

## USAWC prof talks about the challenges of urban warfare in multi-domain environment

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*Col. Doug Winton, Ph.D., talks with students about the role of narrative in urban warfare during a noontime lecture on Feb. 4, 2020.*

In the land domain, urban warfare presents a unique set of challenges compounded by emerging technologies and the information age. The Army War College faculty are continuously updating and adapting the curriculum to reflect the changing nature of multidomain warfare.

Urban warfare is a timeless challenge that will likely increase over time. The military needs to fight where the other forces are at, to counterinsurgency, achieve political objectives, secure ports, transportation avenues, and other resources, and preserve the U.S. defending positions, explained Col. Doug Winton, Ph.D., during an engagement with students.

Winton's insights focused on the importance of shaping the narrative for urban warfare. This is particularly challenging for western democracies and

their allies who work to minimize non-combatant deaths.

To create a successful narrative, military personnel at every level, tactical to strategic, need to clearly convey the purpose and approach of the military operations. In the absence of a narrative, adversaries will fabricate their own. The immediate sharing of information with social media and cyber domains only increases the importance of establishing a narrative.

Narratives provide a way for people to make sense of urban warfare and its effects. Constructing a narrative starts with identifying the setting, the characters, the plot, and the moral call to action. The narrative must be compelling to a global audience and created within the laws of armed conflict.