



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

## Tug-O-War!

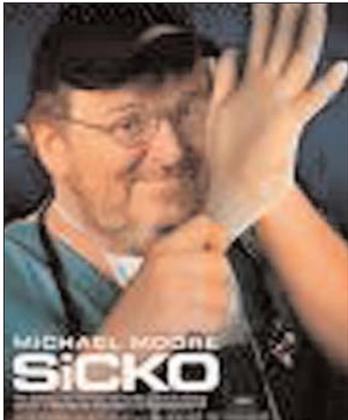
Soldiers from the 615th Aviation Support Battalion "Cold Steel," 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, pull with all their might as other Cold Steel warriors do the same on the other end of the rope in friendly tug-o-war competition during the battalion's sports day July 8 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

## Michael Moore:

# Crazed 'Sicko' or a Hero for Healthcare?

Michael Moore. Enough said, right? I know what you're thinking. "That oversized, crazed, far-off-the-deep-end liberal!"

He's not a favorite of everyone, for sure. Yet despite Moore's name attached to the film "Sicko," - a documentary that takes a strike at the flawed American healthcare system - it really made me ponder, "Could there be something wrong with our glorious nation's medical



(Photo courtesy of the barrett86movienews)

Michael Moore's "Sicko" movie poster.

system?"

Grab your stethoscopes and latex gloves and let's go!

Throughout the film Moore takes us on a tour through other countries - Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and takes an in-depth look at their "socialistic" way of providing healthcare.

Moore convincingly tackles the frenetic world of healthcare, Health Maintenance Organizations and the U.S. medical system with some face-to-face horror stories of people like you, me, our parents, our grandparents or even our children. With the one-two combinations of those up-close-and-personal accounts of denied claims and facts like "The U.S. places 37th, right above Slovenia, when it comes to healthcare," Moore hits this one out of the ball park despite the strikeout with "Fahrenheit 9/11."

It's really quite sad that these people could be from your own family - some successful people with full-time jobs, working all their lives and who have insurance and then, ... a stupid heart attack or cancer creeps into their lives, or a mother who rushes over in an ambulance with her baby girl to a hospital only to be told to go to an HMO-approved hospital.

But wait! Moore finds the one place where American universal healthcare IS pro-

vided: (Drum roll, please!) Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. That's right, the detainment naval base confining the most dangerous criminals, including several individuals in connection with the 9/11 attacks. He points out that the terrorists get better healthcare treatment than some Americans do. (Medics who work at detention facilities know what he's talking about - around-the-clock treatment for the guy who just got caught emplacing an improvised explosive device).

Hold up! Moore is wrong and all us velcrostrapping, combat boot-lacing, Army combat uniform-wearing people should know that we all have universal healthcare, courtesy of the Department of Defense.

We don't worry about co-payments, nor are we forced to battle it out with insurance companies about getting treatment or having a surgery done. Lucky us!

But, wait a minute, what about my parents? And what if I eventually want to put the M-16 down and walk into the civilian sector? I might stay in and I might not - who knows.

Perhaps when I finally do take the uniform off, I'll have to hop on a plane with an unshaven beret to Paris (Pair-eeee!) or drive across the border into Montreal or spend Crimble (English slang for Christmas) in London having tea and crumpets with the

### Random Reviews

Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma



queen - just so I won't have to worry about knowing which finger I love more: a \$12,000 ring finger or a \$60,000 middle finger. (Watch the movie and you'll know what I am talking about).

Did you know in recent poll conducted by New York Times, CBS News and MTV, 62 percent of 17-through-29-year-olds said they would support a universal, government-sponsored national healthcare insurance program? I guess the "All for one and one for all" mentality still exists.

As the credits start to roll, like a book worth reading, song worth hearing or, in this case, movie worth watching, it provokes something worth your time - emotion and thought. Whether "Sicko" agitates the Moore-hater within you, or you come out with a couple more facts about healthcare to chew on, it's definitely worth watching.

(It gets 4 out of 5 stars.)