

Chat Transcript for America ReFramed: Reserved to Fight



Reserved to Fight - 83min 36sec

Screening Date: May 28, 2014 7:00pm Eastern Time

URL: <https://ovee.itvs.org/screenings/fo0hf>

6:55:35 PM

Hi Mark, Kristen and Matt!

- Sharon Wong

6:55:43 PM

Hello

- Mark

6:55:49 PM

And participants!

- Sharon Wong

6:55:57 PM

i cant see video

- Milos

6:56:01 PM

is this on?

♥ 2

- Jemmett

6:56:06 PM

Hi guys!

- Manjula

6:56:08 PM

no idea

- Milos

6:56:13 PM

Hi everyone

- Chantelle

6:56:25 PM

Hey!

- Seanna

6:56:28 PM

Hello

- Anonymous B1R4

6:56:40 PM

Hi Manjula!

- Sharon Wong

6:56:51 PM

Hi Chantelle!

- Sharon Wong

6:57:16 PM

We are just under three minutes away until the event starts.

- Sharon Wong

6:57:22 PM

kk

- Milos

6:59:00 PM

Hi everyone... looking forward to this!

♥ 2

- Kristen

6:59:02 PM

chillindawg barking 4 a while

- Anonymous J9ZN

6:59:23 PM

hello everyone

- Jemmett

7:00:30 PM

Hello all -- pleased to be joining you all!

- Anonymous 38R4

7:00:49 PM

Hi, me too.

- Aynisa

7:01:13 PM

Hello!

- Anonymous B1R4

7:01:16 PM

any warrior princesses out there ?

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:01:19 PM

Been waiting to have this event as RTF is such a strong film.

- Sharon Wong

7:01:33 PM

I'm here chillindawg..

♥ 1

- Aynisa

7:01:37 PM

Never done this before, will it just start playing or do I need to do anything?

- Anonymous 9COD

7:01:46 PM

saw the film last night -- it is powerful

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:01:53 PM

I'll be starting the film in just another minute.

- Sharon Wong

7:01:59 PM

I'm really excited to hear what it has to say Sharon!

- Laura

7:02:04 PM

Ok thank you!

- Anonymous 9COD

7:02:12 PM

I really related to aspects of each of these Marines' experiences trying to fit in back home.. I'm looking forward to seeing it again.

- Kristen

7:02:23 PM

hold a min ,y fav song is on radio

- Milos

7:02:35 PM

Welcome to WORLD Channel's WatchTogether, Chat Together of Reserved to Fight from our series, America ReFramed. Joining us are Reserved to Fight filmmakers Manjula Varghese and Chantelle Olsen; U.S. Army Captain Mark Patterson, U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Matt Jemmett and Utah Army National Guard Captain Earl Simmons, subjects of R.T.F.; Huffington Post Senior Military Correspondent David Wood; and Army veteran Kristen L. Rouse.

- Sharon Wong

7:02:56 PM

Hi everyone, I do hope I'm on time

- Anonymous NXIR

7:03:07 PM

Tonight screening and chat is co-presented with Veterans Coming Home (<http://veteranscominghome.org/>), a public media initiative funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and led by Wisconsin Public Television.

- Sharon Wong

7:03:13 PM

Is the feed on, my screen is black

- Anonymous 0L60

7:03:23 PM

It's about to get started =)

♥ 1

- Laura

7:03:28 PM

must be the navy running this -- so expect it late

♥ 1

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:03:31 PM

Let swelcome them!

- Sharon Wong

7:03:40 PM

hello

- Anonymous F7IL

7:03:48 PM

Welcome!

- Anonymous B1R4

7:03:52 PM

All I can see is a pause screen..?

♥ 1

- Anonymous BRK3

7:03:52 PM

im really excited to be here!

- Manjula

7:03:56 PM

Welcome!!

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:04:04 PM

♥ 1

OVEE is an environment to ask engaging questions, post positive comments, and share personal experiences, so don't be shy. Now, let's start Reserved to Fight &

- Sharon Wong

7:04:12 PM

Looking forward to screening and discussion!

- Cristina

7:04:19 PM

I can't start either pause screen this sucks

- Anonymous F7IL

7:04:42 PM

I have been excited for this, is it starting?

- Anonymous NXIR

7:04:50 PM

ok thanks Sharon:)

- Anonymous F7IL

7:04:56 PM

I think just about, I think they were doing intros first

- Laura

7:05:04 PM

Hello!!!

- Minh Ly

7:05:27 PM

Here we go! I thought I was late

- Anonymous NXIR

7:05:42 PM

Hi minh!

- Seanna

7:05:56 PM

I will be back -- I saw the film last night .

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:06:39 PM

now i know

- Milos

7:06:43 PM

♥ 1

Be sure to share and tweet too.

- Sharon Wong

7:07:18 PM

♥ 1

Trained to fight as a soldier in war but not trained to reintegrate as a civilian in society.

- Sharon Wong

7:07:44 PM

yes, i know

- Milos

7:08:10 PM

very good

- Milos

7:08:28 PM

Scenes are hard to watch.

- Kristen

7:08:38 PM

we learned well how to fight , kill and stay alive in country --- they left out what to do back in the world

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:09:19 PM

Mark and Matt: Both of you have seen the film. What was your initial reaction when you first saw it?

- Sharon Wong

7:09:22 PM

♥ 1

That interview with Chris was one of the most heart wrenching interviews we did.

- Chantelle

7:09:44 PM

Even though this is heavy emotionally and physically this shows what the results are and what they face back at home.

- Anonymous NXIR

7:09:45 PM

♥ 1

is that really me? was one of my reactions

- Jemmett

7:10:09 PM

♥ 1

What a contrast the returning home footage is with those really hard, shocking scenes. Really a disconnect.

- Kristen

7:10:35 PM

Hello!!

- Stacy Smith

7:10:43 PM

went from rice paddy to my wedding in Brooklyn in 72 hours

♥ 1

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:10:49 PM

there were several pre-screenings, but when I saw the final cut it was really quite astonishing.

♥ 1

- Jemmett

7:11:39 PM

Any advice on how to create opportunities for veterans to talk about their experience?

- Cristina

7:12:00 PM

Extremely commendable and honorable

♥ 1

- Anonymous NXIR

7:12:04 PM

is anyone else having a hard time w/ the feed, or does my internet connection need some work?

- Jemmett

7:12:16 PM

my connection is really good

- Anonymous B1R4

7:12:20 PM

My connection is good

- Chantelle

7:12:36 PM

Mine too, have you tried moving closer to your router Jemmett?

- Laura

7:12:38 PM

The best advice is to guide them by talking to them about their struggles

♥ 2

- Anonymous NXIR

7:12:40 PM

My feed is fine. Cristina, building it INTO the community as the norm.. I'd say is best.

- Aynisa

7:12:51 PM

good to know I will make it work

- Jemmett

7:13:14 PM

Matt: It is most likely your connection. You can try using a different browser too.

- Sharon Wong

7:13:32 PM

Aynisa - do you mean community of veterans or community of civilians?

- Cristina

7:13:40 PM

no worries. I have seen it.

- Jemmett

7:13:48 PM

I'm in Chrome and it's working well

- Cristina

7:13:57 PM

good question.. both

- Aynisa

7:14:06 PM

♥ 4

Also, you can just ask a veteran, "What was it like there?" or "What did you do overseas?" or "What do you think you learned?" or other open questions that allow veterans to talk about their experiences in ways they're comfortable with.

- Kristen

7:14:13 PM

♥ 2

The Veterans Coming Home initiative provides resources for veterans and their families.

- Sharon Wong

7:14:50 PM

♥ 1

<http://veteranscominghome.org/all-resources/>

- Sharon Wong

7:15:21 PM

♥ 4

Chris did go back to school, get a Masters of Accounting, married a wonderful Thai woman, and has a two week old daughter. He lives in Thailand and works for Unicity.

- Anonymous CWYL

7:15:38 PM

♥ 1

Meeting the guys and getting to know them over the course of the time we were making the film was amazing. I never had a chance to really talk to a veteran and through the making of this film i feel like i really got to know who our men and women are that fight for us.

- Manjula

7:15:39 PM

♥ 3

Diffuse the vet/civ split and talk, as if it's 'normal'..because it is. Normalize the stories by listening.. and yes, asking questions, like Kristen stated

- Aynisa

7:15:47 PM

♥ 1

@Christina - Most of the veterans I talked to didn't talk about their experiences with many other people. But recording your experiences on camera I believe can actually be really therapeutic.

- Chantelle

7:16:24 PM

♥ 1

sometimes 4get therapy -- jus let the vet be the vet

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:16:24 PM

♥ 1

Kristen: You are one of our other veteran panelists. What was your Coming Home experience like?

- Sharon Wong

7:17:18 PM

That's so sad. I couldn't imagine seeing that in real life. It's hard enough watching the video

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:17:22 PM

I've had three deployments, so three returns home. Mixed experiences from both.. but consistently felt really disjointed from civilian life for the initial days/weeks.

- Kristen

7:17:39 PM

♥ 1

CWYL: Thank you for providing us with an update on Chris.

- Sharon Wong

7:17:54 PM

When we were editing the film. It was hard to go through the photos and know that our guys had to see the images in real life. that was difficult.

- Manjula

7:17:55 PM

I would imagine you never every forget

- Anonymous B1R4

7:18:11 PM

You all look so young, with so many tragic experiences to work through --among the many challenges of coming home -- people stateside who only see your youth, not the sum of your experiences.

- Anonymous 38R4

7:18:29 PM

It just took time to get back into what feels "normal" in civilian life. For me, it typically takes about a year for me to feel like I'm really back home.

- Kristen

7:18:36 PM

Matt: When you were diagnosed with PTSD, was it a relief to know what was wrong with you?

- Sharon Wong

7:19:14 PM

what does it mean to be diagnosed with ptsd

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:19:20 PM

not really. I was doignosed, but I still didn't feel like there was anything "wrong"

- Jemmett

7:19:28 PM

Post traumatic stress disorder

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:19:35 PM

Normal reaction to abnormal circumstances.

- Aynisa

7:19:36 PM

nothing wrong with you --

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:20:17 PM

aynisa : WORD !

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:20:30 PM

PTSD, is an interesting animal. there is nothing wrong w/ the person, but I will say therapy doesn't work for everybody

- Jemmett

7:21:10 PM

♥ 2

I think if you don't have some sort of profound response to the events that take place in combat, then something is wrong with you. It's the part where you return home and you still have those emotional/physiological responses that it seems like it may be a "disorder." But I agree w/ Aynisa on the normal response to abnormal circumstances.

- Kristen

7:21:30 PM

Any mental/behavioral health issue is interesting and hard for the person effected to deal with and their loved ones to manage.

- Cristina

7:21:35 PM

Is PTSD something that can be overcome, or is it a life long battle?

- Stacy Smith

7:21:39 PM

let me clarify, issues obviously arise when a traumatic events occur, and ptsd is a real thing, but to let it consume you is a very bad thing

- Jemmett

7:21:42 PM

focus on behavior not diagnosis

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:22:00 PM

That's a good question Stacy! I'm wondering the same thing..

- brittanydominguez

7:22:16 PM

I lost my video connection, but am still receiving chat feed

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:22:27 PM

♥ 4

I still don't like Michael Moore :)

- Mark

7:22:37 PM

♥ 2

Like any life circumstances, I think it stays with you but i don't agree with it being a disorder.. and ironic, as I myself am a therapist.

- Aynisa

7:22:38 PM

♥ 3

I think everyone deals with traumatic stress differently, just as the events causing that stress may all be very different. It's difficult to talk about "veterans with PTSD" because there are so many different types of experiences with it.

- Kristen

7:22:40 PM

Jumping back to the first question about what could help the transition home... I'm sure it depends on how long they were gone and what their experiences were, but coming home is a huge change from an entirely structured day to an unstructured home life. I would suggest a short, week-long program with a live-in transition place where it is semi-structured in order to help people work through any distressing memories and adjust to civilian life. Do you think something like that could work/help?

- Laura

7:22:57 PM

2FU1: Try refreshing.

- Sharon Wong

7:23:36 PM

♥ 1

I really identify with Mark here. I have always felt very protective of the missions that I and others have risked our lives for.

- Kristen

7:23:39 PM

Immediate help or screening is not effective in my opinion. Most studies show veterans having readjustment issues after 90 days

- Mark

7:23:47 PM

A little late to the game, but happy to join the discussion.

- Natasha Del Toro

7:23:48 PM

Thank you, Sharon, I did and it worked

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:23:54 PM

Mark: How many veterans were present at the Michael Moore event?

- Sharon Wong

7:23:56 PM

♥ 1

It has to be an iterative process that spans months.

- Mark

7:23:56 PM

Laura, I do think our culture lacks returning home 'rituals'..yes.

- Aynisa

7:24:17 PM

Mark - that was one of the most intense experiences!

- Chantelle

7:24:21 PM

Welcome, Natasha!

♥ 1

- Sharon Wong

7:24:26 PM

Obviously I don't know exactly but when he asked if any were in the room I remember looking around and maybe seeing only a couple more--at least that were willing to raise their hands.

♥ 1

- Mark

7:25:04 PM

Thanks! I'm excited to hear from the filmmakers and vets.

- Natasha Del Toro

7:25:17 PM

Thanks for the reply Aynisa. Mark, that's an interesting thing to keep in mind when creating "coming home rituals" as Aynisa said

- Laura

7:25:27 PM

*rituals***

- Laura

7:25:34 PM

Very intense and they were a few there and I pray all the soldiers get back home soon

- Anonymous NXIR

7:25:34 PM

My granddad landed D-day +3(WWII), and was some was traumatized by what he saw until he died at 93.

- Anonymous B1R4

7:25:38 PM

And other people joining the conversation. Lots to talk about here.

- Natasha Del Toro

7:25:40 PM

Mark: I saw only one, maybe two, behind you. Brave and tough situation.

- Sharon Wong

7:25:44 PM

Yes.. and to his point, they would ideally be at 90 days out..

- Aynisa

7:25:54 PM

6/6/44 was horrendous ---

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:26:26 PM

♥ 1

@Laura - programs help; I myself have benefited from a week-long Outward Bound outdoor program for veterans. But ultimately it's hard to do in a short time what it just takes a lot more time to accomplish.. I think veterans need support from the people who care about them for a while until they settle back in.

- Kristen

7:26:36 PM

Must be tough on the families too.

- Anonymous B1R4

7:26:39 PM

Very sad and frustrated

- Anonymous NXIR

7:26:42 PM

Support is key.

- Sharon Wong

7:26:55 PM

♥ 4

Earl's mother was a tremendous woman. She gave him so much love.

- Chantelle

7:27:05 PM

Agree, supporting is needed

- Anonymous NXIR

7:27:19 PM

4 a while u got to let the warrior be who she/he is

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:27:29 PM

How difficult was it for your loved ones to see you struggling?

- Sharon Wong

7:27:49 PM

@anonymousB1R4 that is so terrible. its so hard to know that we really didn't provide any type of support to our veterans then...

- Manjula

7:27:50 PM

I also identify with survivor's guilt, and the allure of multiple deployments.

- Kristen

7:28:26 PM

yeah my gen got beacoup support --then and now

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:28:36 PM

♥ 2

In addition, the friends and families also need help understanding where the loved one is coming from and what is going on. Ptsd awareness and training for families can be a lot of help

- Laura

7:28:44 PM

Changes your perception of life intensely. To see so much death and destruction so early! You are all heroes!

- Anonymous B1R4

7:29:05 PM

♥ 2

The term PTSD has been so incorrectly applied I'd argue its lost its meaning in many ways.

- Mark

7:29:16 PM

♥ 4

PTSD is definitely important to understand, but is also part of the broader awareness needed about the support veterans need to reintegrate back home.

- Kristen

7:29:22 PM

true dat mark

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:29:22 PM

very true mark, very, very true

- Jemmett

7:29:42 PM

Transitional challenges

- Aynisa

7:29:47 PM

how many vets we got here ?

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:30:24 PM

♥ 3

As vets try to find jobs, or return to old jobs, or otherwise find structure and purpose--they need patience and encouragement. And to know that there's nothing wrong with them. It's just hard to come home after being at war, and it takes time and persistence.

- Kristen

7:30:38 PM

♥ 6

Readjustment, depression, alcoholism that is NOT PTSD. True PTSD involves strong flashbacks etc. We have likely over diagnosed a generation of men and women. Unfortunately there is also tremendous abuse in the system. Guys getting 100 percent disability for "PTSD" who have NEVER deployed.

- Mark

7:30:42 PM

♥ 1

Returning home from war is a process.

- Kristen

7:31:06 PM

J9ZN: Great question. How many of you are veterans? Or a loved one of one?

- Sharon Wong

7:31:09 PM

mark u on point

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:31:19 PM

Good point Mark. It's all too blended and stigmatized.

- Aynisa

7:31:39 PM

♥ 5

USMC Vet 1966 1968 Vietnam

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:32:36 PM

Kristen -- tell these folks bout PTG

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:32:45 PM

Is it very easy to claim you have PTSD and collect disability? That's not something I have heard before.

- Natasha Del Toro

7:33:27 PM

♥ 1

Natasha - not in my day --- my gen fought to get it in DSM

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:33:32 PM

♥ 1

The VA has broadened definitions/diagnosis of PTSD in recent years because so many struggling vets were denied in earlier years. Some see it as an overcorrection.

- Kristen

7:33:55 PM

Oh that's very interesting

- Laura

7:33:59 PM

♥ 2

Whether or not a person has PTSD, there is a process of readjustment for everyone. Of all the veterans I interviewed, there wasn't one who didn't need to take time to heal from their experience. Everyone heals in their own way. It was very impressive to see how each of them worked through their experience.

- Chantelle

7:34:35 PM

♥ 1

I <3 Chris here. He is hilarious.

- Kristen

7:34:56 PM

folks -- u see what going on -- we hijacked by PTSD -- lets move on

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:35:03 PM

Manjula and Chantelle: For all of the emotional scenes, how did you keep it together?

- Sharon Wong

7:35:06 PM

Chris sent about 14 tapes from Iraq. There was so much good stuff that we had to cut out :/

- Chantelle

7:35:18 PM

Yes, exactly! There is a period of readjustment/reintegration that is very apparent and we need to do our part to support our men and women during that time.

- Manjula

7:35:20 PM

One of the best lines ever.

- Anonymous CWYL

7:35:22 PM

♥ 4

"Its a wonder we've ever won a war" thats my favorite line...every vet can relate.

- Mark

7:35:41 PM

♥ 2

*If anyone wants to know what deployments are *really* like most of the time.. Chris's video here about sums it up!*

- Kristen

7:35:48 PM

YES!

- Mark

7:35:57 PM

♥ 3

99 percent boredom 1 percent pure terror

- Mark

7:36:18 PM

♥ 2

in a scene we haven't seen yet, it was of Terry Haskell (the Vietnam vet's interview) I remember trying to film through my tears as we were interviewing him.

- Manjula

7:36:40 PM

so sharon to answer your question. there were times when i didn't keep it together.

- Manjula

7:36:51 PM

♥ 2

There were a couple of scenes where I broke down after the shoot was over. We really love these guys a lot.

- Chantelle

7:37:06 PM

♥ 1

if we could just get out of the jungle we would be ok is what we thought -- we were wrong

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:37:16 PM

♥ 2

I like that this Reserve unit seemed to keep guys talking to each other, and brought them back in. I've been in units where I never saw anyone again unless I personally reached out to them. It makes a big difference to still feel connected to the men and women you deployed with.

- Kristen

7:37:41 PM

♥ 2

Kristen is 100 percent right! Your friends get you through it.

- Mark

7:37:45 PM

There was also a period of time where I had nightmares from all the stories they told me. I actually had to do a little therapy myself. It was really hard not to feel what they were feeling.

- Chantelle

7:37:46 PM

That's a good point Kristen

- Anonymous B1R4

7:37:51 PM

♥ 1

I like what he had to say about seeing homeless on the street and seeing them from a different point-of-view

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:38:25 PM

we all were young

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:38:27 PM

That's interesting Chantelle.

- Anonymous B1R4

7:38:38 PM

♥ 1

It's such an opportunity to hear these stories and better understand the stories and experience because I will never truly know.

- Cristina

7:38:38 PM

♥ 3

Yes. we do love them. for being brave and for letting us in.

- Manjula

7:39:11 PM

♥ 6

It's so important to include perspective of Vietnam vets.. great perspective, and I've learned so much from talking to Vietnam vets since I've been home. So glad that was included in this film.

- Kristen

7:39:39 PM

♥ 1

Vietnam vets are amazing. They experienced deprivation and challenges we never did and then weren't given the welcome they deserved.

- Mark

7:39:44 PM

I think knowing it is one thing, but experiencing is a different level and for them to share it is very admirable

- Anonymous NXIR

7:39:44 PM

♥ 1

we paid the price ahead of time

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:39:46 PM

♥ 2

When I met Terry, I knew his perspective had to be included. He is amazing

- Chantelle

7:39:47 PM

are drugs and alcohol used as a coping mechanism while deployed and back at home?

- Stacy Smith

7:40:00 PM

♥ 2

Kristen, hearing Terry's story was so powerful.

- Manjula

7:40:10 PM

YES! Far too many veterans fall into the trap of self-medicating with alcohol.

- Mark

7:40:18 PM

♥ 1

Love Mark's words in this segment. Expresses so much that we feel.

- Kristen

7:40:38 PM

♥ 2

Funny how all those anti-war protests sort of disappeared in 2008...what happened ? :)

- Mark

7:40:50 PM

Mark: I can see how that can happen.

- Stacy Smith

7:40:58 PM

True

- Anonymous NXIR

7:40:59 PM

I used alcohol as a coping mechanism. a lot of guys do

- Jemmett

7:41:04 PM

♥ 1

Mark - people forgot there were wars happening. Or at least that's how it's felt.

- Kristen

7:41:15 PM

alcohol in my day was part of the Marine culture --probly same 2day

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:41:46 PM

Drinking does make you relive the stress, but an ugly result

- Anonymous NXIR

7:41:48 PM

I think its more that the "grass roots" organizations spending the money to organize those protests found their agenda realigned with a new POTUS.

♥ 1

- Mark

7:41:56 PM

TEAM RWB --- tat is the best

♥ 1

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:41:56 PM

Kristen, it's so true. that was something that really blew me away...that citizens forgot that a war was going.

♥ 1

- Manjula

7:42:09 PM

Anti-war/pro-peace but what about supporting troops on the front line and home front?

♥ 1

- Sharon Wong

7:42:30 PM

Mark says some amazing things in this interview...

♥ 2

- Chantelle

7:42:38 PM

Sharon -- too much BS -- hate the war love the warrior crap

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:42:42 PM

It was so hard to cut it down.

♥ 1

- Chantelle

7:42:43 PM

I have yet to have a relationship survive much beyond my deployment. I feel that.

♥ 3

- Kristen

7:43:23 PM

I remember this interview was such a powerful interview, it was so honest and earnest.

♥ 1

- Manjula

7:44:01 PM

Chantelle, I remember that too. Mark was saying so many things in this interview that we felt was so important for people to hear. It was hard to cut down.

- Manjula

7:44:01 PM

♥ 2

Yeah, we were both really young. She was 20 when we started dating. Crazy to think about now.

- Mark

7:44:02 PM

♥ 1

this is kewl -- never did this b4

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:44:35 PM

♥ 7

Veterans have different perspectives on our conflicts and the politics behind them.. but it's important for people to realize that many of us feel very invested in what we did and that it mattered. I've found it really alienating when people say, "Oh, I'm so glad you never have to go back to that awful place." When really what I wish for is peace and a better chance for those folks.

- Kristen

7:44:37 PM

I love Ray!

- Manjula

7:44:38 PM

♥ 1

a great process. i agree

- Aynisa

7:44:53 PM

♥ 1

I love Ray too.

- Chantelle

7:44:56 PM

♥ 1

This story is seriously my favorite!

- Holli

7:44:56 PM

♥ 1

I love what he says and how much she shares. he was also so honest.

- Manjula

7:45:11 PM

♥ 2

People don't recognize the humanitarian side of these conflicts

- Aynisa

7:45:12 PM

^he

- Manjula

7:45:28 PM

♥ 3

One of my favorite scenes (sorry to be late but just read all the great comments) - so powerful to hear this WWII vet speak so candidly about being "deprogrammed"

- Monika

7:46:01 PM

all different perspectives -- I did not care a bit about Vietnam then and I care even less now --

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:46:03 PM

♥ 5

Being a POW is a misery few can every understand.

- Mark

7:46:16 PM

♥ 3

That was a really great story from the WWII vet

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:46:22 PM

♥ 4

that was my favorite part. "maybe he was in iraq. maybe he was over there. i hope he is getting help."

- Manjula

7:47:17 PM

♥ 4

Chris was so honest in his personal videos.

- Chantelle

7:47:22 PM

what does UA mean?

- Stacy Smith

7:47:24 PM

♥ 3

I remember that feeling of being on a second and third deployment and feeling so underutilized, wanting to do more to help fellow troops and the mission. It's a profound letdown.

- Kristen

7:47:28 PM

♥ 1

Yes, I love his honesty

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:47:48 PM

♥ 1

these videos that chris sent us was so heart-wrenching.

- Manjula

7:47:59 PM

♥ 2

"Unauthorized Absence" Marine-speak for AWOL

- Mark

7:48:15 PM

KR-- was the mission always clear ?

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:48:17 PM

Mark: Thanks

- Stacy Smith

7:49:03 PM

Remarkable and inspiring to see because it shows us how govern our emotions

- Anonymous NXIR

7:49:04 PM

It's like the unit I was with had to go through their own learning process if they were on their first deployment.. didn't want to listen to those of us who'd been around once or twice before. Really frustrating.

- Kristen

7:49:10 PM

♥ 2

I LOVE OEHLER

- Mark

7:49:11 PM

Oller

- Manjula

7:49:16 PM

♥ 1

Oehler

- Manjula

7:49:18 PM

♥ 2

He is still just as funny

- Mark

7:49:26 PM

♥ 1

hahah yeah, he is awesome!

- Manjula

7:49:47 PM

♥ 2

Holli is the best!!

- Chantelle

7:49:49 PM

I think we're all nervous to ask too much

- Cristina

7:50:11 PM

"she didn't" that smile he gives after is sooo great. i love holli and the great part she plays in earl's experience

♥ 2

- Manjula

7:50:19 PM

mark kr jemmett -- who else here a vet ?

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:50:42 PM

This is so great.. the importance of faith as a grounding force in one's life. Not the same for every returning vet, but this was a great story to see.

♥ 4

- Kristen

7:51:07 PM

Oh Mark, I hope you didn't give up your mad skills!

♥ 3

- Holli

7:51:15 PM

Ok, Mark's rapping/singing skills are madhot!

- Manjula

7:51:26 PM

I always thought Earl was really brave to share his story. I gave him the option to not be in the film anymore if he didn't want to talk about coming home from his mission early because it was a really hard time for him, but he called me and said, "I think I should still do it, because I feel like sharing my story might be able to help someone."

♥ 5

- Chantelle

7:51:41 PM

Kristen is a vet and we were fortunate to interview her in the post-film discussion

♥ 3

- Monika

7:51:52 PM

Art/expression of any kind can be great outlets for vets. Mark's story is great, too.

♥ 2

- Kristen

7:52:08 PM

I wasn't reading that book.

- Mark

7:52:10 PM

Staged

♥ 3

- Mark

7:52:14 PM

haha!

♥ 1

- Chantelle

7:52:24 PM

"Mark walk up the stairs and look introspective"

♥ 3

- Mark

7:52:34 PM

Mark! ssssh! movie magic guys!

- Manjula

7:52:35 PM

LOL

- Stacy Smith

7:52:37 PM

Mark, your skills are legit! and yes, creative outlets are great.

♥ 2

- Aynisa

7:52:39 PM

You're giving us away!!

♥ 1

- Chantelle

7:52:40 PM

I heard that a few times

♥ 2

- Jemmett

7:52:45 PM

haha

♥ 1

- Mark

7:53:07 PM

Chantelle, is this the original or is this more?

- Holli

7:53:11 PM

I was inspired with Mark's drive, very good in creating a purpose on why this is the right way

♥ 2

- Anonymous NXIR

7:53:27 PM

♥ 1

this is the original. The very end is updated.

- Chantelle

7:54:11 PM

♥ 3

One of the many things I love about this film is how diverse the experiences are of each vet and seeing them evolve.

- Monika

7:54:16 PM

It seems like he feels like he would be forced to go back

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:54:31 PM

♥ 2

Those are super personal questions the teacher is asking Chris.. a vet may not be prepared or willing to answer something so personal. I think more sensitivity is needed.

- Kristen

7:54:50 PM

♥ 7

bye all -- a terrific film -- better than the Wes Moore thing -- " never again will one generation of veterans abandon another" --- VVA founding motto --- live it

- Anonymous J9ZN

7:55:37 PM

Thanks for joining us J9ZN.

- Sharon Wong

7:55:55 PM

♥ 2

again one of the reasons, im grateful to hear Chris' experience. he was so honest and open about what he was dealing with emotionally...

- Manjula

7:57:21 PM

I still can't believe that happened

- Mark

7:57:25 PM

♥ 2

"Some things just don't get worked out... sometimes you don't get rid of all the demons." Powerful words from Chris.

- Kristen

7:57:26 PM

This was a hard scene to film... I almost didn't do it.

- Chantelle

7:57:27 PM

i remember this night, chantelle, you called me and told me that Chris had left the office and you were worried he was going to come back.

- Manjula

7:58:02 PM

^wasn't

- Manjula

7:58:10 PM

gosh those two

♥ 2

- Mark

7:58:15 PM

:)

- Chantelle

7:58:16 PM

Sweet scene.

♥ 1

- Kristen

7:58:17 PM

so adorable

♥ 2

- Mark

7:58:21 PM

aren't they so cute!!

♥ 1

- Manjula

7:58:35 PM

jemmett! that hair!

♥ 2

- Manjula

7:58:36 PM

Much needed relief from the previous scene

♥ 1

- Anonymous 2FU1

7:58:44 PM

Nice

- Anonymous NXIR

7:59:40 PM

still not a day goes by

♥ 3

- Jemmett

7:59:40 PM

guys, i felt same as these marines when i got injured in military

- Milos

8:00:01 PM

incredible

- Milos

8:00:14 PM

Sorry for your injury but keep pushing

- Anonymous NXIR

8:00:28 PM

thanx o/

- Milos

8:00:28 PM

I LOVE the morrocco footage

♥ 2

- Mark

8:00:38 PM

i love what you say right here, Mark.

♥ 2

- Manjula

8:00:44 PM

yes, you did a great job

♥ 1

- Chantelle

8:00:51 PM

"Everyone needs to be an activist.. an idealist." Great stuff, Mark.

♥ 5

- Kristen

8:01:06 PM

Mark, Matt, Earl - I'm curious if your perspectives have changed since filming stopped?

♥ 1

- Monika

8:01:13 PM

I feel so bad for Chris just trying to find where he belongs

♥ 1

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:01:15 PM

That is why I loved filming Mark. I love that attitude.

♥ 2

- Chantelle

8:01:24 PM

♥ 1

Too few assume the burden of many.

- Anonymous B1R4

8:01:36 PM

♥ 6

"Something so good.. that all the moments that suck are worth it." Love that too!

- Kristen

8:02:02 PM

♥ 3

Don't go anywhere! Up next is our post-R.T.F. conversation with David Wood, Kristen L. Rouse and Natasha Del Toro, host of America ReFramed.

- Sharon Wong

8:02:10 PM

♥ 1

Natasha!!!

- Kristen

8:02:32 PM

♥ 4

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David has embedded with U.S. military units in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. His most recent articles have covered the VA scandal.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-wood/>

- Sharon Wong

8:02:45 PM

♥ 6

Kristen, an Army veteran and advocate, writes on her personal blog True Boots. It is about her experiences on the ground and her blazing trail toward what lies ahead. <http://trueboots.wordpress.com/>

- Sharon Wong

8:02:54 PM

♥ 1

Let's take a look!

- Sharon Wong

8:03:46 PM

♥ 3

It seems that life long bonds are formed. Thank you to the Vets for your service and to all of you still active. I can never imagine what you have been through for me. I wish you all blessings beyond measure.

- Stacy Smith

8:04:03 PM

♥ 1

That's why it took 5 years to make.

- Chantelle

8:04:09 PM

♥ 2

I have to leave, but thank you so much for sharing your stories and for being so honest.

- Anonymous FL5L

8:04:28 PM

Thanks for participating FL5L.

- Sharon Wong

8:06:02 PM

♥ 7

"Validating" I think is my prevailing feeling about this film.. if you have veterans in your life, please ask them to watch this documentary. It shows that no veteran is alone with what they struggle with.

- Kristen

8:06:57 PM

wow, that's powerful

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:06:58 PM

♥ 5

this is earl, my perspective is always changing/evolving

- Holli

8:07:09 PM

♥ 4

I absolutely plan to do that Kristen. Thank you all for this project. And for your honesty. Things like this are contagiously beneficial

- Aynisa

8:07:39 PM

♥ 2

Earl, thank you for sharing your personal story

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:07:52 PM

♥ 2

living in a completely different geography of meaning. that is so beautifully articulated

- Manjula

8:08:00 PM

♥ 2

Same to Mark & Jemmett

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:10:08 PM

♥ 1

Hmm " we take pretty good care of them" I think the revelations regarding the VA are proving that to be false.

- Mark

8:10:40 PM

What are the thoughts on the current VA scandal?

- Sharon Wong

8:10:49 PM

♥ 1

The VA has expertise in PTSD and TBI that never existed before... but it's a matter of getting the VA system to work right.

- Kristen

8:10:50 PM

honesty doesnt hurt btw ...

- Milos

8:11:06 PM

I was wondering how you might feel about that. How do you think this will shake out with the VA?

- Chris

8:11:19 PM

♥ 6

David's points about moral injury are really important, and I'm glad that's included here.

- Kristen

8:11:46 PM

That sounds like a great read, Kristen

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:11:53 PM

"Bruise on their soul" - very poignant description of moral injury

- Monika

8:11:54 PM

♥ 1

Kristen.. And/or accessing the private sector

- Aynisa

8:11:59 PM

♥ 1

the VA is a government run program, and if it is run anything like the agency I work for, there are MAJOR problems w/ the VA.

- Jemmett

8:12:05 PM

♥ 1

our associate producers Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America are a good resource to go to for that.
<http://iava.org/>

- Chantelle

8:12:10 PM

Interesting...

- Anonymous NXIR

8:12:12 PM

♥ 3

Highly recommend: "Achilles in Vietnam" and "Odysseus in America."

- Kristen

8:12:21 PM

♥ 1

"Moral Injury" is contextual in my opinion. Has a great deal to do with how a veteran is received by the country he fought and killed for.

- Mark

8:12:34 PM

If anyone has resources for veterans, please share.

- Sharon Wong

8:12:51 PM

great books!

- Aynisa

8:12:55 PM

♥ 1

Definitely join IAVA if you haven't already!

- Chantelle

8:12:59 PM

For me the "injury" had more to do with how Americans reacted to the war than what I did in it.

- Mark

8:13:00 PM

♥ 1

Also, War and the Soul

- Aynisa

8:13:48 PM

♥ 3

The disconnect and misunderstanding can be more damaging than the experiences. Something for us civilians to be mindful of

- Aynisa

8:13:59 PM

♥ 1

look up Dr. Edna Foa

- Milos

8:14:07 PM

on the net

- Milos

8:14:16 PM

Yes. IAVA and the other organization we were able to speak to National Veterans Foundation are great organizations.

- Manjula

8:14:29 PM

Nope

- Mark

8:14:31 PM

♥ 1

every state has a Transitional Assistance advisor that works in their national guard's family programs department. great resource on anything military related, will help any veteran regardless of service

- Holli

8:14:58 PM

♥ 1

I wonder what the average civilian can do to help with the veteran's homecoming and adjustment.

- Anonymous B1R4

8:15:07 PM

♥ 4

kristen, im so glad you are here to share the female veteran perspective

- Manjula

8:15:15 PM

♥ 1

Families can feel disconnected too - when my cousin was deployed to Iraq, it was difficult to hear people talk abstractly about the war when they didn't have a loved one serving

- Monika

8:15:30 PM

♥ 1

IAVA is great. Also local Vet Centers, SSVF, SUS, Urban Justice, Military Resilience Project (my personal plug). Also check out local VFWs

- Aynisa

8:15:51 PM

♥ 7

Whats wrong with "large muscular white guys" :)

- Mark

8:15:54 PM

♥ 1

jk

- Mark

8:15:59 PM

LOL Mark

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:16:06 PM

Lol

- Anonymous NXIR

8:16:22 PM

Darn, that just came out of my mouth. I love all you guys. :)

♥ 6

- Kristen

8:16:35 PM

U 2

- Anonymous NXIR

8:16:44 PM

You are spot on about women combat vets.

♥ 6

- Mark

8:17:17 PM

It's an under-stated and under-recognized role

♥ 3

- Aynisa

8:17:28 PM

This is new for me, but I'm learning and happy to know about it

♥ 1

- Anonymous NXIR

8:17:31 PM

Which is why the whole "women in combat" politicized debate is odd...women are already in combat on the front lines and have been for some time fighting just as hard and just as well as men.

♥ 6

- Mark

8:18:17 PM

There are PEOPLE who cannot do combat jobs.. but there are so many capable men and women whose skills and talent we need out there.

♥ 4

- Kristen

8:18:38 PM

Agreed

♥ 2

- Mark

8:18:59 PM

True, but in combat people have to have the drive and that capability

- Anonymous NXIR

8:19:09 PM

Great phrase

♥ 4

- Aynisa

8:19:24 PM

♥ 2

I love that, Kristen, post traumatic growth thats a great term!

- Manjula

8:19:24 PM

♥ 1

I love that!

- Chantelle

8:19:30 PM

♥ 1

It should be more out in the open, like so many other causes. Returning vets should become more of the conversation. Not hush hush!

- Anonymous B1R4

8:19:42 PM

I

- Mark

8:19:53 PM

Kristen, Mark, Matt, Earl: If you had the choice to create a first steps system for returning vets, what would you say should be done?

- Sharon Wong

8:19:54 PM

I'm sure it is open, but not as popular

- Anonymous NXIR

8:19:55 PM

♥ 1

Some of my favorite orgs I've personally been involved with: Team Rubicon, Team RWB, Mission Continues.

- Kristen

8:20:22 PM

♥ 1

That would make a good doc :)

- Chantelle

8:20:48 PM

♥ 4

I am going to sign off. This has been wonderful. Great film. Write your political leaders and tell them to fix the VA and prosecute those guilty of criminal negligence. Chantelle, Manju love you tons.

- Mark

8:21:07 PM

♥ 1

Love you too, Mark. Thank you for everything!

- Chantelle

8:21:07 PM

Thank you for everything, Mark!

- Anonymous 2FU1

8:21:10 PM

Mark, you're an inspiration. Keep doing. Thank you

- Aynisa

8:21:15 PM

Thank you speaking out, Mark.

- Sharon Wong

8:21:22 PM

Nice to have and God speed to you and your family

- Anonymous NXIR

8:21:27 PM

Thank you Mark!!

- Monika

8:21:39 PM

Thank YOU

♥ 4

- Mark

8:21:58 PM

Mark! thank you! love you too!

- Manjula

8:22:00 PM

Veterans need support networks at home. That is the most important thing. Families and communities need to let veterans know their service is valued and that they're needed badly back home. Then put them to work and watch the amazing results.

♥ 6

- Kristen

8:23:26 PM

so true kristen.

♥ 1

- Jemmett

8:23:27 PM

That is a need, but it needs to be incorporated in the large areas of entertainment and we should push to have an open community awareness to help our soldiers at home

- Anonymous NXIR

8:23:36 PM

Support networks. Bingo!

- Anonymous B1R4

8:24:07 PM

Kristen you are a great voice for this cause Thank you!

♥ 7

- Anonymous B1R4

8:25:18 PM

This may just be me--but I think the longer we wait for the VA, the government, or even private orgs to help vets reintegrate--the longer we're delaying our own action. My suggestion is to get out there and let the veterans you know that you're there for them, and do something. If you don't know any veterans, go find them. And help. There are Vietnam veterans who still aren't really "home." It takes each of us to help bring them back.

♥ 3

- Kristen

8:26:19 PM

Celebrities get married and each news outlet is all over it. Men and women return home after laying their life down for their country and you can hear crickets!

♥ 2

- Anonymous B1R4

8:26:24 PM

Kristen, I completely agree. It was one of the reasons I felt this film was so important to make.

♥ 2

- Chantelle

8:26:25 PM

The VA is important and provides a tremendous service each and every day in this nation.. but true reintegration happens at home.

♥ 2

- Kristen

8:26:33 PM

Forget the system barriers. I agree. Waste of energy. Take into your own hands and be present and involved

♥ 2

- Aynisa

8:26:39 PM

Final thoughts here...

- Sharon Wong

8:26:54 PM

Agree, it may be great to create events for them and help, guide and pray for their recovery

♥ 1

- Anonymous NXIR

8:27:30 PM

♥ 7

I have helped vets get hired in the Forest Service, and one I have noticed is that the vets themselves do not realize how capable they are. w/ the right coaching, the results are astounding, especially in law enforcement, wildland fire, and structural fire

- Jemmett

8:27:40 PM

♥ 3

Natasha, you're an awesome interviewer. Great to be on with you and David!

- Kristen

8:27:44 PM

♥ 7

Wow. Kristen, that was great. Thank you for your perspective and your service.

- Chantelle

8:27:55 PM

♥ 1

The teams at WORLD Channel, America ReFramed and Veterans Coming Home want to thank our panelists as well as participants for this screening and chat of Reserved to Fight. To learn more about America ReFramed, go to <http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>. The film is also available for streaming at <http://worldchannel.org/programs/episode/america-reframed-reserved-fight/>. And to keep posted on everything Reserved to Fight, go to <http://www.reservedtofight.com/reserved/>. Thank you again and be sure to join us for our next OVEE on Tuesday, June 24th at 8/7c!

- Sharon Wong

8:27:56 PM

♥ 3

Thank you for your voice Kristen.

- Aynisa

8:27:59 PM

♥ 1

nicely done kristen.

- Jemmett

8:27:59 PM

♥ 1

awesome

- Milos

8:28:07 PM

♥ 1

Yes, thank you you so much, Kristen.

- Anonymous CWYL

8:28:09 PM

♥ 1

That was great...thank you.

- Anonymous B1R4

8:28:19 PM

♥ 1

A nice video, I believe we can help and assist the needy soldiers with issues coming back home and God bless and a safe ride. thank you all, I'm out

- Anonymous NXIR

8:28:29 PM

me too

- Milos

8:28:30 PM

♥ 1

Natasha! you are a great interviewer!

- Manjula

8:28:30 PM

♥ 2

Thanks, everyone! This was fantastic.

- Kristen

8:29:01 PM

♥ 2

Thank you everyone, and special thanks to Manjula, Chantelle, Mark, Matt, Earl, David and Kristen

- Monika

8:29:04 PM

Sharon! thank you to you and your team at America Reframed/The World Channel for providing us with the opportunity to be apart of this!

- Manjula

8:29:13 PM

♥ 3

I am signing off, thank you again chauntelle and manuju for seeing this doc through to the end.

- Jemmett

8:29:33 PM

♥ 1

Thanks, Matt! Thanks for sharing your journey with us.

- Chantelle

8:29:47 PM

Thank you Jemmett! for everything for sharing your journey with us!

- Manjula

8:29:53 PM

♥ 3

Thanks for joining us tonight! Please pass the word on about Reserved to Fight.

- Sharon Wong

8:30:28 PM

Hi! This was a great experience. I missed the first 15 minutes. Is there any way to rewatch the presentation?

- Anonymous 201Y

8:31:22 PM

♥ 2

201Y: You can stream RTF at

<http://worldchannel.org/programs/episode/america-reframed-reserved-fight/>

- Sharon Wong

8:31:40 PM

Thanks!

- Anonymous 201Y