

That Other War: Nation Building in Afghanistan



Dodge Billingsley

Documentary film producer and director, Combat Films & Research

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“Afghanistan has been largely overlooked since operations in Iraq although there are two wars going on there: One to capture and eliminate al Qaeda and Taliban remnants, and two, President Karzai’s struggle to fight the warlord system that has dominated Afghanistan security and politics for decades,” Billingsley explained. He was in Afghanistan just months following the Mazar-i-Sharif uprising with U.S. allied troops during Operation Anaconda, as chronicled in *Close Combat Attack Apaches: D-Day Operation Anaconda*. In fall of 2001, he spent several months working in Afghanistan close to the battle for Mazar-i-Sharif, documenting the experience with director Paul Yule in the House of War. He was also one of only two foreigners on hand at the prisoner revolt

that took the life of CIA agent Mike Spann. Having produced and directed documentaries on location from the United Arab Emirates to Africa and from Abkhazia to China, Billingsley continues to be involved in the conflicts plaguing the world. His company, Combat Films & Research (CF&R, <http://www.combatfilms.com>), produced for the David M. Kennedy Center a series of five films and a panel discussion, *Beyond the Border*, that aired on KBYU last fall and again this spring (<http://beyondtheborder.org>). CF&R also produced both *Swift & Company K:3/25 Marines Engage in West Africa* and *Virgin Soldiers*. Billingsley received a bachelor’s degree in history from Columbia University and a master’s degree in war studies from London’s King’s College.

