The Challenges of Modern Urban Warfare

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“Urban Warfare”

Stalingrad, 1943
Berlin, 1945
Manila, 1945

Hue, 1968
Grozny, 1994

Munich, 1972
Mogadishu, 1993
Iraq 2003-2010*
Mumbai, 2008

Total War
MCO / Attack
CT
COIN
Resurgence of Siege Warfare

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1 September 1992 to 29 February 1996
Grozny, Chechnya: 31 December 1994 to 8 February 1995
Grozny, Chechnya: 25 December 1999 to 6 February 2000
Fallujah, Iraq: 4 April 2004 to 23 December 2004
Sadr City, Iraq: 23 March 2008 to 12 May 2008
Aleppo, Syria: 19 July 2012 to 22 December 2016
Ghouta, Syria: 7 April 2013 to 14 April 2018
Deir ez-Zor, Syria: 14 July 2014 to 10 September 2017
Ilovaisk, Ukraine: 7 August 2014 to 2 September 2014
Kobani, Syria: 13 September 2014 to 15 March 2015
Donetsk Airport, Ukraine: 28 September 2014 to 21 January 2015
Debal’tseve, Ukraine: 14 January 2015 to 20 February 2015
Raqqa, Syria: 6 November 2016 to 17 October 2017
Mosul, Iraq: 16 October 2016 to 20 July 2017
Marawi, Philippines: 23 May 2017 – 23 October 2017
Challenges

- VBIEDs
- Snipers
- Cover/concealment
- Restricted complex terrain

Tools, Techniques, Tactics, Procedures

- High Explosives
- Smoke
- MPF
- Infantry

Steps:
- Reconnoiter the objective
- Move to the objective
- Isolate the objective
- Secure a foothold
- Clear the objective
- Consolidate & reorganize
• Shared language and problem
• Study first and second order effects of weapons restrictions
• Best practices in ALL phases of an operation
• Train, man, equip for the new character of warfare
• New tools and practices
  • Sensing (enemy & civilians)
    • See through buildings
    • Drones
  • Concealment
    • Smoke/See through smoke
  • Cover
    • Broader investment in urban protection