WORKING TOWARD PEACE BY PROVIDING CIVILIAN SERVICES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL - CONCEPTUAL AND PRACTICAL FINDINGS

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PRESENTER DISCLOSURES

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

None.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To understand the experiences of active duty GIs who seek physical and mental health services in the civilian sector.

To consider theories of terror versus theories of exploitation under conditions of stagnation and anomie.

To examine the problems of futile narratives and double agency.

To discuss new public health strategies focusing on the current roots and outcomes of war.
OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The health and mental health problems of military personnel have emerged as a public health epidemic. We attempted to identify social variables that mediate health and mental health disorders among active duty GIs and to assess whether civilian services offered a viable alternative to military services.

BOOK IN PROGRESS?

I welcome your perspectives.

Part 1. War As a Kind of Hell
Chapter 1. When More Soldiers Commit Suicide Than Die in Battle

- What war accomplishes in the post-9/11 era
- The "party line": theories of terror
- The non-party line: theories of exploitation
  - Further on the non-party line: theories of economic stagnation and anomie
  - A futility of narrative
  - How medical and mental health services relate to the futility of narrative

Chapter 2. The Trauma of No Narrative

- Violence without meaning
- Hazards of not identifying the enemy
- Killing women and children
- Torture and dehumanizing people who may or may not be enemies
- Friendly fire of different kinds

Chapter 3. Effects from the Trauma of No Narrative

- PTSD
- Depression
- Suicidality
  - Suicide watch
- Homicidality
- Substance Abuse
- Going drugged into battle
Chapter 3. Effects from the Trauma of No Narrative (continued)

- The changing story of sequential deployments
  - Where is home? Who is family?
  - Family violence
  - Criminality
  - Homelessness
  - Unemployment

Chapter 4. The Eroticism of No Narrative for Warriors

(acknowledgment: Theodore Nadelson, 
*Trained to Kill: Soldiers at War*)

- Military Sexual Trauma
- The Dance of Homophobia

Chapter 5. Military Health Professionals and Their Discontents

- Double agency
- Hippocratic contradictions
- Over-medication
- Breaches in confidentiality
- The impact of educational debt
- Harassment by superiors for trying to serve patients
- Variations on the theme of Dr. Nidal Malik Hasan
Part 2. War As a Kind of Heaven

Chapter 6. Who benefits from such wars?

- Military industrial complex
- Medical industrial complex

Chapter 7. Socially constructing the justifications for profits and power

- Wars on terrorism: Naming the terrorist
- Wars to protect human rights: Searching for the humanitarian angle
- Wars on drugs: Nurturing addiction
- Wars on elected governments that don't agree: Protecting "democracy"
- Wars for oil, water, and other depleting resources: Protecting "trade"
Part 3. War As Nowhere Else to Go

Chapter 8. Nowhere Else to Go for the Poor and Marginalized

- Lack of jobs
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Gender inequality
- Income inequality
- Ethnic minorities

Chapter 9. Nowhere Else to Go for an Economy and a Polity

- Disaster capitalism
- End of empire
- A theory of war at the twilight of capitalism and empire as we have known them
Part 4. Paths to Peace and Health

Chapter 10. Diagnosis and Treatment in the Civilian Sector

Chapter 11. Treating the Victims of War Versus Primary Prevention of War

Chapter 12. Converting from the War Economy and Polity

Chapter 13. A New Narrative