

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all those Americans who, in the aftermath of 9/11, set aside earlier careers and dreams and, instead, found avenues to “contribute” toward America’s defense. Patriotism was given new meaning for citizens of all ages, ethnicities, social statuses, and professional standings. Whether their choice was to join the armed forces or law enforcement, or dedicate their future to fighting conditions of human and political hopelessness, tens of thousands of individuals became determined to “make a difference” and selected new professional directions for themselves. For many, that choice will cost them their lives. For others, they will sacrifice affluence and fame for devotion to humankind and selfless service. And still others will enhance educational skills they need to resolve causes of conflict.

For those who wear the cloth of our nation, my dedication is particularly profound. Many military members entered the service at a time of peace. Yet they reaffirm the warrior spirit by remaining in today’s armed forces despite unimaginable career and family pressure. Men and women who have led comrades in deadly combat. Who have been shot at in anger and who, themselves, have killed others. Who survived convoys blasted apart by roadside bombs. And who, the very next day, led another convoy on the same road. Who held dying comrades and smelled a battlefield. These are men and women who truly understand the nature of war, the power of war, and the limits of war.

To these heroes of American society, in and out of uniform, this book is respectfully dedicated.