

KENNY

DUPAR

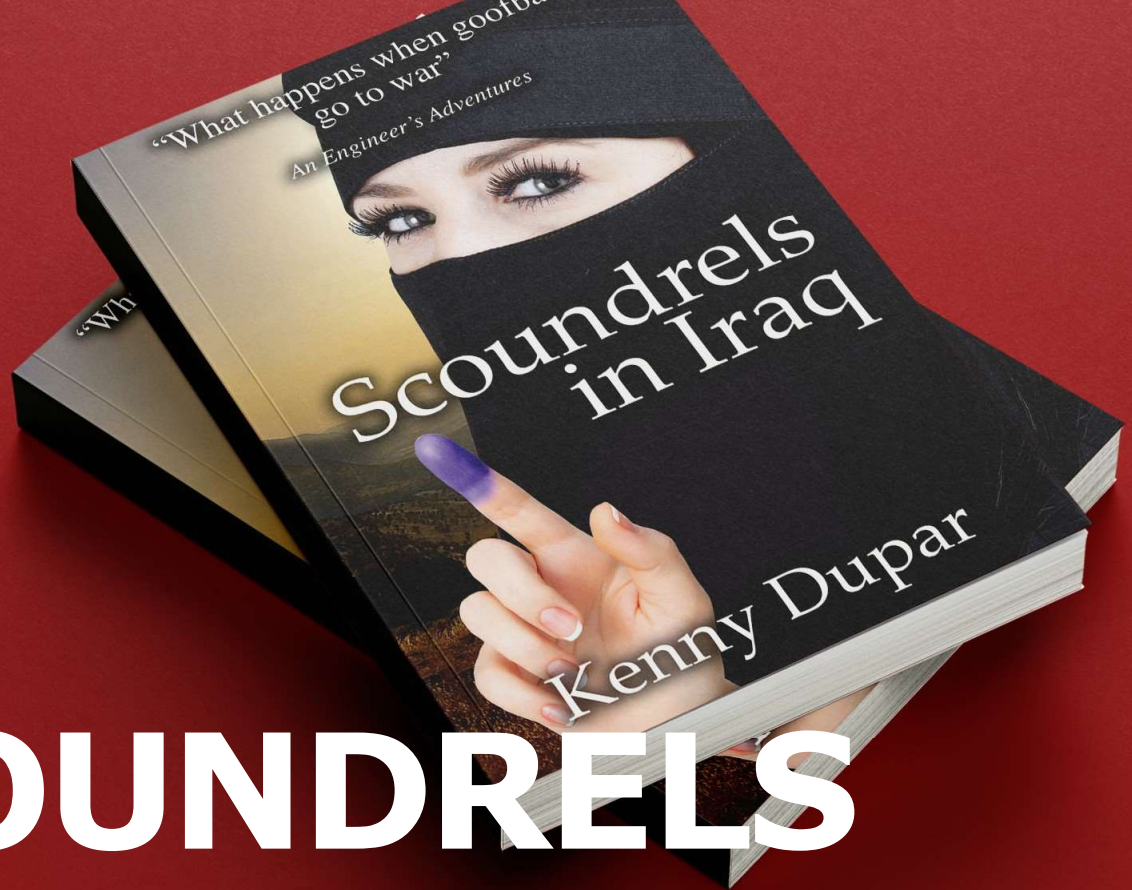


MEET KENNY

Kenny Dupar, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) and retired Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years of service in the Army Reserve, spending eight of those on active duty. A year after 9/11, he was mobilized under Operation Enduring Freedom.

“

The war changed me. You bet. More mature, more vulnerable. If you've ever met a person just happy to be alive, that's me. *-Kenny*



SCOUNDRELS IN IRAQ

Most Soldiers aren't the Infantry Boys runnin' and gunnin', performing harrowing missions. People have seen a one-sided, violent representation of the war in Iraq. Some Americans leave for war straight from their neighborhoods and families. Many of these citizen patriots have wicked skills and low impulse control.

Men shooting their guns in dramatic fashion is a tiny fraction of wartime activity. The sizeable contributions of female Soldiers in Iraq have been largely excluded in media. Engineers, military intelligence, police, psych ops, aviation, transporters, comms, finance, postal, medical, staff pukes, the ash and the trash, itty bitty units that plan, man guardposts and make water safe to drink haven't been given their due.

Scoundrels in Iraq relates the gritty adventures. I inadvertently explained the result of the war, how and why ISIS appeared; still finding the ridiculous and funny in order to continue the march: providing a glimpse of the anguish of being separated from family, the worry of getting hurt and the fear of coming home when your loved ones have moved on without you.

QUICK FACTS

FULL TITLE:	Scoundrels in Iraq: An Engineer's Adventures
PAGE COUNT:	327 Pages
GENRE:	Military, War & Spies Biographies
PUBLISHER :	Castle Corp LLC
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AVAILABLE:	Amazon, Ingram, Barnes & Noble, Local Retailers

FAQ

Why did you write the book?

Writers are allowed to mention the voices in their heads without getting locked up, and mine kept insisting that I write down my Engineer Adventures. I was in interesting places at interesting times. So these vignettes, tales spun through a funny lens, became chapters. My experience allowed me to portray the breadth of the war from the perspective of a goofball. It's much more relatable to non-military folks. I also write to keep my brain from turning into mush.

What was the scariest thing you ever experienced in Iraq?

Besides getting mortared once in a while and the fear of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on the roads, coming home was the hardest part of going to war. That's pretty common. I came home with all my fingers and toes, shaken not stirred. In other words, I didn't suffer from PTSD because of luck, my own resiliency, and the type of job I had in the Army. We were building stuff in the Engineers, not running and gunning. But when you get back, everybody has moved on without you. Life doesn't freeze frame the way you remembered it. Kids grow, spouses take on new tasks. Relationships break. Employers were supposed to give you your job back. That didn't always happen. And oh by the way, you've changed a lot too. That's really hard to come to grips with.

What are you doing now?

I'm still running work in construction. I'm going to retire the moment I can ensure I won't starve to death, and spend my time writing. I want to do what I want to do! (I sound like a petulant child). Book #2, Pin-up Dolls and Classic Cars: A Covid Love Story, is with the editor. Writing to me is an act

of discovery. I don't want to stick to the same genre, so I wrote a love story. It's not for the Hallmark Channel.

Why did you steal a bulldozer?

Stealing is such a vulgar term, I prefer appropriate. As long as a Soldier doesn't take government property for profit, but for a noble purpose like completing a mission, and doesn't get caught, then a crime really hasn't been committed. Right? The alleged bulldozer was a beast known as the "Teddy Bear", D9 high track, up-armored. We spent \$30,000 on parts for the one that was "appropriated" and we Engineers gave it to the Marine Corps after it was fixed. It kept Marines from getting hurt, that's the why. If anyone is looking for it, tell 'em to ask them. What do you think the Marines are going to say?

Who is the woman with the purple finger?

In 2005, Iraq had its first free and fair election in over 40 years. In order to ensure people didn't vote twice on election day, they dipped their index finger into ink. Shia women didn't wash it off as a matter of pride. She also represents someone else. Any guesses?

Did the US lose the war?

Few people are going to lament the fact Saddam Hussein got hanged by the Iraqi people. The Kurds in the north are certainly glad for increased autonomy, as are the majority Shia Arabs who are now in charge. The script flipped and the former oppressors, Sunni Arabs, are now in the minority. The new government aligns mostly with their fellow Shia in Iran, but there has certainly been a flourishing of political freedom. The US was unprepared for a counterinsurgency or to step into the violent 1400 year Sunni/Shia schism within Islam.

Did you really stowaway to get to Iraq?

I don't like talking about this because of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. Acts unbecoming of a Commissioned Officer,

stuff like that. My Courts Martial will be interesting. Always remember that a Scoundrel never admits to anything. Confessions are for suckers.

How is your heart now?

Modern pharmaceuticals are keeping me alive. Also, I think I amuse the Creator of the Universe, so She keeps me around to see what I do next. I know how I'm going to die, heart failure. So I got that going for me.

Why do you call yourself the White Don King of Baghdad?

To celebrate the 4th of July 2003, I decided we needed to have a birthday party! We had been in Iraq for a month, living conditions were very austere, Soldiers were really stressed. I found some athletic gear we had brought from Iowa so I decided to build a boxing ring. Everybody loves either watching other people beat on each other, or to do it themselves. So I accidently became a boxing promoter, thus volunteering to be my Engineer Battalion's Morale Officer.

Now, the most famous boxing promoter of all time is Don King. He's black. We were in Baghdad. I'm white and was acting like I was Don King. No one will ever say anything as silly to the American people. I own it. Upon going to war, I became the White Don King of Bagdad, it's true. The boxing expositions were very popular.

In Scoundrels, who is Tony?

That's the only question on the final exam. Sorry, no clues except, the human mind can do funny things.



5 STARS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"I'VE READ THE BOOK AND LISTENED TO THE AUDIO; I CAN'T WAIT FOR SCOUNDRELS IN IRAQ TO BE A MOVIE OR TV SERIES!"

“What happens when goofballs go to war?”
An Engineer's Adventures
Scoundrels in Iraq
Kenny Dupar

Available at
amazon

PRESS RELEASE

SCOUNDRELS IN IRAQ - An Engineer's Adventures

My morning run was almost over as the road curved through the pines towards the Post Gym. It dawned on me that I had a comprehensive understanding of the war, having been in Iraq in its beginning and again at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In between I trained troops. I finally had a story worth telling. The compulsion to write down my goofy adventures overcame the inertia since college that limited my writing to post-it notes, Emails and greeting cards. Inspiration mixed with boredom and beer got me typing. Strangers in grocery stores thanked me for my service, and I avoided wearing my uniform in public. People hailed heroes at sporting events, placed Soldiers on pedestals. Mr. and Mrs. America didn't have a clue past what they saw on TV. The naiveté continues to piss me off fiercely.

Heartache isn't the monopoly of Special Operators – the Men in Black. The petroleum specialist or mechanic halfway around the world feel the same loneliness amongst many. Going home can be harder than leaving. It doesn't matter what your job was downrange. But sexy and violent sells. What about scoundrels in the Army? It seems an ageless tale. I kept replaying my overseas adventures in my head while fighting dandelions in my yard or while driving the 175-mile weekly commute back to Fort McCoy. My Battle Buddy, Hank Molina would pester me during phone calls to write down our hilarious criminal acts from Operation Iraqi Freedom One (2003-04). Finally, I relented to the nagging pressure from my mind while remodeling the exterior of a Hotel in Charleston, West Virginia. The book outline took two nights and two six packs, I mean three.

Quickly, I became used to feeling that a portion of my work at night was basically crap. But it was fun. If I could make myself laugh, then that alone was worth the effort. Making myself cry because my writing was incredibly moving was sometimes due to alcohol, sometimes not. Resumption of a lifelong passion was very satisfying.

Not a big fan of the fickle Uniform Code of Military Justice I worried about telling the world that I stole the most bad assup-armored bulldozer ever built, supposedly. It seemed wise to retire before my entire confession was in print. But like weused to say, "what are they

I was hesitant to make my voice so dominant, but my nephew, who helped me story board the various lines of effort (themes), convinced me that he wanted to know my opinions, observations, recollections, everything about the war from my point of view. Mike said he'd never be in Iraq so he wanted all I could give. Writing the story directly to him meant I could be my goofball self. Finding the ludicrous in Iraq was easy.

Soldiers got hurt and reminders of loss came to the fore, like Jessica Lynch. Perhaps a cathartic project is all the book would amount to. But I didn't see any representation of ordinary Soldiers in Iraq in media that was even close to reality. Didn't women deploy? Where's their atta-girl?

To change the tone while the story came back to the States, I eliminated all dialogue in Part Two "McCoy". It's a method, I guessed. Reverting back to using dialogue, brought vivaciousness to theater, I hoped.

My battle buddy Hank, provided illustrations of Baghdad International Airport (BIAP), the huge city itself, plus the book design. I included a glossary of Military acronyms plus a listing of US Army rank structure for civilian types. Ultimately, I figured out the war. At least to my satisfaction. Eight years of my life was dedicated to the people of Iraq and my sisters and brothers at arms.

Soldiers with addictions, personality disorders, a family crisis back home can profoundly affect a person's mental stability. I was guided through the hairiest of situations, especially during my first deployment. Tony wasn't just a hook or a crutch, he was the one who gave me the courage to write the book.

Kenny Dupar's service career began with the Reserve Officer Training Command (ROTC) while attending the University of Wisconsin in 1987. He enlisted as a Tanker and climbed the ranks from Private First Class to Lieutenant Colonel in 30 years of continuous service. Upon graduation with a BA in Political Science – American Foreign Policy and Economics, he was accepted into the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and completed a Carpenter Apprenticeship. Colonel Dupar finished his Advanced Engineer courses and Project Management Professional certification prior to his retirement in 2017.

Deployed twice to Iraq with USACE, performing earth moving and contract administration, Kenny received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Bronze De Fleury award for lifetime contributions to the Engineer Regiment. He concentrated on Operations and Training during his career, planning and executing complex programs of instruction for deploying Soldiers.

As a Superintendent with General Contractors throughout the country, Kenny hopes to soon hang up his construction kit, and concentrate on writing. His first book, "Scoundrels in Iraq – An Engineer's Adventures" is available on Amazon, and major retailers. Colonel Kenny narrated the audio version which is available on Audible. "Pin-up Dolls and Classic Cars – A COVID Love Story," his second novel, is due to be published in 2022.

Kenny has finally settled from his travels to the Pacific Northwest. His goofball, Engineer adventures overseas has provided a unique and heart wrenching account of the war in Iraq. He figured it out, to hear him tell it.

Learn more at www.kennydupar.com.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“Captivating storytelling! I’ve read the book and listened to the audio; I can’t wait for Scoundrels in Iraq to be a movie or TV series!”

“As a Navy veteran, I was drawn to the story of the everyday soldier doing the average jobs that kept things going, just like I did...I loved hearing the stories of how Kenny and his crew turned miserable circumstances into not just survivable moments, but crazy fun events like boxing matches. One moment I’m laughing and wondering how this guy could have been in charge with all of his crazy antics and misfortunes when he first arrived in Iraq; the next moment the tears are pouring as Kenny tells of injured soldiers and the heartache of missing home.”

“Kenny’s performance is equal to that of Orson Welles. It feels just like we are sitting down together having a beer and swapping stories....with sound effects!”

“I was fortunate enough to get one of the first copies from the author himself! Very cool, sincere and funny guy!”

“I really enjoyed reading this book! In fact I’ve read it twice now! It takes you through the other side of the war. It is not your typical heroic, front line battle scene type book. This book gives credit to the other heroes that were there working hard and giving support to those guys. The women, the builders and the entertainers!”

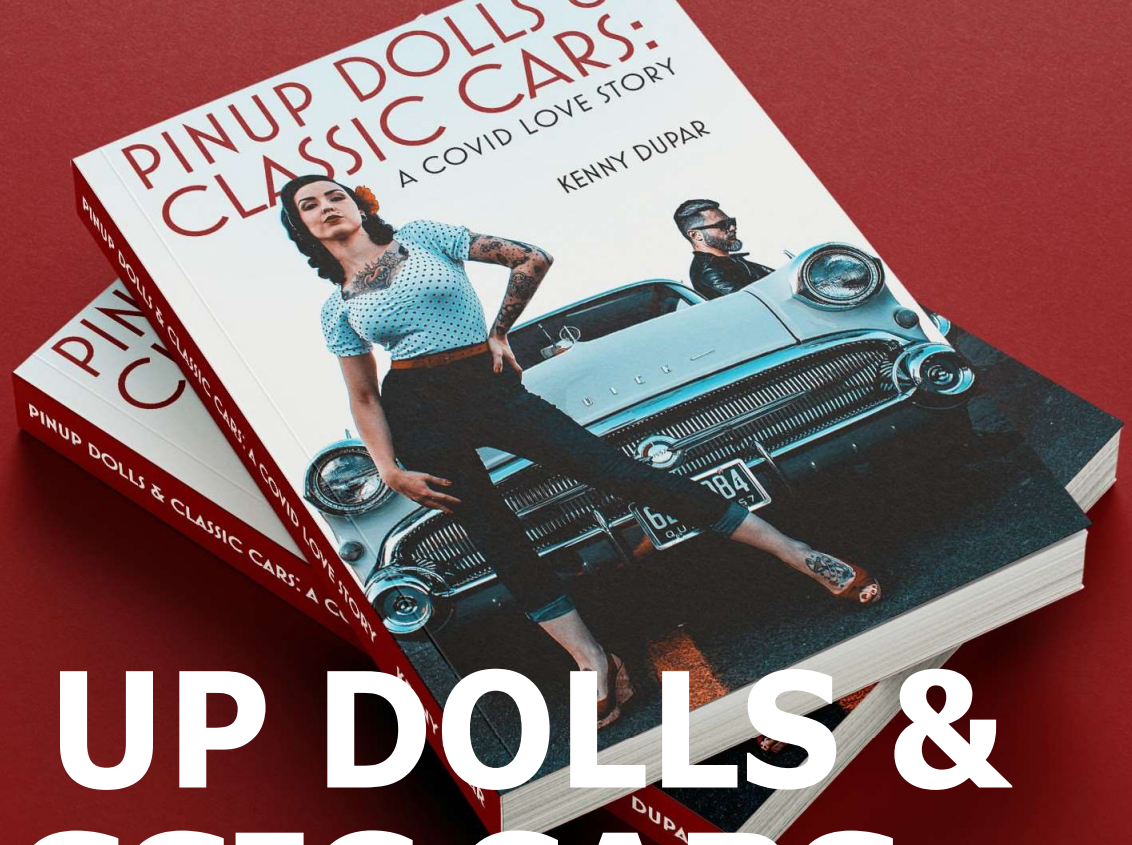
“Definitely a great read and awesome gift for that hard-to-shop for person on your list! Refreshingly great for guys or gals!”

“Scoundrels: an armchair deployment to Iraq. Humor alert...don’t be drinking a beverage reading this.”

“The Army’s 169th Engineer Battalion’s version of M.A.S.H is what Scoundrels in Iraq reminds me of; complete with creative requisitioning of ‘abandoned’ equipment (gives ‘Teddy Bears and boots on the ground’ a whole new meaning) quasi criminal organizational skills and an insider’s view of the consequences of Saddam Hussein’s infamous demise.”

“Bought Scoundrels for my Air Force husband who knew of engineer battalions but had no on-the-ground idea that such liberal interpretations of ‘complete the mission’ could be achieved without having a considerable legal team on retainer. While the author does not tell you the best stall to buy pistachio nuts (that’s on a need to know basis only), he does give you insight, as only one who has been there can of what deployment to Saddam’s Iraq: the nation, politics, society and survival was. Those with military experience can relate—those without... admiration for the entrepreneurial skill set, unit cohesion and plausible denials of the 169th.”

“Not your typical war book! Great read for men or women!”



PIN UP DOLLS & CLASSIC CARS: A COVID LOVE STORY

Do you appreciate stuff more now that the worst of COVID is over? Pretty things like the buffed painted body of a car, the chrome polished into mirrors reflecting light? Or maybe friends and lovers that you're afraid might get sick again? The trauma of the pandemic still sinks in.

Pacific Northwest summers provide a beautiful snapshot of the "Good Ol' Days" where folks moved about freely showing off their cars and dresses. Pin Up clubs fit into auto shows like hands into elegant lace dress gloves smoothing over a quarter panel, modeling for photos.

Dolls invent Pin Up characters, glamming up to win a tiara, crushing the competition. Gearheads asked dates to go to the movies, not thinking love could disappear so fast.

Self-destruction and supposed preservation were in full swing when it was so easy to have fun, going to the club, ball game or parties at friend's houses. But when the lockdown began, and family started dying the prospect of losing everything changed us.

QUICK FACTS

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FAQ

Why did you write the book?

I didn't know that Pin Up Clubs existed until I saw Dolls at car shows. Except for WWII era advertisements and calendars, I thought it was a bygone era. But Pin Up has had a revival. The symbiotic nature between women dressing up and gearheads, both needing each other for racy photos to accentuate their builds, seems like pure Americana.

What's your favorite car?

A 1939 Lincoln Zephyr comes to mind. I love the pre-war design, bulbous fenders, sweeping curves. But I'm a carpenter by trade, I couldn't even maintain a vehicle like that, let alone restore a car. Muscle cars are cool, but when am I going to drive over 100 MPH again?

What's the relationship between patriotism and Pin Up?

Most Pin Up clubs do charity work, and veterans will always need help. If you're planning a pageant over the 4th of July then displaying the red, white and blue will sell. Summertime is when folks like travel, be free, go to car shows. Of course, the history of Pin Up goes to modestly titillating the "Boys" overseas at war with artwork. Maybe there's even some sex appeal?

Several of the characters are very unlikeable. Why is that?

In my opinion, most folks are decent, hardworking and caring about others. Life is hard. But toxic people abound, too.

With breakups, usually one partner is causing most of the trouble, boy or girl. How you respond to other's bad behavior should be a decision. When families go to war with each other, kids are often the most devastating weapons. I just wrote about what I observed.

How do modern Pin Up Dolls compare to those of yesteryear?

I imagine that the motivation is the same, but there's a lot more tattooing than before. The availability of ordering clothes and accessories on the internet allows today's Dolls unlimited creativity. Better makeup and fabrics too. The old school look; however, can still define "class", high style and status.

Are there many men doing Pin Up?

I've seen a few. It takes guts. I think the same standards should apply though. Makeup, clothes, hairdo, shoes, accessories, talent, disposition, class, all apply if clubs are going to compete. Females can be gearheads too, don't forget.

Compare “Beauty” between Dolls and Cars. It’s inexhaustible. Shape, color or form that please the aesthetic, especially sight, defines “beauty” but it’s entirely subjective. The journey to create something beautiful is huge. It takes time and resources to build a look or a machine. When a hot rod cruises by and people stare, the driver should feel great satisfaction. Is it different for a Doll who is paid complements on her style? It’s in our vocabulary. How’d you like to go for a ride? We admire and then desire.

Why is there so much loss in the book? Death comes in threes, so they say. I knew I didn’t want to turn the love story into a treatise on the effects of the pandemic, although they were so immediate and devastating. To foreshadow the loss of millions I emphasized death in Part One.

The question obviously became whether the lovers would overcome COVID.

How do you describe the Dolls and Cars with such vividness?

Research and the internet. I went to car shows that Pin Up clubs were also hosting. Asking questions of gearheads without sounding dumb and Dolls without sounding creepy was daunting.

Looking at published photos helps.





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