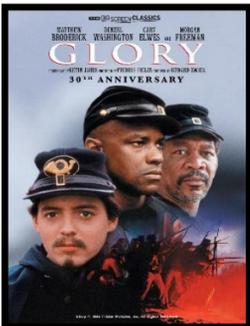


## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES



### Glory

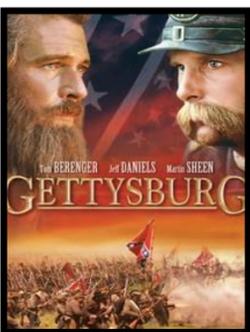
Following the Battle of Antietam, COL Robert Gould Shaw leads the first all-black volunteer company, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War, fighting prejudices from his own Union Army and the Confederates.

**COL (Ret.) Sean Hannah on *Glory*:** "Tells an important story of the little told role of blacks in the Civil War and highlights the struggle of Commander to gain respect and commitment of their troops."

### War Horse

At the outbreak of WWI, the bond between a young boy, Albert, and his loyal horse, Joey, is tested when they are forcibly parted after Albert's father sells Joey to the British calvary. Albert sets out to the battlefields of France to find his beloved horse and bring him home.

**BG (Ret.) Maureen LeBoeuf on *War Horse*:** "A story about a boy and his horse. Grit, determination, and loyalty."



### Gettysburg

Set in 1863, this war drama depicts the heroism, mistakes, calculations, and strategic maneuvering used by the Confederate and Union troops in the decisive battle of the American Civil War.

### 1917

Two British soldiers, Lance Corporal Schofield and Lance Corporal Blake must cross over into enemy territory during WWI to deliver a message that could possibly save 1,600 of their comrades, including Blake's brother.

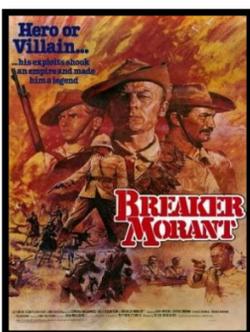
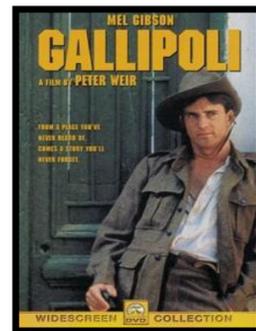


### All Quiet on the Western Front

Captivated by glory and honor and inspired by their jingoistic teacher, a group of young German boys enlist in WWI. The film highlights the tragedy of war through the eyes of this group and their experience on the battlefields.

### Gallipoli

After getting turned down by the army because of their age, two young Australian sprinters, Archy and Frank, set out to Perth to join up. After extensive training, the boys use their speed when they are sent to the front line, becoming messengers in one of the bloodiest battles of WWI.

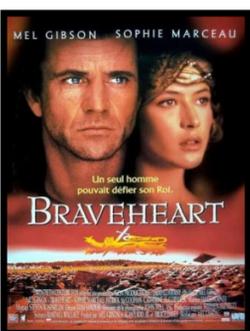
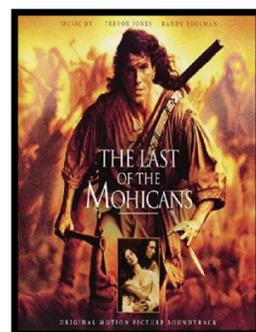


### Breaker Morant

In South Africa during the Second Boer War, Australian Army Lieutenants Harry "Breaker" Morant, Peter Handcock, and George Witton are accused of war crimes and must prove their innocence.

### The Last of the Mohicans

During the French and Indian War, the last members of a dying Native American tribe, the Mohicans, set out into the crossfire of the war to rescue the daughters of a British colonel that were kidnapped by a traitorous scout.

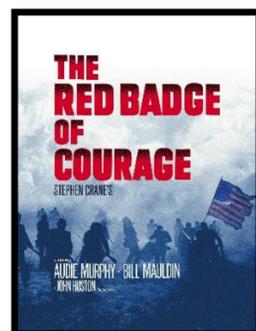


### Braveheart

Medieval Scottish patriot, William Wallace, leads the Scots in the First War of Scottish Independence against King Edward I of England. Wallace's leadership and efforts were cause for him becoming a symbol for a free Scotland.

### The Red Badge of Courage

After fleeing the battlefield during his unit's first engagement, young Union soldier, Henry Fleming, decides to face his fears. In an attempt to redeem himself and overcome his shame, Henry rejoins his unit in leading a charge on the enemy during the American Civil War.



## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES★



### **Saving Private Ryan**

Set during the Allied invasion of Normandy in WWII, members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion under Captain Miller go behind enemy lines to retrieve a paratrooper whose brothers have been killed in action.

**Mountaineer Alison Levine on *Saving Private Ryan*:** “The importance of earning trust and respect. You must have this in order to help your team bond and support a common purpose. As a leader, your team needs to know you have skin in the game.”

### **Band of Brothers**

Recounting the story of an elite team of paratroopers, Easy Company of the US Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, the 10-episode miniseries details the company’s exploits during WWII Europe, from Operation Overlord through V-J Day.

**BG (Ret.) Becky Halstead on *Band of Brothers*:** “It hits some of the most important leadership principles I believe in – demanding, disciplined leadership, service, selflessness, team, physical and mental courage, relationships (family and community), responsibility, and accountability.”

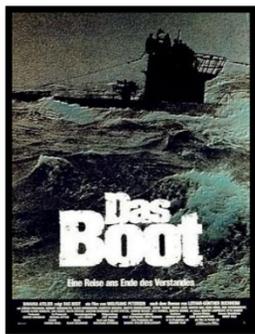


### **The Big Red One**

Taking place during WWII, a hardened sergeant, Samuel Fuller, and the four core members of his infantry unit move from battle to battle throughout Europe, trying to survive the war.

### **Unbroken**

After a near-fatal plane crash in the Pacific, US Olympic runner and Army officer, Louis Zamperini, survives 47 days in a raft with two fellow crewmen, before being captured and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp by the Japanese navy.

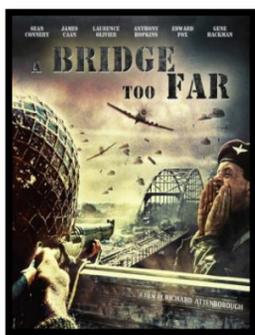
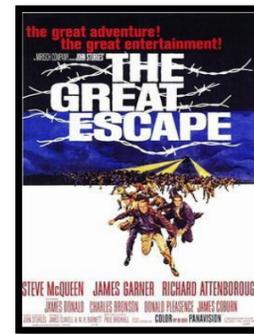


### **Das Boot**

The crew of a German U-boat sets out on a hazardous patrol in the Battle of the Atlantic during WWII. The film depicts the anticipation of battle, the boredom of a fruitless hunt, and a group of ordinary men striving to do their best for their comrades and their country.

### **The Great Escape**

This American war film tells the story of the ambitious and mass escape by a group of Allied soldiers from a closely supervised German prisoner-of-war camp during WWII.

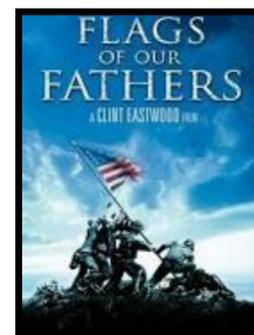


### **A Bridge Too Far**

Highlighting the importance of strong leadership and clear communication, this film details a pivotal day in 1944 when an Allied taskforce tried to end WWII by seizing control of key bridges in Holland.

### **Flags of Our Fathers**

Set in 1945, *Flags of Our Fathers* depicts the life stories of the six men who raised the flag at the Battle of Iwo Jima, a turning point in WWII. In a challenging and seemingly impossible task, this film demonstrates the resiliency and fighting will of US Marines.



### **Patton**

Beginning with his entry into the North African campaign and ending with his removal from command after his outspoken criticism of US post-war military strategy, this film covers General George S. Patton’s wartime activities and accomplishments.

### **MacArthur**

Recounted in flashback, General MacArthur’s life is depicted from 1942, prior to the Battle of Bataan, to 1952, after he had been removed from his Korean War command by President Harry Truman for insubordination. A film with many teachable lessons, including foresight and preparation to overcome volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) environments.



## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES★



### **Twelve O'Clock High**

After poor performance and heavy losses in daylight bombing missions during WWII, General Frank Savage is tasked with restoring morale, discipline, and leadership in the 918th Air Force Squadron before leading them in high risk missions as the German defenses intensify.

**COL (Ret.) Donna Brazil's takeaways from Twelve O'Clock High:** "Demonstrates developing various bases of power and eventually transformational leadership."

### **The Longest Day**

*The Longest Day* depicts the preparations and execution of the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. The events of D-Day are told from both the Allied and German points of view, showing the immense toll the battle took on both sides.

**MG (Ret.) Bryan Watson's thoughts on The Longest Day:** "It shows many of the dynamics of leadership from many different perspectives...leader and the led."

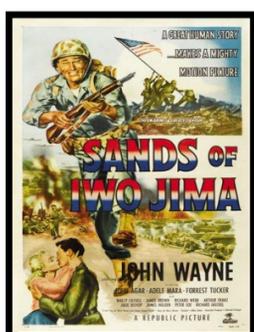
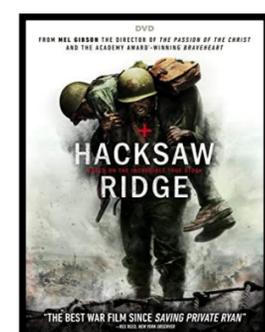


### **The Great Raid**

Determined to uphold a pledge made in 1942 to return to the Philippines after being forced to retreat, General MacArthur sends a group of Rangers on a dangerous mission to save 500 hopeless American soldiers who have been held in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp for 3 years.

### **Hacksaw Ridge**

Based on a true story, *Hacksaw Ridge* tells the incredible story of an American Army medic, Desmond Doss, who went behind enemy lines to evacuate wounded soldiers in the Battle of Okinawa. Doss became the first man in US history to receive the Medal of Honor without carrying or firing a gun.

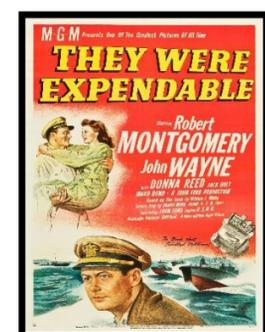


### **Sands of Iwo Jima**

Set during WWII, a tough Marine Sergeant, John Stryker, puts his squad of naïve, rebellious recruits through rigorous training, leading to high tensions between the men and their leader. Stryker's relentless training comes to fruition when his squad fights in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

### **They Were Expendable**

Lieutenant John Brickley leads an American PT boat unit, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three, in defending the Philippines from a daunting Japanese invasion during WWII. The group demonstrated sheer bravery and agility in a hopeless situation.

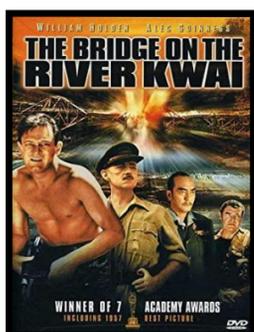


### **Midway**

The American fleet and the Imperial Japanese Navy clash at the Battle of Midway, a turning point in the Pacific Theater during WWII. *Midway* tells the story of the leaders and soldiers who overcame the odds using their instincts, fortitude, and courage.

### **Tora! Tora! Tora!**

Named after the code words used by the lead Japanese pilot to indicate they had surprised the Americans, *Tora! Tora! Tora!* portrays the planning and execution of Japan's audacious and ambitious attack on Pearl Harbor, which initiated the US into WWII through a declaration of war.



### **The Bridge at the River Kwai**

Set in Burma in 1943, British prisoners-of-war are ordered to build a railway bridge across the River Kwai to assist in transporting Japanese munitions, unaware that the Allied forces were planning to destroy it.

### **Inglorious Bastards**

In Nazi-occupied France during WWII, the film follows the separate attempts to assassinate Nazi leaders by two disparate forces- a group of Jewish American soldiers led by First Lieutenant Aldo Raine and a young Jewish French theater owner, Shosanna Dreyfus.



## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES ★



### **Battle of the Bulge**

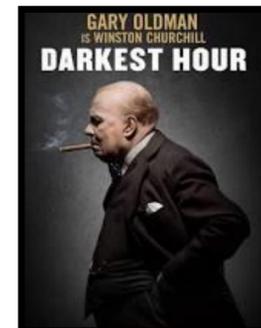
Set in WWII, *Battle of the Bulge* details the last major German offensive on the Western Front—an unsuccessful attempt to push the Allies back. An American intelligence officer strongly suspects a German surprise attack and must convince his superiors before it is too late.

**LTG (Ret.) Frank Kearney's takeaways from *Battle of the Bulge*:** "It's all about finding the decisive point, i.e. fuel."

### **Darkest Hour**

With the Allies cornered on the beaches of Dunkirk, newly-appointed British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, is confronted with the ultimate choice: negotiate with Hitler and save the British people at a terrible cost or rally the nation and fight on against incredible odds.

**COL (Ret.) Pilar McDermott's thoughts on *Darkest Hour*:** "It shows the power of communication, team building, and shared vision."



### **Greyhound**

Led by Captain Ernest Krause in his first command of a US destroyer, an international convoy of 37 Allied ships crosses the treacherous North Atlantic while being pursued by a pack of enemy Nazi U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic, only months after the U.S. officially entered WWII.

### **Fury**

As the Allies make their final push in WWII, Army Sergeant, Don Collier, commands his 5-man crew and a Sherman tank on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Outnumbered, outgunned, and with a rookie soldier in their platoon, the men face overwhelming odds in their attempt take down German troops.

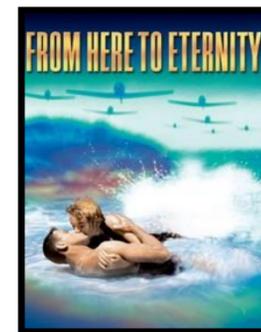


### **Thin Red Line**

After living in peace and harmony on a Pacific island, Private Witt returns to an active duty unit preparing for what will be the Battle of Guadalcanal. After the unit faces a variety of unexpected obstacles, Witt's leadership and ruminations on life, death, and nature sit at the heart of the *Thin Red Line*.

### **From Here to Eternity**

*From Here to Eternity* details the tribulations of 3 U.S. Army soldiers while stationed in Hawaii, months leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Private Robert E. Lee Prewitt faces cruel punishment after refusing to box on his unit's team, while his Captain's wife and second-in-command are falling in love.



### **Dunkirk**

Surrounded by the relentless German forces on the beaches and harbor of Dunkirk in the Battle of France during WWII, the Allies implement a slow and methodic plan to evacuate their troops before the Nazi forces can take hold.

### **Pearl Harbor**

When WWII breaks out in Europe, two childhood friends, Rafe and Danny, enlist in the Army Air Corps. After being presumed dead during the Battle of Britain, Rafe returns to Hawaii to find out that his girlfriend took comfort in Danny. The men must reconcile their differences as they join the fight against Japan, following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

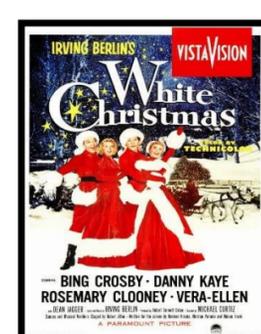


### **The Guns of Navarone**

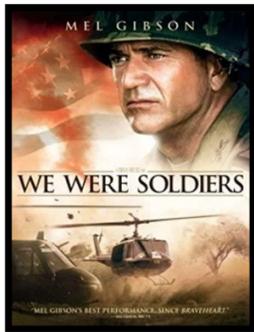
2,000 British soldiers must display their strength while trapped on a Greek island by Nazi invaders, fighting to stay alive against the enemy. A commando unit, led by Major Roy Franklin, sails across the Aegean Sea to infiltrate Navarone, destroy the guns surrounding the island, and rescue the surrounded soldiers.

### **White Christmas**

Having left the Army following WWII, singers Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, team up with a sister act to perform a Christmas show to save the financial demise of a quaint Vermont inn, owner by their former commander in WWII, General Waverly.



## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES



### **We Were Soldiers**

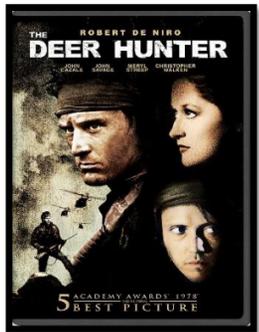
The story of the first major battle of the American phase of the Vietnam War and the soldiers on both sides who fought it. *We Were Soldiers* details the common acts of uncommon valor, and the loyalty to and love for one another that the men have.

COL (Ret.) John Vermeesch's thoughts on *We Were Soldiers*: "Incredible story of overcoming adversity in chaos. Great leadership lessons throughout."

### **The Deer Hunter**

Moving from the steel mills outside of Pittsburgh to the mountains of Pennsylvania to the jungles of Vietnam, *The Deer Hunter* explores the upheaval faced by a tight-knit group of Russian Americans when three of their number enlist to serve in Vietnam.

LTC (Ret.) Sande Schlesinger's takeaways from *The Deer Hunter*: "The commitment that members of a team share with one another and how that depth of feeling can inspire teammates to perform unbelievable acts of courage, strength, and perseverance toward each other."

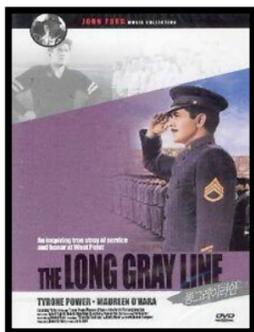


### **Courage Under Fire**

A U.S. Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Serling, despondent about a deadly mistake he made in Al Bathra, Iraq during the Gulf War, investigates female chopper commander Army Captain Karen Emma Walden's worthiness to receive the Medal of Honor for valor in combat.

### **Platoon**

Told through the perspective of a young recruit, *Platoon* takes a gritty and emotional look at the lives of a group of American soldiers as they patrol, fight, and die in the jungles of Vietnam. Two veteran sergeants clash when one of them precipitates a massacre of villagers.

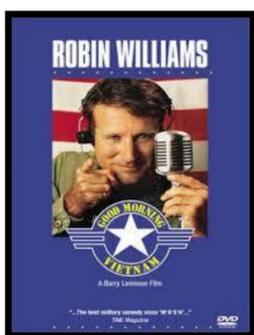
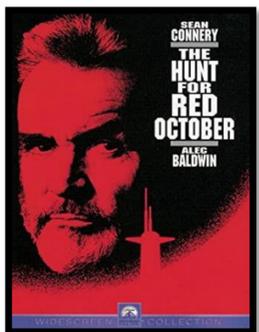


### **The Long Gray Line**

An Irish immigrant, Martin Maher, a pugnacious boy who can't seem to fit in with the United States Military Academy's regimen of unquestioning discipline, is hired as a civilian employee at West Point. During his 50-year career, Maher rises to the rank of Non-Commissioned Officer and athletic instructor.

### **The Hunt For Red October**

Captain Marko Ramius, commander of the Soviet Union's new nuclear submarine, *Red October*, violates orders and heads for the U.S. hoping to defect. A CIA analyst correctly deduces Ramius's motive and must prove his theory to the US Navy before a violent confrontation occurs.

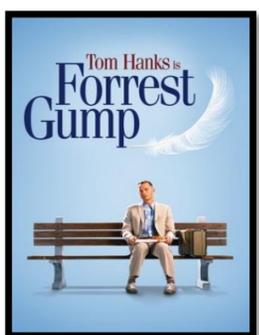


### **Good Morning Vietnam**

Set in Saigon in 1965 during the Vietnam War, a radio DJ on Armed Forces Radio Services, Adrian Cronauer, proves very popular with the troops while also infuriating his superiors with his irreverent and unorthodox tendencies.

### **Forrest Gump**

A slow-witted, kind-hearted man from Alabama, *Forrest Gump*, overcomes a variety of tribulations throughout his life, never letting it interfere with his happiness. Gump witnesses and unwittingly influences several defining historical events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### **The Green Berets**

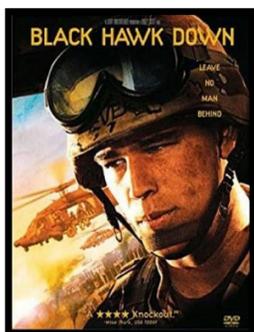
Led by hard-nosed Colonel Mike Kirby, a group of courageous Green Berets set out on a mission in South Vietnam to first, build and control a camp that is trying to be taken down by the enemy, and second, to kidnap a North Vietnamese general.

### **Full Metal Jacket**

*Full Metal Jacket* crystallizes the experience of the Vietnam War by following a group of aspiring young men as they endure the trials of basic training in their quest to become Marines, and ultimately, soldiers in the Vietnam War.



## THAYER FACULTY FAVORITES★



### **Black Hawk Down**

An elite team of more than 100 Delta Force soldiers and Army Rangers are dropped into civil war-torn Mogadishu, Somalia, to capture 2 top lieutenants of a renegade warlord. When 2 of the mission's *Black Hawk* helicopters are shot down by enemy forces, U.S. soldiers are faced with a desperate, 15-hour firefight for their lives.

**COL (Ret.) Lee Van Arsdale's thoughts on *Black Hawk Down*:** "It personalizes but doesn't glorify combat. It demonstrates the fact that leadership is a highly personal matter that can only be accomplished up front."

### **A Few Good Men**

Two U.S. Marines are court-martialed and charged with the murder of a fellow Marine. A fast-talking, charming Navy defense attorney must prove this pair innocent and faces an obstacle when a conniving base commander wants the whole affair swept under the carpet.

**BG (Ret.) Richard Gross's takeaways from *A Few Good Men*:** "This film creates opportunities to discuss leadership vis-à-vis morality, ethics, and the law of armed conflict/rules of engagement (my specialty)."

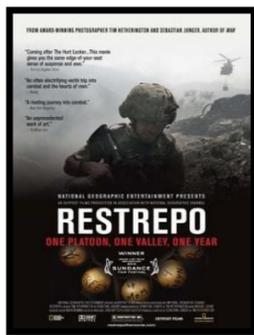


### **Lone Survivor**

In response to the killing of over 20 U.S. Marines, villagers, and refugees, a 4-man Navy Seal unit conducts a counter-insurgent mission in Afghanistan to capture a notorious Taliban leader. Outnumbered and outgunned by Taliban forces, the men fight for their lives as they try to reach their extraction point.

### **Jarhead**

*Jarhead* tells the story of a young man, Anthony Swofford, and his personal experience with the military process. Having malingered through boot camp, Swofford joins the fight as a U.S. Marine sniper at the outbreak of the first Gulf War, while also coping with the possibility of his girlfriend cheating at home while he is away.

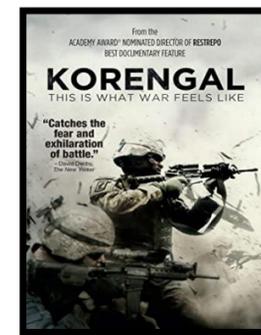


### **Restrepo**

Led by Captain Dan Kearney, Second Platoon, Battle Company, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade sets out to establish an outpost at a key point on Taliban battle routes in Afghanistan over a 15-month period. Named after one of their fallen comrades, *Restrepo* shows the commitment soldiers make to their duty and to one another.

### **Korengal**

Picking up where *Restrepo* left off, *Korengal* takes a deeper dive into the soldiers' experiences of war in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan. Consisting of interviews with soldiers who were stationed at Outpost Restrepo, the film sheds light on what war looks like, how war works and what it means to the young men who fight it.

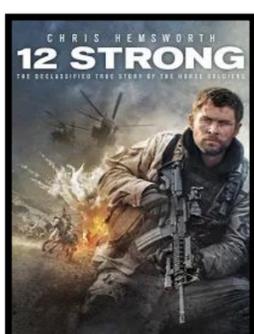


### **American Sniper**

U.S. Navy Seal sniper, Chris Kyle, is sent to Iraq with the sole mission of protecting his brothers-in-arms. After serving 4 tours of duty in Iraq and being known as "Legend" for saving countless lives with his pinpoint accuracy and courage, Chris struggles to leave the war behind upon returning home, taking a toll on his family.

### **Zero Dark Thirty**

Transcribing the lessons of true commitment, resilience, and leadership, *Zero Dark Thirty* captures the decade-long mission of an elite team of intelligence and military operatives working to accomplish one goal- to find and eliminate al-Qaeda terrorist leader, Osama bin Laden, following the September 2001 attacks.



### **12 Strong**

*12 Strong* details the heroic efforts of the 1st Special Forces Group deployed to Afghanistan following the devastating terrorist attacks on 9/11. Under the leadership of a new captain, Mitch Nelson, the team must work with an Afghan warlord to take down the Taliban.

### **13 Hours**

During an attack on the U.S. State Department Special Mission Compound and the Annex, a nearby CIA station, in Benghazi, Libya, a team of 6 American security operators struggles to make sense out of the chaos and fights to protect the Americans stationed there. The film depicts extraordinary acts of courage and what it means to go beyond the call of duty.

