Further resources for discussing the morality of military killing

*NOTE: This list is a compilation of various suggested resources from leaders across our synod and congregations. The information in these documents is provided for informational and resource purposes only; the ideas and theology stated in them are not necessarily endorsed by the Minneapolis Area Synod or the ELCA at large.*

Watch the POV (Point of View) production: ***Soldiers of Conscience***

<http://www.soldiers-themovie.com> Made with cooperation from the U.S. Army and narrated by Peter Coyote, the film profiles eight American soldiers, including four who decide not to kill, and become conscientious objectors; and four who believe in their duty to kill if necessary. The film reveals all of them wrestling with the morality of killing in war, not as a philosophical problem, but as soldiers experience it - a split-second decision in combat that can never be forgotten or undone. (Some clips from this movie were in the Discernment powerpoint)

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/soldiersofconscience/special_kilner.php>

-Interview with Kilner about in-conscience killing during war. A different clip from him is in the Discernment powerpoint). Addresses regret, moral injury, and military ethics.

<http://maketheconnection.net> This VA website features videos of vets who were hurt by their experiences and now promote getting help through the VA.

<http://brite.edu/academics/programs/soul-repair/resources/>

---also features web archives of the Conscience in War Truth Commission at which Josh Casteel was speaking (from the Discernment powerpoint.)

<http://www.fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/i1300_06.pdf>

The official armed services document concerning CO

.<http://centeronconscience.org> Provides information of particular use to those in the military seeking CO status

*Killing from the Inside Out, Moral Injury and Just War*, by Robert Emmet Meagher, Cascade Books, 2014, is the definitive work on the just war theory. The title comes from the mother of a Minnesotan, Noah Pierce, who died by suicide in the aftermath of his war experiences. “Just war doctrine was never more than a theory and at its worst it was a lie, a deadly lie It promised at least the possibility of war without sin, war without criminality, war without guilt or shame, war in which men and women would risk their lives but not their souls or their humanity. This theory has been tested for sixteen centuries, and has failed. It is time to declare its death, write its autopsy, reveal its deadly legacy, and point to a future beyond just war,” concludes Meagher.

The following resources argue against war and military killing:

Thomas Merton’s *Gandhi on Non-Violence*

Mark Twain’s *War Prayer*

General (RET) Smedley Butler *War Is A Racket*

David Swanson  *War Is a Lie*

More interviews with soldiers looking back can be found at <http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier>

A number of documentaries and clips address vets looking back on war killings. A particular July 12, 2007 tragedy was captured on military video. It became known as the “collateral murder” video (available free online but brutal). Some unarmed journalists and a good Samaritan and his children were shot by a US helicopter crew. One of the members of the gun crew reviews the tragedy in the short documentary *Incident in New Baghdad,* which was nominated for an Academy Award.

The documentary *Hidden Battles* features the psychological impact of killing on the lives of five soldiers from different countries. “Consciously apolitical but deeply psychological.”

*The Ground Truth*  is a documentary featuring US veterans of the war in Iraq.