



9/22/03

Contact: Ramsay Thurber
Taos Mountain Film Festival
121 North Plaza
Taos, NM 87571
O: 505.751.3658
C: 720.635.0482
E: rt@mountainfilm.net
www.mountainfilm.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD ANNUAL TAOS MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM:

The Aftermath of War

(Taos, NM) – Monday, September 22 – Through Mountainfilm’s proven formula of film and discussion our experts will examine the legacy of modern war. **Bobby Muller**, president of The Vietnam Veterans Foundation of America and co-founder of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines will headline this year’s human rights series. Muller, was the co-winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize for his cooperative work on the global campaign to ban landmines.

Our films will examine the aftermath of war and the dangers to the local population trying to resume normal lives amid the threats of landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium. "They've become a weapon of terror," Muller said. "When the war ends, the mines stay in the ground. They have no 'off' switch, and they don't recognize any armistice."

Issues from the acceptability of collateral damage to post-war reconstruction will be discussed. TMFF begins its powerful *Aftermath of War* human rights program at the Theatre Arts Center (TCA) on October 11 at 9:30 continuing all day to 5pm. Commencing with the USA/Japan cooperative film “**Nagasaki Journey**” directly followed by USA produced film “**The Invisible War**”. At the end of these two films will be an expert to field questions on depleted Uranium issues surrounding war torn

“Nagasaki Journey” is told through the voices of an American soldier, a Japanese boy and his mother as they explore the memories and trials of the aftermath of WWII. Immediately following will be “The Invisible War” chronicling the after-affects of depleted Uranium when occupying armies go home.

After the question and answer period we will begin the second part of our program beginning with “**The Aftermath of War**” (USA) at 12pm in the TCA, which has been made into an award winning film from Donovan Webster’s seminal book. The documentary tracks the trail of dangerous armaments that remain when the politicians shake hands and the armies go home.

Followed directly by “**Bihac**” a true story of sporting camaraderie by US kayaker Scott Shipley as he assists his less fortunate Serbian Olympic competitor Samir Karabasic.

For the last section of our program the TMFF will screen “**Escape to the Himalayas**” (USA) starting at 2:15pm in the TCA. A story of Tibet and the trials of occupation after the 1959 Chinese invasion where children are sent to Nepal in order to receive traditional Tibetan schooling. Followed by “**Bombies**” (USA) documenting the terrible aftermath of cluster bombs during the secret air war in Laos and the international campaign to ban them. After the films starting at 4pm in the TCA will be a panel discussion featuring **Bobby Muller**, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and **Rob Scultheis**, journalist and central Asian expert

The Third Annual Taos Mountain Film Festival features films of adventure, culture and wildlife of the world's remote regions. Mountaineering film screenings and personalities will highlight the Festival. Other events will include symposia, photography exhibits and readings from mountaineering literature.

Mountain Film seeks to raise awareness of threats to wilderness and the people who inhabit mountain regions. The Festival is committed to conveying the inspiration found in wild places through moving and still images as well as raw experience. Our human rights series will examine the aftermath of war. It will focus on the dangers that face local populations in war torn areas amid threats of landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium.

For information or tickets please contact the *Taos Mountain Film Festival* at 505.751.3658 or by email info@mountainfilm.net. The advanced program is now on at www.mountainfilm.net

- ### -