



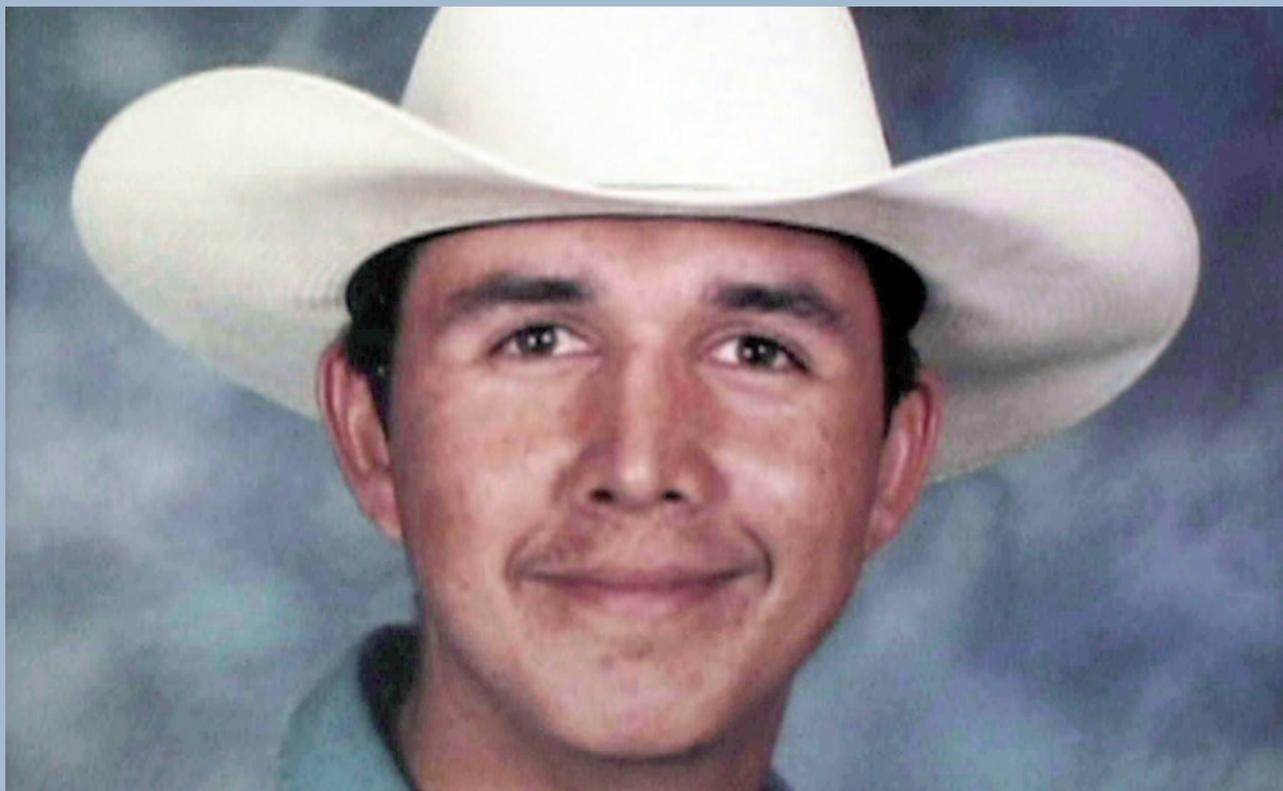
P.O.V.

Discussion Guide

Season **21**

The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández

A film by Kieran Fitzgerald



www.pbs.org/pov



Letter from the Filmmakers

AUSTIN, MAY 2008

Dear Viewer,

I was 17 years old in 1997 when a team of Marines shot and killed an innocent American citizen on the Texas-Mexico border. The young man who died that day, 18-year-old Esequiel Hernández Jr., was as much a part of my generation as the students killed by the National Guard at Kent State were a part of my parents', and yet I have no memory of news coverage of his death or discussions about it in class. The incident was reported sparingly and had been all but abandoned when it was decided that the Marines involved would not be tried, and therefore, there would be no justice for the Hernández family. To the world outside West Texas, the story of Esequiel Hernández was a fringe story, easily misconstrued and dismissed by politicians and pundits as an unfortunate accident. The facts of the case had never been laid bare for the public, and the name carried no weight in the national consciousness. When I first heard his story in the fall of 2004, seven years after his death, Esequiel Hernández was drifting into obscurity.

At the time, my brother, Brendan and I were working on the feature film *The Three Burials of Melquiades*, produced by our father, Michael Fitzgerald (*Wise Blood*, *Under the Volcano*, *The Pledge*). One of the principal sources of inspiration for the star and director of the film, Tommy Lee Jones, was the Hernández case. *The Three Burials* would be a fictional redress of the injustice, but as an aspiring director I wanted to contribute a second film, one that would retrieve the facts of the Hernández case and set them in the context of our current war on terror. Though ground troops had been removed from the border following Esequiel's death, there was mounting pressure in Congress to send them back. Was it possible we could overlook the recent precedent of our misguided drug war policy — one that had resulted in the death of an innocent civilian? This was the question that both unnerved and motivated me as I traveled across the country conducting interviews and gathering archival footage. It was the question that, in the summer of 2006, just as we started editing, the Bush administration answered by sending thousands of armed troops back to the border.

The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández attempts to embrace both sides of a distinctly American tragedy. It was my privilege to film with the Hernández family — some of the kindest, gentlest people I've ever encountered — as well as with three of the Marines involved in the 1997 shooting. For the Marines, this film was their first opportunity to begin wrestling with questions about their actions, their loyalties and the nature of their service — questions they had each lived with in silence for more than eight years. It is my hope that in this election year as the country decides how best to balance protection with peace, their voices and the voices of the Hernández family will be given the careful consideration they deserve. If they were all victims of our failed policies, I believe they can also be our guides in forging a new and better future for the border and the people who live on it. I am indebted to them, both as a filmmaker and as a citizen, and to everyone else who contributed to the film and believed in it along the way.

Kieran Fitzgerald, Director



Director Kieran Fitzgerald.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures



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Introduction



Esequiel herding goats.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández tells a frightening and cautionary tale about the dangers of using the military as domestic law enforcement — a role that the military, under the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, had been prohibited from taking. In 1997, U.S. Marines patrolling the Texas-Mexico border as part of the U.S. war on drugs shot and killed Esequiel Hernández Jr. Mistaken for a drug runner, the 18-year-old was, in fact, a U.S. citizen tending his family's goats. *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*, a feature-length (90-minute) documentary, explores this tragedy and its aftermath from multiple points of view, including those of Esequiel's parents, siblings, and friends, the Marines on patrol, and investigators.

As the story unfolds, it reveals as many questions as it answers. Why does the evidence seem to contradict the soldiers' account of events? Would the outcome have been different if the Marines had been given accurate information about the people

in the town? What if the townspeople had known there was a military operation in the vicinity? As an outreach tool, *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández* raises critical public policy issues related to the militarization of the border, the human cost of the war on drugs, the blurring of lines between the military and law enforcement, and finding justice for an American family who has lost a son.



Background Information



Esequiel Hernández on horseback.
Photo courtesy of the Hernández family

U.S. Borders and Border Crossings

The United States shares 1,952 miles of border with Mexico and 5,526 miles of border with Canada. There are 326 officially sanctioned ports of entry, including 163 land crossings, where pedestrians, cars and commercial vehicles may cross. The majority of land crossings are owned by the government; some are privately owned and leased. In 2006, the latest year for which complete figures are available, more than 46 million people entered the United States from Mexico on foot; 180 million entered in passenger cars; and about 3 million entered aboard commercial buses.

For many years prior to the attacks on September 11, 2001, informal border crossings such as rowboat ferry services at points along the Rio Grande, including the crossing at Redford, were routinely tolerated. Until a Border Patrol crackdown in May 2002, ferries commonly shuttled workers and visitors across the river for one or two dollars. Following raids targeting informal border crossings in the region and the arrest of 20 people, unregulated ferry access stopped. The river crossing at Redford was among those that shut down.



Background Information

Sources:

"New Tactics to Control Immigration Are Unveiled." *The New York Times*. February 23, 2008.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/23/washington/23immig.html>;

"Rio Grande Town Fights for Survival," *All Things Considered*, November 23, 2007,
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16579416>;

"Despite Progress, Weaknesses in Traveler Inspections Exist at Our Nation's Ports of Entry," Testimony before the Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, U.S. Government Accountability Office, January 3, 2008,
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08329t.pdf>; U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, <http://www.transtats.bts.gov/border-crossing.aspx>.

Militarizing the Border

The border between the United States and Mexico has been a source of contention for much of the past two centuries. In the 19th century, the independent state of Texas and the U.S. government both fought with Mexico over the boundary. After the United States annexed Texas, the nations fought a war over territory, resulting in the internationally recognized southern border of the United States shifting further south, from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande. In the 1910s, there were cross-border incursions by Mexican forces, including those led by Pancho Villa, and by the American military. After the cessation of those border skirmishes, it would be more than 70 years before U.S. troops were used again to guard the border.

The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, originally passed in the aftermath of the Civil War to prevent the federal government from using the military for domestic law enforcement, has prevented the deployment of troops along the U.S.-Mexican border. In the 1980s, however, the administration of President Ronald Reagan argued that the growth of the drug trade across the border constituted a threat to national security.

In 1981, Congress amended the Posse Comitatus Act to allow the military to provide law enforcement agencies with equipment and advice. The act was further altered in 1986 by presidential order. The alterations included allowing military assistance and training in drug interdiction efforts. And finally, in 1989, President George H.W. Bush sent armed ground troops

to the U.S.-Mexican border. It was the first time that the armed military had been deployed to the border since 1914. During the 1990s, President Clinton increased the military presence on the border, making it an accepted standard in the nation's ongoing war on drugs. At any given time, there were about 300-500 troops on the border, mostly working behind the scenes doing fence and wall building, though some armed troops were used for covert surveillance purposes.

In the spring of 1997, a U.S. Marine Corps mission based in Presidio County, Texas, sent Marine teams to various locations along the Rio Grande to watch for drug traffickers coming



Marine Team in Guille Suit.
 Photo courtesy of Roy Torrez, Jr.

across from Mexico. One of those, a team of four marines led by Cpl. Clemente Bañuelos, took up a concealed position near the town of Redford. On the evening of May 20, Bañuelos shot and killed Esequiel Hernández Jr., an 18-year-old American citizen and resident of Redford, believing him to be a drug runner. Hernández became the first American killed by U.S. military forces on native soil since the 1970 Kent State shootings.

In the aftermath of Hernández's death, the government withdrew all armed troops from the border. This withdrawal lasted only 18 months. In January of 1999, the Department of



Background Information



Defense announced a new policy allowing armed groups along the border but only with the specific permission of the Secretary of Defense or his deputy. Several years later on May 15, 2006 President George W. Bush announced plans to deploy as many as 6,000 armed National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexican border as part of the war on terror and to help stem illegal immigration. Historically, the National Guard has been exempt from the Posse Comitatus Act when deployment is controlled by state governors and only in extreme emergencies — such as Hurricane Katrina — when used by the federal government.

Today, border protection falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security, with duties divided among several agencies, including the Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Customs and Border Protection (which operates the Border Patrol). The Border Patrol includes approximately 15,000 agents, and plans are in place to expand the force to 18,000 agents by the end of 2008 (roughly twice as many agents as in 2001).

Esequiel Hernández's gravestone.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

Sources:

"After Marine on Patrol Kills a Teenager, a Texas Border Village Wonders Why," *The New York Times*, June 29, 1997, <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D0CE0DE1E31F93AA15755C0A961958260>;

"Bush's Plan to Seal Border Worries Mexico," *The New York Times*, May 15, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/15/washington/15bush.html>;

Dunn, Timothy. "Border Militarization Via Drug and Immigration Enforcement: Human Rights Implications," *Social Justice*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 2001; Reza, H.G., "Patrols Border on Danger," *Los Angeles Times*, June 29, 1997;

"Soldiers on the Border," *The Texas Observer*, September 8, 2006, Department of Homeland Security <http://www.whitehouse.gov/deptofhomeland/sect3.html>;

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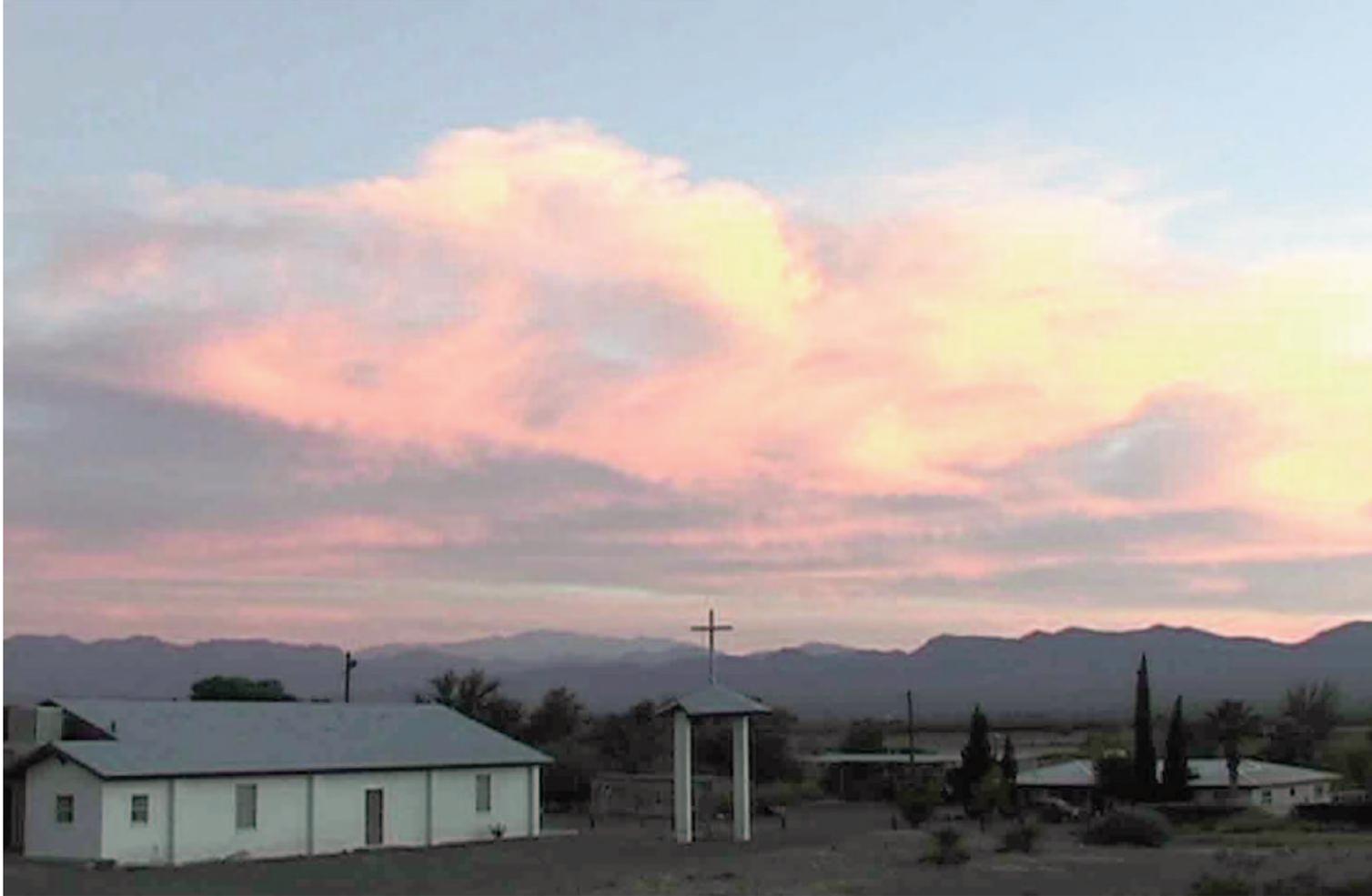
"New Tactics to Control Immigration Are Unveiled," *The New York Times*, February 23, 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/23/washington/23immig.html>;

"U.S. Aides Accuse Mexico As Drug Trade Surges," Joel Brinkley, *The New York Times*, May 12, 1986;

"U.S. Details Plan to Combat Drugs at Mexico Border," Joel Brinkley, *The New York Times*, August 14, 1986.



Background Information



Sunset in Redford, Texas.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

Redford, Texas

Located in sparsely populated southwest Texas, Redford is part of Presidio County, one of the poorest counties in the United States. In the last census, Redford showed a population of 132 people. Education levels are relatively low and unemployment is relatively high, which is typical for the entire county. Of Redford's population, 88 percent identify as Hispanic and 94 percent speak a language other than English at home. Agriculture is the largest industry. Recreational venues and tourism, largely driven by visitors traveling through Presidio County en route to Big Bend National Park in nearby Brewster County, provide some additional local income.

The border area surrounding Redford had been inhabited by indigenous people for many centuries prior to the arrival of Europeans. Some evidence suggests that the border region is among the oldest continually inhabited agricultural communities in North America.

Sources:

Quick Facts: Presidio County, Texas, U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48377.html>;
Fact Sheet: Redford, Texas, U.S. Census Bureau.



Background Information

Selected People Featured in *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*

ESEQUIEL'S FAMILY



Esequiel Hernández Sr. and Doña María de la Luz Hernández, Esequiel's parents, still live in the family's Redford home, which lies 200 yards from the U.S.-Mexican border. In 1998, the Department of Justice settled a Torts Action lawsuit with the Hernández family, agreeing to pay an annuity with a total value of approximately \$1.9 million.



Margarito Hernández, Esequiel's older brother, now works as a deputy sheriff in the city of Presidio.



Background Information

Selected People Featured in *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*

THE MARINES



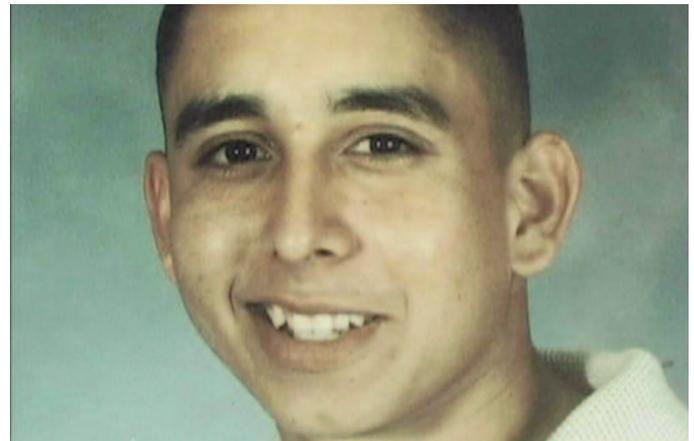
Lance Cpl. James Blood, asked to be discharged from the Marine Corps following the shooting, and he returned to his home in Castle Rock, Wash. In 2002, his wife left him, and he lost custody of their two children due to substance abuse problems.



Cpl. Roy Torrez, after leaving the Marine Corps, moved to Tehachapi, Calif., with his wife and two children. He now works as a jailor and a firefighter.



Lance Cpl. Ronald Weiler lives in Owosso, Mich., with his family.



Cpl. Clemente Bañuelos completed his tour of duty in the Marine Corps and now lives in Southern California. He does not appear in the film.



Background Information

Selected People Featured in *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*

INVESTIGATORS/ATTORNEYS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS



David Castaneda, retired U.S. Border Patrol Chief



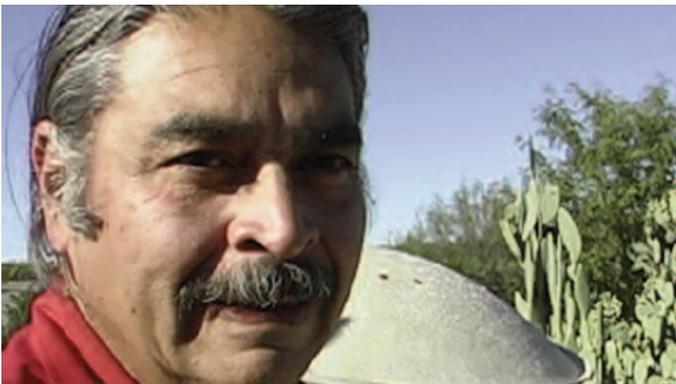
Major General John T. Coyne, Investigator



Jane Kelly, former FBI Case Agent



Terry Kincaid, retired FBI Supervising Agent



Enrique Madrid, local Redford historian



Jack Zimmerman, Cpl. Bañuelos's defense attorney



General Discussion Questions

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen. If the mood seems tense, you can pose a general question and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion.

Unless you think participants are so uncomfortable that they can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin your dialogue.

One way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask them?**
- **What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide?**
- **If a friend asked you what this film was about, what would you tell them?**
- **Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?**



Esequiel's nephew at the grave.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures



Discussion Prompts



Lessons from Esequiel's Death

- Retell the events surrounding the shooting from various points of view (for example, that of the soldiers, of Esequiel and of Esequiel's father). Unlike a trial (in which each side would try to prove that the other's story was wrong), assume that they are all correct. What do you learn from the common ground and the differences in each account? How might understanding all the points of view improve future procedures or communications?
- What lessons does the death of Esequiel Hernández offer regarding the current deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexican border?
- Television personality Bill O'Reilly dismisses the incident, saying, "Accidents will happen in any military deployment." Identify the specific circumstances that led to this "accident." Do you feel any of them were preventable?
- According to Enrique Madrid, to help motivate the Marines their commanders told them that Redford was an unfriendly town and that 75 percent of its residents were involved in drug

Residents of Redford watch the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather during the report on the death of Esequiel.

Photo courtesy of James H. Evans

trafficking. Do you think misinformation played a role in Esequiel's death? How else might the soldiers have been motivated?

- Jack Zimmerman, the attorney defending Bañuelos, claimed that "an armed man, on foot, walking behind a herd of goats" did, indeed, fit the profile of what the soldiers were watching for. Can you think of other examples of profiling in your community or in the nation's news? How is profiling effective or ineffective?
- Enrique Madrid observes that despite the county's poverty and obvious need for services, the government sends "Marines instead of educators" and "Border Patrol troops instead of doctors." Do you think increased support for education and health could improve border security? Why or why not?



Discussion Prompts



Esequiel's nephews at the well where Esequiel was shot.

Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

- Ron Torrez gave his young son a Marine music box that bore the words “Honor, Courage, Commitment.” How would you define those terms? How were they affirmed or undermined in the Redford shooting incident?
- Bañuelos’s attorney, Jack Zimmerman, explains how he “spun” the media to humanize his client i.e., by pairing a civilian photo of Cpl. Bañuelos with a photo of Esequiel in the news. What role do media play in the outcome of legal proceedings? What role should they play?
- What do you think this case suggests about the danger or wisdom of using armed military troops to support border enforcement (or law enforcement or drug enforcement) in civilian settings?

Distinguishing Between the Military and Law Enforcement

- FBI Case Agent Jane Kelly says “If [the Marines] had been any domestic law enforcement personnel, sheriff’s deputy, Texas Rangers, FBI, they would have gone to jail.” What are the differences between law enforcement and the military? Which is better suited to patrol the border and why?
- Then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said, “Detecting and countering the production and trafficking of illegal drugs is a high-priority national security mission of the Department of Defense.” Would you agree that drug interdiction should be a high priority of the Department of Defense? Do you consider drug trafficking a national security threat? Why or why not? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the military for border security rather than civilian law enforcement agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, local police, sheriffs or state troopers?



Discussion Prompts



Esequiel Hernández on horseback.
Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

Militarizing the Border

- TV personality Bill O'Reilly challenges viewers saying, "What is the harm in giving us more protection by using the military the way they should be used? If you read the Constitution, the military's primary mandate is to protect the borders of the United States!" How would you answer him? What is the potential harm? What is the potential benefit?
- Local historian Enrique Madrid remembers, "For days after, every time a helicopter went by, the mothers would run out and pull their children in because they thought they were going to be killed." Esequiel's younger brother pulls down Esequiel's MarineCorps recruiting poster. What do you think is the current relationship between the military and American citizens? What do you think the relationship should be? What are the consequences for a democratic state when the citizenry fears its own military?
- Congressman Tom Tancredo says of the shooting that such accidents have to be balanced against the need for national security. In what ways does drug interdiction contribute to national security? How would you define "national interest" and "national security"? Do you think there is a difference between the two?
- Responding to the headline "East Coast Terrorism Sparks the Blockade of the Redford Crossing," Enrique Madrid says, "So we cannot cross the river we have been crossing for 12,000 years. This is our river, this is our land, these are our mountains, this is our crossing." In your view, what is the appropriate balance between the local needs and customs of those who live along the border and the need for national security?



Discussion Prompts



Esequiel's nephew.

Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

Healing and Justice

- After the failure to indict and suspension of all investigation, Supervising FBI Agent Terry Kincaid says, "I feel that [the Hernández family] were denied justice." What would justice have been for Esequiel's family? If they can't pursue justice through the courts, what could they do?
- When murder charges were brought against Bañuelos by the state of Texas, Enrique Madrid explains that "[the United States government] was facing a disaster of incomprehensible magnitude where you could have American soldiers tried, convicted, imprisoned and executed for doing their duty." Do you believe that the soldiers were "doing their duty"? Why or why not? What kind of statement do you think an indictment

would have made? Should civilian courts be able to try soldiers for murder if they kill civilians in the course of conducting a mission? Why or why not?

- Cpl. Roy Torrez says that unless you have been in his shoes and served in the military, you cannot possibly judge him. Do you agree? Should only members of the military serve as "a jury of peers" when military personnel are being tried? Would a court martial have been more appropriate than a civilian indictment in this situation? What is the difference? Do you think there should be separate justice systems for the military and civilians?



Discussion Prompts



Esequiel's grandparents visit his grave.

Photo courtesy of Heyoka Pictures

Stereotypes

- As it turned out, the primary person involved in drug trafficking in Presidio County during the 1990s was the county's own sheriff. Do you think stereotypes played a role in Esequiel Hernández's death? Why or why not?
- Many of Esequiel's friends and teachers objected to media reports characterizing Esequiel as a "goat-herder." Who benefits and who is harmed by the selection of this descriptor rather than describing him as, say, a "high school senior" or a "young entrepreneur"? What descriptors would you use to describe Esequiel?

Miscellaneous

- In your view, what is the significance of the film's opening quote from Nietzsche: "Under conditions of peace, the warlike

man attacks himself"? How does it relate to the killing of Esequiel Hernández?

- Besides traditional combat, can you think of examples of the government's use of the word "war" to describe its actions (for example, "war on drugs," "war on poverty," "war on terror")? How does use of the term "war" influence policy or public opinion?
- Torrez responds to those who have questioned the soldiers' actions by saying, "Enjoy all that air you're breathing right now because there's a guy out there dying for you." Aside from serving in combat, what other actions can/do citizens take that preserve people's rights in a democracy?



Taking Action



Redford Town Meeting.
Photo courtesy of Steve Bunch

- Write and share your own *corrido* about Esequiel Hernández or the death of a young person in your community.
- Host a debate on current U.S. immigration policy and/or the war on drugs, especially focusing on militarization of the border. Publicize the positions taken by your elected representatives and let them know how you want them to vote.
- Carefully review news reporting on local trials. Note the kinds of sound bites and footage that are used. How does the construction of the story influence the spin on the facts in question? What stereotypes are reinforced or challenged? How might news coverage influence the outcome of a trial? Are there trials that do not receive coverage that should? Share your findings with local news directors and work with them to ensure accurate and fair coverage for future trials.
- Write a letter to your local or national representative letting them know your thoughts on border security policy.



Resources

FILM-RELATED WEB SITES

Original Online Content on P.O.V. Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

P.O.V.'s *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández* Web site
www.pbs.org/pov/esequielhernandez

The companion website to *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández* offers exclusive streaming video clips from the film, a podcast version of the filmmaker interview and a wealth of additional resources, including a Q&A with Kieran Fitzgerald, ample opportunities for viewers to “talk back” and talk to each other about the film, and the following special features:

PHOTO GALLERY

In 2006, President George W. Bush announced plans to deploy as many as 6,000 National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexican border to offer border enforcement assistance. See what that militarization of the border looks like today.

BACKGROUND

Learn more about the history of the US/Mexico border, the use of the military along the border during President Reagan's “War on Drugs” in the 1980s and border enforcement today.

What's Your P.O.V.?

*P.O.V.'s online Talking Back Tapestry is a colorful, interactive representation of your feelings about **The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández**.*

Listen to other P.O.V. viewers talk about the film and add your thoughts by calling 1-800-688-4768.
www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html

Investigative Materials on the Death of Esequiel Hernández, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS

<http://judiciary.house.gov/judiciary/docs105.htm>

“Oversight Investigation of the Death of Esequiel Hernández Jr.,” a report of Chairman Lamar Smith to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

www.dpft.org/hernandez/coyne.htm

Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the JTF-6 (Joint Task Force 6) shooting incident that occurred on May 20, 1997, near the border between the United States and Mexico: Major General John T. Coyne, U.S. Marine Corps.

Militarization of the Border

BORDERLINES

<http://americas.irc-online.org/borderlines/PDFs/bl66.pdf>

This issue of *Borderlines*, a publication of the Interhemispheric Research Center, provides an in-depth look at drug policy and militarization of the border. The document includes a very helpful set of links to related organizations. It is a good starting place.



Resources

U.S. LEGISLATION

www.govtrack.us

An easy-to-search site for legislation related to the prevention of illegal immigration enforcement, drug trafficking and border security.

THE MINUTEMAN CIVIL DEFENSE CORPS

www.minutemanhq.com/hq/

The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps supports militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border and encourages citizens to voluntarily form militias to patrol the border. The site includes links to pending legislation.

U.S. Drug Policy

DRUG POLICY FORUM OF TEXAS

www.dpft.org

The Drug Policy Forum of Texas is a citizens group opposed to many of the techniques currently used in the U.S. war on drugs. The site includes a memorial to Esequiel Hernández.

COMMON SENSE FOR DRUG POLICY

www.csdp.org

Common Sense for Drug Policy is a nonprofit organization focused on reforming U.S. drug policy. The site features information on existing laws, policies and practices, including those governing border patrol.

Views on the Posse Comitatus Act

AIR AND SPACE POWER JOURNAL

www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/cc/baker1.html

A brief overview of the history of the Posse Comitatus Act from the Air and Space Power Journal.

HOMELAND SECURITY INSTITUTE

www.homelandsecurity.org/journal/articles/Trebilcock.htm

This article argues that the original act has been significantly weakened by exceptions and policy shifts.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY

<http://law.wustl.edu/WULQ/75-2/752-10.html>

This Washington University Law Quarterly article argues that the act should be strengthened.



How to Buy the Film

To order *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*, go to www.heyokapictures.com



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and entering its 21st season on PBS, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running series on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through October, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought more than 250 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide and now has a Webby Award-winning online series, P.O.V.'s Borders. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation around today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V. is available online at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, The Fledgling Fund, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The September 11th Fund, and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s Diverse Voices Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston and Thirteen/WNET New York..

P.O.V. Community Engagement and Education

P.O.V. provides Discussion Guides for all films as well as curriculum-based P.O.V. Lesson Plans for select films to promote the use of independent media among varied constituencies. Available free online, these originally produced materials ensure the ongoing use of P.O.V.'s documentaries with educators, community workers, opinion leaders, and general audiences nationally. P.O.V. also works closely with local public-television stations to partner with local museums, libraries, schools, and community-based organizations to raise awareness of the issues in P.O.V.'s films.

P.O.V. Interactive

www.pbs.org/pov

P.O.V.'s award-winning Web department produces a Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, P.O.V.'s Borders. It also produces a Web site for every P.O.V. presentation, extending the life of P.O.V. films through community-based and educational applications, focusing on involving viewers in activities, information and feedback on the issues. In addition, www.pbs.org/pov houses our unique Talking Back feature, filmmaker interviews, viewer resources and information on the P.O.V. archives as well as myriad special sites for previous P.O.V. broadcasts.

American Documentary, Inc.

www.americandocumentary.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream-media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic-engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Front cover: Esequiel Hernández.

Photo courtesy of the Hernández Family

