



Winning Paktika: Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan

By Robert S. Anders

AuthorHouse. Paperback. Condition: New. 532 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.0in. x 1.4in.We can win the war without killing a single person Just days prior to deploying to combat in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Piatt, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhounds announced this visionary statement in front of an assembly of 800 infantrymen and their families. Naturally, none of the soldiers listening to the Colonels rhetoric thought it was possible to actually win the war without killing a single person. That hardly sounded like war at all. In fact, that simple concept was the very antithesis of the previous 10 months they had all spent training to explicitly kill people with speed and violence. Destroying the enemy was the fundamental focus of every infantryman. It was, of course, the very reason the infantry existed in the first place. The Colonel, an infantryman himself no less, challenged his battalions conventional thinking that day and throughout the ensuing campaign. His striking pronouncement was the theoretical extreme of counterinsurgency doctrine. It emphasizes the importance of nation-building instead of manhunting, construction instead of destruction, and dropping schools and wells into villages instead of artillery shells. That was his vision and that is what...



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