

THE USE and MISUSE OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY

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Course Description: U.S. foreign policy is advanced through trade, diplomacy, warfare, intelligence, foreign aid, and global environmental cooperation. The US military has been used (and often misused) the last 75 years as a foreign policy cudgel in an uneven and sometimes inexplicable fashion. This has made the US appear imperialistic, arrogant, hypocritical, and erratic. The results are embarrassing – **the world's most powerful military has not won a war in 75 years**, and has spawned disdain for our policies and mistrust of the word of the U.S. Government. We will look at case studies of American foreign policy fiascos which have eroded the image and reputation of America around the world and ended the role of the US as a staunch defender of freedom, rule of law, and democracy.

Course Director: Dr. Michael Baker has practiced general surgery and trauma for more than 35 years in Contra Costa County. He has published over 60 peer reviewed articles, and he also lectures on strategy, global health, world events and serves on the Board of the World Affairs Council of Northern California. He also had a parallel career in the military and teaches combat casualty care, triage, trauma, and response to complex disasters and humanitarian emergencies. As a Navy Officer, he has experience in operational medicine, overseas deployments, war gaming, and strategic planning. He worked on the contingency planning for various potential theaters of conflict including the Persian Gulf area as Naval Forces Central Command Medical Officer, plans and exercises for potential events in Korea / Asia as the Commander of US Naval Medical Forces Korea, and served at US Strategic Command. He served his country in uniform for 30 years and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral, and on retirement was awarded his 3rd Legion of Merit, which he proudly wears alongside his Marine Corps Combat Action ribbon and the Combat Craft Riverine Warfare pin.

Using his experience in both careers, he will inform the students about US foreign policy with regard to the use and misuse of the military and try to bridge the gap between the public and those who serve in uniform.

Objectives

- a. *Recognize the value and proper role of a powerful and robust military in foreign policy*
- b. *Learn how National Strategy and National Military Strategy are developed and implemented*
- c. *Identify the failures of U.S. National Strategy and policies as waged wars of the last 75 years*
- d. *Understand the evolution/revolution in US Military Affairs in this century*
- e. *Understand how the military is now separated from society as a whole and why national service could be bridge the that gap and serve to promote a culture of service.*
- f. *Review the global threats vis-a -vis current strategy, policy, and national / military preparedness*
- g. *Discuss how to prepare for future conflicts*

OLLI Weekly Lecture Schedule (subject to minor change)

- I. US NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND COMMAND AUTHORITY**
 - a. Intro to your Speaker**
 - b. National Defense Strategy and National Military Policy**
 - c. National Command Structure + Combatant Commands**
 - d. How did the world look and what was America's role after 1945?**
 - e. How has the military been deployed + utilized since 1945?**

- II. OPPOSING THE WORLD WIDE EXPANSION OF COMMUNISM**
 - a. Forward Bases**
 - b. Force Structure and Personnel**
 - c. The World's Most Expensive Military – actual costs**
 - i. Korea Case Study – AKA “The Forgotten War”**
 - ii. Truman Doctrine**
 - iii. Status of current conflict and diplomatic efforts**

- III. National Security Strategy**
 - a. How is Foreign Policy Made**
 - i. State Dept**
 - 1. Diplomacy**
 - 2. Foreign Aid**
 - 3. Global Media**
 - ii. Intelligence**
 - iii. National Security Team**
 - b. Levels of Military Intervention Short of All out Warfare**
 - i. Show of Force**
 - ii. Military Operations Other Than War**
 - c. Case Study: Lebanon Incursions of 1958 and 1982**

- IV. **Soft Power v Hard Power**
 - a. **Foreign Aid and Development**
 - b. **Hard Power in Action: The Scar on the American Psyche _ Vietnam**

- V. **Current Endless Wars + Assessment of the National Strategy / Policy**
 - a. **Down the rabbit hole into Afghanistan**

- VI. **Current Endless Wars + Assessment of the National Strategy / Policy - 2**
 - a. **Promoting “democracy” in Iraq**
 - b. **Other Current Mideast Quagmires**

- VII. **The Result of 19 Years of Continuous Conflict**
 - a. **PTSD + TBI – a public health crisis**
 - b. **Military Wear and Tear**
 - c. **Future Costs for Your children and Grandchildren to Pay**

- VIII. **Relationship of Society to the Military**
 - i. **Draft vs National Service**
 - ii. **Summary and Conclusions**

SUGGESTED READING

1. **US NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND COMMAND AUTHORITY /**
<https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>

<https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Publications/Books/charting-a-course/Article/1026966/chapter-3-us-defense-policy-and-strategy/>

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1782623/dod-releases-fiscal-year-2020-budget-proposal/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy

<https://www.politicalscienceview.com/elements-of-national-power/>

2. Korea Case Study

<https://www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/korea_hickey_01.shtml

<https://www.thenation.com/article/why-are-us-troops-still-in-south-korea-anyway/>

South Korea's Defense White Paper 2018

http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_national/878629.html

Remembering the Forgotten War; April 2000 Naval History Magazine Volume 14 Number 2. [https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-](https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2000/april/remembering-forgotten-war?utm_source=U.S.+Naval+Institute&utm_campaign=8774b7490d-)

[magazine/2000/april/remembering-forgotten-](https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2000/april/remembering-forgotten-war?utm_source=U.S.+Naval+Institute&utm_campaign=8774b7490d-)

[war?utm_source=U.S.+Naval+Institute&utm_campaign=8774b7490d-](https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2000/april/remembering-forgotten-war?utm_source=U.S.+Naval+Institute&utm_campaign=8774b7490d-)

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- a. **Last Stand of Fox Company** -- Bob Drury and Tom Clavin
- b. **From Pusan to Panmunjon** - Paik Sun Yup

3. Review of Failed Wars / Vietnam

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2008/february/truth-about-tonkin>

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-vietnam-war-in-hindsight/> -- Richard Haass

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-04-16/longest-wars> -- Packer on Holbrook

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/a-wars-secret-history-finally-emerges> -- STRATFOR

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/vietnam-war-truth-lies-article-1.3504827>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/08/vietnam-war-our-trust-government-has-declined/>

A BRIGHT SHINING LIE – Neil Sheehan

ABOUT FACE – David Hackworth

DERELICTION OF DUTY – HR McMaster

4. Military Might and the Other tools of American Foreign Policy

- a. **Lebanon Case Study**
- b. **From Beirut to Jerusalem** – Thomas Friedman
- c. **Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph** by T. E. Lawrence

5. Review of Current Wars / Afghanistan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah5lnELw97w>

<https://www.thebalance.com/cost-of-afghanistan-war-timeline-economic-impact-4122493>

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/economic>

The Great Game – Peter Hopkirk

FIASCO - TOM RICKS

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES – RICHARD CLARKE

GENERATION KILL: DEVIL DOGS, ICE MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND THE NEW FACE OF AMERICAN WAR, by Evan Wright

6. Review of Current Wars / Iraq

7. Relationship of Society to the Military

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/draft-and-wwii>

<https://www.truthdig.com/articles/was-ending-the-draft-a-grave-mistake/>

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article231559753.html>

<https://www.nixonfoundation.org/2015/02/45-years-later-nixon-gates-commission/>

https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pubs/parameters/issues/Winter_2015-16/8_Yuengert.pdf?source=post_page-----

a. **Skin in the Game, poor kids and patriots – Maj Gen Dennis Laich**

b. **The Greatest Generation – Tom Brokaw**

c. **Reining In Soldiers of Fortune**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/18/opinion/reining-in-soldiers-of-fortune.html>

d. **America's Addiction to Mercenaries**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/08/iraq-afghanistan-contractor-pentagon-obama/495731/>

8. The Cost of These Conflicts to Our Society and the American People

a. Baker M.S., Armfield F: Preventing Post Traumatic Stress Disorders in Military Medical Personnel. Military Medicine 161,5:262-4, 1996.

b. Baker M.S., Ryals P.: Medical Department in Military Operations Other Than War, Part 1: Planning for Deployment. Military Medicine 164, 8: 572-579, 1999

- c. Baker M.S., Ryals P.: Medical Department in Military Operations Other Than War, Part II: Medical Civic Assistance Program in Southeast Asia. Military Medicine 164, 9: 619-624, 1999.
- d. Baker, MS: "Military Medical Advances Resulting From the Conflict in Korea: Part 1: System Advances that Enhanced Patient Survival." Military Medicine, 177, 4:423-9, April 2012
- e. Baker, MS: "Military Medical Advances Resulting From the Conflict in Korea: Part II: Historic Clinical Accomplishments." Military Medicine, 177, 4:430- 5, April 2012.
- f. **Baker, MS: "Care of Returning Casualties of the Great War on Terror – The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly,"** Armed Forces Journal, p. 16-19, 32; March 2013. <http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2013/03/12779212>
- g. **Baker, MS: "Casualties of the Global War on Terror and Their Future Impact on Health Care and Society: A Looming Public Health Crisis".** Military Medicine. 179 (4), April 2014, pp. 348–355 <http://dx.doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-13-00471>
- h. Baker,MS: "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way – How Bold Young Surgeons Brought Vascular Surgery into Clinical Practice from the Korean War Battlefield," Ann Vasc Surg March 2016; 33: 258–262, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.avsg.2016.01.010> Association of Military Surgeons of the US -- History of Medicine Award Winner Nov 2011.
- i. **Kevany, S, and Baker, MS: "Military Global Health Diplomacy: Applying Smart Power via Global Health Engagement,** Armed Forces Journal, JFQ 83, 4th Quarter 2016, p. 83-90. <http://ndupress.ndu.edu/JFQ/Joint-Force-Quarterly-83/Article/969672/applying-smart-power-via-global-health-engagement/>
- j. Baker, MS, "Take a Knee for Social Justice," U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings Magazine - October 2017 Vol. 143/10/1,376<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2017-10/take-knee-social-justice>
- k. Kevany, S., Canyon, D, Baker, MS, Ostergard R.:THE NEXUS BETWEEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY https://apcss.org/nexus_articles/the-nexus-between-the-covid-19-pandemic-international-relations-and-international-security/
- l. Baker, MS, Kevany, S, Canyon, D, and Baker, J: THE INTERSECTION OF GLOBAL HEALTH, MILITARY MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY HAZARDS AND OUTBREAKS https://apcss.org/nexus_articles/the-intersection-of-global-health-military-medical-intelligence-and-national-security-in-the-management-of-transboundary-hazards-and-outbreaks/

9. Future Warfare

<https://listverse.com/2016/08/26/10-horrifying-future-wars-we-will-live-to-see/>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/us-military-is-preparing-for-new-wars-china-russia/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOTYgcdNrXE>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/01/12-depressing-previews-of-americas-next-war/>

<https://www.darpa.mil/about-us/about-darpa>

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2019/09/13/future-wars-will-be-won-with-open-mission-systems/>

- a. **Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War**, by P. W. Singer, August Cole, et al
- b. **LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media**, by P. W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking
- c. **Savage Century – Therese Delpeche**
- d. **War is a Racket** by Marine Major General Smedley Butler, 1935
- e. **Future War: Preparing for the New Global Battlefield**, Robert Latiff

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