

GIG HARBOR FILM FESTIVAL INVITES SERVICE MEMBERS TO A SPECIAL MILITARY-APPRECIATION SCREENING PREMIER EVENT & COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH AWARD-WINNING WAR REPORTER ALEX QUADE & MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT COL.BRUCE CRANDALL

When:	Saturday October 17th, 2015, at 1pm
Where:	Galaxy Theater, 4649 Point Fosdick Dr NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335, (253)-851-8300
Tickets:	Gig Harbor Film Festival, Free with special entrance ticket. PH: 253.858.8775
What:	2 short documentaries followed by panel discussion and Q&A with audience

War Reporter **Alex Quade** covers U.S. Special Operations Forces on combat missions. She's the only reporter ever embedded *long-term* with these elite, secretive units downrange. Extreme storytelling and silent risk-taking lie at the heart of what Alex Quade does. 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.



<u>www.alexquade.com</u>. Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Bruce Crandall will join the discussion to talk about Alex's journalism and why we need to keep sharing our stories and caring for our veterans.



Ms.Quade will lead a panel discussion with **Anne Sprute**, CEO and Founder of **RP/6**, a military non-profit organization. Ms.Sprute is a former Army helicopter pilot. RP/6 is where the service member, veteran or family member is connected with community service providers that will assist

them on their path forward to the next objective. The support received includes an assessment of each individual's situation, mentorship and development of an action plan to guide them to their next objective. The "6" in *RP/6* represents the community now has their back; we all share the collective promise as citizen leaders in welcoming our military and their families home to reach their fullest potential (<u>www.rp6.org</u>).

Joining this panel discussion is one of the Special Forces Horse Soldiers, in Quade's film. Recently retired Green Beret, *Joe Jung*, was nominated for SO/LIC's DeProspero Lifetime Achievement Award by former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for the Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, the Honorable Noel Koch. Mr.Jung is now allowed to speak more



about that secret mission after 9/11 and the events which followed. Mr.Jung will also share perspectives on wounded warrior care, veteran transition, and continuing the mission.

"Horse Soldiers of 9/11: The Mission Continues -- Taliban Capture & Release"

(ALEX QUADE FILMS; Director/Producer: Alex Quade)

Danger, violence, and double-cross. In her exclusive, war reporter Alex Quade, reveals the original story behind the Special Operations Forces' capture of one of the Taliban-5. Alex Quade persuaded the elite Operators to go on the record, assess the "high risk" detainee's exchange for POW, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl; and whether the released Taliban leader will attack U.S. interests again. One highly decorated Green Beret who originally helped capture him, is now a National Security Council counterterrorism head, who worked behind the scenes on the recent exchange. The senior Special Forces officer tells Alex of detainee Mullah Muhammad Fazl's release from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and assesses the government of Qatar's



ability to hold Fazl under the travel ban. Former Special Operations "Horse Soldiers" share details with Alex, you've never heard before. In Alex Quade's exclusive, you'll discover Mullah Fazl's connection to: convicted "American Taliban" Johnny Walker Lindh; and CIA Agent Mike Spann, the first American killed in action in the war in Afghanistan. You'll also learn of the released Taliban leader's ties to former warlord, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum – now the Vice President of Afghanistan.

"Danger Close: Spec Ops Gunship"

(ALEX QUADE FILMS; Director/Producer: Alex Quade)

War reporter Alex Quade has embedded with Special Operations Forces on several combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan during which AC-130s provided close air support and cover fire. In her film, "*Danger Close: Spec Ops Gunship*," Quade brings the audience along for a ride on-board a Spectre Gunship live-fire mission; it is <u>the</u> gunship and air crew which took care of the teams Quade was with during the fatal downing of a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan in 2007, by a Taliban surface-to-air-missile. Alex Quade was supposed to be on that helicopter. She survived to report firsthand on the fierce firefight and recovery efforts involving that Special Operations AC-130 Gunship. *That* AC-130 mission, that night in Helmand Province between Kajaki and Sangin, is cited as one of the most challenging and dangerous combat search and rescue missions in all of Operation Enduring Freedom history. The 9-hour mission began with the AC-130 crew assuming tactical control of 17-separate combat aircraft while clearing a pathway for SOF troops pinned down by small arms and RPG fire to secure the crash site. The AC-130 crew stayed in position to silence both anti-aircraft artillery and enemy forces engaging the SOF rescue team within meters of each other – or "Danger Close" – as Quade learned both on the ground, and later in the sky during interviews with the crew.

For more information: <u>http://www.gigharborfilmfestival.org/</u>