

Words From the U.s.-Led War on Iraq

BLOCKADE, BOMBARDMENT, BUNKER, CAMOUFLAGE, COALITION, COLLATERAL DAMAGE, COMBATANT, EMBEDDED JOURNALISTS, ESPIONAGE, FEDAYEEN, FRIENDLY FIRE, GENEVA CONVENTION, GUERRILLA, PARAMILITARY, PREEMPTIVE STRIKE, PROPAGANDA, REFUGEE, SHOCK AND AWE, SIEGE, SORTIE

Avocabo Word List 28

Definitions:

Blockade-The isolation of a nation, area, city, or harbour by hostile ships or forces in order to prevent the entrance and exit of traffic and commerce.

Bombardment-An attack by dropping bombs; heavy fire of artillery to saturate an area rather than hit a specific target (with new 'precision missiles' it is purported that one can saturate an area AND hit specific targets)

Bunker-A fortification of earth; mostly or entirely below ground

Camouflage-Disguise, pretence; although the expression is still also used in its original sense, describing the special colouring schemes applied to equipment and uniforms to make the object harder to see.

Coalition - An organization of people (or countries) involved in a pact or treaty

Collateral damage - civilian casualties as the result of armed conflict

Combatant- One, such as a person or a combat vehicle, that takes part in armed strife; engaging in or ready for combat

Embedded journalists - journalists and their support staff who report from within the war, travelling with the army and communicating via satellite videophones and other technologies

Espionage - The act or practice of spying or of using spies to obtain secret information, as about another government or a business competitor.

Fedayeen - black-robed Iraqi commandos who fight largely from the backs of pickup trucks. This paramilitary force is also named "Saddam's Fedayeen"

Friendly Fire - fire directed inadvertently at allies in battle; also known as "blue on blue attack" in the military

Geneva Convention - The "Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" was adopted on 12 August 1949 establishing international conventions for the protection of victims of war and prisoners of war. View the document here: <http://193.194.138.190/html/menu3/b/91.htm>

Guerrilla- A member of an irregular, usually indigenous military or paramilitary unit operating in small bands in occupied territory to harass and undermine the enemy, as by surprise raids.

Paramilitary - A group of civilians organized in a military fashion (especially to operate in place of or to assist regular army troops)

Preemptive Strike - an attack designed or having the power to deter or prevent an anticipated attack

Propaganda- Material disseminated by the advocates or opponents of a doctrine or cause

Refugee- One who flees in search of refuge, as in times of war, political oppression, or religious persecution.

Shock and Awe - A 1996 paper by military strategists Harlan K. Ullman and James P. Wade, titled "Shock and Awe: Achieving Rapid Dominance," first used the term that has become synonymous with the early phase of the current Iraq war. The phrase refers to the aerial bombardment of Iraq, an attack so overwhelming as to produce shock and awe in the enemy, bringing a rapid end to the conflict

Siege - The action of an armed force that surrounds a fortified place and isolates it while continuing to attack

Sortie - An operational flight by a single aircraft (as in a military operation)

Exercise 28-1: Fill-in-the-blanks

Complete each sentence with the best word from the wordlist (20 marks)

1. The interior minister of the Kurdish administration, Karim Sinjari, said crews were installing electricity, roads and sanitation at sites for as many as a half-million _____.
2. It was the first suicide bomb attack on United States soldiers fighting in Iraq, and signaled a potentially disturbing turn of events as irregular forces loyal to Saddam Hussein have been seeking to employ _____ tactics to slow the advance of an 80,000 member army on Baghdad.
3. Dr. Jay Seitz, a psychologist at New York City University who studies the use of _____ in war, said that psychological operations could be as important as their military counterpart. "It's all about psyching out your enemy and getting them to lay down their arms," he said. "It's about humanizing the face of war, whether by publicizing care of the wounded or embedding reporters in units where they will bond with the troops," he said.
4. The Philippines, on high alert for rebel violence in reprisal for the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, said on Monday it ordered a senior Iraqi diplomat and an attache suspected of _____ to leave within three days.
5. Around 30 explosions hit Baghdad and its outskirts late on Saturday in an intense _____ as warplanes were heard overhead, Reuters correspondents in the Iraqi capital said.
6. In most wars every _____ must be equipped with a dog-tag to help in the identification of bodies after the battles.
7. They could wait outside, imposing a(n) _____ and watching to see how long resistance would continue. Frustration at the allied refusal to engage in street fighting might provoke Saddam into launching forays, which would prove costly to him.
8. Despite the desert conditions of the Iraqi campaign, many American soldiers are sporting deep-green combat fatigues. Why are some troops donning woodland _____ ?
9. Saddam Hussein has had an Adolf Hitler-style luxury _____ built more than 100 metres under Baghdad. It was originally budgeted to cost about \$18 million for the concrete and steel alone and was given the codename "Project 305".
10. Kentucky pacifist Doug Johnson writes to say he is overwhelmed and tired. For three days, he has visited Baghdad hospitals and neighborhoods to record war's _____. He has seen the charred shells of automobiles toppled on their sides. He has heard eyewitness accounts of families who burned to death in their cars. He has seen a ramshackle auto repair shop, residential homes and a small Iraqi diner gutted by what he believes were errant bombs.
11. The Bush administration was, and remains, rightly confident that coalition forces will prevail in the war against Iraq. The initial expectation flourished that Iraq's political and military leadership might quickly collapse. With some fanfare, the Pentagon unveiled the strategy of " _____ " to expedite the rapid disintegration of Saddam's regime.
12. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) issued a report last month that said the _____ units loyal to Saddam Hussein could threaten rear areas during an allied advance, the officials were quoted as saying by the New York Times. Since the war began last week, the _____ - Baath Party irregulars - often dressed in civilian clothes, have been using guerrilla tactics to inflict casualties and slow the advance of American and British forces.
13. When a war-weary world drew up the _____ 50 years ago on treating civilians and prisoners in armed conflict, it had no way of foreseeing the impact of 21st century television. But following harrowing Iraqi TV images of captured American prisoners of war and Western television pictures of surrendering Iraqi forces, some experts say the time may have come to bring the rules up to date.
14. Dr David Miller, of Stirling University, sees most of the 900 _____ in Iraq as unwitting cogs in the 'Pentagon propaganda machine'. 'The aim is to make journalists drink from the same pool so that they identify with the military more closely than ever before,' he said.

15. Almost 85 percent of the British soldiers killed so far in Iraq have died in accidents or “_____.” Troops killed in helicopter accidents, pilots shot down by U.S. missiles, tank crews shot dead by their own side - that has been the almost daily litany from the front line.

16. If Iraq were to mount an impassioned defense of its capital, Gen. Tommy Franks, who is directing the operation, will face two equally difficult choices. One would be to attack Baghdad and eliminate the defenses. Depending upon the level of resistance, that could lead to house-to-house urban warfare. Alternatively, Franks could order a _____ isolating Baghdad from the world, shutting off electricity, water and supply routes.

17. Dawson led the _____ below the cloud cover at 12,000 feet - increasing their vulnerability to anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles. As soon as they cleared the clouds, tracer rounds from small arms fire zipped by them.

18. Proving the _____’s denial of any pause in the drive toward Baghdad, a fierce air assault was mounted against Baghdad yesterday, targeting the center and outskirts of the metropolis with repeated heavy bombing of Republican Guard positions to soften them up in expectation of the push for the Iraqi capital.

19. The Woodbury Democratic Town Committee approved a resolution opposing a _____ against Iraq and called upon all parties to seek peaceful resolution of the crisis through existing structures of international law.

Exercise 28-2: Multiple Choice

Match each word or term with its closest meaning
(10 marks)

1. *Friendly Fire*

- a) warning shots
- b) ‘blue on blue’ attack, or an attack by one’s own side
- c) burning of oil wells by Iraqis

2. *Coalition*

- a) Tactical cohesiveness
- b) Alliance
- c) Mining Union Group

3. *Collateral damage*

- a) Destroyed cities
- b) Citizen deaths
- c) Economic sanctions

4. *Blockade*

- a) Karate moves
- b) Barricade
- c) Dumb officials

5. *Shock and Awe* tactics

- a) Unrelenting aerial bombardment
- b) Television broadcasting of the war
- c) Destroying electricity plants

6. *Paramilitary*

- a) Militia
- b) Against the armed forces
- c) A new khaki green available at a popular paint store

7. *Sortie*

- a) To sort out a situation peacefully
- b) Military action
- c) Reorganization of troops

8. *Refugee*

- a) Patriot
- b) Protestor of the draft
- c) Exile

9. Military *combatant*

- a) Soldier
- b) Enemy
- c) Warrior

10. *Camouflage*

- a) Concealment
- b) Revelation
- c) Bright clothing

Exercise 28-3: Synonyms

Provide a synonym for each of the following (8 marks)

- 1. Regiment _____
- 2. Bunker _____
- 3. Espionage _____
- 4. Bombardment _____
- 5. Guerrilla _____
- 6. Propaganda _____
- 7. Siege _____
- 8. Coalition _____

- 2. Guerrilla Mujahideen

- 3. Espionage Cold war

- 4. Coalition U.N.

- 5. Bombardment Barrage

Exercise 28-4: Anagrams

Use the clues given to unscramble the list words (5 marks)

- 1. *An army division*
METERING _____
- 2. *Cordon*
DOCKABLE _____
- 3. *I spy, with my little eye*
SEA PIGEON _____
- 4. *Militia*
AIRMAIL PARTY _____
- 5. *Euphemism for civilian deaths in wartime*
GALA LATECOMER DAD _____

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War tldy.

Exercise 28-5: Making Connections

In one or two sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (10 marks)

- 1. Blockade Berlin

Exercise 28-6: Euphemisms

The brutality and inhumanity of war make wartime a prolific one for euphemisms. *Euphemisms* are inoffensive words or phrases that are substituted for ones that are considered offensive. A good example of a euphemism is *negative patient care outcome*-meaning DEATH

Which three list words in this unit are euphemisms?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

What do each of the following war-related euphemisms mean?

i) anti-personnel weapon,

ii) casualty,

iii) freedom fighter

iv) post traumatic stress disorder

v) air to air encounters

vi) nerve agent

Keep your eyes out for the euphemisms of wartime. With embeds reporting the news from within the war, you can expect the spin doctors to be putting the best face on what is inevitably a grim affair.

Avocabo Unit by Heather Mulholland.

For more on euphemisms, read
Kind Words: A Thesaurus of Euphemisms
by Judith S. Neaman and Carole G. Silver