

**CHAIN CAMERA PICTURES
REGINA KULIK SCULLY & JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM**

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PRESENTS

THE INVISIBLE WAR

**A FILM BY KIRBY DICK & AMY ZIERING
DIRECTED BY KIRBY DICK**

THE BATTLE GROUND IS YOUR BARRACKS

Winner of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for Best Documentary

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CAPSULE SYNOPSIS (65 words)

Today, a female soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. A groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of our country's most shameful and best-kept secrets, THE INVISIBLE WAR reveals the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military—and exposes the humiliating choice many soldiers are forced to make between speaking up and serving their country.

SHORT SYNOPSIS (135 words)

Today, a female soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. A groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of our country's most shameful and best-kept secrets, THE INVISIBLE WAR reveals the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military.

Tracing the powerfully emotional stories of several young veterans—all survivors of sexual assault—THE INVISIBLE WAR is a moving indictment of the military's systemic cover-up of sex crimes. Featuring hard-hitting interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of Congress, THE INVISIBLE WAR reveals the perfect storm of conditions that perpetuate rape and protect perpetrators across the armed services. As heart-rending as it is meticulously researched, the film exposes the humiliating choice many soldiers are forced to make between speaking up and serving their country.

LONG SYNOPSIS (285 words)

From Oscar®- and Emmy®-nominated filmmaker Kirby Dick (THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED, TWIST OF FAITH) comes THE INVISIBLE WAR, a groundbreaking documentary about one of America's most shameful and best kept secrets: the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military. Focusing on the powerfully emotional stories of several young veterans—all survivors of sexual assault—THE INVISIBLE WAR is a moving indictment of the military's systemic cover-up of sex crimes.

Combining hard-hitting interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of Congress and the staggering testimony of veterans, THE INVISIBLE WAR catalogues the perfect storm of conditions that perpetuate rape and protect perpetrators across the armed services. At the core of the film are heart-rending interviews with the rape survivors themselves—veterans like Kori Cioca, who was beaten and raped by her supervisor in the U.S. Coast Guard; Ariana Klay, a Marine who served in Iraq before being gang raped by a senior officer and his friend, then threatened with death; and Trina McDonald, who was drugged and raped repeatedly by the military police on her remote naval station in Adak, Alaska.

Meticulously researched, the film reveals that today, a female soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. A staggering 19,000 soldiers are estimated to have been assaulted in 2010 alone. And the number of military sexual assaults in the last decade is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands.

Both a rigorous investigation and a powerful call to action, THE INVISIBLE WAR urges us all—civilian and soldier alike—to fight for a system that no longer forces our military to choose between speaking up and serving our country.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

For Oscar- and Emmy-nominated director Kirby Dick (THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED, TWIST OF FAITH), the inspiration for THE INVISIBLE WAR came from a 2007 Salon.com article entitled “The Private War of Women Soldiers,” by Columbia University journalism professor Helen Benedict. When Dick and Emmy-nominated producing partner Amy Ziering (OUTRAGE) read the article, they were astounded by the epidemic scale of rape in the military.

“We were extremely surprised by the extent of the problem, how damaging it was to people, and the cover-up,” Dick says. “More than half a million soldiers have been sexually assaulted since World War II. That comes as a shock to everyone we’ve spoken to.”

The filmmakers were equally surprised to learn that no one had yet made a documentary on the topic. They immediately decided to make a film about the subject and started contacting survivors of military sexual trauma—both men and women. It proved to be a challenging task. “The military really keeps that information on lockdown,” Dick says. “If you’re in the military, you can’t speak to the press or you’ll be court-martialed. And if you get out, you can’t sue the military for anything that happened to you while in service.”

Add to that the victims’ difficulty in talking about what they’d experienced. “Many of them had met with reprisals for speaking out in the military, and here they were being asked to share their story again, only this time for the whole world,” Ziering says. “Whenever I’d ask any of them why they had elected to talk, they would say: I’m speaking now because I don’t want anyone to ever have to go through what I went through.”

As for speaking with military personnel, Dick says his team pursued their leads very early in the filmmaking process, and were only able to secure a series of high-level interviews in the Pentagon after much persistence. As to why the military’s response to the epidemic within its ranks has been so ineffective, Dick is baffled.

“It’s not that the military isn’t capable of making profound, organization-wide cultural changes,” Dick observes. By way of evidence, he points to the way it dealt with another corrosive issue: racism. In the 1960s and ’70s, the military campaigned against racism within its ranks. And while the effort didn’t eliminate racism, Dick says it’s now much less evident in the armed forces than in society at large.

“It’s an interesting model,” he says. “They were able to achieve that change within a decade. They could do the same thing with sexual assault and they haven’t. Instead of the rate of assault in the military being double what it is in the civilian world, I’d like to see it be half. It’s an objective the military can achieve if they really set out to do it.” The filmmakers hope THE INVISIBLE WAR will catalyze this change.

The filmmakers are equally adamant that THE INVISIBLE WAR is in no way an anti-military film. “All of our subjects were very idealistic and proud to have served,” Dick says. “Regardless of one’s opinion of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, we all can agree that people risking their lives should be protected from assault by their own soldiers. The military is the most effective fighting force when it comes to dealing with the enemy without. It’s really now time for them to start dealing with the enemy within.”

“Many of the victims have been unable to move forward because they’ve been disbelieved, exiled and discarded,” Ziering continues. “Our hope is that the film will be a healing tool for all the survivors who have felt abandoned despite all they have sacrificed and done for our country.”

ABOUT MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)

The Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs define Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as the psychological trauma resulting from “a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while a veteran was serving on active duty or active duty for training.” Sexual harassment is further defined as “repeated, unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening in character.” (U.S. Code, 1720D of Title 38)

While the phrase Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is the official term for the psychological trauma that may result from rape and sexual assault, many experts consider the term a euphemism and point out that using the term MST—rather than the terms rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment—may serve to mask the severity of the crimes and violations committed against men and women in uniform.

Sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment affects both women and men in uniform, but as testimony of THE INVISIBLE WAR reveals, such crimes disproportionately affect women, and institutional failure to protect troops who report MST has led to gross underreporting of abuse across the armed forces.

MST often leads to long-term debilitating psychological conditions, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and major depression. Moreover, veterans who have experienced MST face overwhelming obstacles when applying for disability compensation from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Such rejection by the VBA often leads to intense feelings of betrayal, triggering further trauma and illness among veterans with MST.

THE INVISIBLE WAR investigates a number of staggering statistics and facts about rape in the U.S. military, including the following:

- An estimated 500,000 women have been sexually assaulted in the U.S. military since women were first allowed to enter the armed forces in the 1940s.
- In 2010, according to the Department of Defense, there were 3,158 reported cases of sexual assault within the U.S. military. The Department of Defense estimates that only 13.5% of survivors report their assaults, and that in 2010 alone, over 19,000 sexual assaults occurred in the military.
- Women who have been raped in the military have a PTSD rate higher than men in combat. MST is the leading cause of PTSD among women veterans.
- Prosecution rates for sexual predators in the U.S. military are astoundingly low—in 2010, less than 21% of reported cases went to trial. Of the 529 alleged perpetrators who were prosecuted, only 53% were convicted. 41% were acquitted or had charges dismissed. An additional 6% were discharged or resigned in lieu of being court-martialed.
- The Department of Defense does not maintain a military sex offender registry that can alert service members, unit commanders, communities and civilian law enforcement to the presence and movement of military sexual predators.
- In 2010, 108,121 veterans screened positive for MST. 45.7% of these survivors were men.
- The Veterans Administration spends approximately \$10,880 on healthcare costs per sexual assault survivor. In 2010, adjusting for inflation, the VA spent almost \$872 million on sexual assault related healthcare expenditures.
- The Department of Defense estimates that legal expenses that result from military sexual assault cases average \$40,000 per case. With 481 sexual assault related courts martial in 2010, DOD legal expenses totaled more than \$19 million.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

KIRBY DICK (Director) is an Academy- and Emmy Award-nominated documentary director. His most recent film, *OUTRAGE*, which was nominated for an Emmy and released by Magnolia Pictures, is a searing indictment of the hypocrisy of powerful, closeted politicians and the political and media institutions that protect them. In 2006, he directed *THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED*, released by IFC Films. A breakthrough investigation of the highly secretive MPAA film ratings system, the film compelled the MPAA to make long overdue changes in the way it rates films. Dick's prior film, *TWIST OF FAITH*, is the powerful story of a man confronting the trauma of his past sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. Produced for HBO, it received a 2004 Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature. Dick's other films include *DERRIDA*, a complex portrait of the world-renowned French philosopher Jacques Derrida, which won the Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco Film Festival, and the internationally acclaimed *SICK: The Life & Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist*, which won the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and the Grand Prize at the Los Angeles Film Festival.

AMY ZIERING (Producer) is an Emmy-nominated and award-winning Los Angeles producer and director. Her most recent film, *OUTRAGE*, was produced and distributed by Magnolia Pictures and had its television premiere on HBO. Ziering's previous release, *THE MEMORY THIEF*, which she produced, stars Mark Webber and Jerry Adler and is a thought-provoking examination of the relationship between empathy, narcissism and trauma. It was a New York Times critics' pick and won several festival awards. Ziering also co-directed and produced *DERRIDA*, a documentary about the world-renowned French philosopher and the philosophical movement known as deconstruction. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, won the Golden Gate award at the San Francisco Film Festival, and was released theatrically by Zeitgeist Films. Ziering also produced Richard Cohen's critically acclaimed *TAYLOR'S CAMPAIGN*, a documentary about Ron Taylor, a homeless person who ran for a seat on the Santa Monica City Council. Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Ziering taught literature and film at Yale University and Bennington College.

DOUG BLUSH (Editor, Associate Producer) has been a documentary filmmaker for over 15 years, with roles as a director, producer, editor, writer and cinematographer. His previous feature documentary editing credits include the crossword-culture hit *WORDPLAY*, the Academy Award-shortlisted national debt primer *I.O.U.S.A.*, the film adaptation of *FREAKONOMICS*, and the feature documentary *OUTRAGE*. Blush also edited *THESE AMAZING SHADOWS*, a wide-ranging appreciation of the National Film Registry, and *SUPERHEROES*, an on-the-street documentary tracking the adventures of real life crime-fighters, which was seen on HBO and released theatrically.

TANNER KING BARKLOW (Producer) was the co-producer of the Emmy-nominated *OUTRAGE*, a searing indictment of the hypocrisy of powerful, closeted politicians and the political and media institutions that protect them. He was also the English assistant director on the 2011 Chinese film production *CASE SENSITIVE*, directed by Gil Kofman. Barklow has multiple scripts in development.

BIL WHITE (Animation and Graphics) is a director and designer specializing in mixed media animation. He has designed the titles and animations for the recent films *THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED* and *OUTRAGE* by director Kirby Dick. White lives in Santa Monica with his wife and daughter.

FEATURED SUBJECTS

Kori Cioca, US Coast Guard
E-3 – Seaman

Airman 1st Class Jessica Hives, US Air Force, 2001-2011
Senior Airman E-4 Tactical Aircraft Maintainer (Fighter Jet Crew Chief) AFI: 2A353

Lieutenant Ariana Klay, US Marine Corps
1st Lieutenant

Trina McDonald, US Navy
E-3 – Seaman

Lieutenant Elle Helmer, US Marine Corps
Second Lieutenant by rank and a Public Affairs Officer by position

Seaman Recruit Hannah Sewell, US Navy
E-1 Fireman Recruit in school for GSM (Gas Turbine Systems Technician-Mechanical)

Special Agent Myla Haider, Army Criminal Investigation Command
Sergeant

Lieutenant Paula Coughlin, US Navy
Lieutenant

FEATURED EXPERTS

Captain Anu Bhagwati (retired)

Director, Service Women's Action Network (SWAN); US Marine Corps
Bhagwati is the executive director of [Service Women's Action Network \(SWAN\)](#), a non-profit human rights organization that advocates for and provides direct services to servicewomen, women veterans and their families.

Staff Sergeant Stace Nelson

Naval Criminal Investigative Service, US Marine Corps
Nelson served 13 years in the US Marine Corps as a military policeman, criminal investigator, marksmanship instructor and NCIS Special Agent.

Captain Greg Rinckey

US Army JAG Corps
Served as an attorney in the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG).

Russell Strand

Chief, Family Advocacy Law Enforcement Training Division
Strand has established, developed, produced and conducted the US Army Sexual Assault Investigations, Domestic Violence Intervention Training, Sexual Assault Investigations and Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Techniques courses, and supervised the development of the Critical Incident Peer Support course. Recipient of the

End Violence Against Women 2012 Visionary Award.

Brigadier General Loree Sutton, M.D.

Psychiatrist, US Army

Sutton was the highest-ranking psychiatrist in the US Army and has served as director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) since November 2007.

Susan Avila-Smith

US Army Specialist (E-4); Founder & Director, VetWOW

Avila-Smith has participated as an active member of the veterans' community since 1995, specializing in development of VA benefit claims for victims of MST.

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught

US Air Force

Vaught is the President of the Board of Directors of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Major General Dennis Laich (retired)

US Army

Laich spent the last 14 consecutive years of his 35 years of service in command positions at the full Colonel through two-star level including joint command, culminating in command of the 94th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Devens, Mass. His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Joint Meritorious Service Medal

Amy Herdy

Journalist, "Betrayal in the Ranks"

Herdy co-authored a 2003 investigative series at The Post, "Betrayal in the Ranks," which outlined how the military mishandles cases of sexual assault and domestic violence. The series spurred congressional reforms and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 2004.

Susan Burke

Attorney, Burke PLLC

Burke is an experienced and successful litigator, having defended and prosecuted a series of class actions involving a wide range of topics, such as ERISA fiduciary obligations, disability discrimination in public housing, and failure to provide mental health services and toxic torts

Helen Benedict

Author, The Lonely Soldier

Professor of journalism at Columbia University, Benedict has testified twice to Congress on behalf of women soldiers, and lectures at colleges and military academies around the country about gender justice and the military.

General Claudia Kennedy

Retired Lieutenant General, US Army

In 1997, Kennedy became the first woman in the US Army to hold a three-star rank. She was named Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence. In June 2010 she was appointed as chairwoman of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, a committee which is appointed by the US Secretary of Defense and which reports to the United States Department of Defense.

FEATURED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D) Maine

Introducing legislation to make it easier for veterans who have suffered sexual assault during their military service to get the benefits they deserve.

Rep. Louise Slaughter (D) New York

Included authorizations into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that protected members of the military from sexual assault/related trauma.

Rep. Mike Turner (R) Ohio

Introduced the Defense Sexual Trauma Response, Oversight and Good Governance Act (Defense STRONG Act) with Rep. Niki Tsongas (D) Massachusetts.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) California

Rep. Jackie Speier (D) California

Introduced H.R. 3435: Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act.

Rep. Ted Poe (R) Texas

Spoke on the House floor on Feb. 18, 2011, to denounce rape and sexual assault in the military and to encourage the support of survivors of violence.

Rep. Susan Davis (D) California

Chair of the Armed Services committee, joined in on the Turner-Tsongas legislation.

Rep. Niki Tsongas (D) Massachusetts

Introduce the Defense Sexual Trauma Response, Oversight and Good Governance Act (Defense STRONG Act) with Rep. Mike Turner (R) Ohio.

FEATURED MILITARY OFFICIALS

Rear Admiral Anthony Kurta

Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy

Kurta formerly served as chief, Special Actions Division on the Joint Staff, and next commanded Destroyer Squadron 24 deploying again with John F. Kennedy Strike Group.

Major General Mary Kay Hertog

Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO)

Prior to her position at SAPRO, Hertog was the Commander, 2nd Air Force, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where she was responsible for the development, oversight and direction of all operational aspects of basic military training, initial skills training and advanced technical training for the Air Force enlisted force and support officers.

Dr. Kaye Whitley

Former Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO)

As the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), Whitley was, until July 31, 2011, the Department of Defense's single point of accountability for all sexual assault policy matters and reports to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

PRESS QUOTES

“Stunning, muckraking documentaries are a staple at Sundance, but even by the film festival's impressive standards, Kirby Dick's “The Invisible War” is exceptional — both for its scandalous nature as well as its emotional impact.”

— Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

“Powerful”

—Peter Rainer, Christian Science Monitor

“What Dick has done with The Invisible War is make an audience-mobilizing documentary that hits you in the gut in the opening minutes and doesn't let up...a documentary with a chance to make a tangible difference, which is something many films aspire to, but few films ever pull off.”

—Daniel Fienberg, HitFix

“Impeccably assembled...this bitter, powerful film is a howl of anger and a cry of injustice.”

—Jason Bailey, Fourth Row Center, DVDtalk

“Destined to draw major editorial attention, this hard-hitting advocacy film is arguably his most urgently affecting work to date.”

— David Rooney, Hollywood Reporter

“It's reasonable that at least one of Sundance's docs will end up an Oscar nominee, if not two, three or four. How To Survive a Plague, The Invisible War, The House I Live In and Searching For Sugar Man seem like the strongest possibilities at this point.”

—Peter Knegt, indieWIRE

“Dick and Ziering have been crafting wonderful docs for the last three decades, but this is quite possibly their most imperatively urgent work yet...a doc of rich emotion and high stakes that has a real chance to make a difference in the lives of future US soldiers.”

—Jordan Smith, ioncinema

“Puts the US Defense Department on a sex offenders' list...poignant and richly dramatic.”

—David D'Arcy, Screen Daily

“An aptly infuriating expose of sexual abuse within the U.S. military, Kirby Dick's docu...demands that the pic receive the widest possible exposure, certainly beyond the extensive fest play that appears guaranteed.”

— Rob Nelson, Variety

PRESS REVIEWS

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<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/movies/2012/01/sundance-critic-kenneth-turan-spies-some-films-to-watch-.html>

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Design & Animation Cinematography	Bil White Thaddeus Wadleigh Kirsten Johnson
Co-Executive Producer	Kimball Stroud
Associate Producer	Doug Blush
Interviewers	Amy Ziering Kirby Dick
Additional Camera	Steven Bradford River Finlay Scott Jacobson Ian Kellett Aaron Kopp Michael Miller Marie-Joelle Rizk Gopi Shastri Michael JC Wooten
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Assistant Editor	Edward Patrick Alva
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Stock Footage Consultant	Kate Coe
Original Song "Need Someone"	Mary J. Blige & Matriarch Entertainment/Chrysalis
Music Supervisor	Gary Calamar/GO
Re-Recording Mixer	Jeremy Grody

THE INVISIBLE WAR is a co-production of Chain Camera Pictures, Inc. and Independent Television Service (ITVS), with funding provided by Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Executive Producer for ITVS Sally Jo Fifer, Executive Producer of The Passionate Eye, CBC News Network Catherine Olsen.

This film was supported by the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program. The Fledgling Fund and the Funding Exchange. Fiscal Sponsorship provided by the International Documentary Association.