**THE MYTH**

WAR IS THE LAST RESORT

People assume and expect that decisions to use force are made when no other options exist.

No war can satisfy the conditions of absolute last resort.

There always are many good, nonviolent alternatives.

The price of war is too high, when people know that there are other options.

When people know that there are better options, they are less likely to tolerate casualties and support war.

The bottom line: With more information about alternatives we make better choices.

*If someone says something like this*

*Your talking points*

*Data available!*

**THE EVIDENCE**

**DEBUNK**

**STUDIES SHOW:**

When information about the expectations of success of diplomacy is not shared, people conclude that nonwar course of action are unattractive and they are more willing to back military action.

Public support for war is influenced by the knowledge about alternatives, success and casualties.

Support for forceful US counterterrorism efforts declined by as much as 20% when alternatives are described as good instead of poor.

Information from credible sources on viable nonwar options is likely to decrease the public’s support for war.

It is possible to show that any particular war was not the last resort and that superior alternatives existed.

Our government does not tell us the truth about our wars.

The reporting by mainstream media on war is biased toward violence.