



# IED and Other Weapons of Unrestricted Warfare

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# IED are not the Only Weapons



- In the conflict in Iraq, the major weapons we see include:
  - IED
    - Garage-built
    - Industrial quality
  - Suicide bombers
    - Vehicle
    - Personnel
  - Conventional “small arms”
    - Rifles, RPGs, etc.
- It is never clear if any of these are discriminating weapons
  - “Civilians” are targeted more often than military
  - Aspects of Civil War
  - Only sporadic evidence of coherent “military action”

- General Zinni's concept of cultural norms
  - Get local populace to finally oppose use of non-discriminate weapons
  - Move to understanding of how IEDs and other weapons are used
- Need to recognize constant adaptation
  - By “insurgent forces”
  - By coalition
- Regain initiative vice consistent response
  - Continually reacting gives opponents continued upper hand
  - Will not reduce problem
  - Allows opponents to determine terms of conflict

# *Why the Global War on Terrorism is a “Long War”*

- The U.S. would prefer a short war, this is extremely unlikely, mostly because:
  - The enemy is committed to his cause. He is prepared to fight to the death for what he believes is a defense of his religion.
  - The enemy has a strategy with global aspirations. He estimates it will take him decades to accomplish his strategic objectives.
  - It requires change within the Islamic world. Historically, such changes have taken centuries to occur.
  - It requires increased partner nation capacity – armed forces, police, economic development, and good governance – to combat the violent extremist threat. Such growth takes decades to achieve.

***The enemy has committed to a long war and publicly articulated his goals for decades***

# *How has the enemy become so dangerous?*

*Increasing ambitions coupled with an ever increasing capabilities gives extremists an unprecedented ability to affect world events with global ramifications*

## **Weapons Proliferation**

- IEDs
- Suicide Bombers
- Missiles
- Nuclear
- Chemical/Biological

**Mass effects capture media attention**

## **Information Technology**

- Internet
- News Media
- Satellite T.V.
- Cell Phones

**Ability to transmit message**

## **Perceived Grievances**

- The war in Iraq/Afghanistan
- Perception that we are fighting a war against Islam
- Palestine, Israel
- Visa, Immigration policy
- Detainee Abuse

**Populace that listens and supports their message**

***Do we have to fight a war now? Can we wait?***

# *What are the Enemy's Vulnerabilities?*

- **The enemy's violent acts, vision of the future, and ideology do not reflect the beliefs of the Muslim majority:**
  - Murder of ordinary people widely unsupported within the Muslim population.
  - Repressive Taliban-like regimes do not appeal to the average Muslim.
- **The enemy has inherent weaknesses as well:**
  - “Monolithic” view of Islam underestimates cultural and religious differences
  - No military capacity to expand their fight beyond terrorist tactics
  - Underestimates the will of America and our allies



*So what do we need to do to eliminate IEDs and like weapons?*

# Defeating an Ideology: Takes Time

“The Islamic Radical threat of this century greatly resembles the bankrupt ideology of the last. The murderous ideology of the Islamic radicals is the great challenge of our century. Yet, in many ways, this fight resembles the struggle against communism in the last century.” -President Bush, 6 October 2005

- **Communism**


- Communist ideology gained prominence in 1919
- US opposition began in 1946
- 43 years of Cold and Hot War to defeat the ideology
- Communism ultimately collapsed from within

- **Violent Islamic-Based Extremism**

- Threads of history thousands of years long
- Potentially more legitimacy with a religious based ideology, especially when conditions support
- group based vs. state based – more difficult to apply cold war strategies

***Key Lesson: Marginalizing an ideology requires patience  
and promoting reform from within***

# The Last “Great” Unrestricted War



- Almost certainly the Battle for the North Atlantic would have to be considered
- Germany’s submarine force was strangling Britain
  - Re-supply ships being sunk faster than they could be built
  - Submarine force being built much faster than ships being sunk
- Convoy system not functional/effective
- Submarines could not be found in the broad expanse of the sea

# So How Was that War Won

- We helped with specific point defenses against immediate attacks
- We continued to randomly hunt for deployed submarines
- The major success was a result of an intelligence coup
  - Enigma/Ultra found a way to ensure allied forces would always know where submarine forces were
  - Specific effort was directed at intercepting the source of submarines, not detecting individual subs.
  - Tremendous effort expended to disguise the source of success

# Parallels to the War on IED



- IEDs are functionally lost in the broad expanse of Iraq
- They (theoretically) could destroy “convoys” more rapidly than they can be formed
- We have few reliable point defenses against attacks
- We certainly do not defeat them anywhere near as rapidly as they are constructed
- We need to find a way to overcome the threat if we are to be successful in this new unrestricted war

- The fundamental problem is that almost every time the coalition forces find a way to defeat individual types of IED, we brag about it
- We do not have a system that will find the sources
  - Note “warnings” to Iran and Syria
  - Tips hat to manufacturers of our knowledge about different system
  - Worse yet, we use the internet to brag
- There is a need to follow the ULTRA protocol
  - Shut up
  - Find ways to hide what we know

# Suggestions



- This is a long war, with no easy path to victory
- ALL long wars are won, at least in part, with intelligence breakthroughs
- The process of C<sup>4</sup>ISR really looks to a world of classified gains, not public discourse
- Broadcasting “how close” we are to finding Bin Laden almost certainly means he moves
  - Manufacturers will follow the same pattern
  - We do not keep our secrets in an internet age
  - Contrasted with ability of Al Qaeda to operate secretly “in the open”