

Euphemisms Used by the U.S. Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex

Last updated 13 Feb 2021

abdication of U.S. leadership = withdrawing from a Forever War
accidental damage / collateral damage = murder of innocents
additional contract requirement = exorbitant public treasure spend on mediocre weapons platform
adjusted sleep routine = torture via sleep deprivation
administrative detention = solitary confinement
advisor = CIA officer / special operations personnel
American global leadership = destructive foreign policy
anticipatory self-defense = pre-emptive strike, regardless of validity of threat
arms trade = selling weapons of death
building partner capacity = arming and training foreign military or paramilitary forces
clashes = violence ultimately caused by an occupying military force
coordinate steps = war pact
counterinsurgency = military occupation
counterspace capabilities = weaponry to blow up other countries' satellites
Counterterrorist Pursuit Teams = CIA private army / Afghan hit squads trained by US war corporations
courageous restraint = resisting the urge to shoot civilians
data collection = mass surveillance
defensive actions of the free world = US empire
degrade = we can't or won't defeat [group X], so we won't use the word "defeat"
designated defense marksman = sniper
deterrent = nuclear weapons [Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent = new land-based nuclear weapons that can kill us all]
develop = cut down all the trees and build polluting structures where the trees stood
developing nations = exploited peoples
disinformation website = accredited Russian or Chinese news site
dual-use target = bombable civilian infrastructure
economy-of-force initiative = using resources and more tax dollars in creative ways to sustain US military intervention
eco-terrorist = land protector
enduring camp = US-only enclave
"enhance security in the region" = "sell devastating weaponry to despotic regimes"
enhanced interrogation = abuse and torture
entry operation conducted under the auspices of a competent authority = black bag job / federal breaking & entering
erroneous deprivation of life = murder via US war industry ordnance launched from [General Atomics] drone
executive action = political murder (usually on US soil)
expedition targeting force = JSOC raid team / death squad
extraordinary rendition = kidnapping
federal solutions = war profiteering
fiscal consolidation = austerity [see also: manage dollars wisely]
foreign investment = corporate takeover of your land and resources; privatization of the commons
forward defense = aggressive offense
forward deployed = in someone else's territory
freedom = neoliberalism; opening of markets and spaces so US corporations may plunder
free-fire zone = area where you kill anything that moves
free trade = capitalist exploitation / corporations scour globe searching for cheapest labor
freedom of navigation = provoke you by chugging an armada off your coast
frugality = grinding poverty
general = warlord
global services provider = mercenary firm
habitability set = tent
highly reliable informant = microphone
incitement = advocating on behalf of Palestinian human rights
identity management solutions = gear & databases containing biometrics of people living in countries D.C. has invaded
indispensable nation = a nation that harms all who resist
insurgents / militants = resistance / freedom fighters
intervention = occupation
intimidation = violent political suppression
joint priority effects list = capture/kill list (mostly kill)
kinetic = deadly / lethal
legacy (*adj.*) = old, but still profitable to sell

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lethal defensive aid = weaponry used by mercenaries to destabilize regions or topple governments
limited covert operations = paramilitary warfare
logistics civil augmentation program (LOGCAP) = Pentagon outsourcing logistics to corporations
malevolent information architecture = a free and open Internet
manage dollars wisely = austerity
message force multipliers = retired military personnel who propagandize via corporate media
military information support operations = psychological operations and propaganda in general
military operations = acts of war
mission center = war room
modernization = spend a ton of money on expensive platforms (aircraft, ships, land vehicles)
mopping up = killing civilian stragglers
national interest = oligarchical interest (Wall Street profits)
national security = actions that keep war profiteers plump and the people fearful
national security state = permanent warfare state
naval cordon = inhumane siege
negative treatment = cold-blooded assassination
online persona management service = sock puppets to spread D.C.'s propaganda
operational mishaps = murder of Gazans who protest during Great March of Return
operational pause = setback, route
outpost, facility, forward operating location, defensive staging post, contingency operating site = base
outsourcing = harming labor
personnel actions = job cuts
philanthropist = robber baron
protective reaction = pretending radar activity looks provocative so you can bomb infrastructure and other targets
realign = replace a failing maintenance product with a new one at great cost
rebels = armed jihadists
refocus of client procurement = war industry lobbying
regime = government the US government wants to topple
reinventing government = corporatizing everything under the sun
residual training force = continuing military occupation
retrograde operation, redeployment, re-posture = withdrawal
reverse geometry = destroying walls in order to enter Palestinian homes
self-radicalize = read global and independent news regarding US government's criminality
strategic communications = manipulating the press to gain support for military/intel or corporate operations
security exporter = merchant of death
security initiative = monitoring and attacking
sensitive investigative techniques = break-ins and/or eavesdropping
shock & awe = murder & propaganda
sleep management = depriving prisoners of sleep during torture [detailed in Gen. Hayden's 2016 book]
strategic weapon system = submarine armed with nuclear weaponry
stronghold = civilian neighborhood where [Official Enemy] sleeps
strongman = dictator allied to the US ruling class
targeted killings = assassination
targeted preventive acts = assassination
tender age shelter = prison for babies and children
technology transfers = arms sales to other countries
tech support activity = NSA spying
theater = warzone
threat finance = budget of any group that opposes US hegemony or Israeli dictates
thought leader = corrupt academic, think tanker, or "philanthropist"
transfer = expel / ethnically cleanse
tribe = faction
undocumented minors in overflow facilities = kids in cages
unsubstantiated change actions = cooking the books
un-vouchered funds = off-the-books cash (usually for bribing people)
village stability operations = night raids
weapon release event = airstrike