



Global Awareness Lecture
Winter 2006

Afghanistan Heats Up: An Assessment

Dodge Billingsley

Documentary film producer and director, Combat Films and Research

Wednesday, 1 February

NOON

238 HRCB

Dodge Billingsley recently returned from another foray into Afghanistan, a place he said has been “largely overlooked since operations in Iraq began.” Billingsley founded Combat Films in 1997 and has since documented numerous security related topics and covered conflicts worldwide. He was recently named a finalist for the prestigious Rory Peck award for Best Feature, *Virgin Soldiers*, which follows a squad of Marines from their base in southern California to the end of combat operations in Baghdad. The film aired in the UK and other markets around the world. In 2002, he won the Rory Peck award and the Royal Television Society award, both for Best Feature, *the House of War*, which documented the battle for Qala Jangi fortress in Afghanistan. Months later he was also among the first to document the U.S.-led Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan’s Shah i Kot Valley, which was captured in *Close Combat Attack Apaches: D-Day Operation Anaconda*. He was one of only two foreigners on hand at the prisoner revolt that took the life of CIA agent Mike Spann. Billingsley also co-wrote, produced, and directed *Immortal Fortress: A Look Inside Chechnya’s Warrior Culture*, a film that took him deep into the dangerous war-torn breakaway region of Chechnya. Prior to that, he produced a three-part series entitled *Firepower 2000* for the Discovery Channel that explored weapons and the changing nature of warfare, and he co-produced a three-part series on the Gulf War 1991 for the History Channel. He has been a guest lecturer for the U.S. Army and Navy, NY Military Association, and numerous academic institutes including Columbia University’s Harriman Institute, King’s College London, Monterey Institute, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona, and the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University. He produced for the Kennedy Center a series of five films and a panel discussion, *Beyond the Border*, that aired in fall 2004 and in spring 2005 (<http://beyondtheborder.org>). A past recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Regional Security Travel Grant, Billingsley has written extensively for various defense- and security-related journals, including *Jane’s Intelligence Review*, *Journal of Electronic Defense*, and the *Harriman Review*. He received a BA in history from Columbia University and an MA in war studies from King’s College Department of War Studies in London. While in London, he also co-founded and edited the *War Studies Journal*.