



A Nightmare's Prayer: A Marine Harrier Pilot's War in Afghanistan

Michael Franzak

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Winner of the 2012 Colby Award and the first Afghanistan memoir ever to be written by a Marine Harrier pilot, *A Nightmare's Prayer* portrays the realities of war in the twenty-first century, taking a unique and powerful perspective on combat in Afghanistan as told by a former enlisted man turned officer. Lt. Col. Michael "Zak" Franzak was an AV-8B Marine Corps Harrier pilot who served as executive officer of VMA-513, "The Flying Nightmares," while deployed in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2003. The squadron was the first to base Harriers in Bagram in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. But what should have been a standard six-month deployment soon turned to a yearlong ordeal as the Iraq conflict intensified. And in what appeared to be a forgotten war half a world away from home, Franzak and his colleagues struggled to stay motivated and do their job providing air cover to soldiers patrolling the inhospitable terrain.

I wasn't in a foxhole. I was above it. I was safe and comfortable in my sheltered cocoon 20,000 feet over the Hindu Kush. But I prayed. I prayed when I heard the muted cries of men who at last understood their fate.

Franzak's personal narrative captures the day-by-day details of his deployment, from family good-byes on departure day to the squadron's return home. He explains the role the Harrier played over the Afghanistan battlefields and chronicles the life of an attack pilot—from the challenges of nighttime, weather, and the austere mountain environment to the frustrations of working under higher command whose micromanagement often exacerbated difficulties. In vivid and poignant passages, he delivers the full impact of enemy ambushes, the violence of combat, and the heartbreaking aftermath.

And as the Iraq War unfolded, Franzak became embroiled in another battle: one within himself. Plagued with doubts and wrestling with his ego and his belief in God, he discovered in himself a man he loathed. But the hardest test of his lifetime and career was still to come—one that would change him forever.

A stunning true account of service and sacrifice that takes the reader from the harrowing dangers of the cockpit to the secret, interior spiritual struggle facing a man trained for combat, *A Nightmare's Prayer* brings to life a Marine's public and personal trials set against "the fine talcum brown soot of Afghanistan that permeated everything—even one's soul."

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Jack Michaud:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed A Nightmare's Prayer: A Marine Harrier Pilot's War in Afghanistan? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

Sara Burns:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the e-book untitled A Nightmare's Prayer: A Marine Harrier Pilot's War in Afghanistan can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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