"Bad Voodoo's War" â€“ Airs April 1st on PBS

Description

â€œBad Voodooâ€™s War,â€• a film filmed by the soldiers about their deployment to Iraq, is the second of this type of work that Iâ€™m aware of. The first one was â€œThe War Tapes,â€• also a project by Debra Scranton.

I have been privileged enough to be one to see the sneak preview of â€œThe War Tapes,â€• and meet the soldiers who were the subject of that movie, I later met Debra and her team of â€œThe War Tapesâ€• at the 2006 MilBlogging Conference. Add to the fact that JP Borda, a blogger and creator of the MilBlogging.comâ€• website, is the soldier leading the way for this movie, I suspect this will be a significant piece of history, with a view that is most often avoided by the MSM.

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To get a feel for her vision, and insight, watch a talk by her in 2007.

Sheâ€™s on to something â€œtelling the story from the inside out.â€• Itâ€™s 17:48 minutes of your time worth taking, (I just did), not just for the philosphy she has, but also for the end with a powerful challenge to the â€œI support the troops, but not the warâ€• people.

Set your Tivos/DVRs up for the broadcast on 4/1/2008 on PBS, or be ready to sit down and enjoy it as itâ€™s broadcast.

Press Release:

> press release
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> FRONTLINE presents
> BAD VOODOOâ€™S WAR
> Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 9 P.M. ET on PBS
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> â€œHere we are. Itâ€™s about 2:30 in the morning on the 2nd of October. We have been on the road for a while. â€¦ Wasnâ€™t too excited to get this change of mission. The stretch of road between Anaconda and Speicher, known as IED Alley, itâ€™s probably one of the worst stretches of road in theater.â€•
> -Sfc. Toby Nunn, during his second Iraq deployment, to his personal mini-DV camera
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> FRONTLINE goes to war in Iraq with a band of California-based National Guard soldiers who call themselves the â€œBad Voodoo Platoonâ€• to tell their very personal story in Bad Voodooâ€™s War, airing Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 9 P.M. ET (check local listings). To record their war, from private reflections to real-time footage of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks on the ground, director Deborah Scranton (The War Tapes) creates a â€œvirtual embed,â€• supplying cameras to the soldiers of the Bad Voodoo Platoon and

working with them to shape an intimate portrait that reveals the hard grind of their war. Says Scranton: â€œWhat compels me is telling a story from the inside out, to crawl inside their world with them to see what it looks like, feels like and smells like. Itâ€™s really important to give soldiers the chance to press their own record button on this war.â€•

Through their daily experiences, acting platoon leader Sgt. 1st Class Toby Nunn, originally from British Columbia and the father of three, and Spc. Jason Shaw, a 23-year-old from Texas, give us a firsthand look at the impact of the U.S. militaryâ€™s policy of multiple deployments to Iraq and how the Armyâ€™s role has changed on the ground.

Spc. Shaw is on his third deployment to Iraq. After the invasion in 2003, he was awarded the Silver Star for valor during the battle for the Baghdad airport. Shaw volunteered for his third tour in Iraq, but is haunted by the loss of so many comrades during his earlier deployments. â€œIâ€™ve had six of my good friends die,â€• he explains. â€œWhen I lost all of my buddies, I just kind of lost hope. I used to be religious. My last deployment totally made me think otherwise. You know, you pray all the time to keep everybody safe, and then something happens.â€•

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Sfc. Nunn, responsible for the safety of the 30 men in his platoon, worries endlessly about their welfare. â€œIâ€™m worried about my guys,â€• he confides to the camera one night. â€œRight now Iâ€™m out here talking to you while theyâ€™re inside sleeping because I canâ€™t sleep. Canâ€™t rest, you know.â€•

Many of his men, highly trained veteran combat infantrymen, are deeply frustrated by their primary mission: providing security for convoys transporting supplies throughout Iraq to fuel President Bushâ€™s surge. â€œA lot of our guys donâ€™t like this mission,â€• says Nunn. â€œWeâ€™re used to kicking in doors, taking the fight to the enemy. Now youâ€™re driving on the road for hours and hours and hours and days, waiting to get blown up and not allowed to fight back.â€•

The platoon is also struggling with a new relationship with the Iraqi security forces, whom the Americans depend on for their own safety. Nunn reflects: â€œI told myself last time I wanted to train the Iraqis the best I possibly could, because it was my ticket home. â€¦ But here I am, three years later, saying, â€˜Will the Iraqi security forces enforce anything out there?â€™ Every time I talk to these guys, you know, my trust meter isnâ€™t reading in the green all the time.â€• This constant second-guessing, combined with the relentless monotony of the desert highway, the fear of deadly IEDs and the memories of lost friends, keep the soldiers in an unending state of anxiety. This is Bad Voodooâ€™s war.

Bad Voodooâ€™s War is a Clover & A Bee Films production for FRONTLINE and Independent Television Service (ITVS). The writer, producer and director is Deborah Scranton. FRONTLINE is produced by WGBH Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers. Major funding for FRONTLINE is provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the Park Foundation. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people. FRONTLINE is closed-captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers and described for people who are blind or

visually impaired by the Media Access Group at WGBH. FRONTLINE is a registered trademark of WGBH Educational Foundation. The executive producer for ITVS is Sally Jo Fifer. The FRONTLINE executive producer for special projects is Michael Sullivan. The executive producer of FRONTLINE is David Fanning.

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Promotional photography can be downloaded from the PBS pressroom.

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Category

1. Military

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