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**ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE
PUBLICATION OF
*HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS: Stories of American
Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD***

Authored by Celia Straus and Patricia Driscoll, published by Casemate Publishing,
HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS is a compelling collection of
first person narratives of military service members impacted by
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD)
(Publication Date: April 2009)

WASHINGTON, DC – Patricia Driscoll, Executive Director of the Armed Forces Foundation – a 501(c)3 non-profit based in Washington, DC -- announces the publication of ***HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS: Stories of American Service Members With Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD*** by Celia Straus. This new book represents a unique collaboration between the Department of Defense through its Defense Centers for Excellence in Traumatic Brain injury and Psychological Help and the Department of Veterans Affairs. All royalties from ***HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS*** will be donated to wounded soldiers with TBI and/or PTSD.

HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS is published by Casemate Publishing, and is the first non-fiction title of its kind to provide an in-depth exploration of the intangible costs of the war as expressed in the emotionally-charged and profoundly moving first person narratives of 13 'Wounded Warriors' whose lives have been greatly impacted by traumatic brain injury or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Each of these gripping stories ultimately harnesses the power and the promise of recovery through the eyes of those who have witnessed war's atrocities. Of the estimated 1.8 million Americans who have
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HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS

Launch Press Release

2-2-2-2

served in Iraq and Afghanistan, nearly 320,000 have sustained brain injuries, while 300,000 have reported symptoms of PTSF or major depression.

According to author Patricia Driscoll, Executive Director of the Armed Forces Foundation and author of the Introduction to **HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS**: "The goal of this book is to bring increased attention to the plight of military service members whose lives have been irrevocably changed by the debilitating affects of TBI and PTSD. The publication of this book is an extension of the Armed Forces Foundation's mission to supply material support as well as emotional support through its various programs. The publication of Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts serves as another message about the importance of this issue which impacts not only returning service members, but their families as well."

The co- author of **HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS** Celia Straus, is an award-winning writer of print, film, multi-media and the web with extensive experience (over 800 produced programs) in storytelling using both documentary and dramatic formats. Her areas of special expertise include adolescents, mental health, military issues and disaster response and crisis training. Her work has won over 150 national awards and can be viewed at : www.eyeshavenseen.com.

In the summer of 2003 Ms. Straus started conducting interviews with hundreds of military servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to chronicle their stories. After several years her focus shifted to those troops and their families coping with TBI and PTSD. Working with the Armed Forces Foundation gave her extraordinary access to wounded troops and their families at both Walter Reed Medical Center and Bethesda Navy Medical Hospital where many of the stories in **HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS** begin.

"With a foreword by Brigadier General Loree K. Sutton, Director of the Defense Centers of Excellence in Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health, and contributions from top experts in the field of mental health at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Equally important is the fact that this book represents a unique collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Ms. Straus.

Brigadier General Loree K. Sutton, Director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, describes **HIDDEN BATTLES** as "the intensely personal stories in this book place a human face on the adversity of war that frequently remains hidden from public attention.... Despite their struggles, returning warriors may also seize this opportunity to experience post-traumatic *growth* as well—deepening one's faith, cherishing relationships, reordering life priorities, and extending compassion and empathy for others."

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HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS

Launch Press Release

3-3-3-3

About the Armed Forces Foundation: In 2001 the Armed Forces Foundation (AFF) was established as a 501(c)3 organization under the U.S. Department of Defense's *America Supports You* program. AFF offers vital assistance to active-duty and retired personnel, National Guard, Reserve Components and military families as they cope with difficult circumstances. Through a multitude of programs the Armed Forces Foundation assists military families with utilities and rent; hotel and travel costs; holiday gifts for military children; and therapeutic recreational activities. The Armed Forces Foundation has been recognized by the President of the United States, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Education and the Department of Energy for its dedication to America's Service Members. For more information on our Foundation or to aid us in our mission please visit us at our website www.armedforcesfoundation.org.

The Forward, Introduction, cover art as well as a first chapter excerpt is available for viewing at www.hiddenbattles.homestead.com

For more information on the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, please visit: <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx>

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