

SEMPER FI

ALWAYS FAITHFUL

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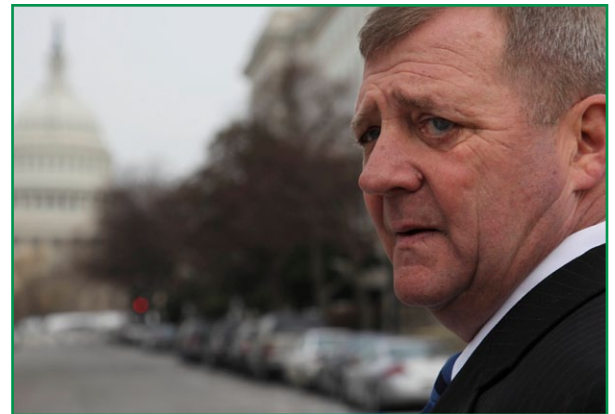
Bullfrog Community Screening & Discussion Guide

Roll out the red carpet! Use your film screening of SEMPER FI as a tool to build community and spark discussion about military pollution, accountability, and the rights of our men and women in uniform. This guide offers some background information plus helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, and rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

For additional resources, visit semperfi.bullfrogcommunities.com/semper_resources

About SEMPER FI

Semper Fi: Always Faithful follows Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger's mission to expose the Marine Corps and force them to live up to their motto to the thousands of soldiers and their families exposed to toxic chemicals. His fight reveals a grave injustice at North Carolina's Camp Lejeune and a looming environmental crisis at military sites across the country. The Department of Defense is the United States' largest polluter. **Semper Fi: Always Faithful** is a timely and sobering story of the betrayal of US soldiers and is a call to action for more environmental oversight of military sites.



About the Directors



Rachel Libert is a New York-based director. She made her directing debut with the award-winning short film *UNDERTAKER*. Her broadcast credits include work for MTV, Discovery Health & HBO. Tony Hardmon is a veteran cinematographer who has worked on numerous projects for television and theatrical release. He has collaborated on several films with acclaimed documentary filmmaker Liz Garbus. *SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL* is his directorial debut. Both Rachel and Tony are 2010 Sundance Institute Documentary Fellows.

ready to watch!

Here are some ideas and best practices to help make your community screening of SEMPER FI a success!

- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step. Not only can you tell the world about your screening, but you can also let the Bullfrog Community team know about your plans so we can help you publicize your event. Visit semperfi.bullfrogcommunities.com/semper_screenings to register your screening of SEMPER FI.
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening of SEMPER FI? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion with your audience about the rights of servicemen and women, government policy & secrecy, the regulation of toxic chemicals, environmental health and military pollution. Or, simply provide an opportunity for families to watch and learn together.
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: churches, town halls, private homes and even high schools have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on these issues in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Be a part of a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: academic departments at colleges, universities, and high schools, faith-based organizations and institutions, and organizations concerned with soldier's rights and public health.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panels are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are a part of a meaningful discussion after a film they are more likely to stay engaged with the issue over the long term. Contact local non-profit representatives, teachers, lawyers, or government officials who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a discussion or Q&A session. The filmmaker is available to appear in person or via Skype for a Q&A. [Contact Bullfrog Communities](#) if you are interested.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** After the film ends, allow 30 minutes for discussion. Use the sample questions below to engage your guests!
- 7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing the film screening to people in your community. Sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. Use the SEMPER FI screening poster and press photos at semperfi.bullfrogcommunities.com/semper_resources to help publicize your event around town.
- 8. Tell Us How It Went!** Visit semperfi.bullfrogcommunities.com/semper_discussion to tell us about your event. Where it was held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Your feedback will help others in organizing their own successful events and will energize the Bullfrog Human Rights community as a whole.

ready to talk!

Your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by SEMPER FI. Here are some questions that will get people talking.

1. What does the Marine Corps motto “Semper Fi” mean? In the context of Jerry’s ongoing fight to have the health effects of the contamination at Camp Lejeune acknowledged and addressed by the military, how might the filmmakers be re-appropriating that motto?
2. What makes SEMPER FI a powerful film? How did it resonate with you? Did it display a particular strength? How does it compare to or differ from other documentaries that deal with issues related to the environment, public health or justice?
3. What was/were the most memorable moment(s) in the film? Why?
4. What in the film bothered or angered you the most? What surprised you the most?
5. In the case of Camp Lejeune, are there any reasons why the Marine Corps felt it might have been necessary to keep the water contamination a secret?
6. Male breast cancer is a rare condition: for every 100 women with the disease, just 1 man is diagnosed. Scientific evidence has increasingly shown that breast cancer risk is linked to exposures to toxic chemicals in the environment. Before watching SEMPER FI, what did you think caused cancer? Were you aware that cancer risk can be linked to toxic chemicals in the environment? How about now?
7. Had you heard of any of the chemicals discussed in the film – benzene, vinyl chloride, TCE, PCE? How familiar are you with these chemicals? Do you know where these chemicals are found?
8. How badly do you think the U.S. military pollutes? In what ways do they pollute? What is the U.S. military doing to reduce its carbon footprint and generally green its operations?
9. Michael Hargett of Grainger Labs addressed military officers at Camp Lejeune about his concerns over contaminants found in the water there, but was rebuffed and no action was taken. Why do you think these officers chose to ignore the Lab’s findings, even with the federal testing regulations in effect?
10. Marine Corps representative Kelly Dreyer states at a Congressional hearing that it would be a “difficult and laborious task” to locate and notify all of the marines and their families who may have been exposed to toxins at Camp Lejeune. What do you make of Ms. Dreyer’s statement? How would you respond to Ms. Dreyer. How would you respond if you were in her position?
11. What, if any, are the drawbacks to being in a position like Jerry Ensminger, where one is the spokesperson and point of contact for an issue as large as the health of potentially thousands of people affected by Camp Lejeune’s water contamination?
12. Do you live or know anyone that lives near a contaminated military site? Are you aware of any nearby potential disease clusters or reports of illnesses that might be linked to exposure to toxic chemicals?
13. The U.S. Department of Defense has repeatedly sought exemptions from Congress for compliance with federal laws including the Migratory Bird Treaties Act, the Wildlife Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Pentagon claims that these laws threaten military readiness. Should they be exempt? Why or why not?

ready to act!

handout

Share this handout with your SEMPER FI screening audience!

1. Promote the Camp Lejeune Legislation and help inform military families!

On Monday, August 6th, 2012, President Obama signed into law the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, which provides health care to thousands of Marines and their families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

You can view the bill in it's entirety here: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.1627>:

See President Obama signing the bill:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/08/06/honoring-americas-veterans-and-caring-camp-lejeune-families-act-20>

2. Write thank you letters to the champions of the Camp Lejeune Legislation –Representative Brad Miller, Senator Richard Burr and Senator Kay Hagan – and/or to your representatives who voted for it.

3. VOTE! For information on environmental voting records, check out the scorecard from the League of Conservation Voters at <http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/>. To register to vote, contact USA.gov at <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Voting/Register.shtml>

4. Write to First Lady Michelle Obama and/or Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden about the importance of protecting military families from harmful exposures to toxic chemicals. If possible answer the question: how does this issue affect you personally?

5. Support The Safe Chemicals Act

More than 80,000 chemicals are permitted for use in the U.S. but have never been fully tested for toxicity to humans. 36 years have passed since lawmakers made any significant reforms to the United States' chemicals policy. Write your congressmen and women and ask them to support The Safe Chemicals Act, which would protect public health, strengthen regulation of toxic chemicals and ensure that chemicals are safe for children before they go on the market. Take action: http://action.ewg.org/p/dia/action3/common/public?action_KEY=I990&tag=2012TSCASemperFiQuestions

6. Identify other Military Sites That May Be Contaminated, and Demand Action

A map of military sites on the EPA's National Priorities List for cleanup is on the SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL website : <http://semperfialwaysfaithful.com/map>

The EPA also maintains a database of US military sites where the Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office is involved. It contains basic information including location, contaminants and cleanup actions taken. Find your state and research any sites of concern and, if action has not been taken or has yet to be finalized, contact your elected officials and call their attention to the situation. <http://www.epa.gov/fedfac/ff/>

7. Support the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

War pollution can last for generations. CADU's 'Toxic Remnants of War Project' seeks to identify substances that are used during wars that may have a long-term health impact on civilians, or result in damage to the environment. Learn more at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/>

8. Help clean up your community and insist on a safe and clean environment.

Volunteer with groups like Keep America Beautiful or your local Sierra Club or national park; help beautify your environment while maintaining environmentally sound practices.

Check out these sites for more information:

- **The Few, The Proud, The Forgotten** (<http://www.tftptf.com/>) Helping to ensure the rights of the residents, Marines/Naval personnel, dependent family members and civilians who resided in military base housing aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- **Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry** (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/Lejeune/>) The government agency conducting health studies about Camp Lejeune. Their website contains information on the contaminants found at Camp Lejeune, plus community resources.
- **Environmental Working Group** (<http://www.ewg.org/>) EWG is a cutting-edge research and advocacy organization that uses the power of information to protect public health and the environment.
- **The National Disease Cluster Alliance** (<http://clusteralliance.org/>) An organization of scientists, public health professionals and concerned citizens committed to helping communities face emerging disease clusters.
- **Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families** (<http://www.saferchemicals.org/>) A national effort to protect families from toxic chemicals.
- **The Project on Government Oversight** (<http://pogoblog.typepad.com>) A nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.
- **National Resource Defense Council** (<http://www.nrdc.org/>) One of our nation's largest environmental action groups, combining the grassroots power of 1.3 million members and online activists with the courtroom clout and expertise of more than 350 lawyers, scientists and other professionals.