**Resources on Peace, Conscientious Objection to War, Military Enlistment and Alternatives for Youth**

*Compiled by the Mennonite Central Committee*

**Mennonite Central Committee Resources**

1. How I Became a Conscientious Objector (**online video)**  
   Iraq War veteran Joshua Casteel, interrogator at Abu Ghraib Prison, describes his journey of faith toward peace.  
   <http://mcc.org/stories/joshua-casteel-how-i-became-conscientious-objector>
2. Behind the Camouflage: A Primer on Military Enlistment for Youth Pastors, Mentors and Counselors, by Titus Peachey, Mennonite Central Committee  
   Detrás del Camuflage: Un instructive de alistamiento military para pastores juvenlies, mentores y consejeros   
   <http://mcc.org/media/resources/1128>
3. Christian Peacemaker Registration Form  
   Formulario de Incripción como Pacificador  
   http://mcc.org/media/resources/1130
4. Intersections: Conscientious Objection. Historical and contemporary stories and reflections on conscientious objection to war among Mennonites.  
   <http://mcc.org/media/resources/1802>
5. Iraq War veteran Logan Mehl-Laituri and Marine Joe Gibson discuss their journey of faith toward peace, their struggle with moral injury and sense of God’s call **(online video clips)** <http://civilianpublicservice.org/storycontinues/hotline>
6. Returning Veterans, Returning Hope: Seeking Peace Together: 6-week Sunday School curriculum developed by MCC and Mennonite Church USA  
   <http://mcc.org/media/resources/1719>
7. Conscience against war, from WWII to the present: includes databases of WWII Civilian Public Service (CPS) workers and camps, the legacy of mental health reform resulting from CPS, along with descriptions of peace work in Vietnam, Laos, Gaza, and information about the GI Rights Hotline. http://civilianpublicservice.org/   
   Stories of peace work in Vietnam during the war **(online video clips)**  
   Doug Hostetter: <http://civilianpublicservice.org/storycontinues/vietnam/hostetter/stories>  
   Paul Leatherman: <http://civilianpublicservice.org/storycontinues/vietnam/leatherman>

**Resources from other sources: faith-based and secular**

1. Military veterans reflect on their struggle with moral injury **(online video clips)**  
   <http://brite.edu/academics/programs/soul-repair/resources/>
2. Soldiers of Conscience: documentary film (86 minutes) that features the stories of four Iraq War soldiers who became conscientious objectors to war. See: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/soldiersofconscience/film_description.php>

1. Alternatives to Military Enlistment (websites with national/regional/local information)  
   <http://www.centeronconscience.org/co/alternatives-to-enlistment.html>  
   <http://www.nyclu.org/milrec/alternatives> (New York State)  
   <http://www.afsc.org/resource/alternatives-military>  
   <http://www.yayanetwork.org/alternatives>  
   <http://www.projectyano.org/>
2. The GI Rights Hotline: 1-877-447-4487  
   Basic information/regulations regarding military enlistment, regulations and discharges  
   <http://girightshotline.org/>
3. Iraq Veterans Against the War: Winter Soldier Testimony  
   Personal testimonies from veterans on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including experiences of combat, sexual violence, racism, civilian casualties, rules of engagement, and more.  
   <http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier>
4. Through All The Plain, Benjamin John Peters, Cascade Books, Eugene, OR, 2014

**Quotes from Military Veterans**

*Snatched from the commonplace of life, the combat soldier is ‘born again’ into a different plane of existence from which there is no return…Violence on the magnitude of war lies in the same plane as the questions of the beginning and the end of the universe, of God and of meaning.****Father William P. Mahedy, Chaplain (Vietnam War era)***

***…****there is within most men an intense resistance to killing…a resistance so strong that in many circumstances, soldiers on the battlefield will die before they can overcome it.****Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (Ret.), On Killing, Little, Brown & Company, 1995.***

*I believe those of us who have lived through war have a moral obligation to educate the public about what is being done in their name. But first we must recognize the fact that we have injured our moral being and core, and that repairing that damage within ourselves will require a life-long commitment to atone for the wrongs we have committed against others.****Camilo Vejia, Iraq War Veteran***

*St. Paul is perhaps the greatest of all ex-intelligence professionals…Through the conversion of Saul, Christ sends us a clear and relevant message. It is precisely those soldiers with dark and heavy hearts, whose consciences have turned, who will lay down their weapons and take up the cross…Though nations wantonly continue to send their precious sons and daughters off to kill—Christ’s peace also rises in the hearts of these weary ones.****Evan Knappenberger, Iraq War Veteran***

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