

CLOSING IRAQ: ANATOMY OF WITHDRAWAL



WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY
NOON
238 HRCB



Dodge Billingsley

DIRECTOR, COMBAT FILMS AND RESEARCH

Dodge Billingsley, director of Combat Films and Research, began covering conflict in 1993—work that has taken him to many wars and contested regions including Bosnia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Peru, Bolivia, eastern Turkey, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, western China, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Chechnya. Billingsley was embedded with the troops as they exited Iraq in December 2011. He splits his time between documentary film, writing, lecturing, and consulting and recently co-authored *Operation Anaconda: America's First Major Battle in Afghanistan*, as he was among the few on the ground to document the U.S.-led Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan's Shah i Kot Valley in 2002. He has traveled in and out of the Caucasus many times since 1993 and is currently writing a book on Chechen tactics for the U.S. Marine Corps based on dozens of first person interviews collected from Chechen combatant veterans. He is also producing a film on the Korean peninsula, the latest in the Beyond the Border series of films of international scope for the Kennedy Center. Previous programs in the series include *Chechnya: Separatism or Jihad?* and *Global Car*. In 2003, he was a finalist for the prestigious Rory Peck award for

Best Feature, for his film *Virgin Soldiers*, which follows a squad of Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. In 2002, Billingsley won the Rory Peck award and the Royal Television Society award for Best Feature, for *House of War*, which documented the battle for Qala Jangi fortress in Afghanistan, where he was one of a few foreigners on hand at the prisoner revolt that took the life of CIA agent Mike Spann. He has lectured extensively on Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and conflict in general, and since 2003 he has also been a member of the faculty at the Naval Post Graduate School's Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace program and briefs U.S. and NATO partner military units prior to their deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. A recipient of a MacArthur Regional Security Travel Grant for his work in Abkhazia, he is a frequent contributor to various defense and security-related journals, including *Jane's Intelligence Review* and the *Harriman Review*. An avid collector of socialist and social realism art, his extensive collection has been exhibited in various public and university museums. Billingsley received a BA in history from Columbia University and an MA in war studies from King's College Department of War Studies in London.