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**POV Commemorates 40th Anniversary of Pentagon Papers' Release
With Encore of Award-winning "The Most Dangerous Man in America:
Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers," Tuesday, June 7, 2011, on PBS**

A Co-production of ITVS

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Air

Date: [POV \(Point of View\)](#) will present a special encore broadcast of Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith's Oscar®-nominated documentary [The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers](#) on **Tuesday, June 7, 2011**, at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on PBS. The rebroadcast honors the 40th anniversary of the release of the Pentagon Papers (June 13, 1971), an event that changed the course of the Vietnam War and world history.

American television's longest-running independent documentary series, POV has won a Special Emmy for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, the IDA Award for Best Continuing Series and NALIP'S 2011 Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity. POV's 24th season begins on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 10 p.m.

The Film: Why would a dedicated Cold War strategist throw away his career and friends and risk life in prison for a chance to help end the Vietnam War? In 1971, Daniel Ellsberg, a leading military planner, concluded that America's role in the war was based on decades of lies. He leaked the Pentagon Papers, 7,000 pages of top-secret documents, to *The New York Times*, a daring act of conscience that led to Watergate, President Nixon's resignation and the end of the Vietnam War. **The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers**, winner of a Peabody Award, is a gripping tale told by Ellsberg with a who's who of Vietnam-era figures.

Featured in the film: Mort Halperin; Thomas Schelling; Egil "Bud" Krogh; Anthony Russo; John Dean; Hedrick Smith; James Goodale; Leonard Weinglass; Sen. Mike Gravel (D-AK). Archival audio and film footage: Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon; Henry Kissinger; Robert McNamara; Walter Cronkite, John Chancellor; Dick Cavett.

Watch the trailer and learn more at www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/.

Related News: *Orange County Register*, May 27, 2011: "Nixon Library to make Pentagon Papers public," by Michael Mello. YORBA LINDA — After more than 40 years, the federal government has declassified the Pentagon Papers, and the Nixon Presidential Library & Museum will be one of the first institutions to make the document available.

The Nixon Library already has a copy in the vault that was part of President Richard M. Nixon's papers. It will be released at 9 a.m., June 13, 40 years to the day that leaked portions of the report were printed on the front page of The New York Times, near a picture of Nixon accompanying his daughter Tricia on her wedding day. Full story:

http://articles.oregister.com/2011-05-27/news/29595432_1_director-tim-naftali-nixon-presidential-library-declassified

Associated Press, May 11, 2011: "11 Words Still Classified in Pentagon Papers."

WASHINGTON — Forty years after they hit front pages, the Pentagon Papers will be released by the government next month. But wait! Eleven words of the finally declassified history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam will remain secret. The National Declassification Center will only say that the 11 words are all on one of the work's 7,000 pages. Full story:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APcda14b66617f4eed91cfea8a35907570.html>

Daniel Ellsberg: Daniel Ellsberg was born on April 7, 1931 and grew up in Detroit. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1952 and later earned a Ph.D. in economics with his thesis, "Risk, Ambiguity and Decision," which described a paradox in decision theory now known as the Ellsberg Paradox. He was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954-57. From 1959-64, he was a strategic analyst at the RAND Corporation and a consultant to the Defense Department and the White House, specializing in the command and control of nuclear weapons, nuclear war plans and crisis decision-making. Ellsberg joined the Defense Department in 1964 as special assistant to Assistant Secretary of Defense John McNaughton, who reported to Robert McNamara. Ellsberg's reports on Viet Cong atrocities helped Mr. McNamara justify plans for bombing North Vietnam.

Ellsberg transferred to the State Department in 1965 and served for two years at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. On return to the RAND Corporation in 1967, Ellsberg worked on the top secret McNamara study of U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68, which later came to be known as the Pentagon Papers.

In 1969, with the help of RAND colleague Anthony Russo, he photocopied the 7,000-page study and gave it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; in 1971 he gave it to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and 17 other newspapers. Identified as the source of the leak, Ellsberg turned himself in at the Federal courthouse in Boston on June 28, 1971. Russo was included in the indictment when he refused to testify against Ellsberg.

The trial, on 12 felony counts posing a possible sentence of 115 years, was dismissed in 1973 on grounds of governmental misconduct, which led to the convictions of several White House aides and figured in the impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.

Ellsberg is the author of *Papers on the War* (1971), *Risk, Ambiguity and Decision* (2001) and *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers* (2002), which became a best-seller and won the PEN Center USA Award for Creative Nonfiction, among other awards.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, Ellsberg has been a lecturer, writer and activist. He lives near Berkeley, Calif., with his wife, Patricia Marx Ellsberg. He has two sons and a daughter and five grandchildren.

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers is a production of Kovno Communications and Insight Productions.

Credits:	Co-directors/ Co-producers:	Judith Ehrlich, Rick Goldsmith
	Cinematographers:	Vicente Franco, Dan Krauss
	Editors:	Michael Chandler, Rick Goldsmith, Lawrence Lerew

Writers: Lawrence Lerew, Rick Goldsmith, Judith Ehrlich, Michael Chandler; Based in part on the book *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers* by Daniel Ellsberg

Original Music: Blake Leyh

POV Credits: Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López
Production/Programming Director: Chris White
Series Producer: Yance Ford

Running Time: 116:46

Awards: National Board of Review, 2009 – *Freedom of Expression Award*; named one of five Best Documentaries
International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, 2009 – *Special Jury Award*
Mill Valley Film Festival, 2009 – *Audience Award*
Sydney Film Festival, 2010 – *Audience Award, Best Documentary*
Palm Springs International Film Festival, 2010 – *Audience Award, Best Documentary*
San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, 2010 – *Best in Fest Award*
George Foster Peabody Award, 2011

(For a complete list of awards and festivals, go to www.mostdangerousman.org.)

Outreach: POV works with public television stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in **The Most Dangerous Man in America**. For a list of upcoming screenings and discussion events, go to: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/outreach>.

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and beginning its 24th season on PBS in 2011, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 300 documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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