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THIS IS WHERE WE TAKE OUR STAND, PREMIERING ON PUBLIC TELEVISION THIS JANUARY

The Follow-up to the Critically Acclaimed Documentary Sir! No Sir, Stand Follows Three American Soldiers as They Prepare to Testify From Their Own Experience About the Nature of the Occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq

(San Francisco - December 30, 2011)— In March of 2008, 250 veterans and active duty soldiers marked the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by gathering in Washington D.C. to testify from their own experience about the nature of the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. Inspired by the 1971 Winter Soldier Investigation held by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, they too sought to express their opposition to those wars with their firsthand accounts, bearing witness with voices and standpoints not generally heard. David Zeiger and Bestor Cram's <u>This is Where</u> <u>We Take Our Stand</u> is a portrait of three of these participants: an active duty female soldier, a nine-year National Guard veteran, and a three-tour, former Marine. *This is Where We Take Our Stand* will premiere on public television nationwide beginning January 1, 2012 (check local listings).

With exclusive access to the entire process that the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) went through in planning for and making the 2008 Winter Soldier happen, *Stand* follows three IVAW members in particular — Geoff Millard (National Guard), Selena Coppa (Army), and Jason Washburn (Marines) — as they struggle through controversy, attacks, and their own personal demons to realize this historic event. Capturing all of the political, emotional, and psychological struggles these soldiers endure takes viewers directly into lives that have been forever changed by the past ten years of war.

About the Filmmakers

David Zeiger (Producer/Director) started making documentaries in the early 1990s. His films include his personal essay, *The Band (P.O.V.,* 1997); *Senior Year*, a 13-part series about the 1999-2000 school year at Fairfax High in Los Angeles (PBS national broadcast 2002); *Funny Old Guys*, a film about octogenarian television writers (HBO 2002); and *Sir! No Sir!*, a feature documentary telling the suppressed story of the GI antiwar movement against the Vietnam War, (2006 theatrical run, 2007 Sundance Channel, BBC, Arte France).

Bestor Cram (Producer/Director) has more than 20 years of experience as a director, producer, and cinematographer. He founded Northern Light Productions in 1982 and has built it into one of the premiere documentary production companies, producing works ranging from broadcast documentaries to historical, dramatic, and educational media. His independent film, *Unfinished Symphony*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in the documentary competition in 2001 and has won top honors at film festivals around the world. A recent independent project, *The Special*, a film about the song "The Orange Blossom Special," premiered at the Nashville Independent



Film Festival and was selected to screen at AFI's SilverDocs Festival. Bestor holds a BA in economics from Denison University, pursued graduate studies at the West Surrey College of Art and Design in Guildford, England, and has taught film at MIT and the Maine Film & Television Workshops. He is a Vietnam veteran.

About ITVS

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Tuesday nights at 10 PM on PBS. ITVS is a miracle of public policy created by media activists, citizens, and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by an historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue, and serve underserved audiences. Since its inception in 1991, ITVS programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing television audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. For more information about ITVS, visit itvs.org. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people.

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