I created this for and presented it during a SMEE (with Psychologists, Chaplains, and other Medical personnel) in the Philippines during BK19. I borrowed 7 slides from the CHC’s 2018/19 PDTC to introduce existing concepts and definitions. These notes are not exhaustive but will provide an outline to begin preparations. My Classics studies as an undergrad informed much of the improvisation for this lecture. A thorough reading of the books below and a careful viewing of the films would be a great starting place for anyone interested in presenting this material.

Resources:

Books
Shannon French Code of the Warrior (primarily the chapter on The Homeric Warrior).
Jonathan Shay Achilles in Vietnam
Homer The Iliad; The Odyssey

Movie Film Clips
American Sniper
Braveheart
Thank You for Your Service
Begin with questions gauging students’ familiarity with the concept of Moral Injury. Explain this definition, especially highlighting the phrase, “deeply held expectations.”
This definition focuses a little closer. “Perpetrating” suggests that this is not necessarily a passive injury. Again, highlight “deeply held moral beliefs and expectations” as you prepare students for the first video clip.
This clip gives us a glimpse into the major influences that shaped “Chris Kyle’s” moral beliefs and expectations. Three key agents will surface from the students if you prompt them before showing the clip - Family, school, and church. (It might be necessary to prepare audience for the language in this clip and those that follow.)
In this clip, “Kyle” demonstrates how this first kill went deeply against all his moral beliefs and expectations.
Introduce the Jonathan Shay model and explain the many ways leaders can betray those under their charge.

Here is the best place to introduce the story of Achilles’ character disintegration. His character before the war was solid but things happen to him (and by him) that lead to the undoing of his character.

Describe the pre-story with Paris, Menelaus, Helen, and the suitors pledging their allegiance to Menelaus. Achilles has no real interest in this fight, but Odysseus goes to find him (etc.) He comes to the fight as the greatest warrior for the Greeks with his Myrmidons, but is soon betrayed by his commander. He withdraws. Achilles and the Myrmidons disengage. Patroklos is killed. This leads to guilt and wrongful substitution, “berserking”, dehumanizing the enemy, etc.

Hector is not a flat character but is really highlighted as the contrasting noble warrior.
This clip sets us up for the betrayal. Begin to make the connections between the ways these warriors experienced moral injury and the ways today’s warriors have. Do this throughout the talk.
There is no dialogue in this clip, but the expressions on “Wallace’s” face, and his reaction to the discovery of his betrayal, say everything.
Demonstrate how every facet of ourselves is affected.
This is the culminating scene in the film, Thank You for Your Service. It explains all of “Adam’s” struggles visible from the beginning of the film. Explain (using the death of Patroklos) the concept of *Wrongful Substitution*.
Use this to review, pointing back to all that you have explained.
I gave this as an intro to some of the credible treatments currently being used.
Stress that many resources are necessary for repair.