

The Hill: A Documentary Work in Progress
Director: Holen Sabrina Kahn



*"Every storm returns the War, the last one returned
an American gun holster, 74 years worn by the sea"*
- Ophile, interviewed near Omaha Beach.

For the last 17 years the United States has been continually at war on multiple fronts, yet most citizens are barely aware that we are even still a presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, let alone a major presence in Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Niger among others. We have military deployed in over 150 countries, and this is just the tip, we live in a time where the 'theater of war' has no real geographic boundaries. **The Hill** is a feature documentary project that probes the hyper modern supra-national way in which we "fight," and how drone warfare, and widening constructs of who is 'enemy' translate to the fabric of culture in the United States, including the militarization of local police forces, and an escalating disregard for due process. Understanding how we got to this moment, reflecting on its debris and what it means for our daily lives, present and future, is paramount.

As the film pulls apart the pieces of the "how we got here," it focuses on the complex role of those who choose to serve the State (soldiers, politicians, government officials, even CIA agents) who see themselves as, or are moved to become, some kind of 'conscientious participator'. *The Hill* illuminates both the possibility and limits of this 'conscientious participation' in the midst of war.

The conversations in **The Hill** bring to the fore what the Philosopher Hannah Arendt referred to as *the silent dialogue with one's self*, - a radical act of thinking that can change our capacity as citizens, and provide the ground for this ethical action, even in the midst of great darkness. We lack models of how one develops or keeps intact their moral courage, how one speaks up at the table even when it is difficult to do so.



The Hill features frank conversation with Avril Haines, National Security Advisor & Deputy Director of the CIA under President Obama (pictured above), as well as drone operators, activists and whistle blowers.

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