



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

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**U.S. VETERAN DISCUSSES ACCLAIMED SHORT STORY COLLECTION
AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

***Redeployment* inspired by real-life experiences in Iraq War**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Phil Klay, author of the critically acclaimed short story collection, *Redeployment*, spoke at Ramapo College on Thursday, January 29. *Redeployment*, which won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2014, was inspired by Klay's real-life experiences while serving in the military during the Iraq War.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Klay served in Iraq's Anbar Province from January 2007 to February 2008 as a public affairs officer. The book chronicles fictional accounts by 12 different narrators, each of whom has a unique perspective on the conflict in Iraq and the return home.

"My goal in writing the book was to present the reader with a series of moral choices," said Klay, adding that no one character in *Redeployment* is totally fictional. "I drew things from my real-life experiences and used them in crafting the stories."

Klay was named a National Book Foundation '5 Under 35' honoree in 2014. *Redeployment* was also short-listed for the Frank O'Connor Prize. *The New York Times* described it as "the best thing written so far on what the war did to people's souls." *The New Yorker* called it "the best literary work thus far written by a veteran of America's recent wars... a masterly collection of short stories about war and its psychological consequences."

Klay's visit was sponsored by the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies at Ramapo College.

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.