

BRING THEM HOME

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS. A U. S. SENATOR AND A DELTA FORCES SERGEANT SPEARHEAD AN INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY TEAM WHEN HOSTAGES ARE TAKEN IN MODERN DAY AFGHANISTAN BY THE TALIBAN BUT WHEN THEIR OWN LIVES ARE DANGER, THE STAKES ARE HIGH IN A RACE AGAINST TIME AND A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT PLOT TO SAVE LIVES.

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EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY

MONTAGE - JUXTAPOSITION OF AFGHANISTAN

--The Hindu-Kush Mountains.

--Military Soldiers blow up a Taliban Stronghold somewhere outside of Kandahar.

--Muslim shop owners pose outside of their store.

--The aftermath of a suicide car bomber that struck a hotel in Kabul.

--Three children play atop a mountain side near an abandoned helicopter.

END MONTAGE

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY

A large drape of cloth covered by tree branches provide camouflage for a group of individuals: CPT. SMITH, 30's, SFC JOHNS, 30's, SGT. JEFFRIES, 20's, SSG ANDERSON, 30's, SGT. BROWN, 30's, a reconnaissance team that's just finished reporting Taliban activities.

CPT SMITH
(to the group)
Let's pack it up.

SPC JOHNS
That's a roger.

SGT JEFFRIES
You don't have to ask me twice.

SSG ANDERSON
We got everything we need?

CPT SMITH
Yeah.

SGT Brown packs up the tent, places it in his hooch.

SGT BROWN
I got the tent, let's go.

SFC JOHNS
I can't wait to leave this crap hole.

The battle goes on for a few hours.

Being a light recon unit, the ammunition source for the Soldiers is scarce.

CPT Smith shoots at the Taliban soldiers.

CPT SMITH
I got one!

SGT JEFFRIES
They just keep coming.

SFC JOHNS
Intel's burned.

SG ANDERSON
Radios are done!

TALIBAN SOLDIER
(native language)
Keep moving forward.

SG ANDERSON
I can't hit anything.
(to his weapon)
My magazine's done!

SGT BROWN
I can't move my arm.

SFC JOHNS
(to the Taliban Soldiers)
We're screwed!
(then)
Mag's out.

TALIBAN SOLDIER
(native tongue)
Two down. They're out of
ammunition.

SSG ANDERSON
Here they come.

CPT SMITH
My mag's done.

Silence.

Three of the Recon Soldiers remain.

TALIBAN SOLDIER
(in his native tongue)
Take them alive.

CPT SMITH

They got us.

The Recon Soldiers raise their hands in surrender.

The Taliban capture the Soldiers, spit in their faces, knock them to the ground.

TALIBAN SOLDIER

(to the Recon Soldiers)

Get down!

(hitting them in the back
with his weapons)

Get down!

The Taliban soldiers apprehend three Recon Soldiers, tie their hands, blindfold them, force them down the mountainside.

CPT SMITH

You can't get away with this you
son of a bitch.

SFC JOHNS

When our guys find us, it's gonna
be a shit storm.

SSG ANDERSON

Just wait--

A Taliban soldier hits SSG Anderson in the back of his head.

TALIBAN SOLDIER

(in broken English)

Yippee Ki Yay.

CPT SMITH

What the hell do you want with us?

SSG ANDERSON

These guys mean business.

SFC JOHNS

We just need to stay patient 'til
help comes.

EXT. TALIBAN HOLDING CAMP - DAY

The interior of a mountainside serves as a holding camp for the Taliban encased specialized obstacle courses and firing ranges.

THE HOLDING ROOM

The Recon Soldiers are placed in the room and the blindfolds are taken off.

TALIBAN SOLDIER #1
 (to the Recon Soldiers;
 native tongue; violently)
 Move! Move! Hurry. Move!

TALIBAN SOLDIER #2
 (native tongue)
 Strip them down.

In an adjacent room, several U.N. Prisoners are detained.

The other prisoners are: two UN DOCTORS, one MALE TOURIST, one FEMALE TOURIST and an AFGHAN CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR.

The U.N. prisoners have been in the holding camp for about a month now as sweat, tears and stress cover their faces while they fight for their lives in the grip of the Taliban.

The leader of the Taliban group, AHMED, 30's, bearded, militant, dressed in all black, speaks:

AHMED
 Get down! Get down.

Ahmed kicks the recon soldiers.

U.N. MALE PRISONER
 How long will you hold us here?

AHMED
 (native voice: slapping
 the U.N. Male Prisoner)
 Shut Up!

U.N. TRANSLATOR
 We haven't bathed for weeks.

AHMED
 You will get what we have.

Ahmed and his men leave the holding place.

INT. U.S INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

This is the central station for all intelligence and combat forces activity.

Monitors, surveillance equipment, top secret conversations--

this place is straight out of the movies.

INTEL ANALYST
(to the Intel Colonel)
Sir, we have a problem.

The INTEL ANALYST shows the INTEL COLONEL a video recording of the U.N. Prisoners and the Recon Soldiers held captive by the Taliban.

Ahmed, covered in a black mask, speaks:

AHMED (O.S.)
We have the Soldiers and U.N.
doctors.

A blank look covers the Intel Colonel's face.

INTEL ANALYST (O.C.)
What do you want to do, sir?

INTEL COLONEL
Get Washington on the phone.

INTEL ANALYST
Roger that, sir.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

An AIDE, in a navy blue business suit, strolls down the hallowed halls of the White House, flanked by portraits of past Presidents and statesmen, he moves with a purpose to a very important destination.

He enters the Oval Office where the President of the United States, PRESIDENT O'KEEFE, 60's, salt and pepper hair, sits at his desk in a meeting.

The aide drops a file folder on President O'Keefe's desk.

INSERT - STACK OF PHOTOS AND REPORTS ON AFGHANISTAN

The President stops the meeting. Stares at the pictures.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE
It looks like we have a problem.

The AIDE observes the president.

AIDE
What are we dealing with here.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

It looks like we're dealing with an act of terrorism directed against the forces of the United States.

AIDE

What are we gonna do?

INT. THE CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

A meeting takes place headed by the Armed Forces Committee head,

SENATOR JOHN CARTER, 60's, black hair laced with silver streaks, hardened face and as debonair and cunning as James Bond.

SENATOR JOHNSON, 50's, debates Senator Carter.

SENATOR CARTER

...and the current military manpower in the theater of operations can be increased by twenty-five percent to support the increase in combat operations activity...

SENATOR JOHNSON

--Senator, how do you justify these numbers? The American people can't afford to pay for another *twenty-five percent* when we are clearly over budget.

SENATOR CARTER

The manpower will be justified by the budget due to increased insurgent and Taliban activity in the region and the need to save American lives.

SENATOR JOHNSON

Have you ever even served in the Armed Forces, Senator?

SENATOR CARTER

No I haven't.

SENATOR JOHNSON

Have you ever had the pressure of leading a unit into battle in the defense of this great nation?

SENATOR CARTER

No I haven't?

SENATOR JOHNSON

--It plagues me to vote on a budget from a Senator who has never seen the light of the battlefield but seems to be so passionate about the military.

SENATOR CARTER

What's important here is being able to support our troops regardless of my service record. There are higher stakes at play than political banter.

SENATOR FILMORE, 60's interjects--

SENATOR FILMORE

I motion to increase manpower for current operations and theater of operations support.

"Aye's" resonate from the senate floor.

EXT. CAPITOL GARDENS - DAY

Senator Carter meets with a fellow senator,

SENATOR JAMES MCKEE, 50's, senior Senator, trusted friend and advisor. He's nervous about something.

SENATOR MCKEE

John, glad you can make it.

SENATOR CARTER

Wow, your message seemed urgent, did the Nationals win another game?

Senator McKee is deadpan.

SENATOR MCKEE

No.

SENATOR CARTER

Oh.

SENATOR MCKEE

We have an emergency overseas in Afghanistan.

SENATOR CARTER

Oh great, my favorite place.

SENATOR MCKEE

You were hand-picked to go over there and sort it out.

SENATOR CARTER

Really.

SENATOR MCKEE

A few days ago some of our guys were taken hostage by the Taliban. We believe that other international hostages are with the same group.

SENATOR CARTER

Why are you telling me this?

SENATOR MCKEE

We need you to go in there and work with the Afghanistan government to do what you do best: negotiate our hostages out of there. You're the best guy we have.

SENATOR CARTER

That's it.

SENATOR MCKEE

That's it.

SENATOR CARTER

Doesn't seem too hard. Go to Afghanistan--throw on a Superman cape--save the day, great.

SENATOR MCKEE

Look, you are the Armed Forces Vice-Chair, and you want to run for President.

SENATOR CARTER

So do half of the politicians in Washington.

SENATOR MCKEE

But they don't ask for millions in aide to help the troops like you. Nobody in Washington asks for more favors than you and still comes out with his shirt on and his ass intact.

Senator Carter deliberates.

SENATOR MCKEE (CONT'D)
We have to move fast.

SENATOR CARTER
When do I leave.

SENATOR MCKEE
Two days.

SENATOR CARTER
Two days!!

SENATOR MCKEE
These situations are extremely
sensitive so we need to move
quickly.

SENATOR CARTER
Anything else?

SENATOR MCKEE
I have a few contacts over there,
they may be of some help.
(then, handing Senator
Carter a folder)
Here. Look these guys up when you
get over there.

SENATOR CARTER
Contacts.

SENATOR MCKEE
Not the most trustworthy, but they
know their stuff.

SENATOR CARTER
What else?

SENATOR MCKEE
We meet with the President.

SENATOR CARTER
This is getting better by the
minute.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The President and his International Security STAFF meet about
the current hostage situation.

A video shows current and former hostages being beheaded.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE
Senator Carter, glad you could make
it.

SENATOR CARTER
Sir, thank you for having me.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE
As you were told, we're in a
sensitive situation.

SENATOR CARTER
I understand.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE
These incidents are more than
common street kidnappings. They can
have drastic political
consequences.

SENATOR CARTER
I see.

PRESIDENT
Is there a problem with this?

SENATOR CARTER
No problem at all.

PRESIDENT
This will serve as a good mark on
your reputation considering your
political ambitions.

SENATOR CARTER
Yes.

PRESIDENT
We're counting on you John. Get
the hostages out of there. Get 'em
home.

SENATOR CARTER
I'll do my best.

The President gets up and pats Senator Carter on the
shoulder.

PRESIDENT
We know you will.

The meeting convenes and everyone leaves.

BRIEFING ROOM

Senator Carter is at the podium surrounded by several Senators, F.B.I personnel and aides during a special press conference regarding the hostage situation in Afghanistan.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

...and now I would like to introduce the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell headed by Senator John Carter.

The crowd applauds.

SENATOR CARTER

Thank You Mr. President. As head of this sensitive mission, I'm obligated to do my very best to resolve this situation to make sure the hostages are brought home. The Recovery Cell doesn't work, until we work, and see proof, until these Americans come home. Alive. Thank You.

The crowd is quiet.

Senator Carter exits the podium.

A WHITE HOUSE AIDE approaches the podium--

WHITE HOUSE AIDE

Are there any questions?

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Senator Carter's STAFF and his personal Secretary, JANE MOORE, 40's, hustle like mad men and women to get their things together to travel to Afghanistan.

SENATOR CARTER

Get plane tickets for the staff.
Call my wife. Time is limited.

JANE

I'll get right on it.

SENATOR CARTER

And make sure my emails are monitored. And make sure that all meetings are cancelled. And...

JANE
(interrupting)
--John.

Senator Carter looks up.

JANE (CONT'D)
Good luck out there. Don't hurt
anybody.

SENATOR CARTER
I will.

Jane gives a warm smile.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOME - DAY

Senator Carter packs his briefcase and suitcase for his trip to Afghanistan.

His wife,

SHARON CARTER, 50's helps him pack his bags.

SHARON
Of all the politicians in
Washington, why does the President
have to choose my husband?

SENATOR CARTER
Because it is my job to represent
the President in diplomatic matters
and situations involving national
security and the military.

SHARON
(sarcastically)
And this has nothing to do with you
wanting to be President.

SENATOR CARTER
(sarcastically)
Well, maybe.

SHARON
Why can't you take us with you?

Senator Carter grabs Sharon, embraces her.

SENATOR CARTER

Because the President views this as a sensitive mission that has a high level of secrecy and he doesn't want to endanger the mission, or *my* family. Besides, this is going to be an in-and-out deal and I'll be home by the Playoffs... and Kylie's birthday.

SHARON

You always say that.

SENATOR CARTER

I know, but...

SHARON

You said that when you had to go to Iraq and missed Brendan's birthday.

SENATOR CARTER

Well Brendan wasn't pregnant...out of wedlock...by a musician.

SHARON

Hey.

SENATOR CARTER

(annoyed)

We're having this discussion again.

SHARON

(becoming anxious)

We have to have this discussion again. You have responsibilities here with your family.

SENATOR CARTER

(kissing Sharon)

I have pictures. I won't miss a beat.

SHARON

Here by the n.b.a playoffs.

SENATOR CARTER

Here by the n.b.a playoffs.

SHARON

And...

SENATOR CARTER

I will try my best to be here by Kylie's birthday.

SHARON
Is that a promise?

SENATOR CARTER
That's a promise.

All of a sudden, KYLIE, 20's and BRENDAN, 20's, charge into the room followed by a DOG.

KYLIE/BRENDAN
Hey, dad.

SENATOR CARTER
Hey guys.

BRENDAN
I here you're going on a trip.

SENATOR CARTER
That's right.

KYLIE
Where?

SENATOR CARTER
Afghanistan.

KYLIE/BRENDAN
Oh.

BRENDAN
Are you going to make some new peace treaty?

SENATOR CARTER
No, I'm going to negotiate to retrieve hostages.
(beat)
What kind of question is that?

KYLIE
Like Argo?

SENATOR CARTER
Yeah, like Argo.

KYLIE
You gonna be home for my party?

SENATOR CARTER
'Sure will.

BRENDAN
Take care, dad.

SHARON
Your dad needs to finish packing.

KYLIE/BRENDAN
Later.

The kids and the dog exit the room.

Sharon embraces Senator Carter.

SHARON
(in a soft voice)
Make sure you take care over there.
And call me as soon as you can.

Senator Carter finishes packing his briefcase.

SENATOR CARTER
I will.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. PRIVATE AIR STRIP - DAY

Senator Carter and a horde of aides and security force arrive at the airport. They march through the terminals like they own the place.

A private aircraft awaits the team to take them to Afghanistan.

Senator Carter has conversates with one of his top aides.

SENATOR AIDE
When we arrive, we'll meet up with
the British team.

SENATOR CARTER
The Brits?

SENATOR AIDE
They had an ordeal with hostages a
year ago and can help provide
negotiating power and experience.

SENATOR CARTER
Ok.

SENATOR AIDE
It turns out they had several
civilian hostages taken by the
Taliban and had to coordinate a
rescue mission. They managed to
bring two of the hostages home
alive.

SENATOR CARTER
Well, that's good?

SENATOR AIDE
There were twenty hostages taken.

There's an awkward silence between the two.

SENATOR AIDE (CONT'D)
These guys are extreme and are not
afraid of killing a lot of people.

SENATOR CARTER
Well, that's comforting.
(then to himself)
That's really comforting.

Senator Carter and his men exit the terminal and board the jet.

The private jet takes off from the runway and heads to Europe for the connection flight to Afghanistan.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

A town outside of Kabul, Afghanistan. This place is dry, barren and a haven for trouble.

AN AERIAL DRONE

Speeds by and snaps pictures of a designated location--two warehouses with personnel inside--per heat signatures.

A WAREHOUSE

Serves as the site of a kidnapping where local thugs have taken hostages and are holding them for ransom.

PHOTOGRAPHS are sent via satellite to a MONITOR in a SPECIALIZED VEHICLE manned by several DELTA FORCES SOLDIERS.

The specialized vehicle is one of two that speeds along an Afghan open road that belong to a Delta Forces kidnap and rescue team.

SFC ROBERT HERNANDEZ, 40's, rugged, rough, a warrior with a heart of gold and the scruffy beard to prove it, leads the team. He's decked-out in high-tech tactical gear with the rest of his men.

SFC HERNANDEZ

We got imagery. Looks like the hostages are being held in a warehouse down the street.

The imagery shows two warehouses.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)

It's just a matter of which warehouse it is.

THE VEHICLES

Pull up about a block away from the abandoned warehouse complex--a two story two building complex with a series of rooms--used by captors as bedrooms and holding cells designed for kidnappings.

The victims are held upstairs.

One of the team uses advanced binoculars to view the first building, then the second. There are heat signatures in both.

BINOCULARS VIEW with NIGHT OPTICAL DEVICE-GREEN

Capture heat signatures of the victims being harassed by their captors.

There seems to be about ten to fifteen captors; two groups of seven to eight people per warehouse.

DF SOLDIER #1

(to the other Delta Force Soldiers)

We got two groups. One group per warehouse.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Lets split up.

(to the other Delta Force Soldiers)

You guys take the first warehouse, we'll take the second.

The team pulls out specialized weapons.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)

Alright lets move.

NIGHT OPTICAL DEVICE VIEW

A team of DF Soldiers advance in tactical formation to the warehouse buildings--team A to the first warehouse, team B, with SFC Hernandez, to the second warehouse.

A look-out for the kidnapers in warehouse A spots the DF team.

KIDNAPPER#1
(to his partner)
Look!

KIDNAPPER#2
What?

KIDNAPPER#1
There.

The kidnapers in warehouse A notice the DF team.

KIDNAPPER #2
Let's warn the others.

The two bolt down the stairs.

KIDNAPPER #1/KIDNAPPER #2
(in their native tongue)
There are men outside!

The other men jump up in alarm.

Then, all of a sudden.

BOOOM.

THE DOORWAY EXPLODES OPEN!!

DF SOLDIERS
Delta Forces, get down!

The Special Forces men tear into the warehouse with a resounding force.

These guys are like ninjas--smooth, fast, violent.

NIGHT OPTICAL DEVICE VIEW

INTERCUT - TEAM A/TEAM B

WAREHOUSE B

SFC Hernandez commands the rescue in Warehouse B with the second team while communicating with Team A.

SFC Hernandez and Team B approach the second warehouse in tactical formation.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(into his radio to team A)
What's going on in there?

WAREHOUSE A

DF SOLDIER #1
We got five guys.

A Kidnapper comes out of nowhere with a weapon.

The DF team quickly reacts and puts him down.

DF SOLDIER #2
Lets move upstairs.

The DF Team moves upstairs, killing any kidnappers in their way with grace.

The radios go silent.

WAREHOUSE B

SFC HERNANDEZ
(worried, to team A)
What's going on in there?

SFC Hernandez and his team streak through Warehouse B taking down men left and right.

They approach the room where the victims are--nothing.

The "victims" are a set of MANNEQUINS.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Shit!

DF SOLDIER #2
Where the hell are they?

SFC HERNANDEZ
Team, where the hell are you?

WAREHOUSE A

NIGHT OPTICAL DEVICE VISION

DF SOLDIER #1
We're moving upstairs.

The DF team moves up the stairs in tactical formation.

Radios are silent.

They approach the first room--kill two kidnapers.

They approach a third room.

Then...

They see the hostages--in BOMB VESTS.

WAREHOUSE B

SFC HERNANDEZ
(super worried)
What's going on in there?

WAREHOUSE A

DF SOLDIER #1
Oh no.

BOOOOOOOM!!!

An EXPLOSION rocks Afghanistan and shatters the building killing the hostages and the Delta Forces Soldiers.

SFC Hernandez slams his headset, looks in disbelief.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Shit!

INT. SPECIAL FORCES - AFGHANISTAN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Special Forces detachment headquarters in Afghanistan is the training and meeting place for the Delta Forces units.

SFC HERNANDEZ'S LIVING QUARTERS

SFC wakes up in a sudden rush of adrenaline and a pool of sweat.

He can't seem to get the tragic incidents out of his head--his guys getting killed, failure to accomplish the mission.

He sits in a chair, in the middle of the room, stares at the wall but can't see anything but the faces of his fallen comrades dance in his head.

SFC Hernandez weeps into the palms of his hands.

PHONE BOOTH

SFC Hernandez makes a phone call home to his wife,

KATE HERNANDEZ, 30's, brunette.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(to the phone)
Kate. Kate. Its Bob. Pick up.
Kate...

INTERCUT - SFC HERNANDEZ/HERNANDEZ FAMILY HOME

HERNANDEZ FAMILY HOME

The phone rings at the home of SFC Hernandez and Kate Hernandez.

A DOLLY SHOT shows PICTURES and AWARDS given to SFC Hernandez, in high school, in Basic Training, in Special Forces Training with his buddies along with all of his military commendations. This guy is a real American hero.

The answering machine to the family telephone displays SFC Hernandez's voice.

SFC HERNANDEZ (O.S.)
Kate. Kate. Pick up the phone.

In the backyard, Kate entertains friends with the Hernandez couple's two kids playing in the background.

FLASHBACK

-SFC Hernandez makes breakfast with Kate and his two kids.

-SFC Hernandez plays with his kids and dogs.

-SFC Hernandez hugs and kisses his wife.

END FLASHBACK

PHONE BOOTH

SFC Hernandez stands at the phone booth, waits for Kate to

answer, she doesn't.

SFC Hernandez sulks, slams the phone.

A lieutenant appears from the distance.

DF LIEUTENANT
Sergeant First Class Hernandez.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(looking away)
Yeah.

DF LIEUTENANT
Lieutenant Colonel Moore wants to
speak to you, now.

LTC MOORE'S OFFICE

LTC MOORE, 50's, jaggy and stiff, gets ready to brief SFC Hernandez on the current hostage situation involving the Soldiers and U.N. Prisoners.

SFC HERNANDEZ
You asked to see me?

LTC MOORE
We have a new situation in theater.
The Taliban just took several of
our Soldiers and some U.N.
Personnel. The Soldiers were on a
recon mission.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Another hostage holdup.

LTC MOORE
They sent a letter with a video to
headquarters command stating they
want ransom and other demands.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Here we go again.

LTC MOORE
I need you to locate the enemy and
get our guys out of there.

SFC HERNANDEZ
I'll try my best.

LTC MOORE
I know you will.
(beat)
Look...

SFC HERNANDEZ
--No need to give me the same ol'
speech, just tell me where I need
to go.

LTC MOORE
You're are the only...best guy for
the job. We're not expecting these
guys to make it past 96 hours. We
need to move. Get in, get out.

SFC HERNANDEZ
I'll do my best.

LTC MOORE
That's all we're asking.

TRAINING RANGE

A specialized training range consisting of rifle ranges, pistol ranges, Modern Operations for Urban Terrain (MOUT) ranges is set up for Delta Forces Training.

Two Delta Forces STAFF SERGEANTS (SSG) run through a buddy training routine:

STAFF SERGEANT THOMAS, 30's, scruffy, bald head, and

STAFF SERGEANT MORRIS, 30's, bumpy demeanor.

They Staff Sergeants prepare for the pistol range as SFC Hernandez looks on with a New York Yankee Baseball Cap fitted to perfection.

They load their pistols and await the targets to pop up.

SSG THOMAS
How's the family?

SSG MORRIS
The dog is having a tooth removed.

SSG THOMAS
(sarcastically)
I mean the other family.

The two fire at the targets, knock them down with ease, charge to the next pistol station with caution, still able to hold a conversation--

SSG MORRIS
The ol' girl wants to get married.

SSG THOMAS
and...

SG MORRIS
I don't know if I'm ready.

Two more targets pop up, they miss the targets, move to the next station.

SSG THOMAS
Now is the time, my man. Do it while you still can.

SG MORRIS
I know. I know.

Two more targets pop up.

Can't hit 'em.

A BOOTH ANNOUNCER chastises the two as they completely bomb the training.

BOOTH ANNOUNCER
Guys, guys, you're not hitting anything. What are you doing?

The two staff sergeants, dumbfounded return to the start point to reset.

SFC Hernandez approaches the two--no words--grabs his pistol.

Two target silhouettes pop up.

BANG!! BANG!!

SFC Hernandez knocks down the targets with ease.

Two more targets pop up.

BANG!! BANG!!

SFC Hernandez them down--grabs a Carbine rifle.

He holds a clinic on target shooting with the M4.

SSG Thomas and SSG Morris look at SFC Hernandez like two rock and roll groupies waiting for an autograph.

SFC Hernandez is the best at this--period.

BRIEFING ROOM

A special briefing room where there is an assembly of men who gathered to receive a mission briefing.

It's a diverse group.

The best of the best.

CPT BRONSON

O.K., group, we have a hostage situation. They have some of our soldiers and some international personnel. We have to find these guys with limited-to-no casualties.

SFC Hernandez looks on with a serious face.

SSG MORRIS

Sir, how do we find out where they are? We have no information.

CPT BRONSON

We need to conduct clandestine operations utilizing the locals to see if they have any knowledge or whereabouts of any hostages or Taliban holding facilities.

SSG THOMAS

Its like finding a candle in a bowl of hot wax.

CPT BRONSON

We have a general location derived from the last transmission of the recon group. We'll use that as a starting point.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Let the games begin.

An awkward silence lades the room.

CPT BRONSON

Find the hostages, kill the enemy.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Roger that.

CPT BRONSON
SFC Hernandez, I'm counting on you
to make this happen.

SFC HERNANDEZ
I'll have my fingers crossed.

CPT BRONSON
Do more, bring those hostages home.

SFC Hernandez says nothing, just leaves.

PREPARATION AREA

We see SFC HERNANDEZ assemble his Special Forces Group of soldiers, five, in a staggered formation, perform radio checks, equipment checks and pre-mission briefings.

Night optical devices, specialized weapons, bullets and bombs are all over the place.

SSG Morris and SSG Thomas are in the formation.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Staff Sergeant Morris.

SSG MORRIS
Yeah, Sergeant.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Radio Check.

Staff Sergeant Morris conducts a radio check.

SSG MORRIS
Radios good, Sergeant.

SSG THOMAS
Radios are good on my end too,
Sergeant.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(to the formation)
Alright, crew. Lets move out. We
have four days to find the
hostages. After that, we can
believe they're dead, game over!

The Delta Forces soldiers gather their equipment and board the humvees.

SFC Hernandez picks up the vehicle radio and relays a message to the convoy.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
All vehicles, all vehicles move out
to the village.

The rest of the convoy responds to the message.

OTHER VEHICLES
Roger, that.

INT. TALIBAN HOLDING CAMP - DAY

The Recon Soldiers are in a holding camp: drained, defeated and with little hope.

The Taliban celebrate the capture of the hostages with food and drink.

The leader of the recon team look for a way out--but there is none because they're beat and too weak to do anything that requires strength for escape.

The Taliban leader confronts the recon leader, looks him eye-to-eye--it's a battle of good guy versus bad guy.

AHMED
(to the soldier)
You Americans claim that you fight
for freedom but take our families
as your prisoners to mistreat and
torture. What freedom is that?

CPT SMITH
I don't know what you're talking
about.

AHMED
I'm talking about the Abu Grabs and
the Guantanamo Bays.

CPT SMITH
We had nothing to do with that.

AHMED
I know, you're not the problem, but
you will be the solution.

BLACK SCREEN

AHMED (V.O.)

We will not accept defeat. Our demands will be met. We will sacrifice lives in pursuit of our cause or innocents will die.

INT. TALIBAN HOLDING CAMP - DAY

Ahmed enters a separate room where a MAN dressed in a business suit waits. The man, 40's, wears a mustache, sits in a shadow where his identity is concealed.

This man means business but needs to keep things under wraps.

MAN

It's always so good to see you in good spirits, Ahmed.

AHMED

I'm never in good spirits. How can I help you.

MAN

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak to me.

AHMED

It's the least I could do for the man who will help me get my brother back.

MAN

Negotiations with the U.S. government are never easy. Your brother was ruthless, therefore they consider him an extreme threat.

AHMED

I don't care about what the U.S. thinks. I want my brother back.

MAN

We can't just force the U.S. to give him back. This type of work takes diplomacy.

AHMED

Then maybe I should take things into my own hands and do away with diplomacy.

MAN

Killing more people is just going to make things worse. I can assure you, if you do your job, things will work out for you.

AHMED

As in continue to harass the villages so your people can be elected.

MAN

We need total participation by the people.

AHMED

Of course, that will mean more killing.

MAN

Of course.

AHMED

I will do what I can.

MAN

Guantanamo is a tricky situation. I need your support.

A pause.

MAN (CONT'D)

Just....make sure you do what you can.

The Man gets up and walks out of Ahmed's room.

INT. UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN AFGHANISTAN-DAY

A briefing for the Senator Carter team is led by AGENT CONNOR, CIA, 40's, female and fierce as all hell.

The commander of U.S. Army - Afghanistan, GENERAL NATHAN HUNT, 50's, square jaw, bull of a man.

The liaison for British Intelligence, MR. JAMES KINCAD, slender, stern, if he weren't in intelligence you would think that he was a British spy.

Other multinational dignitaries are present as the briefing nears its' end.

AGENT CONNOR

...And that concludes our intelligence preparation briefing. Your team will be assisted by the British Intelligence element already present in Afghanistan and the Afghani Government. Any questions?

SENATOR CARTER

So, we have the full support of our British Allies and the Afghan Government.

(then, sarcastically)

It looks like I'll be home for dinner.

The room laughs.

AGENT CONNOR

You will also be supported by the U.S. Army ODA-D-Delta Forces, and the in theatre Joint Forces Command Center just in case things get a little hairy out there.

SENATOR AIDE

How many total hostages are we looking at?

AGENT CONNOR

We estimate that the Taliban group is holding a total of 8 people, including your guys.

The room is quiet.

AGENT CONNOR (CONT'D)

We are willing to accept an 80% failure rate for the mission to be successful.

There is an even quieter silence.

SENATOR CARTER

Which means if most of those guys don't come back home, the governments are still willing to chalk it up as a win?

There is a mutual contact between Senator Carter and Agent Connor.

A pause.

AGENT CONNOR
That's right.

Silence.

AGENT CONNOR (CONT'D)
Good luck.

Everyone gathers their things and moves out.

INT. AFGHANISTAN CONSULATE - DAY

We enter the Afghanistan Consulate where Afghan military and civilian personnel are busy at work.

An AFGHAN INTELLIGENCE AIDE approaches the Directorate Of Afghanistan Intelligence Representative, AHMED HASAM, 50's, stodgy, dressed in a suit.

Mr. Hasam is the expert in Afghanistan politics and represents the Afghanistan President in diplomatic matters.

AFGHAN AIDE
Sir, the American convoy is here.

HASAM
Let him in.

Senator Carter and his team enter.

HASAM (CONT'D)
Senator Carter, welcome.

SENATOR CARTER
Mr. Hasam, its a pleasure to meet you, too.

HASAM
It is unpleasant for us to meet under such unfortunate circumstances.

SENATOR CARTER
I know. But due to the current situation in your country, our paths have crossed.

HASAM
Well, lets get to work, shall we. What is it that you need us to assist you with.

SENATOR CARTER

We need to find the location of the hostages, their holding facilities and the names and affiliations of the captors.

HASAM

You are asking for a lot. We do not have that information on hand "at the ready", as you Americans say.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, Mr. Hasam, in order to make this mission a success, we need to make sure all hostages are returned home alive.

HASAM

I empathize with your sentiment Mr. Carter.

There is a stand-still between the two.

SENATOR CARTER

I know what the success rate is Mr Hasam. My job is to get the hostages. Nothing more, nothing less.

HASAM

We'll do everything we can to help you, Senator.

SENATOR CARTER

I appreciate your assistance, Mr. Hasam, however, your country has a history of unrest.

HASAM

Government's throughout the world have had problems with unrest; Afghanistan is no different. The United States is no different either. I'm sure you're familiar with Watergate?

SENATOR CARTER

It was an incident that we have to live with for the rest of our lives.

HASAM

Sometimes it is necessary for the support of democracy; such as the taking of lives leads to the birth of new nations.

SENATOR CARTER

Freedom is the foundation for democracy, not death. The United States values the lives of the hostages. We want them returned to their families.

HASAM

Your persistence is admirable. I hope it is enough to bring home your comrades.

(a pause)

What are you willing to do for democracy...your hostages, Mr. Carter?

A pause.

Senator Carter gazes at Mr. Hasam.

SENATOR CARTER

Whatever it takes.

Hasam thinks, he didn't expect Senator Carter to have the courage to say that.

HASAM

The Directorate will do whatever it can to support you in returning the hostages home.

SENATOR CARTER

Thank You.

The two men depart.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Senator Carter speaks to the President to give him an update on his first day in Afghanistan.

INTERCUT - SENATOR CARTER/PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

SENATOR CARTER

I know sir, I'm working with the directorate and the C.I.A to get as much information as I can.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

Well, please, do what you can. We want to end this situation as soon as possible.

SENATOR CARTER

I will.

(pausing)

Sir, is there any way you can get... someone else to do this? I don't think this situation is in my lane.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

Carter, you're the only one that we have right now.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, I...I can't. I mean... I don't know if I can. There is a chance that people will die. This isn't my uh...expertise.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

John, I picked you for a reason. We're counting on you.

SENATOR CARTER

Alright, I'll...I'll just work something out.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

Thanks, John. Remember, we're counting on you to make this happen. You're our guy.

SENATOR CARTER

Will do, sir.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

I know you will.

The President hangs up his phone.

Senator Carter hangs up his phone, looks out of his window and see the Kabul landscape, riddled with fire.

Senator Carter begins to pack his bags.

Then.

A young man, one of Senator Carter's aides, JOSH STRYKER, 30's, former Marine, enters the room.

Josh notices that Senator Carter is packing his bags.

JOSH
Hey, sir. What are you doing?

SENATOR CARTER
I'm getting the hell out of here.

JOSH
You can't do that, I mean...

SENATOR CARTER
Are you telling me what to do?

JOSH
We need you here.

SENATOR CARTER
The world can find another hero.
I'm going home. Make a call to
change the travel arrangements.

JOSH
Wait a minute, wait a minute! You
made a promise.

SENATOR CARTER
Yes, and I'm going to keep it by
staying alive.

JOSH
When I joined the Marines, I made a
promise to uphold the American way
of life and the Constitution--life
or death. Now, I know that you're
not a Marine, but you at least owe
your country a shot at getting
those hostages back.

Senator Carter pauses to think.

SENATOR CARTER
Well, thank you Josh. That means a
lot coming from you.

JOSH
For some of us, its more than just
a call to serve, its a duty to the
nation and our families.

SENATOR CARTER
Josh, I understand. Things like
this can be difficult.

(MORE)

SENATOR CARTER (CONT'D)

These situations require special people...

JOSH

--We need you to save those hostages. You're all we have. If you leave, your running from everyone you swore to protect: the nation, your family...everybody.

Senator Carter is silent, reconsiders.

SENATOR CARTER

I guess we all can't run from the battle.

(then)

If I stay, you have to make me a promise.

JOSH

What?

SENATOR CARTER

If I get the hostages back home alive, you'll give me my very first salute.

JOSH

Really?

SENATOR CARTER

Yeah.

JOSH

Not a problem, sir.

SENATOR CARTER

Thanks.

INT./EXT. SOMEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Senator Carter, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, arrives at a secretive location somewhere in Afghanistan, alone.

Senator Carter approaches the door, he's about to knock but the door opens before he can lift his fist.

As Senator Carter enters the home, a man, ABDUL BASHAR, 50's, greets him.

ABDUL BASHAR

Senator Carter, I didn't think you'd have the guts to come and see me. You do know that we are in the middle of a war.

SENATOR CARTER

Thanks for having me. However, my business requires me to take risks.

ABDUL BASHAR

Surely, but no one wants to see you dead.

(then)

What can I do for you Senator?

SENATOR CARTER

I need names and locations for the hostages that were taken a few days ago.

ABDUL BASHAR

Why don't you just ask me for a pot of gold.

SENATOR CARTER

Look, I don't have much time here. We need to find the hostages--

ABDUL BASHAR

Before they're killed. Mr. Carter, I would get my hopes up. The Taliban are very vicious people.

SENATOR CARTER

Is there anything... names... anything that you can give me?

ABDUL BASHAR

My contact in the Taliban was killed last week, so I am very limited in what I can give you.

SENATOR CARTER

When do you think you will have word on the hostages.

ABDUL BASHAR

Next week.

SENATOR CARTER

A week is too long, I'll be back in two days.

ABDUL BASHAR
Mr. Carter, you really don't need
to come out here.

SENATOR CARTER
I'll do whatever it takes.

ABDUL BASHAR
Very well.

Senator Carter gets up to leave.

ABDUL BASHAR (CONT'D)
Have a good day Mr. Carter.

As Senator Carter leaves, several men in a vehicle approach
Abdul Bashar's house.

ABDUL BASHAR (CONT'D)
Senator, you must go now! Go!

Senator Carter hops in his car and drives off.

The men in vehicles approach Abdul Bashar's home, brandish
their weapons and open fire, pulverize Abdul Bashar.

Abdul Bashar falls dead.

The men then set his home on fire and leave.

Senator Carter looks in shock as his heart sinks.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOTEL - DAY

Senator Carter confers with Agent Connor about his meeting
with Abdul Bashar.

AGENT CONNOR
You could have been killed!

SENATOR CARTER
I had to get to the bottom of this
situation before we lose control.

AGENT CONNOR
We need you alive. It does us no
good to lose you as well.

SENATOR CARTER
We just need another solution,
maybe another contact.

AGENT CONNOR
The Afghanistan Intelligence
Directorate is on top of the job.
They're all we have.

SENATOR CARTER
Well, we'll just have to lean on
the directorate until we can come
up with a better plan.

AGENT CONNOR
I'll make a few calls to see what
else I can dig up.

SENATOR CARTER
Thank you.

Agent Connor leaves the room.

Senator Carter sits and reflects on the events of the day.

INT. AFGHANISTAN LOCALE - DAY

SFC Hernandez meets with an AFGHAN CONTACT in an Afghanistan
village.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Hey, I don't know if you heard,
there were a few hostages taken
about a day or two ago. They were
U.S. Soldiers. Do you know anything
about them?

AFGHAN CONTACT
(joking)
You come to my village and ask
about hostages and not about my
health and well being? Is that any
way to treat a friend?

SFC HERNANDEZ
How is your health?

AFGHAN CONTACT
I am good. And yours?

SFC HERNANDEZ
Good. We have some guys that are
being held by the Taliban. We need
to find them in the next few days.

AFGHAN CONTACT

If there are hostages being held,
it would take me about 48 hours for
me to find out.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Well, have you heard anything?

AFGHAN CONTACT

As of today, I have heard nothing.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Are there any locations, anything
that you can provide?

AFGHAN CONTACT

If there are any hostages anywhere,
the Taliban is going to need a
holding place to put them where
there is not a lot of traffic
bringing unwanted attention.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Any suggestions?

AFGHAN CONTACT

There are a few villages that have
been known to harbor the Taliban.

SFC Hernandez pulls out a map.

INSERT - MAP OF AFGHANISTAN

SFC HERNANDEZ

Can you point them out?

AFGHAN CONTACT

You finding this place is like
walking blindfold in a field of
landmines.

SFC HERNANDEZ

I know.

The Afghan Contact points to the map.

AFGHAN CONTACT

Here... And... Here.

SFC Hernandez circles the points.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Who could possibly be doing this?

AFGHAN CONTACT
Taliban.

SFC HERNANDEZ
What can you give me?

The Afghan Contact pulls out some pictures.

AFGHAN CONTACT
Here.

They're photos of known Taliban who've kidnapped and murdered in the past.

SFC Hernandez stares at the photos.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Thanks, I owe you one.

AFGHAN CONTACT
You owe me much more than one.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Thanks, friend. You know, we could use a translator. Its going to get tough out there.

AFGHAN CONTACT
I could stand to do some travel. But, I am going to have to sit this one out.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Take it easy.

SFC Hernandez pats the man on the soldier.

SFC Hernandez heads outside to the rest of the team.

SSG MORRIS
Got anything good?

SFC HERNANDEZ
Yeah, we got a lead or two.

SGT HALL
I got my fingers crossed, sarge.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Ya' better have all of them crossed. Team out!!

The DF Team packs into the humvees and begins to move out.

Then all of a sudden.

A RECOGNIZABLE FACE

It's one of the guys from the pictures that the Afghan Contact showed him.

SFC Hernandez looks at him, the man looks back, they make eye contact.

The man begins to run.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
(shouting at the man
running)
Hey, hey. Wait a minute.

SFC Hernandez takes off after him through the crowd of people.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Get back here!

The man runs into a five-story building.

SFC Hernandez pulls out his gun and pursues the man into the house, follows him through an open door, up several flights of stairs.

The man bursts into one of the apartment units, SFC Hernandez follows him.

As SFC Hernandez enters, he immediately startles a family sitting for dinner.

SFC Hernandez and the family stare at each other in silence.

A pause.

Silence.

Then.

The man bursts out of the closet and runs into another room.

SFC Hernandez pursues.

The man runs up to the roof, approaches a ledge; there is no where else to go.

SFC Hernandez traps him.

The man looks over the edge--he looks at SFC Hernandez--he looks at the edge.

The man tries to run and jump to the other building--he thinks he can make the jump--he can't.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)

No!

He misses the ledge and falls to his death.

SFC Hernandez looks over the ledge to see the man lying there, motionless.

SFC Hernandez returns to his men.

SSG MORRIS

What happened?

SFC HERNANDEZ

Nothing.

SSG MORRIS

What happened?

SFC HERNANDEZ

Nothing, get in the truck!

Out of nowhere, a few paces down the block...

A MAN WITH A SUICIDE VEST

Walks into a neighboring cafe.

KABOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!!

An explosion rocks the town and sends the crowd into a panic.

Broken glass and dust are everywhere.

Screams of horror and pain crowd the air.

Bloodied bodies and walking victims litter the streets like zombies.

SGT THOMAS

What the hell--

SFC Hernandez stands, gazing, looking in awe at another debasement of innocent lives.

Ambulances, policemen and military personnel rush to the scene.

SFC Hernandez and his men look on as helpless as sheep.

SFC Hernandez is even more pessimistic about the chance of survival for the hostages.

INT. UNDISCLOSED MEETING PLACE - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Agent Connor meets with the "Man in the Suit" who met with Ahmed earlier.

The man's name is IBRAHIM SALEH, 40's, thin build, former intelligence agent under the KHAD (Afghanistan security and intelligence agency).

AGENT CONNOR

Glad you can meet me.

MR. SALEH

This is a matter that needs to be handled in the upmost manner.

AGENT CONNOR

You met with Ahmed?

MR. SALEH

He wants his brother back.

AGENT CONNOR

The U.S. Government will not give Ahmed his brother back without some sort of significant bargaining power...

MR. SALEH

--the hostages, yes. He knows that. But his patience is growing thin.

AGENT CONNOR

Ahmed is all we have. We need the villages under control for the upcoming elections. Lets just--

MR. SALEH

--I have Ahmed under control.

AGENT CONNOR

The government is getting intelligence and funding help from the U.S. and British Government. The relationship among the governments is strong enough where we can have enough airway to leverage the hostages for Ahmed's brother.

MR. SALEH

Foremost, the fate of the government and excessive violence are our top priorities. We need control of the government to make sure that objectives are accomplished.

AGENT CONNOR

And to do that, we need to have control of the vote. To have control of the vote, Ahmed's brother needs to be released from Guantanamo Bay.

MR. SALEH

Senator Carter is our only resource and chance of making this work.

AGENT CONNOR

The villages are our biggest worry and Senator Carter lies in the thick of things.

INT. TALIBAN HOLDING CAMP - DAY

The Taliban are getting restless.

Ahmed and his men beat up and torture the U.S. Soldiers and question them while the U.N. Hostages listen and tremble in fear.

The leader, AHMED, wants something in exchange for the prisoners.

AHMED goes to the Recon leader, CPT. Smith.

AHMED

I see we have you in a bit of a situation here. If you cooperate with us, you will have nothing to worry about.

CPT SMITH

I have no information to give you.

AHMED

Where are the Americans planning to strike next?

CPT SMITH

How should I know? Even if I did, I wouldn't tell you.

The Taliban Soldiers beat the other U.S. Hostages,
interrogate and harass them.

Ahmed looks on.

AHMED
(to the Taliban Soldiers)
Whatever you do, keep them alive.

Ahmed leaves the room with the U.S. Soldiers.

Ahmed enters another room where several Taliban men have a
map on a table planning something.

TALIBAN SOLDIER #1
(to the map)
We can plan strikes
here...and...here...and...here.

Ahmed interrupts.

AHMED
We will attack here and here.

Ahmed points to the U.S. Embassy and a village just outside
of Kabul.

MONTAGE - TARGETS

--Shots of the U.S. Embassy and the village outside of Kabul.

END MONTAGE

AHMED (CONT'D)
We will make our message loud and
clear to the governments that we
will be acknowledged and respected.

Ahmed goes into another room where several Taliban Soldiers
await.

AHMED (CONT'D)
(to one of his guards)
Get the U.N. Doctor.

GUARD
(in his native voice)
Get right on it.

The GUARDS bring the U.N. PRISONER to AHMED.

He is a Caucasian male, blonde, blue eyes.

AHMED

This is the beginning of the end.

Ahmed summons his Guard to get a video camera.

The Guard leaves and returns with a Panasonic minicam.

Ahmed places a black cape over the hostages head.

U.N. PRISONER

Wait. Wait. What did I do? What
did I do?

Ahmed moves face-to-face with the U.N. PRISONER.

AHMED

Nothing. You're just an example.

The Guard begins recording the covered U.N. Prisoner with Ahmed who has placed a black cover over his head.

AHMED (CONT'D)

(To the video camera)
To the United Nations, to the
world.

The U.N. Prisoner is brought into the frame. Terrified.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Here is your U.N. Scientist who we
captured some time ago.

Ahmed throws the prisoner to the ground; he kicks and stomps the prisoner until he barely budges.

Ahmed moves a wooden block from outer camera frame and puts it under the prisoner's head.

He gets a machete from one of the guards, pulls it out, lifts it...

AHMED (CONT'D)

Here is your scientist.

As Ahmed swings the machete towards the head of the prisoner, the camera cuts off.

INT. BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

The inside of the British Intelligence Organization headquarters in Afghanistan.

Personnel scramble around the office, muddle in their

cubicles, try to muster information on the recent hostage crisis.

A BRITISH INTELLIGENCE AIDE approaches James Kincaid.

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE AIDE
Sir, Senator Carter is here to see you.

JAMES KINCAID
Let him in.

Senator Carter enters.

SENATOR CARTER
Mr. Kincaid.

JAMES KINCAID
Mr. Carter.

SENATOR CARTER
So glad to see you.

JAMES KINCAID
The pleasure is mine.

SENATOR CARTER
As you know, we have a mutual interest in getting the hostages back.

JAMES KINCAID
Hostage takers, especially Taliban, have been known to be very violent and stubborn with their demands.

SENATOR CARTER
Stubborn?

JAMES KINCAID
Terrorists and kidnappers typically pursue political demands and if they don't get what they want...

SENATOR CARTER
Well, I expect to bring the hostages home alive.

JAMES KINCAID
We don't need you to be a hero, Senator.

SENATOR CARTER

Tell me something, Mr. Kincaid.
What is it that people like this
want the most?

JAMES KINCAID

Power. Respect. They feel
betrayed by their government, by
society, and express themselves
through violent means.

SENATOR CARTER

How've you been able to succeed in
the past?

JAMES KINCAID

We haven't. We only have word of
one hostage.

SENATOR CARTER

What happened to him.

JAMES KINCAID

We received a video recording of
him sometime ago. We believe he
was taken to Syria.

SENATOR CARTER

Syria?

JAMES KINCAID

Syria is a major trading depot for
slaves and hostages. It looks bad
for the governments when hostages
are taken as slaves so they usually
pronounce them as dead.

SENATOR CARTER

And what about your team on the
ground?

JAMES KINCAID

Last year, they managed to kill one
of the respected leaders of the
Taliban and we've been the victims
of suicide bombings ever since.

SENATOR CARTER

So who are the hostages taken now.
Do you know anything about them?

JAMES KINCAID

Apparently they are scientists and doctors who were on a humanitarian mission to provide medicine and supplies to locals.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, we have to do what we can to get them back.

JAMES KINCAID

Senator, this may be a bit above your pay grade. Your best just may not be good enough.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, we'll just see about that.

Senator Carter gets up and leaves.

James Kincaid makes a phone call.

JAMES KINCAID

Hello. Get me the minister.

(beat)

What minister do you think?

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The President of the United States sits with his aides as he watches a video recording of the beheading of the U.N. hostage.

AHMED (O.S.)

Here is your U.N. scientist. Now, he is sacrifice for the cause.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S LIMOUSINE - DAY

Senator Carter and his aides discuss the hostage situation in the limousine.

SENATOR CARTER

Great. We have the Afghanistan government on our side. We just need to make sure all the pieces are in play.

JOSH

Senator, the Afghan government has been known to fall short in term of assistance to foreign nationals in hostage situations.

SENATOR CARTER

What are you talking about?

JOSH

Senator, the hostage situation panned out the same way in Iraq. The governments made friends with the U.S., gave false promises, then everything fell to pieces.

SENATOR CARTER

Pieces?

JOSH

These governments are not known to be the most trustworthy. People died in Iraq and Afghanistan because we relied too heavily on the "promises" of our *allies*.

SENATOR CARTER

Wow.

JOSH

We need guarantees from the Afghanis that they are on our side.

SENATOR CARTER

I'm sure that won't be a problem. We'll just wheel and deal. I'll have Hasam eating out of my hand.

JOSH

I sure hope so.

SENATOR CARTER

So what next?

SENATOR AIDE

We need to link up with the operations command center. They have information on the area and the situation that's of use to us.

SENATOR CARTER

Ok, so when?

SENATOR AIDE

We meet up tomorrow.

SENATOR CARTER

This is becoming a lot more interesting than I anticipated.

JOSH

It's a little harder than coaching your kids' little league baseball game.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, lets get moving. We have people to meet.

JOSH

I'll set the appointment.

SENATOR CARTER

Also, call Senator McKee and ask him to do some research on the Afghanistan National Directorate of Security, the C.I.A.'s involvement in Afghanistan, and the British involvement in Afghanistan. I think there is something that is missing from this equation; something that the other parties aren't telling me.

JOSH

I'll get right on it.

SENATOR CARTER

Anything else?

JOSH

That should be it. I'll get on the phone right now.

Josh gets on the phone and starts to make phone calls, makes contact with Senator McKee--

JOSH (CONT'D)

Sir, Senator McKee needs to speak to you.

SENATOR CARTER

(to Josh)

Give me the phone.

(then, into the phone)

Yes, Bob.

INTERCUT - SENATOR CARTER/SENATOR MCKEE

SENATOR MCKEE

How are things over there?

SENATOR CARTER

Things are going swell. The others aren't too optimistic about getting the hostages back.

SENATOR MCKEE (O.S.)

Well we can't have that.

SENATOR CARTER

Look, I need you to find out what you can about the Taliban, the National Directorate of Security, the C.I.A., anything else you can get your hands on regarding Afghanistan.

SENATOR MCKEE

Got it. So, you think there is something going on that somebody doesn't want us to know about?

SENATOR CARTER (O.S.)

Exactly.

SENATOR MCKEE

Well, regardless of what happens, the U.S. Government's policy is that we do not negotiate with terrorists. The only bargaining chip is increased funding.

SENATOR CARTER

Yeah, I know, but it seems that someone wants to turn the table on this one.

(beat)

Just do what you can.

SENATOR MCKEE (O.S.)

I'll get right on it.

(beat)

You take it easy over there.

SENATOR CARTER

Will do.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The President and his men look onto the video screen as if they are watching a wrestling match.

They flinch upon seeing the beheading of the U.N. Hostage.

PRESIDENT

My God.

PRESIDENT AIDE

I'll get the envoy team on the phone.

PRESIDENT

Get them. Get them now.

PRESIDENT AIDE

Yes, sir.

The focus zooms into the President's eyes.

EXT. CAPITOL HILL STEPS - DAY

Senator McKee speaks to another Senator,

SENATOR BENJAMIN JOHNSON, 50's, California Senator.

SENATOR MCKEE

Ben, tell me, what did you learn from your trip to Afghanistan back in 1995.

SENATOR JOHNSON

That whole country is a hall of mirrors. Everybody is trying to stab everybody else in the back.

SENATOR MCKEE

What do you know about the National Directorate of Intelligence? The C.I.A. in Afghanistan and the British?

SENATOR JOHNSON

It's a big magic trick, a shit show. You don't know the good guys from the bad guys. It's a political Russian Roulette.

SENATOR MCKEE

Tell me more.

SENATOR JOHNSON

Bob, come on. What's going on here? What are you haggling me for?

SENATOR MCKEE

I have a friend over there who could be in some hot water if we don't map things out. I smell a rat and I don't want my buddy to get caught in the trap.

SENATOR JOHNSON

A few years back, after I left, there was an attempt on the Afghanistan President's life. It turns out that one of the President's aides was behind the effort. The Taliban isn't the force you think it is.

SENATOR MCKEE

Meaning what?

SENATOR JOHNSON

Meaning, that the Taliban used to be funded by corrupt Afghan politicians battling for the top spot. The Taliban is used as a bunch of henchmen to execute some corrupt politician's needs.

SENATOR MCKEE

And the C.I.A.?

SENATOR JOHNSON

The C.I.A. is just there to do whatever it takes to make sure that the Afghanistan government is on our side, no matter who is in office.

SENATOR MCKEE

The C.I.A. and Afghanistan Intelligence are in partnership to turn the tables on the government. So, what would the British have to do with this?

SENATOR JOHNSON

Blackmail.

SENATOR MCKEE

Blackmail?

SENATOR JOHNSON

The British are just a pawn on a world chess board that terrorists use to achieve their means and get international attention.

SENATOR MCKEE

(interrupting)

Hey Ben, I gotta go. I need to talk to some people. I'll catch you later.

SENATOR JOHNSON

Hey Bob, we're still on for next Sunday...golf, right?

SENATOR MCKEE

Yeah...yeah, right. See you next Sunday.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN LOCALE - DAY

SFC Hernandez and his team reach the first village. The village looks like a ghost town, the people are spooked with glum looks on their faces.

The Special Forces team gets out of their humvees.

They pull 360 degree security.

SFC Hernandez approaches a MALE AFGHAN VILLAGER.

SFC HERNANDEZ

(in the Afghani language)
Hello. Hello. I'm looking for men who want your child.

MALE AFGHAN VILLAGER

(in native Afghani language)
I have seen no men.

SFC HERNANDEZ

We need to find these men.
(He uses his hand and fingers to illustrate a group of men).
They have our people in their hands.

SFC HERNANDEZ looks over and sees the women and children with long looks of fear on their faces.

The Afghan man says one thing, but the looks of the women and children say another--there were Taliban present in the village.

FLASHBACK

--The Taliban harass the village.

--They line up a group of men then shoot them dead in front of the rest of the villagers.

--The Taliban beat up the other men.

--They set houses on fire.

END FLASHBACK

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Please help us. We can save your village.

MALE AFGHAN VILLAGER
(in his Afghani language)
There are no men here. We have seen no men.

SFC HERNANDEZ
We can help you. We can help you. Just let us. Where are the men?

MALE AFGHAN VILLAGER
No men. No men. That's all.

SFC Hernandez just looks at the man; he knows there were men in the village.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(to his men)
Let's move out. There were no men here.

SSG MORRIS
SFC Hernandez, are you going to buy this? Make them talk.

SFC HERNANDEZ
There were no men here.

SSG MORRIS
What? That's bullshit. We need to make them talk.
(then, to the male Afghan villager)
Where-are-the-men?

MALE AFGHAN VILLAGER
 (in his native language)
 Ne. Ne.

SFC Hernandez grabs SSG Morris and sets him straight.

SFC HERNANDEZ
 There is nothing here. You got
 that. There is nothing here!!!

SSG Morris doesn't want to give up but he knows that SFC Hernandez has ordered him to move on.

SSG MORRIS
 Roger that, sergeant!

SFC HERNANDEZ
 Alright, then move out. Move out!!

SSG Morris moves back to his vehicle.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
 Peace be unto you. Thank You.

SFC Hernandez gets into his vehicle, looks at the Male Afghan Villager, they make eye contact.

SFC Hernandez's vehicle prepares to pull off.

The Male Afghan Villager looks behind.

Then.

A SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE

Is at a stand off at the end of the pass.

The DF team notices the car.

Silence.

The car moves toward the DF team.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
 (holding up his hand in a
 halt position)
 Halt! Wait!

The vehicle continues toward the team.

SG THOMAS
 Stop your vehicle!

SSG MORRIS
 Stop your vehicle!

SFC HERNANDEZ
We will shoot!

SG MILLER
Stop your vehicle!

The vehicle inches toward the DF team,
Then.

A HAILSTORM OF BULLETS litter the vehicle.

The DF team fires on the vehicle, stopping it in motion.

BOMBERS VEHICLE

The man in the vehicle detonates the explosive device to set off the VBIED.

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!!

The DF team and the village is shell shocked.

INT. UNDISCLOSED WAREHOUSE - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Several men, special forces operatives, hold an Afghan man, covered in blood and sweat, captive.

He's chained to the ceiling and the ground, beaten, being questioned by the men.

The door knocks.

A SPECIAL OPERATIONS SOLDIER answers the door.

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER

Yeah.

The Special Operations Soldier looks through the peephole then opens the door to see...SFC Hernandez and his team.

This is a very informal questioning of a PRISONER--a man suspected of having close ties to the Taliban.

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Welcome.

SFC HERNANDEZ

What were you able to get out of him?

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER

Nothing. We just started.

SFC Hernandez walks over to the man, pulls him by his hair and looks him in the face.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Do you know anything, anything
about a group of people being held
by the Taliban?

The prisoner makes slow, intimate contact with SFC Hernandez.

PRISONER
This is Afghanistan.

SFC Hernandez lets his head back down, walks away.

The Special Forces Soldier begins to beat the prisoner.

SFC Hernandez walks to the prisoner, kneels in front of him.

SFC HERNANDEZ
I know you know where they are,
don't you? DON'T YOU?

The Prisoner is silent.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
You don't want to talk to me?

The Prisoner glances up.

PRISONER
Ahmed.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Who?

PRISONER
Ahmed. His brother was taken by
the U.S..

SFC HERNANDEZ
Where are the people, the hostages?

PRISONER
I don't know.

SFC HERNANDEZ
WHERE ARE THEY??

PRISONER
I DON'T KNOW! His name is Ahmed.

SFC Hernandez lets him go.

SFC Hernandez walks over to the Special Operations Soldier.

SFC HERNANDEZ

The guy has only a limited amount of information. Where did you get him?

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER

We picked him up outside of a local village trying to smuggle slaves and weapons.

SFC HERNANDEZ

What else you got?

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER

Nothing. This is it.

SFC HERNANDEZ

We only have two days left.

SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER

These things get a little tight near the deadline. Good luck.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Yeah thanks.

SFC Hernandez and the DF team leave.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN LOCALE - DAY

Ahmed and his group of men pull up to an Afghanistan village.

His men jump out of their vehicles, stand in a linear formation while Ahmed sits in his vehicle--they stare at the villagers.

Ahmed gives the command to open fire--it's a massacre for the ages courtesy of Ahmed.

EXT. BRITISH EMBASSY - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

A PAIR OF MEN rollup in a rusty, shady-looking cargo van pull up to the British Embassy in Afghanistan--they belong to Ahmed's group.

The man in the passenger side has on a suicide vest and carries a briefcase packed with explosives.

The man in the driver seat calls Ahmed.

Ahmed gives the man the go ahead to proceed with the mission.

The man in the driver seat motions to the other man to proceed.

The other man jumps out of the van with the briefcase and approaches the entrance of the British Embassy and is stopped by security to be checked--they ask to see the briefcase.

The man just stares at them.

KABOOOOMMM!!!

The man detonates his vest and briefcase in the embassy.

The inside and outside of the British Embassy are scattered in confusion.

AHMED looks at the chaos he has caused.

INT. U.S. INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Business as usual at the intelligence hub.

General Hunt and Agent Connor converse about all matters Afghanistan.

Then.

An analyst approaches Agent Connor.

INTEL ANALYST
Ms. Connor.

AGENT CONNOR
What is it?

INTEL ANALYST
Telephone, line one.

Agent Connor pauses a moment, she picks up the phone.

AGENT CONNOR
This is Agent Connor.
(then)
Yes.
(then, a pause)
Yes. Very well.

Agent Connor hangs up, stunned, but not surprised.

It's almost as if she knew this was going to happen.

GENERAL HUNT

What is it?

AGENT CONNOR

The British Embassy was just
attacked by a suicide bomber.

The room stiffens.

Agent Connor picks up the telephone and begins to dial.

AGENT CONNOR (CONT'D)

Hello. Yes, get me the President
please.

INT. BRITISH EMBASSY - DAY

British Intelligence analysts and personnel scramble like mad
men.

An Analyst bursts into James Kincaid's office--

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Mr. Kincaid.

JAMES KINCAID

What is it?

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Sir, I just got word that the
Embassy was attacked by a suicide
bomber.

James Kincaid takes this in.

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ANALYST (CONT'D)

What do you want me to do?

JAMES KINCAID

Nothing. Nothing. Just get as much
intel as you can. Thanks.

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Will do.

The analyst leaves.

James Kincaid gets on the phone, dials.

JAMES KINCAID

Yes, get me the minister.
(pause)

(MORE)

JAMES KINCAID (CONT'D)
What minister do you think, Hasam,
get me Hasam.

James Kincaid is transferred to Hasam.

INT. GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

The headquarters for the National Directorate of Security.

HASAM
This is Hasam.

JAMES KINCAID (O.S.)
I want to strike a deal.

HASAM
Mr. Kincaid, there is no deal to be
made, no negotiations, the demands
have been made.

JAMES KINCAID (O.S.)
You said that there will be no more
killings...no more bombings.

HASAM
That's what I said, but the will
and words of other people is a
different story. When the people
speak, I listen.

JAMES KINCAID
Listen? Look, if this situation
hits the international news, it is
going to be a hell storm that we
are going to have to clean up. We
need to get as many of those
hostages out of there as possible,
now.

HASAM
You know what is necessary. Get
Ahmed's brother or face the
consequences.

JAMES KINCAID
And how do I do that? I have no
reach into the U.S. Government.

HASAM
Our friend Senator Carter can work
this situation to turn out the way
we want it to.

(MORE)

HASAM (CONT'D)

He is the only person that can tie the ends together to get the hostages home safe.

JAMES KINCAID

You want me to use Senator Carter?

HASAM

The future of the hostages is in your hands now Mr. Kincaid.

A pause.

JAMES KINCAID

I see.

HASAM

I'm sure you will Mr. Kincaid.

JAMES KINCAID

Very well.

James Kincaid hangs up.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Senator Carter speaks to Senator McKee over the telephone.

INTERCUT - SENATOR CARTER/SENATOR MCKEE

SENATOR CARTER

...run that by me again.

SENATOR MCKEE

I said that the Taliban were funded by the Afghanistan government years ago and the C.I.A along with the British Intelligence Agency provided additional funding and military training.

SENATOR CARTER

You gotta be kidding me. The Taliban were funded by the government, the C.I.A. and the British?

SENATOR MCKEE

No kidding, John. Its one big musical chairs and you're the one left standing.

(MORE)

SENATOR MCKEE (CONT'D)

It turns out back in 2000, the government changed face and stopped funding the Taliban which caused numerous assassination attempts.

SENATOR CARTER

Assassination attempts?

FLASHBACK

INT. AFGHANISTAN MILITARY PARADE - DAY

The President of Afghanistan attends a parade in Kabul. It's bright and sunny with a dense crowd of men, women and children who came to celebrate the legacy of their leader.

THROUGH BINOCULARS VIEW

--The President and his staff ride in a convertible during a motorcade parade through Kabul.

--A Taliban assassin prepares a rocket launcher to fire at the motorcade from a nearby rooftop.

--The assassin fires, misses the motorcade and hits the first vehicle.

--The security spots the assassin and points to him.

--The assassin flees.

END FLASHBACK

SENATOR MCKEE (V.O.)

This current president is no stranger to someone trying to kill him. Its a little "I Love You" from the Taliban once a year.

SENATOR MCKEE

These Directorate of Intelligence guys have been supporting the takeover of the government for a very long time. This hostage situation is a pawn in their political chess match.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, we can't have that now, can we?

SENATOR MCKEE (V.O.)
You tell me.

SENATOR CARTER
Thanks, Bob. Keep chipping away at
this. I need all of the
information I can get.

The two men hang up.

Then.

Josh Stryker enters the room.

JOSH
Sir, I....

SENATOR CARTER
--Josh.

JOSH
Yes, sir.

SENATOR CARTER
Get Mr. Hasam on the phone. I need
to speak to him about some
outstanding issues.

JOSH
Yes, sir. Get right on it.

Josh leaves to make the phone calls.

INT. AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY - DAY

Senator Carter has arranged a second meeting with Hasam.

HASAM
Senator, we meet again.

SENATOR CARTER
Yes.

HASAM
How may I help you?

SENATOR CARTER
Well, lets get to the point. I know
about your past involvement with
the Taliban which gives me reason
to believe that there is a current
coup to make political gains using
the hostages.

HASAM

What do you mean?

SENATOR CARTER

Mr. Hasam my team needs to know where those hostages are, now! We cannot wait another minute or even a second. Lives are being lost and we need to act now.

HASAM

Mr. Carter, take a seat, tell me about yourself, your family.

SENATOR CARTER

I don't have the time and I am starting to lose my patience with this whole operation. I need you to do whatever you have to do to get me the location so I can get them out of there safe and alive.

HASAM

Mr. Carter my team is doing the best that they can. I assure you. Please, sit down.

SENATOR CARTER

Mr. Hasam, we just saw a hostage get murdered making us look like a bunch of fools on international television.

HASAM

Senator, for us to give you what you want requires a lot of commitment from both of us.

SENATOR CARTER

I don't know what kind of plan you, or the C.I.A. or the British have going on here, but I don't want to be a part of it.

HASAM

Mr. Carter, please calm down.

SENATOR CARTER

Mr. Hasam I am not one to play into yours or any other type of corrupt game you may be running here.

HASAM

Well, Mr. Carter my sources have done some research and it seems that you are no stranger to corruption either.

(then, referring to his folder)

It seems that some time ago you were in the middle of quite a scandal involving one of your interns.

SENATOR CARTER

Where did you get that information?

HASAM

You had an affair with her and it raised quite a few eyebrows.

SENATOR CARTER

That has nothing to do with this.

HASAM

She was later found dead...suicide. She overdosed on prescriptions. The story never made the mainstream press. Bravo, Mr. Carter, it must have been really hard for you to deal with but I guess you used your negotiating skills to make sure things smoothed over, bravo.

A moment of silence.

SENATOR CARTER

This operation is one big goose chase and I am tired of running. If you want to continue with the good relations of the United States I suggest that you reconsider your position on this matter.

HASAM

Do you think you can come in here like some Western Cowboy and scream at me? Nothing is for free, Mr. Carter, not even freedom.

SENATOR CARTER

This is nothing like a western.

HASAM

My intelligence team has done some investigating.

(MORE)

HASAM (CONT'D)

The leader of the Taliban that are holding your hostages, he is named Ahmed.

SENATOR CARTER

Ahmed.

HASAM

It seems that Ahmed is threatening to kill the current hostages and take even more if his demands are not met.

SENATOR CARTER

What are his demands?

HASAM

Our intelligence suggests that his brother was taken by U.S. and NATO forces some time ago and believes, although his brother was responsible for several bombings, his treatment while a prisoner was inhumane.

SENATOR CARTER

He wants his brother, a known terrorist, back?

HASAM

Exactly.

SENATOR CARTER

The United States does not negotiate with terrorists.

HASAM

That seems to be your Western doctrine for dealing with things of this nature. This is why you must respect Afghanistan.

SENATOR CARTER

That is why we need to get the locations of the hostages before Ahmed decides to kill more.

HASAM

It seems that the lives of the hostages are in your hands.

Mr. Hasam gets up to escort Senator Carter to the door.

HASAM (CONT'D)
Good Day Senator.

SENATOR CARTER
Good Day.

Senator Carter exits the room.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S LIMOUSINE - DAY

Senator Carter and his aides have left the meeting with Mr. Hasam and are headed back to their hotel.

JOSH
What went on in there?

SENATOR CARTER
Nothing, just setting the stage for
a release of the hostages.

JOSH
Oh, really.

SENATOR CARTER
It seems our friend Mr. Hasam wants
to play on his own terms, but
failed to realize that the ball is
in our court.

JOSH
So what did you say to him?

SENATOR CARTER
I told him that had better rethink
his position.

JOSH
Those are some pretty tough words,
you think he's going to go for
that?

All of a sudden, as the Senator and his aides have a discussion of the meeting, a CAR, dusty, blue Toyota, creeps up alongside the limousine.

THE DRIVER

In the car wears a mustache and looks super suspicious.

Then, another car pulls up alongside the opposite side of the convoy--this feels mighty strange.

SENATOR CARTER
(looking at the car
pulling up on his side)
Do you recognize these cars?

JOSH
No.

SENATOR CARTER
They look mighty strange.

JOSH
No, I--

THE CAR ON THE AIDES SIDE

Speeds ahead of the convoy, pulls to the side of the first vehicle and then DETONATES.

The convoy is surprised.

All hell is breaking loose.

MORE CARS pull up in a formation.

THE SECOND CAR pulls up to the convoy and detonates.

Senator Carter's limousine is side swiped by another car.

The security guards return fire.

The convoy races to find a safe zone but is pursued by more cars.

Another car pushes next to Senator Carter's limousine, the driver swipes him and the car is deterred into parked cars and flips over.

Another car races to the front of the convoy, blows itself up.

THE EXPLOSION flips Senator Carter's car over.

The passengers are hurt inside.

Josh is severely hurt and unconscious.

The convoy stops, exchanges fire with the bombers.

THE FINAL CAR crashes into a wall like a Kamikaze soldier and blows himself up.

It's not over yet.

Two more cars come, this time ablaze with automatic fire at the convoy shooting at the limousine.

Security guards exchange fire.

Senator Carter manages to escape the limousine and take cover just before--

A ROCKET is fired at the limousine; the limousine explodes.

The exchange of fire is deafening.

Senator Carter notices a truck--he hops in.

He BOLTS the truck towards one of the attack cars and crashes into it killing the passengers.

The other attackers are killed by security guards.

Senator Carter crawls out of the truck bloody and bruised.

A security guard runs over to Senator Carter.

SECURITY GUARD
Are you alright, sir.

SENATOR CARTER
Yeah.

Senator Carter looks over to his limousine in flames with the bodies of his comrades.

Senator Carter walks over to Josh's body--dead.

INT. AFGHANISTAN HOSPITAL - DAY

Bruised and bloodied, Senator Carter is getting patched up by a local nurse.

Agent Connor enters.

AGENT CONNOR
Senator, I heard about what happened. Is everything OK?

SENATOR CARTER
I'm not sure. Everything happened so fast.

Senator Carter tries to move his arm but he's in pain.

SENATOR CARTER (CONT'D)
Ouch.

AGENT CONNOR

Hey. Relax. You have been through a lot.

SENATOR CARTER

Well, this mission is turning out to be a lot more than I expected.

AGENT CONNOR

I know. These negotiations don't always turn out where everybody leaves intact.

SENATOR CARTER

So I heard.

AGENT CONNOR

You heard what?

SENATOR CARTER

Well, I got some information about Ahmed and that he was supported by the Directorate of Intelligence, the British and...you guys, the C.I.A..

AGENT CONNOR

Look, Senator Carter...

SENATOR CARTER

--No need to explain, I'm a politician.

AGENT CONNOR

The nation needs to be sure that we have the support of the government, no matter who is running it, hostages come at a lower priority.

SENATOR CARTER

Which makes them expendable.

AGENT CONNOR

Somewhat, yes. Its more important to save as many lives as we can.

SENATOR CARTER

Oh, I understand very well.

A NURSE enters.

NURSE

Senator Carter, your wife is on the phone.

SENATOR CARTER

Tell her I'll call her back later.

The NURSE leaves.

AGENT CONNOR

Senator Carter, you are doing a brave thing. We just need you to hang in there, we're making progress.

(changing the subject)

So how are things going with Hasam?

SENATOR CARTER

Well they came and they went. We had a little debate over Afghanistan-U.S. Politics.

AGENT CONNOR

The Afghanistan government has a strong opinion on politics and how things are accomplished.

SENATOR CARTER

Well this foreign policy is a lot more than I expected.

AGENT CONNOR

So what transpired in the meeting.

SENATOR CARTER

It turns out that Hasam has his own agenda and wants us to help him in order to get the hostages out.

AGENT CONNOR

Which is?

SENATOR CARTER

It turns out that our ring leader, Ahmed, is taking hostages and plans to kill them and take even more if his demands aren't met, which includes the return of his brother who the U.S/NATO Forces took prisoner some time ago.

AGENT CONNOR

We have been working the issue for some time now.

Senator Carter is shocked with disbelief.

SENATOR CARTER

Some time? You mean we have been going on a wild goose chase when we could have ended this a long time ago?

Senator Carter gets upset.

AGENT CONNOR

Senator, Ahmed's brother is a known terrorist. We can't just set him loose to commit more bombings.

SENATOR CARTER

So we just sit and wait with no real expectation of getting the hostages out of there?

There is a long pause.

AGENT CONNOR

If we let Ahmed's brother go, it may look like a bigger public relations disaster for the U.S. if he strikes again--even worse if we have another 9/11.

SENATOR CARTER

I see. So we roll the dice in hopes that we can find the hostages and get Ahmed before someone else dies.

AGENT CONNOR

That's right.

An ASSISTANT barges into the room.

ASSISTANT

Agent Connor, you need to turn on the t.v.

Agent Connor turns on the t.v..

There's a newscast on the television, it's a report of another suicide bombing at the Afghanistan embassy.

NEWSCAST (O.S.)

Today, at the Afghanistan Embassy a suicide bomber entered and detonated a device that killed several NATO service members. The identities of those involved have not been made known at this time.

(MORE)

NEWSCAST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

There have been no known suspects
in the bombings.

The newscast continues to play in the background.

AGENT CONNOR

It's Ahmed.

SENATOR CARTER

My God.

AGENT CONNOR

He won't stop until he gets his
brother back.

SENATOR CARTER

And then what.

AGENT CONNOR

He will just continue killing
innocents.

SENATOR CARTER

We need to find a way to get the
location of the hostages, now.

AGENT CONNOR

We know what we need to do.

SENATOR CARTER

I will set up one more meeting with
Mr. Hasam. This time I will meet
his demands.

AGENT CONNOR

Which are?

SENATOR CARTER

(sarcastically)
Drink some tea.

INT. CHINOOK - DAY

SFC Hernandez and his team are onboard a chinook ready to do
an air jump into their next point of interest.

SFC HERNANDEZ

(to the team)

This is supposed to be our next
point.

(pointing to the map)

Right here is where they are
supposed to be.

SSG THOMAS
It's smack dab in the middle of
Afghanistan.

SSG MORRIS
Smack dab in the middle of Taliban
country.

SFC HERNANDEZ
This is the last point. After
this, we got nothing.

The team is silent.

AIR CREW OPERATOR
Hey lets go! We're at the site.
Your vehicles have been dropped
ahead of time.

The DF team gears up and approaches the dropping bay.

The DF team drops out.

SERIES OF SHOTS - SFC HERNANDEZ AND THE DF TEAM

The DF team falls like tear drops in the sky.

The DF team lands at the drop site and uncovers a set of
vehicles.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN LOCALE - DAY

SFC Hernandez and his team are on the way to the new target.

He radios his team.

SFC HERNANDEZ
OK team we're on route to the
target. Lets maintain good noise
and radio discipline.

DF TEAM
(simultaneously)
Roger that.

The team arrives to the new target location.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(to his driver)
Alright, we're here. Let's go.

The team gets out of their vehicles.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Lets move smooth and fast.

LOCAL VILLAGERS

Look at the team. They've never seen this type of activity in their village.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Yella, yella....

SSG MORRIS
(in the Afghan language)
Have you seen the American men?

The villagers look stunned.

Tension is in the air.

There is an essence in the air that there've been terrorists, Taliban, in the area who have threatened the villagers.

VILLAGER
(in his native Afghan
language)
No, no Taliban here.

The woman of the village are terrified.

VILLAGER (CONT'D)
Please go. Leave our home. Go now!

SFC Hernandez knows that there has been Taliban there.

He can smell 'em!

He just needs to get the location from the villagers.

A MALE VILLAGER with a SMALL BOY approaches SFC Hernandez.

MALE VILLAGER
(in Pashto)
My boy. My boy knows some
information about some guys who
tell of foreign prisoners.

Then, there's a SMALL EXPLOSION.

The male villager and the small boy scramble away.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(in Pashto)
Wait, wait! We want to talk to you.
We want to talk to you.

The villagers begin to scramble into their homes.

There is an awkward calm in the village.

All of a sudden, out of nowhere.

ROUNDS are being shot at the DF team.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Team, run to cover.

BULLETS

Buzz by the heads and bodies of the team, barely missing some and hitting villagers.

SSG MORRIS
Where the hell are they coming
from?

SSG Thomas places a call to higher headquarters.

SGT THOMAS
Fox-One this is Dragon. We are
under attack, over.

No success.

All hell is breaking lose as the DF guys run for cover.

The team is trapped a FIRE FIGHT.

They fire back.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Alright, team lets regroup and make
contact. Go, go!

The team regroups and fires in the direction of the Taliban.

A FIERCE BATTLE between the SF team and the Taliban
insurgents ensue.

The battle is chaos at its finest as men run for cover.

The villagers are no where to be found.

The SF group is overwhelmed by RPG's AND BULLETS.

Then all of a sudden, there is no fire.

All is silent.

There is no more gun fire from the Taliban.

Silence.

Stillness.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Team, where are you?

The team gives the whereabouts of their location.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Team, rally on me.

An SF Soldier calls the team from his location.

SGT THOMAS
(over the radio)
Team, team.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(over the radio)
What is it?

SF SOLDIER #1
(over the radio)
I got something here. You gotta
come see this.

SFC HERNANDEZ
(over the radio)
I'm on my way.

The team moves to the location of the DF Soldier.

The DF Soldier huddles over a little boy who was hit by a
bullet in the chest.

It's the boy who was with the male villager; the boy who had
the information.

SGT THOMAS
He got hit in the crossfire.

SFC HERNANDEZ
We have to save him.
(to the DF Team)
Quick lets get him into one of the
houses to get the bullet out, lets
go.

The DF soldiers grab the boy, move him out of the location.

SFC Hernandez heads to an Afghan house with a door cracked
open.

SFC Hernandez enters the house.

The DF team follows him into the house and they form an assembly point.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
 (to SGT Thomas)
 You. Call into headquarters and let
 them know what happened, Hurry!

The team circles around SFC Hernandez. Everyone's as quiet as a mouse.

The radio operator calls into headquarters to provides a status report.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
 We have to open him up.

The DF Soldiers rush to open the boy's shirt.

BLOOD is everywhere.

The boy is barely conscious.

SSG MORRIS
 What do we do?

SFC HERNANDEZ
 Give me the Gerber.
 (noticing some clothes in
 the house)
 Give me those rags!

A DF Soldier races to get the rags.

SSG MORRIS
 Here.

SFC HERNANDEZ
 Ok.

The Soldiers perform surgery to remove the bullet.

All is quiet.

SFC Hernandez does the best he can but can't seem to pull the bullet out.

SGT THOMAS
 He's going into shock.

SSG MORRIS
 We're losing his pulse.

SFC HERNANDEZ
I'm doing the best I can.

SGT THOMAS
We're losing him....

The owner of the house and his family look on with concern and silence.

Everyone is hoping to save the boy's life.

All of a sudden.

Silence.

Stillness.

The boys dies.

The DF team did what they could to save him.

SG MORRIS
(looking up to SFC
Hernandez)
He's gone.

A beat.

SFC Hernandez gets up and walks away. The team stays with the boy for a beat then follows SFC Hernandez.

The team huddles around SFC Hernandez.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Its' high time now team. We just got hit so we know that there is someone out there who knows about us.

SGT THOMAS
Sergeant, we don't know who they were or where they came from. How do we find....

SFC HERNANDEZ
We just keep doing what we're doing. We will hit them pretty soon. Got it!

SGT THOMAS
...That's a roger.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Ok, we move out, get back to the vehicles and keep searching. We're running out of time fellas.

The OWNER OF THE HOUSE, and father of the small boy, approach the DF team.

OWNER

(to the DF team)

Please come sit with my family for dinner.

The team looks up.

SSG Morris approaches the man.

SSG MORRIS

Yes?

OWNER

Please, please come sit with my family for dinner.

The DF team looks at the man.

The DF team accepts the requests.

SFC HERNANDEZ

(Pashto)

Kind sir, you have shown us forgiveness, despite the fact that we have brought war to your home.

OWNER

(Pashto)

Now is time for peace; not time for war. Please sit.

The DF team accepts the invitation.

MONTAGE - DF TEAM HAS DINNER WITH THE OWNER AND HIS FAMILY.

--The DF team socializes with the family as a gesture of solidarity.

END MONTAGE

SFC Hernandez stands by the window and notices the other DF soldiers playing kick ball with the village children.

He begins to reflect on his children--wonders if he will ever see them again.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Senator Carter speaks to his wife on the telephone.

SENATOR CARTER
Yeah, I'm alright.

SHARON(O.S.)
Oh my God.

SENATOR CARTER
Josh is dead. We have to contact
his family in the morning.

INTERCUT - SENATOR CARTER/SHARON

SHARON
Well, Kylie has her party today, I
guess you won't be making it, huh?

SENATOR CARTER
As much as I want to be home with
you guys, things have gotten a lot
more serious over here.

SHARON
I just wish you could be here for
the party. You know it meant so
much to her.

A beat.

SHARON (CONT'D)
Anyway. You be careful out there.
We need you back home.

SENATOR CARTER
I'll be back.

SHARON (O.S.)
Stay safe.

SENATOR CARTER
I will.

Senator Carter hangs up the telephone.

INT.SENATOR CARTER'S HOTEL - DAY

Senator Carter sits in his hotel room, battered and bruised.
There's a knock on the door, Senator Carter opens it.

Senator Carter's aides along with James Kincaid and his aides enter.

SENATOR AIDE
Sir, we heard what happened.

SENATOR CARTER
So has the rest of the world.

SENATOR AIDE
We need to stay on course. The Taliban just bombed the Embassy--

SENATOR CARTER
--I know.

JAMES KINCAID
The leader of the hostage takers is requesting that his brother be released in order to return the hostages. Is this something that you are willing to do?

SENATOR CARTER
No.

SENATOR AIDE
Sir, our national policy on negotiations like these is that we...

SENATOR CARTER
--we will not negotiate.

JAMES KINCAID
What about the hostages?

A long pause and silence fills the room.

SENATOR CARTER
We prepare for the worse. We can come out of this thing with the hostages.

JAMES KINCAID
You are taking a huge risk.

SENATOR CARTER
If we don't, Ahmed and his men will continue to take more hostages and continue with the bombings.

JAMES KINCAID
I'll keep you posted with any
updates.

James Kincaid and his aides leave the room.

Senator Carter sits back in his chair and reflects on the
major decision he has just made.

All of a sudden the telephone rings.

Senator Carter doesn't know who's calling.

SENATOR CARTER
(answering the phone)
Hello.

MYSTERIOUS CALLER (O.S.)
Senator Carter?

SENATOR CARTER
Yes.

MYSTERIOUS CALLER (O.S.)
The attack on your convoy was no
mistake.

SENATOR CARTER
Who is this?

EXT. AFGHANISTAN LOCALE - DAY

A man with sunglasses sits outside of an Afghanistan city
shop.

MYSTERIOUS CALLER
Who I am is not important.

SENATOR CARTER
I'm not in a joking mood.

MYSTERIOUS CALLER
Next time we will not miss.

SENATOR CARTER
What?

MYSTERIOUS CALLER
If you want your hostages, you must
respect Afghanistan or people will
die.

The phone hangs up.

Senator Carter is now more afraid than he has been his entire life.

The telephone rings again.

Senator Carter thinks it could be the same mysterious person.

SENATOR CARTER

Hello.

Another mysterious voice answers--this voice seems a little bit more familiar--it's SFC Hernandez.

SFC HERNANDEZ (O.S.)

I have information that may help you. Meet me at this address...

EXT. AFGHANISTAN CAFE - DAY

Senator Carter, knee-deep with security, arrives to the Afghanistan coffee shop where SFC Hernandez awaits.

SFC Hernandez is there with his SF team who pulls security.

Senator Carter approaches SFC Hernandez who sits at the table.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Glad you could make it.

SENATOR CARTER

And who might you be?

SFC HERNANDEZ

We're the DF team.

SENATOR CARTER

Thank you very much for your assistance and for your service.

SFC HERNANDEZ

No need for that. Time is running out Senator.

SENATOR CARTER

I am doing the best I--

SFC HERNANDEZ

--Well you need to put some speed on this. I guarantee that the hostages--all of the hostages--will be dead in 24 hours if we don't make it to them soon.

SENATOR CARTER

We have been able to get valuable information on Ahmed.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Ahmed?

SENATOR CARTER

The name of the head captor. He claims that his brother is being tortured and he wants him freed in exchange for the hostages.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Ahmed doesn't want an exchange. He wants to make a statement.

SENATOR CARTER

The United States is prepared to meet Ahmed's demands.

SFC HERNANDEZ

If you meet his demands, he's just going to kill more.

SENATOR CARTER

The government is reluctant.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Well drink tea, talk about their history, do whatever you can.

SENATOR CARTER

How are things on your end?

SFC HERNANDEZ

We feel that the location is close to here and need to move fast before they relocate and start executing the hostages.

SENATOR CARTER

I expect to talk to Hasam again. This time things will be different. I will get you the location. I'm not a Soldier, but I will fight to get you guys and the hostages out alive.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Fighting for lives isn't just for Soldiers, its for everybody. We're counting on you.

SENATOR CARTER
You're goin' home Hernandez; no
more fighting.

Senator Carter walks away.

SFC HERNANDEZ
Senator.

SENATOR CARTER
Yeah.

SFC HERNANDEZ
You are a hero.

SENATOR CARTER
We'll see.

SFC Hernandez gets up and leaves as his team follows.

INT. AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY - DAY

Senator Carter enters the embassy to meet with Hasam again.

HASAM
Senator, it's a pleasure to meet
you again and quite unfortunate
what happened to you earlier.

SENATOR CARTER
I have come to make amends, work to
get the hostages back.

HASAM
As I mentioned earlier, we're doing
the best we can.

SENATOR CARTER
I understand.

HASAM
Please, sit down.

Senator Carter sits down.

SENATOR CARTER
Please forgive me, for
disrespecting you and your
country...but we need your help.

HASAM
Have some tea?

A man comes from the back with some tea.

The two men chat for a while.

INT. AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY - CONTINUOUS

Senator exits the meeting with Hasam. An AIDE awaits outside.

SENATOR AIDE

Sir. How did it go in there?

SENATOR CARTER

Well, we're just going to have to wait and find out, won't we.

Senator Carter exits.

The Senator Aide looks behind him in confusion.

SENATOR AIDE

Ohhhh.

INT. FOB HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Agent Connor and others are in the headquarters watch video of the beheadings of the prisoners and the bombings of Ahmed.

Agent Connor looks at the multi-screen display.

General Hunt stands next to her.

AGENT CONNOR

Time has run out.

GENERAL HUNT

Any word from the Senator?

AGENT CONNOR

No. Not yet. He is scheduled to have a meeting with Hasam today.

GENERAL HUNT

'Hope it goes well.

An INTEL ANALYST approaches Agent Connor.

INTEL ANALYST

Agent Connor, there is a call on line 1.

Agent Connor picks up the telephone.

AGENT CONNOR

This is Agent Connor. Yes. I got it.

She motions to an analyst for pen and paper.

AGENT CONNOR (CONT'D)

...yes...I got it.

Agent Connor hangs up.

AGENT CONNOR (CONT'D)

(to General Hunt)

Senator Carter did it! We have the coordinates.

GENERAL HUNT

(to the room)

Alright, we got information--lets move out--assemble all essential personnel. Lets go!

The room scrambles like mad men to assemble personnel and move out.

GENERAL HUNT (CONT'D)

We got DF out there. Let's get the hostages.

Agent Connor and General Hunt look at each other.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The SF team is defeated and desperate at a location searching for answers or at least another clue.

The team is huddled around their humvees.

Then all of a sudden.

SSG MORRIS

SFC Hernandez. Hey sergeant.

SFC HERNANDEZ

What is it?

SSG MORRIS

We got some news from headquarters.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Well hell, that's what I've been waiting to hear.

SFC Hernandez reaches for the satellite phone.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Give me that.

SFC Hernandez speaks into the phone.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Yeah... what... I'm copying... Got
it... We're movin'... Out here.

SFC Hernandez hangs up, looks towards the team.

SSG MORRIS
What is it?

SFC HERNANDEZ
Headquarters just got us some new
coordinates. This time it's for
real.

SF SOLDIER #2
Alright. What are we waiting for?

SFC HERNANDEZ
Ok. Lets strap up and move out.
Lets go. Lets go

The team moves like lightning to get into their vehicles.

While driving in the humvees--

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Alright. We are in hot pursuit of
the target, get on the phone and
request support.

SF RADIO CONTROLLER
HQ, HQ we need pick-up support at
the following location. Prepare to
copy.

The DF team travels through the Afghanistan landscape.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The DF team arrives at the new location.

SSG THOMAS
HQ, HQ we are at the location
preparing to strike. We are
awaiting pick-up support.

HEADQUARTERS SOLDIER
Support is on its way.

SSG Morris eyes the compound and notices that the Taliban Soldiers start to get restless.

They pull out another hostage who has a black cape over his head as they prepare him for an execution.

SG THOMAS
(to SFC Hernandez)
Sergeant... We got another hostage
with a black hood over his head--

SFC HERNANDEZ
We can't wait for support. We gotta
move now. Alright team lock and
load, we're going in.

The team loads their weapons and puts on black ski masks.

This time, no high-tech weapons or high-tech gear--just guns and silencers.

SFC HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Alright, lets move.

The team moves to the compound in a specialized attack formation.

They sneak up on the compound and go to the house where the hostage was taken.

He's surrounded by three men who have a video camera set up and wait for Ahmed.

They sneak up on the three men, shoot one of them in the back with a silenced rifle shot--he falls down.

The others take notice and return fire.

The team reacts, takes down the two men.

They approach the hostage, take off his mask, untie him and instruct him to move to a corner and cover himself.

The team moves out of the house in door-to-door shoot and kill mode and encounter more men.

They exchange fire.

AHMED'S QUARTERS

Meanwhile, as Ahmed sleeps in his quarters he's awakened, jumps up startled by the commotion outside, grabs his gun and moves outside.

As soon as he reaches his doorway a ricocheted bullet hits the door, he falls to the ground.

OUTSIDE AREA

The team is in a fight for their lives again.

They need to reach the hostages before Ahmed and his men, or the hostages are dead.

They use advanced combat maneuvers to take out all of the men.

AHMED'S QUARTERS

Ahmed crawls out of his bunker and heads to the hostage holding bunker.

SSG MORRIS
(noticing Ahmed)
Who's that?

SGT THOMAS
We got one more.

The team trails Ahmed to the compound only to be side ambushed by more men who fire on them--SSG Thomas is hit.

They keep moving and return fire.

SFC HERNANDEZ
He's running to the hostages! He's
gonna kill 'em!

SFC Hernandez breaks off the formation and is chases Ahmed.

It is a rat-race through the training facility--ditches, monkey bars, mounting equipment--to the hostages before Ahmed kills them.

Ahmed gets to the hostage holding site--grabs an AK-47.

He opens the door, the hostages look up frightened, Ahmed stands in the doorway, weapon pointed.

A pause.

As Ahmed points his weapon at the hostages bullets riddle his body with holes.

It's SFC Hernandez to save the day.

The hostages are surprised and relieved.

The DF team appears, unties the hostages--they hug SFC Hernandez.

The support team from Army headquarters arrives in Chinooks like bats outta hell in a fury.

A SUPPORT SOLDIER jumps out of the helicopter ready for action.

SFC Hernandez and the team escort the hostages out of the compound and onto the Chinooks.

SUPPORT SOLDIER
(to SFC Hernandez)
Where are they?

SFC HERNANDEZ
They're in there.

The Support Soldier looks at SFC HERNANDEZ and the team with a "job well done" look, loads the hostages onto the chopper.

The DF team gets on their chopper and flies away.

INT. FOB HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The FOB gets word that the hostages have been rescued, everybody goes crazy.

Videos of the rescue play on the monitors as they wait for the hostages to be downloaded at the embassy.

INT. AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY - DAY

The helicopters with the hostages arrive to the Afghanistan Embassy.

Senator Carter, Robert Kincaid, Agent Connor, and the other government officials await their arrival.

The hostages are escorted out of the helicopters by the support soldiers.

The building cheers!

SFC Hernandez and his DF team get out of the helicopters as Senator Carter approaches.

SENATOR CARTER

You guys saved us out there.

SFC HERNANDEZ

Thank you for having our back,
Senator.

SFC Hernandez pauses a minute--the two exchange looks--SFC Hernandez hops on the chopper be taken back to his base.

INT. SENATOR CARTER'S HOME - DAY

Senator Carter's family, in the living room, watches the NBA Playoffs while celebrating Kylie's birthday.

A cut birthday cake and a silent room is still with a slight air of disappointment as their lost party goer, Senator Carter, is not there to celebrate.

DING. DONG.

Sharon jumps up to answer the door.

Maybe its the FedEx guy delivering a package to the wrong house, maybe its a bunch of kids playing doorbell dixie...

Sharon opens the door.

SHARON

Hello?

Sharon only sees the back of a man standing in front of her, however this back is very familiar--it's the back of Senator Carter.

Senator Carter turns around.

SENATOR CARTER

Hi.

Sharon is in awe

SHARON

John.

Sharon hugs Senator Carter like he's the most important thing in the world.

The kids run to the door.

KIDS

Dad.

The kids and the dog get in on the action.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The President gives a speech to the press congratulating the rescue of the hostages.

The speech takes place on the White House lawn with an intimate crowd of onlookers: press, spectators and public officials.

Everyone is relieved and glad that the hostages are home on American soil.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE

I am proud to present to the world
the results of the combined efforts
of the United States and our
international counterparts
throughout the world in the effort
to combat terrorism.

President O'Keefe points to the hostages--the crowd applauds.

SERIES OF SHOTS - HOSTAGES, SENATOR CARTER, RECOVERY TEAM AND GUESTS.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)

And further more, I would like to
present Prisoner of War medals to
these fine individuals.

The President places medals on each of the hostages.

The crowd applauds.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)

I would also like to send special
thanks to Senator Carter...

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)

Mr. James Kincaid, and the British
Government...

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)
The 1st Special Forces Group, the
Afghanistan government for their
essential and committed assistance
in this mission...

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)
And finally, I would like to thank
the people of the world for their
prayers of support to the hostages,
the governments and their families.

The crowd gives a standing ovation.

PRESIDENT O'KEEFE (CONT'D)
Thank You.

The crowd begins to disperse and everyone meets each other to
shake hands.

Senator Carter stands by himself.

CPT. Smith approaches Senator Carter.

CPT SMITH
Sir.

Senator Carter turns.

SENATOR CARTER
Yes.

CPT SMITH
My name is Captain Smith. I just
wanted to say thank you,
personally.

SENATOR CARTER
You're quite welcome.

Senator Carter turns away.

CPT SMITH
Senator Carter...I heard about you
risking your life out there while
trying to bring us home and...good
job.

Senator Carter stops, turns around and smiles.

SENATOR CARTER
Just serving the nation.

CPT SMITH smiles back and renders Senator Carter his first salute.

Senator Carter returns the salute, walks away.

As Senator Carter walks away we zoom away from the White House and the scattered crowd.

EXT. SPECIAL FORCES MEMORIAL-TALLAHASSEE, FL. - DAY

SFC Hernandez and his family walk towards the Special Forces memorial in Tallahassee, FL.

SFC Hernandez approaches the wall of fallen heroes and stares at the wall grateful to have made it home alive to see his family again.

SFC takes a moment of remembrance as a lone tear streams down his face.

Out of nowhere, other Special Forces members and their families embrace SFC Hernandez as he reminisces over the lives lost while serving in the Special Forces in combat operations.

FADE TO BLACK.