

As promised, wanted to pass along some good news regarding our forthcoming book; Leave No Man Behind. We've been in "production" for over four years and we have finally reached the finish line. Leave No Man Behind "hits the streets" soon.

Attached are a shot of Leave No Man Behind's cover and also a short description of what the book is about. This saga of combat search and rescue will reach bookstores and all the usual online outlets in mid-January.

When Tom Phillips ('69) and I first conceived the book almost six years ago in a chance encounter at the 2003 Naval Helicopter Association Symposium, we had no idea what this journey would be like and no idea how enriched we would be hearing from and reading about the heroes who have risked their lives to rescue their comrades from the clutches of the enemy.

Nor did we have an idea how big the book would be. When we first contracted with Zenith publishers to do this book we all thought 100,000 words sounded like a "good number." But the more stories we uncovered the more the book grew and to our editor's and publisher's great credit they allowed this saga to grow into the substantial book it is while pricing it competitively in a tough book market.

While Leave No Man Behind does not contain every heroic rescue in every conflict - no book could - it does bring together a tremendous number of stories, and perhaps as importantly, shows how the discipline of combat search and rescue evolved over the past 100 years to give combat rescue crews the awesome capability they have today.

But this book isn't just about past heroics; it's about the future of combat search and rescue. We think it's more important now than ever before that we all remain well-informed about the future of combat search and rescue and the issues surrounding this capability.

The third attachment to this e-mail is an astounding statement by the Pentagon's top procurement official, John Young, who expresses skepticism that the military should buy new CSAR-X helicopters at all, opining; "I don't know if the community has to have its own set of assets for the occasional rescue mission." Our warriors who will be stranded behind enemy lines and the heroes who go in harms-way to rescue them deserve better - much better - regardless of who ultimately builds the CSAR-X.

We believe the quality of the book will speak for itself so we'll leave further talk about the book to the opinions of critics and reviewers. We were delighted to learn just recently that the Military Book Club has made Leave No Man Behind a featured book in advance of its publication date.

We're confident Zenith's distribution channels will place this book in libraries nationwide, as well as bookstores and internet outlets. We think you and all of our classmates will be enriched by the stories of those heroes who dedicated their careers and their lives to "leave no man behind."

If you would like to share this with the rest of our classmates on your "list" in any fashion you choose we would be most appreciative.

All the best - George