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South Carolina ETV announces production of Season 2 of "After Action," the acclaimed PBS series focusing on the wide-ranging experiences of the diverse community of military veterans

Hosted by combat veteran Stacy Pearsall, the series features powerful conversations about military life

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina ETV (SCETV) today announced that production will begin in August 2023 on seven new one-hour episodes of <u>After Action</u>, the acclaimed PBS series that offers an inside look at what life is like before, during and after action. Hosted by Air Force combat veteran Stacy Pearsall, the series explores the lived experiences of diverse veterans from across the country through candid conversations. **After Action** seeks to demystify the military experience, provide a platform for dialogue among family members and preserve military stories, many of which have been left untold.

Topics explored in Season 2 include the unique challenges faced by women, parents and LGBTQ+ members of the military; the experiences of Gold Star family members who enlisted; the dangers of toxic exposure; and a conversation with chaplains to discuss faith, hope and moral injury after action. Season 2 of *After Action* is scheduled to premiere on PBS stations across the country and on PBS.org in Spring 2024. Season 1 is currently available to stream on PBS.org.

After Action producer and host Stacy Pearsall is a retired Air Force Staff Sergeant and former aerial combat photojournalist who earned the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Commendation with Valor for combat actions in Iraq. Following her service, Pearsall began the Veterans Portrait Project as a way to honor her fellow veterans; her photographs have been exhibited at the Pentagon, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and other venues. Though combat disabled and retired from military service, Pearsall — like many of the veterans featured in the series — does not let her disabilities hold her back. With her service animal by her side, America's Vet Dogs Charlie, Pearsall taps into her own struggles to challenge her fellow veterans to probe deeper into their stories. Through these intimate conversations, After Action seeks to provide a community for other veterans and help nonveterans gain a better understanding of those who have served.

After Action is a production of <u>SCETV</u>. Don Godish is the executive producer and director. Stacy Pearsall and Hannah Merchant are producers. The series is hosted by Pearsall. Production funding for **After Action** is provided by the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, Polycor and Friends of **After Action**.

Visit <u>pbs.org/afteraction</u> to learn more about the series, featured veterans and resources for veterans. Viewers can also engage with the show on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

QUOTES

"In Season 1, we shared some remarkable stories but there is still so much more to understand about the military and veteran experience. I'm thrilled we're back for another seven episodes, and to have an opportunity to continue the conversation. Season 2 is going to just as impactful." —After Action Host Stacy Pearsall

"We are honored to continue this journey with After Action Season 2, our commitment to shedding light on the diverse and impactful stories of veterans across the nation. Through candid conversations and intimate exploration, we aim to continue demystifying the military experience, fostering dialogue and preserving the untold narratives of our brave veterans. This series is a testament to the resilience and



strength of our veterans, and we look forward to once again sharing these inspiring authentic stories with audiences nationwide." – After Action Executive Producer and Director Don Godish

FAST FACTS:

- <u>After Action</u> Season 2 production will begin in August 2023 on seven new one-hour episodes of **After Action**, the acclaimed PBS series that offers an inside look at what life is like before, during and after action.
- Season 2 of *After Action* is scheduled to premiere on PBS stations across the country and on PBS.org in Spring 2024.
- **After Action** producer and host <u>Stacy Pearsall</u> is a retired Air Force Staff Sergeant and former aerial combat photojournalist who earned the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Commendation with Valor for combat actions in Iraq.
- Season 1 of After Action is currently available to stream on PBS.org.
- Visit <u>pbs.org/afteraction</u> to learn more about the series, featured veterans and resources for veterans. Viewers can also engage with the show on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV amplifies South Carolina voices, provides educational experiences and strengthens communities, while working toward creating a stronger, more connected and informed South Carolina. In addition to airing local programs, such as *Carolina Classrooms, Making It Grow,* and *This Week in South Carolina*, SCETV also presents multiple programs to regional and national audiences, including *By The River, After Action, Reconnecting Roots, Reel South, Somewhere South, Yoga in Practice* and *How She Rolls.* In addition, SC Public Radio produces the national radio production, *Chamber Music from Spoleto Festival USA*.

Media Contact:

Landon Masters media@scetv.org 803-737-3337