

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas  
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**A1510 A.W.O.L. (USA, 2006) [Short film]**  
(Other titles: AWOL)

**Credits:** director, Jack Swanstrom ; writer, Shane Black (as Holly Martins)

**Cast:** David Morse, John C. McGinley, Caroline Kristiahn, Tuan Tran

**Summary:** Horror film (20 min.) set in Vietnam and the US in 1972. US Army Special Forces Major Cliff Marquette (Morse) leads a squad ordered to investigate unusual reports and secure a remote jungle temple locals believe has mystical powers. The Marines guarding the temple have withheld provisions for days from a Viet Cong prisoner. Despite severe mistreatment, the prisoner mysteriously shows no signs of suffering. Marquette confronts the Marine in charge, Garris (McGinley) for torturing a prisoner of war when suddenly enemy forces attack and mortar shells rock the temple. An heroic but losing battle lands Marquette in the hands of a merciless Viet Cong torturer (Tran). Marquette's men are all dead; his screams unheeded. At the height of his agony, Marquette's world is turned upside down. In an instant, he awakes in a bed in a suburban American home complete with a loving wife (Kristiahn) and two children he has never seen before. Marquette struggles to take in what is happening to him. Uncertainty and fear give way to relief and acceptance. But his reprieve is short lived. When the clock strikes midnight, Marquette finds himself back in Vietnam where his torture resumes. Trapped between these two worlds, Marquette contemplates escape. Escape will take his wits and it will require a gun. Shown at various film festivals in 2006-07 (first at the Santa Fe Film festival in Dec. 2006), but not otherwise released or broadcast. Information from the Internet Movie Database.

England, Terry. "Supernatural sampler" Santa Fe New Mexican (Dec 8, 2006), Pasatiempo, p. PA72..