

# Delve Deeper into *Armadillo*

A film by Janus Metz

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *Armadillo*.

In 2009, Janus Metz and cameraman Lars Skree accompanied a platoon of Danish soldiers to *Armadillo*, a combat operations base in southern Afghanistan. For six months, often while under fire, they captured the lives of the young soldiers fighting the Taliban in a hostile and confusing environment, where official rhetoric about helping civilians too often met the unforbearing reality of being a foreign occupier. Winner of the Critics' Week Grand Prix at Cannes, *Armadillo* is one of the most dramatic and candid accounts of combat to come out of Afghanistan.

## ADULT NONFICTION

### Denmark's Foreign Policy Objectives

**Larsen, Henrik.** *Analyzing the Foreign Policy of Small States in the EU: The Case of Denmark.* Hampshire (UK): Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. Henrik Larsen, a professor of European Foreign Policy at University of Copenhagen, provides a survey of Denmark's foreign policy including anti-terrorism, development and trade.

### Politics Meets Practice in the War Zone

**Armstrong, Keith, and Dr. Suzanne Best and Dr. Paula Domenici.** *Courage After Fire: Coping Strategies for Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families.* Berkeley: Ulysses Press, 2005. *Courage After Fire* is a comprehensive guide for returning soldiers and their families dealing with issues including PTSD, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and assimilation back into work and family life.

**Barker, Kim.** *The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan.* New York: Doubleday, 2011. In this account of reporting from Afghanistan, war correspondent Kim Barker recalls the assortment of warlords and politicians she interacts with while on assignment in the war zone.

**Bellavia, David.** *House to House.* New York: Free Press, 2007. Staff sergeant, David Bellavia, provides a gripping hour-by-hour account of his experience during the fierce 2004 Battle of Fallujah in Iraq.

**Caldwell, Dan.** *Vortex of Conflict: U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.* Stanford: Stanford Security Studies, 2011. This history of the fluid U.S. policy towards Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan relating to the current conflicts provides general readers, students, and veterans and their families with a better understanding of the situation.

**Fick, Nathaniel C.** *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer.* New York: Mariner Books, 2006. This combat memoir tells the story of a U.S. Marine deployed to Afghanistan, who eventually spearheads the invasion of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Friedman, Matthew J., and Laurie B. Slone.** *After the War Zone: A Practical Guide for Returning Troops and Their Families.* Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 2008. Experts from the VA National Center for PTSD provide advice for spouses and families of soldiers returning home from war.

**Hoge, Charles W.** *Once a Warrior--Always a Warrior: Navigating the Transition from Combat to Home--Including Combat Stress, PTSD, and mTBI.* Guilford: GPP Life, 2010. Written by a military colonel and leading advocate for mental health education, this clear and concise handbook addresses PTSD, mild traumatic brain injury, combat stress associated with returning from a combat zone, and how families can reconnect after long deployments.

**Salome, Louis J.** *Violence, Veils and Bloodlines: Reporting from War Zones.* Jefferson: McFarland, 2010. American journalist, Louis Salome, documents his work as a correspondent in some of the world's most volatile regions including Kabul and Somalia and offers his perspective on the situations at hand.

**Shaffer, Anthony.** *Operation Dark Heart: Spycraft and Special*

*Ops on the Frontlines of Afghanistan -- and the Path to Victory.* New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2010. Shaffer provides an eye-opening account of his involvement with the U.S. Army's clandestine intelligence program prior to 9/11 and intelligence operations in post-9/11 Afghanistan.

**West, Bing.** *No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah.* New York: Bantam, 2006. West reflects on the broad policy decisions made by U.S. leaders concerning Iraq and how they affect the soldiers trying to execute those decisions during a 2004-2005 campaign in Fallujah.

**Wright, Evan.** *Generation Kill.* New York: Berkley Trade, 2008. After serving as the only embedded journalist in a platoon of First Reconnaissance Battalion Marines, Wright recalls his observations about pop culture's influence on today's soldiers and their perceptions of war, peace and combat compared to those who fought in Vietnam.

### Masculinity and War

**Braudy, Leo.** *From Chivalry to Terrorism: War and the Changing Nature of Masculinity.* New York: Vintage, 2005. Leo Braudy examines how the technological advances of modern warfare have changed the relationship between war and the masculinity of the soldier.

**French, Shannon E.** *The Code of the Warrior: Exploring Warrior Values Past and Present.* New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004. U.S. Naval Academy professor, Shannon French, investigates warrior ethics throughout history, including the ancient Greeks and Samurai, and connects these ancient traditions to today's warfare.

**Goldstein, Joshua S.** *War and Gender.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. In this study of gender's effect on war and vice versa, Goldstein analyses the construction of masculinity and femininity with regards to combat.

**Mullaney, Craig M.** *The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education.* New York: Penguin, 2010. In this memoir, U.S. Army Captain Craig Mullaney reflects on



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his combat experience in Afghanistan and what it means to be a "warrior" in this age of modern warfare.

**Sherman, Nancy. *Stoic Warriors: The Ancient Philosophy behind the Military Mind*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.**

Georgetown University philosopher, Nancy Sherman, investigates the modern stoicism of today's soldier with regards to the current military conflicts.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Reedy, Trent. *Words in the Dust*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2011.** *Words in the Dust* is a fictional story for the middle school reader about a 13-year-old Afghani girl who lost her mother to the Taliban and is being raised by her traditional father. The story is loosely based on the author's experiences during his tour of duty in Afghanistan with the U.S. military.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

***Combat Diary: The Marines of Lima Company*. A film by Michael Epstein. A&E Home Video, 2006. TRT: 90 min.**

*Combat Diary* incorporates footage shot by the Marines during their 2005 tour of duty in Iraq with interviews of surviving soldiers and parents and widows of soldiers who were killed in combat.

***History Channel Declassified: The Taliban*. A film by the History Channel. A&E Home Video, 2007. TRT: 50 min.**

This film provides a historical overview of how and why the Taliban formed in Afghanistan.

***Restrepo*. A film by Sebastian Junger. Virgil Films and Entertainment, 2010. TRT: 93 min.**

*Restrepo* chronicles a platoon of U.S. soldiers deployed to the remote outpost "Restrepo" in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley.

***Rethink Afghanistan*. A film by Robert Greenwald.**

**Disinformation, 2009. TRT: 62 min.** This film examines the conflict in Afghanistan and its costs, both monetary and human.

