Ethic in some extreme condition is useless

In yesterday course, we have a deep discussion on ethic in photography, and just in case someone think I am crazy, I am writing this essay to make my theory clear. My theory is ethic in some extreme condition is useless.

What extreme condition? As far as I am concerned, during war period, ethic is useless. Because in that condition, consequence and duty are always important than ethic, let us have a example and make it clear, in yesterday course, there is a picture which took during Vietnam war, a military officer was holding a pistol, aim at a enemy spy. During that   time,

many students declared that if they were the military officer, they will not pull the trigger, because they think, this activity against their ethic. To be honest, in this condition, I think ethic is useless, just like what have mentioned before, we were in war condition during that time, and if you know some history of that picture, you will find out that the person who was going to be killed is a spy, and he has killed 5 people, included a child. From tactical and strategic, this spy may have important intelligence from enemy, or even worse, he maybe already have some intelligence of our troop movement and troop deployment, in a word, he is a potential risk. If today you do not pull the trigger, then tomorrow maybe enemy bomber will bomb citizen area, or enemy will set a ambush to hit our squads, many soldiers and citizens will be killed.

During the same time, another theory which we got called "The provocative effect of the camera" is also useless in this situation. The basic idea about this theory is if we have a camera on the site, this will engage the person who is going to take offensive activity take actions. In that situation, that person who is going to take offensive activity is the military officer who was holding the pistol, then, here is the question, how can

we know what will happen if the camera was not there? Let us still make this picture for an example, maybe during that time, when the camera was aim at the military officer, maybe the military officer will afraid of the journalist handle over this picture to the media, and cause public outrage and media condemnation, maybe he will not pull the trigger. However, how can we know what will happen after that situation? Maybe in one night, this military officer will let soldiers bring this spy to a place where none know and kill him. How can we know that? Or should I say how photographer can know that and take the picture on the right place and right time? Maybe we should let photographer hold camera and aim at that military officer for 24 hours? But that is not possible.

So, the result is very obvious, the man who were pointed by the pistol is a spy, is a murder, is a potential risk which will cause casualties to military force and citizens, as a result, as a military officer, as a person whose duty is to protect this country, no matter what cost, military officer will just pull the trigger whether or not the camera is over there, no matter will this activity will against ethic or not.

That is why my theory is ethic is useless in some extreme condition like war, because as a soldier, your duty and your order was to win this war and protect your people, instead of be a holy man and try to save humans. As a army fan, after watch so much war movies, novels, and play so much video game, my conclusion is "Risk is always

exist." And when the potential risk appear, what should you do is to make a clear strategy and solve this risk on time, if you kill one person but can save 10, 100 or maybe even 10000 people, then why not pull the trigger. Of course I am not talking human right and ethic is not important or completely useless, all those things are the basic to be a human, but just like what mentioned, ethic is useless in war condition, and human right is for the person who are entitled to human rights. When the war on terror begins, when terrorists pick up AK47s and RPGs and start killing civilians, it means they voluntarily give up human rights. After that, what should we do is to get intelligence from this terrorist, and avoid tragedy happen again, otherwise what should we do? Invented those terrorist to your house and have a cup of tea with them? "If you want peace, prepare for the war." Peace was never given to you, instead, you have to fight, then the peace will come.

Sometimes, I think photographer like us are entering a bad ending, we always think we can find troubles through our camera, we find problems, but we never think what can we do to solve this problem.