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Project For Peace Proposal

I am offering a feature film titled *The Broken Record*. The film will revolve around conversations with Marines of 3/5 Company who waged war in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan town of Sangin and the medical professionals who cared for the injured at Camp Bastion Hospital. Both of these locations made national headlines in the Associated Press. Sangin became the most violent place since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan. Twenty-five Marines lost their lives and over two hundred were injured. Camp Bastion was internationally rated as the busiest trauma center in the world. I was deployed as a medic at Camp Bastion. I personally assisted in operations on over 300 injured military personnel in between November 29th 2010 to June 14th 2011. Ninety percent of those suffered life-threatening injuries including gunshot wounds, burns and multiple amputations due to I.E.D. explosions.

I have only met many of these men once, as they lay on my operating table. Our paths crossed at the worst of times and I often wonder how their lives have turned out after the tragic events that brought us together. I will travel to meet some of the survivors. I wish to spend time with these individuals and see the quality of their lives. The focus of the film will be on listening to their stories. I will suggest that these conversations take place in public locations such as going for coffee, bowling, visiting a park or talking at a cigar store. It is my hope that by placing these conversations in locations familiar to most Americans the effect of their stories will sink into the everyday landscape of our collective experience as American citizens. Right now we are involved in the longest war in U.S. history with no end in sight. I am of the opinion that large portions of the population are angry, disillusioned or indifferent. In times like this my suggestion as a first step towards peace is to listen to the people who have been affected by the violence of war the most. In this lies the possibility that anger can turn to concern, disillusionment can become clarity and indifference can become action.

I am in a good position to make this story happen. First, I am in contact with the whole Marine Battalion that I served via Facebook and I still have access to military bases. Secondly if awarded the grant I will contact the

charity The Honor Group that is run by those Marines and their families and ask them to put out an open call to those who would be interested. Third, I am in contact with almost all of the medical staff I served with via Facebook and several have already agreed to lend their stories to a project of this nature. My plans to accomplish this film are as follows. I plan on driving to San Diego where the Marine Battalion is stationed. This will negate the need for flying or car rental. I have several friends that I am able to stay with negating the need for hotel rental. The average price of gas for a round trip drive from Chicago to San Diego is around \$600.00. This is where the majority of the film will take place. There is the possibility that I will need to fly to a few locations and would like to reserve some of the grant money to do so. I plan on hiring local film students and professionals to offset the cost of bringing a crew with me. I will also require the use of camera and sound equipment from SAIC. Once the filming is complete I will require access to the sound and film editing suites at SAIC.

Once the film is complete I plan on coordinating a screening supported by SAIC at the Gene Siskel Film Center. As outlined in the budget below, any extra funds will be used to help fly the participants of the film out for the screening. If any money remains after that the money will be spent on entering the film into film festivals across the country. It is my belief once you have a film not only can you affect positive change in your own community but in communities all over the country.

This idea began as a small video project under the instruction of SAIC instructor Irena Botea. She would be happy to field any questions about the work produced in her class. Work will also be done to produce a script and outline this semester in intermediate screenwriting under SAIC instructor John Petrakis.

The Broken Record suggests that hearing these horror stories over and over they begin to play like a skipping needle on the record of human history, impeding our progress. But in that repeating of violence the message that we need peace becomes all the more apparent.