

Some military and political euphemisms

The following expressions have all been used at least once in recent years in relation to some armed conflict or political situation.

acute environmental reaction – inability to continue fighting
adjustment – military defeat
air support – bombing
anti-personnel – designed to kill
area denial munition – landmine
assets – bombs
circular error probability – extent to which ordnance misses target
clean bombing – bombing with great accuracy
collateral damage – killed and wounded civilians
combat ineffective – badly wounded or dead
custody suite – prison cell
detention camp – prison
discriminate deterrence – pinpoint bombing
economical with the truth – lie
enhanced interrogation techniques – torture
ethnic cleansing – killing those of another race, religion etc.
exchange of views – political disagreement
executive action – assassination
friendly fire – bombed or shelled by your own side
given new responsibilities – demoted
individual behavior adjustment unit – solitary confinement cell
internal nutrition – force-feeding
internment facility – prison
laying down a carpet – saturation bombing
limited action – short war
misspoke – lied
negative growth – decline
neutralize – kill or disable a target
nullification – killing
overseas contingency operations – war abroad
pacification program – bombing
persons in transit – refugees
resources control – destruction of crops
soften up – bombing in advance of a ground engagement
strategic withdrawal – retreat under pressure
surgical strike – precision bombing raid
tactical retrograde – retreat
terminological inexactitude – lie
tired and emotional – drunk
undocumented immigrant – illegal alien