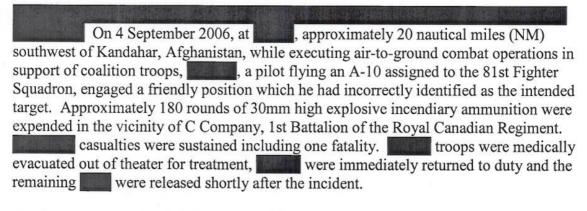
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Friendly Fire Incident COMBINED INVESTIGATION BOARD Coalition Air Base, SWA 4 September 2006



- (U) The Combined Investigation Board (CIB) found by clear and convincing evidence that the cause of the friendly fire incident on 04 September 2006 was the misidentification of a friendly position by the mishap pilot while engaged in close air support operations.
- (U) In an effort to acquire the target the mishap pilot (MP1) visually misinterpreted a friendly force garbage fire as his intended target due to a perceptual error of blending the infrared imagery of the enemy position on his target pod display with his visual sighting of the friendly force garbage fire. Additionally, adverse environmental and low illumination light conditions further exacerbated his ability to perform combat identification. Under these conditions, the mishap pilot was at a range and altitude from where he could see neither personnel nor friendly vehicles in the mishap area. The mishap pilot fired his 30mm cannon at the garbage fire, which he had incorrectly identified as the location of a previous bomb impact point due to channelized attention, other human factors, and a failure to cross check available targeting cues.