

Embedded War Reporter Presents Special Forces Documentaries at Monarch Film Festival

War reporter and documentary filmmaker Alex Quade covers U.S. Special Operations Forces on combat missions. Embedded with these elite, secretive units in Iraq and Afghanistan, one might expect a rough-edged, battle-hardened, he-man sort. But prepare yourself: this is Alex Quade.



Alex Quade

“When I’m downrange, I have no makeup artist and hair dresser though the troops I cover probably wish that I would have. Because I look and sweat and smell like a dude when I’m downrange,” she says. “Lipstick and makeup melts in 125-degree temperatures in Iraq,” she adds.

She’s the only reporter ever embedded long-term with these units downrange. And she is the recipient of two national RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards, as well as the Congressional Medal Of Honor Society’s Excellence In Journalism Award, for her war reportage. The Medal of Honor recipients present the award to individuals who, through their life’s work, have distinguished themselves by service or unbiased coverage of the United States Military through journalism.

Quade says that she “schleps” her own gear and tries not to be a burden on the teams she’s with. “I just do what female soldiers have been doing throughout history,” she says. But instead of carrying a weapon, she carries a video camera and a notebook. She sleeps on the ground in body armor.

Alex Quade says about her films: “I try to show the American audience what combat looks like up close... what it sounds like... what it feels like... I want to make it understandable for the families back home. I try to put the stories of their soldiers into context.”

Extreme storytelling and silent risk-taking lie at the heart of what Alex Quade does. And she will share it with

viewers at the Monarch Film Festival Friday, Dec. 10 and in an encore performance Saturday, Dec. 11. Quade will present three documentary shorts at the film festival.

Spec Ops Combat Controllers

Avoiding fratricide and civilian casualties during air strikes is the goal of a small team of Special Operations Forces few people have ever heard of: Air Force Combat Controllers. War reporter Alex Quade exclusively embedded with them in Afghanistan and brings the viewer along on a mission. Witness battles unfold and the meticulous decision-making process the Operators go through calling in close air support and advising Coalition partners.

Quade’s film is relevant right now, because this same Special Operations Forces’ advising process continues, despite troop draw-downs in Afghanistan, and is the same advising process in Iraq. Alex Quade’s film documents the Combat Controllers’ decision-making process under fire, which still currently serves as a template/example of close air support and the important lessons Special Operations units have drawn over the last dozen years of war fighting.

Danger Close: Special Forces Airstrikes

War Reporter Alex Quade embedded with Special Forces Operational Detachment A-Teams in Diyala Province, Iraq, as they went after high value terrorist targets and called in airstrikes with A-10s and F-16s during combat missions. Quade tracked down those same aircraft, to bring the audience on ride-alongs to explain their close air support role with the Special Forces A-Teams on the ground. Quade also witnessed the elite Green Berets advising as many as 1400-Iraqis on these battle operations. She is able to release this exclusive film now, because special operations taking place and the process for calling in airstrikes for the current Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq have changed. Per Special Operations Command, in Quade’s film: no full names, aircraft tail numbers or locations are released; nor full facial footage of Operators revealed. She received special permission from the Operators to show more of their faces, and share their stories with the audience.

9/11 Generation Rangers

Service, Sacrifice, Patriotism: Alex Quade, gives viewers a unique, inside look at elite Army Special Operators that many have never seen. Go along on a once in lifetime experience with elite Army Rangers in Alex Quade’s documentary short: “9/11 Generation Rangers.” These battle-hardened, Tier 1 warriors, rarely seen on camera, talk candidly with Alex, before deploying back to Afghanistan. President Obama praised these 9/11 Generation warriors at the D-Day anniversary in Normandy,



Alex Quade...Rangers

France, comparing their call to serve, to that of the “Greatest Generation” from World War Two. The President singled out young Army Rangers, whom he’d met during his previous D-Day visit.

War reporter Alex Quade was exclusively embedded with these Rangers, and brings you behind the scenes for their adventures. Among them are Sgt. 1st Class Cory Remsburg who was nationally recognized in the President’s State of The Union address, and Ranger Chaplain Jeff Struecker, of the Black Hawk Down mission in Somalia.

Alex Quade embedded with many of these same Rangers, as well as 160th SOAR (Special Operations Aviation Regiment) at another location, where she witnessed them fast-roping from helicopters and calling in AC-130 Spectre Gunship support.

Quade was a White House intern during the first Gulf War, and says that’s what sparked her interest in working with the troops. Her first war-zone experience was in the Balkans, not long



Alex Quade in a pilot’s helmet

after the first Gulf War. There, with her then-husband, also in the news business, she was there to help evacuate him out when he was wounded. She also reported covered the tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

“To me, it’s a huge responsibility to do justice to the stories of the men and women serving our country... and it’s a huge responsibility to get it right, for their families who deserve to know the truth,” says Quade. “Their children and grandchildren ought to know about some of the amazing things that their soldier went through. History needs to be documented... or else people forget.”



Alex Quade, listening. And recording.

There will be a documentary feature on Alex Quade’s time embedded with Special Forces in combat. It is being produced by Strong Eagle Media and is set for release, fully funded, in 2016. Joe Walsh of the Eagles is doing the music for it. Look for “Danger Close: The Alex Quade Story.” She is also working on another documentary on Col. Roger Donlon, the first Special forces soldier to receive the Medal of Honor.

Alex Quade says that the Monarch Film Festival in Pacific Grove is one of her favorite places as a filmmaker to visit. She says Pacific Grove’s community members “are always great about asking questions” and that she loves engaging with local veterans and military members, as well as Pacific Grove film buffs. There will be a question-and-answer opportunity at the film festival, and she looks forward to discussing her films and her experiences. Ask her about being traded for goats in Iraq.

Special Military Event Block At Monarch Film Festival

<http://www.monarchfilmfestival.com/festival-info>

The Monarch Film Festival will be held at Lighthouse Cinemas, 525 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove on Thursday Dec.10, 8:15 p.m. Encore performance Friday Dec.11, 9:10 p.m.

Tickets for or military event block can be purchased at theater: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2461642>

(Online tickets are only available until the day before the event. You can still purchase tickets at the theater on the day of the screening.)

More information about Alex Quade films: www.alexquade.com

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