

I work as a senior pipe designer at Electric Boat, a company that designs & constructs submarines, & designs carriers for the U.S. Navy, & I would like to discuss how I apply Article 16 when I work at my job, which, I believe, is a service to the human community.

There are several stages that are required before a pipe is installed inside a submarine. One of the first tasks for us designers is to read a diagram developed by an engineer, who is responsible for one of the systems that are installed, and try to figure out the best way to run the pipe so that it meets all the criterion that is necessary for the safety of our sailors & for the proper functioning of all the boats that we build. Fortunately, there are several different people who will review my design to ensure that the final product is a good product. Several years ago, one of the submarines, built by Electric Boat, malfunctioned & did not rise back up to the surface. Several sailors were killed that day. We do not want anything like that to ever happen again.

Not only do we provide a service to our sailors, we provide a service to the American people & perhaps to the world at large. Most of you, who will read this article, have

very nice lives. We have the right to life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness guaranteed in our Bill of Rights. We have the freedom of religion & the freedom of speech. Most of us are relatively safe. We have a reasonable expectation of staying alive by the end of the day. We do not expect to be blown up. There are too many people, in the world, who cannot have the same expectation. It is the soldier, who maintains the freedoms that we have in this nation. When I serve the navy, I am also serving all of you.

I am not unmindful of the fact that there are people, who consider my work to be an abomination unto the Lord. I respect their consciences, but I am not called by God to follow them. I adhere wholeheartedly to the Catholic Church's teaching on just war, & I do not believe that my work violates it. I would like to close with a quote from the Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop for the Military Services about "Soft Pacifism" on November 21, 2005.

"Recently, I took part in a colloquium sponsored jointly by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Notre Dame and Georgetown Universities,

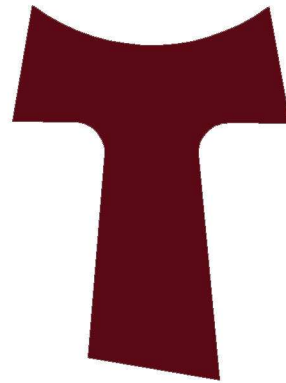
entitled, "The Ethics of War After 9/11 and Iraq."

It was a very profitable day-long session that included several bishops as well as professionals from academia and the military. It could have been a brief discussion with all going home after voting unanimously, "War is not the answer, therefore there should be no more war." A beautiful dream...but a dream.

Unfortunately, our world is more complicated than that, as St. Augustine realized in the 5th century. We have not realized the City of God, yet, where we can presume everyone's goodness and the perfection of institutions. Rather we are in the City of Man where rapacious power tends to brutalize and enslave the weak. For Augustine, and for Aquinas and all mainline Christian moralists, the virtue of justice sometimes requires "benevolent severity," the use of force to stop and/or prevent unjust aggression, whether on the street corner, in Kosovo or Kuwait."

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*Let them
esteem work
both as a gift
and as sharing
in the creation,
redemption,
and service of
the human
community.
Article 16*



Pipe

Design