"Addressing the American interference, the [Abd-al-Malik] al-Huthi group did not let the opportunity of presenting itself as an alternative counterterrorism partner slip away. Although it has condemned the American airstrikes, it declared, according to the Anadolu Agency, that these airstrikes 'did not bear the desired fruit' due to the lack of security cooperation with the group. The Huthi Saba Agency reported, quoting an unnamed Huthi Ministry of Foreign Affairs official, a member of the party of former President 'Ali Abdullah Salih, as saying: 'The American administration's unilateral military steps that violated national sovereignty under the excuse of countering terrorism will not bear the desired fruit of

terminating this disease in the absence of security and intelligence

collaboration with our authorities, which are also countering the presence of al-Qa'ida and DA'ISH [Arabic acronym for ISIS], according to his description. He added that his Huthi-led government

is 'capable of terminating these groups on the ground and fighting them in the field, through intelligence, and at the religious

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level.'

"Authority Given to the American Secretary of Defense

"In accordance with the new administration's plans, American officials stated that President Donald Trump is inclined to give Secretary of Defense General James Mattis authority in the area of special operations against the [Islamic] State organization and al-Qa'ida. The Daily Beast website said this inclination is aimed at simplifying procedures the Barack Obama administration required for approving critical special operations, which led to the hindrance or even cancellation of such operations. The commanders of special operations need a presidential order for operations to be conducted in places like Yemen and Libya where American troops are not officially involved in a war. This is in contrast to regions where [America] is involved in military operations, in which case critical decisions are left to the discretion of military commanders.

Image included in article. Arabic text: "

Image included in article. Arabic text: "The wreck of the American airplane downed by the mujahideen during the failed airdrop in the Yakla region in central Yemen."

"Officials say that this new inclination comes at a time when arguments have been raised about the failing operation in Yemen, with Trump blaming the death of soldier William 'Ryan' Owens on his military commanders. [Owens] was the first American soldier to be killed, eight days after Trump assumed office.

"The father of the killed soldier requested an investigation be conducted since the operation, according to his statement quoted in The Miami Herald, was not necessary and rushed. He also refused to meet with Trump when his son's body arrived at the Dover airbase.

"Military commanders may find time to rethink the nature of these operations after being blamed for failure in Yemen, although Trump asserted that the operation was successful and that the special division collected important information that helps understand how the al-Qa'ida organization thinks and acts in Yemen. However, the NBC network said that what has been examined one month after the operation has provided very little security information, something that has been denied by the White House.

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"This change of course in the management of special operations is being considered because Trump wants to operate like a private corporate manager who delegates assignments to co-managers. Officials

in the previous administration said that President Obama gave authority to field commanders after the failed 2014 operation to rescue American hostages James Foley, Steven Sotloff, and Kayla Mueller, who were being held by the State organization. The special operations division arrived shortly after they had been transported to another location. Officials stated that Obama gave wide, but not absolute, authority to field commanders. They added that in some cases, as in the operation that killed al-Qa'ida leader Usama Bin Ladin in Abbottabad in 2011, he approved the delegation of authority.

These officials add that Obama used to give Mattis advance permission to act in some cases, but not all, when the latter was in charge of Central Command.

"Concerning the authority given to Mattis, giving him advance permission to delegate decisions about critical operations to three-star generals running the joint special operations forces, such as involving the rescue of hostages or unmanned airstrikes against preapproved targets, this meant that if this team saw an opportunity to hit a valuable target included on the White House target list, they could move forward and make a decision after notifying the National Security Council about the operation, but without a need to wait for a presidential order to be issued.

"The Fatwa of Yemeni Scholars

"Following repeated American interventions and the silence of the agent Yemeni government, activists on social media reposted a fatwa signed by 150 prominent Yemeni scholars calling people to arms and to wage jihad against Americans back in 2011 when there was news about a [possible] American intervention.

"Activists reminded the scholars of their fatwa highlighting the need to wage jihad, issued after a group of them convened in San'a on 28 Muharram 1431 Hegira [corresponding to 14 January 2010] to discuss

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major event that concerned the land of faith and wisdom. At that time, Shaykh Muhammad Bin 'Ali al-Anisi opened his statement by emphasizing the high status of scholars and the importance of their stance in times of need to direct the ship; this is why God commanded

the ummah [community of Muslims worldwide] to follow their path and obey them. The shaykh warned against foreign statements that would push Yemen into the same abyss other countries never managed to get out of. Due to the importance of that meeting and the goal behind it,

Shaykh Abd-al-Majid Bin 'Aziz al-Zand made a statement on behalf of Yemeni scholars. The shaykh sharply criticized those complaining on satellite channels about the silence of scholars, saying that they were in fact reviewing and studying the situation. He discussed the [true] reason behind mobilizing large forces to Yemen's coastal areas, claimed at the time as intended to fight pirates, but happening at a time when both local and foreign newspapers were talking about the government's failure and claiming it had mobilized

these forces as rapid response troops in the event things got out of hand.

"The shaykh harshly warned against the custodianship being plotted by

Great Britain and others for Yemen in international conferences. He added: 'The honorable scholars are keen to develop a unified stance

concerning any foreign intervention that would breach Yemen's sovereignty and its internal affairs.' At the end of that assembly, Shaykh 'Arif al-Siri read the statement signed by 150 Yemeni scholars. The statement highlighted the rejection of any foreign intervention in Yemen and warned against its consequences. It also rejected the establishment of any [foreign] military bases and urged

the sons of Yemen to obey God's sharia. 'God is great' shouts resonated at the end of that convention after the statement was read

out and reminded all Yemenis of the mandate of waging jihad in case of an American intervention. The statement also urged Yemenis to pray

God would not allow strife in Yemen and that He would reform the nation and His worshippers.

"Years after this fatwa was issued, the American intervention has not

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stopped. It began with shelling Sunnis with unmanned drones, but has recently evolved into airdrop [operations] in which American infantry has landed in many Yemeni regions, assisted by Emirati forces. The American Navy mobilized the USS Cole toward Yemeni coasts, which means even more American intervention in the country. Twitter users urged scholars to renew their stance and their call to arms and jihad, exposing the government that gave the Americans the green light to kill innocent people and establish its military bases."

To view the vernacular of the tweet in PDF format, click .
To view the vernacular of the article in PDF format, click (Attachment not included: AlMasra42ArticleOnPage3.pdf) here.
[Description of Source: Twitter in English, Arabic -- Website providing a social networking and microblogging service that enables users to send and read messages known as "tweets"; URL: <http://twitter.com>]

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