

“By, With, And Through” Will Not Save US Forces From Direct Combat: American Ground Force Contributions To The Campaign Against ISIS

Description

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In 2016, as it was pushing ISIS from its Euphrates valley strongholds in Iraq, the [Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS](#) weighed how best to speed up the military campaign. The coalition ultimately chose to expand its military involvement in support of Iraqi forces, introducing what were described as “enablers” and “accelerants” that would, indeed, prove crucial in dislodging ISIS from Mosul the following year. These contributions are the subject of our newly released [operational history](#) of Operation Inherent Resolve. By focusing on US ground forces, the report sheds light on a less appreciated dimension of the fight to defeat ISIS in Iraq. In doing so we challenge the narrative that the concept known as “by, with, and through” the US military’s reliance on local allies to prosecute ground fighting does not entail combat by US forces.

This Irregular Warfare Initiative article was originally posted through our partner organization, the Modern War Institute at West Point. Continue reading the full article [here](#).

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