

"Shakey's Hill"-July 24, 2007

The World Affairs Council hosted a special evening on July 24 featuring the award-winning documentary, *Shakey's Hill* produced and directed by Norman Lloyd. The film was introduced by our own member, General Maury Edmonds, who also had a starring role in the film. General Edmonds served in the army for 35 years, including serving in Vietnam twice. He and his wife, Jane, currently reside in Ponte Vedra.

Shakey's Hill is a true story of one group of young Americans who braved the dense jungles of Cambodia in 1970. In the early days of the war, we knew the North Vietnamese were shipping huge quantities of weapons, armament, food and medicine to the Vietcong to supply their troops. These caches of supplies were in Cambodia, but the rules of engagement did not allow U.S. troops to enter Cambodia. The rules were changed for a 60-day window. Maury Edmonds, who was the commanding officer of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry sent his troops in to find the North Vietnamese and to follow the fight until they found the storage sites. A brave young CBS cameraman, Norman Lloyd, went into combat with the men of Bravo Company. He took footage that was aired on the nightly news with Walter Cronkite. Mr. Lloyd retired after 39 years with CBS with nearly every award a photojournalist can win. He then devoted his time and resources into creating this extraordinary documentary.

The film is not about the battle or the war, but rather it is about the soldiers who describe their lives and their experiences. We saw their commitment to each other and felt their sacrifices. The documentary is a blend of the battle itself and the reflection of the experiences by many of the soldiers and their family members some 34 years later. No one left the room after the film without feeling great passion and gratefulness for our servicemen and women who protect us. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the DVD, call 1-866-703-3777 or visit www.commitmentandsacrifice.com.

-Robin Webster