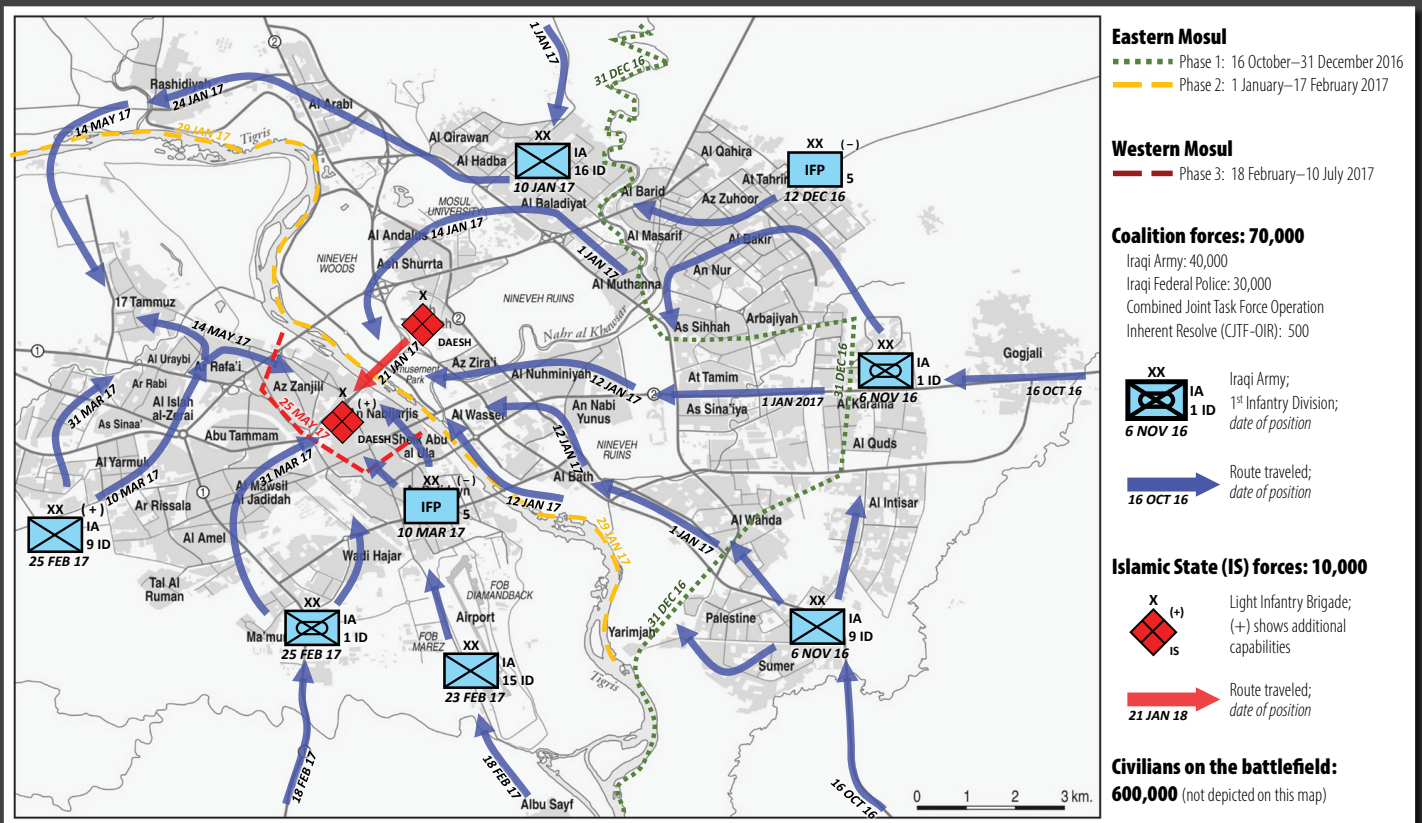


# Battle for Mosul



(Original map used with permission from the Institute for the Study of War, 2012; modified by Nicolas Fiore)

## Phase I

Iraqi army 1st and 9th Divisions entered the outskirts of eastern Mosul in early November 2016. The Iraqi 15th and 16th Divisions followed a few days later, with the 15th attacking from the south and the 16th from the north. By the end of the month, the Iraqi military assessed it had taken control of nineteen neighborhoods, nearly 30 percent of Mosul east of the Tigris River.

The attack continued into December. On 12 December, three Iraqi Federal Police brigades joined three special operations forces “Golden Division” counterterrorism brigades attacking in the east of the city. Pro-government forces conducted an operational pause at the end of the month to refit, repair, and rearm. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi stated that Iraqi forces were in control of over a third of Mosul.

## Phase II

In late December, Iraqi forces continued their advance from three directions into eastern Mosul. The Islamic State (IS) fought back aggressively, cutting off a strategic road linking Mosul and Baghdad and shelled Shirqat after attacking a military barracks near Baiji to seize weapons. Iraqi forces regained control of the road, and on 12 January 2017, Iraq announced it was in control of about 85 percent of east Mosul.

On 21 January, CJTF–OIR announced they had targeted a flotilla of ninety boats and three barges being used by IS to escape across the

Tigris River, and on 24 January, al-Abadi announced the “full liberation” of eastern Mosul.

On 13 February, IS forces launched an unsuccessful attack near Tal Afar (west of Mosul) to regain a line of communication between western Mosul and Raqqa, Syria.

## Phase III

On 19 February, al-Abadi announced the commencement of the next phase of the operation that would capture western Mosul. On the 23rd, Iraqi forces attacked to seize the Mosul airport, and on the 24th, they entered western Mosul for the first time. Iraqi forces continued to advance, and on the 28th, the Iraqi 15th Division was preparing to storm Tal Afar to the west of Mosul.

Fighting intensified in March, with Iraqi forces making slow advances and IS fiercely counterattacking. By 11 March, Iraqi forces had reached the “Old City” center of Mosul, but the battle there continued through March and April, and into May. On 16 May, Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool of Joint Operations Command stated during a press conference that government forces controlled 89.5 percent of western Mosul and had killed 16,467 IS members since the start of operation.

Iraqi forces continued to make deliberate progress through June and into July. On 10 July, al-Abadi declared victory, although isolated clashes continued for the next few months.