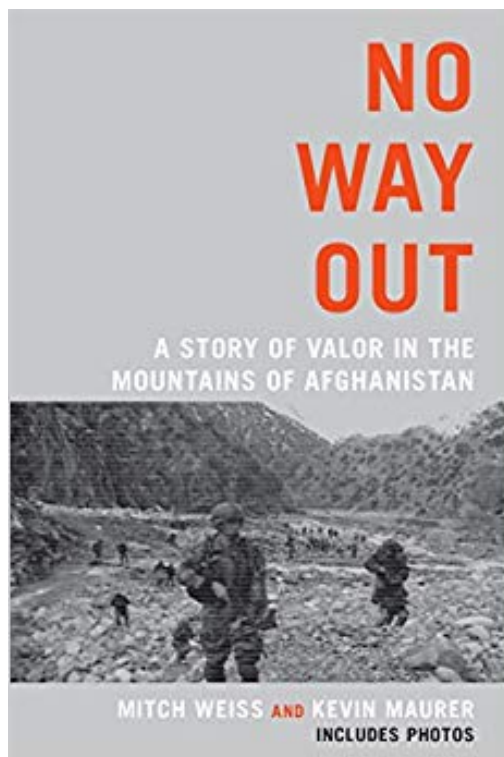


No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan *by* Mitch Weiss



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It seemed like an impossible mission right from the start.

A Special Forces team planned to land in an enemy-held valley, scale a steep mountain in Afghanistan to surprise and capture a terrorist leader.

But before they found the target, the target found them...

The team was caught in a deadly ambush that not only threatened their lives, but the entire mission. The elite soldiers fought for hours, huddled on a small rock ledge as rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine gun fire rained down on them. With total disregard for their own safety, they tended to their wounded and kept fighting to stay alive.

When the battle finally ended, ten soldiers had earned Silver Stars- the Army's third highest award for combat valor. It was the most Silver Stars awarded to any unit in one battle since Vietnam.

Based on dozens of interviews with those who were there, No Way Out is a compelling narrative of an epic battle that not only tested the soldiers' mettle but serves as a cautionary tale: Be careful what you ask a soldier to do because they will die trying to accomplish their mission.



Reviews of the **No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan** by Mitch Weiss

Brightcaster

I was a bit unsure upon opening this book and seeing over 90 chapters listed for a book with a little over 330 pages. Any doubt was quickly pushed aside by the fast paced narrative. The mechanics of the book gives such a sense of the chaos of battle the author is trying to convey. Upon finishing this book I have even greater respect for those who put others before themselves.

ÅĤ_Ÿøürš

A well written description of the war in Afghanistan. This war is unlike any prior war in history. Combatants are exposed to more high-tech killing and maiming weaponry than ever before. We have no draft, an all-volunteer army. Our Congress has reduced the size of the military and has cut military spending. These things combine to make this a difficult war to survive. Combatants are serving multiple tours, they are exposed to traumatic events, and this book tells the reader what it's like. This book adds the political aspect to war. Leaders don't always make the right decisions. Subordinates often know better than their leaders. A good leader listens to his subordinates and should never put his men in an unwinnable situation. But it happens, and it happens in this book. And it probably happens too often. There are consequences to bad leadership, and this book shows the reader just that. War is different today than it has ever been. Every American should read this book to learn what it means to wage war in the modern era. Our soldiers are very patriotic and very brave. They serve to keep us free. We owe it to them to understand what they go through in serving us. They deserve more from our government than they get.

Nuadora

Like most who have served in Afghanistan and/or Iraq..the historical accounts of the missions there sometimes seem to be an extension of our own experiences.

But few can imagine the horrific accounts of being trapped on a defensive position attempting to take the high ground of cliffs with the insurgents in fortified positions firing down. Terrain is everything in Afghanistan..when it comes to METT-TC..terrain is the metric which must take the highest consideration-

Whoever (and that is plural) planned the mission took responsibility for the disaster which occurred resulting in many serious and life changing injuries to the Special Forces Soldiers.

From the reader's standpoint, it seemed as though the Afgh commandos (in training) would be the main force with the SF trainers to be in the overwatch mentoring and reinforcing training skills in a live combat situation. This seems not to be the case..but, more over the relatively small SF Team became the assault force and the Afghan commandos of some 100 or so were in fixed positions and would not move forward.

The team pressed on regardless-A validation of training and dedication to the mission even though most, including the commander recognized early on the mission was a disaster in waiting.

Too many times, the upper echelon planners took it upon themselves to do the planning when someone else was burdened with the execution. The long hard road to mission planning involves those who do the implementation..because they have all the risks. Powerpoint planning is a no-go on missions of this magnitude.

Does the mil community make mistakes..some understandable..others in-excusable as the following ...like the mission told in the book..or Wanat in the Korengal...or the coverup of the Tillman death in Khost.

For those who were affected by leadership which may of been un-comprising...hopefully, those who "walk the walk" will utilize their first hand experience to do the right thing when it comes to their turn to plan missions.

Good luck all in hopes your lives have moved on to a better place. RH/Paktia/Khost-2003
Adoraris

Uniquely written and a nice change of pace from normal book paths. Very interesting and well worth reading. Lots of background but lots of action too. I do take issue with some of the author's conclusions. While many of the normal mission steps and safeguards were not followed it may have been for a good reason. There comes a time when we have to give the upper brass some credit. Since some of the many issues never came to light, and there were many with the up to down planning, it may have been necessary and there comes a time when the down to up personnel just have to accept this. This being said, the book describes the courage and wittiness of each individual soldier involved. All can take pride in the fact that they were able to fill in the gaps with nothing more than skill and bravery. There's no need for a blame game at the end. We will probably never know all that the brass knew. Let's face it, we don't know about most of our extremely valuable military secrets and our military continue to do their jobs without demanding and explanation. It's okay to demand an explanation every time we think we deserve one. But we do our jobs whether we get one or not. Bitch but don't betray. It's almost the American way.

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