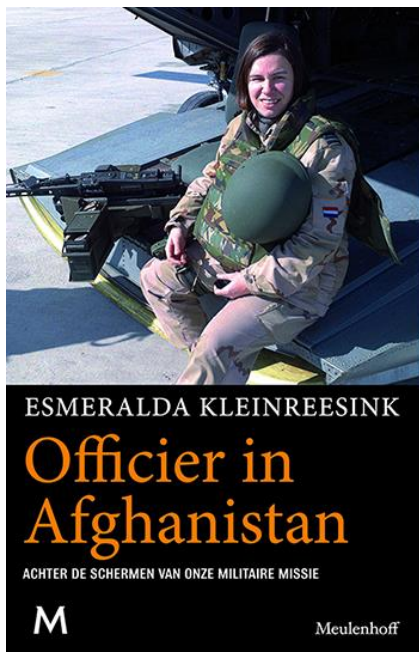


SANTASADŌ

Esmeralda Kleinreesink - An Officer in Afghanistan

Behind the Scenes of A Military Mission

(AUTO)BIOGRAPHY | LEADERSHIP | MILITARY | ORGANIZATIONS | STRATEGY | TEAMS



A young (32) female lieutenant-colonel is deployed to Afghanistan in a position she has never fulfilled before: Chief Air and Ground Transport Planning. She learns how to negotiate with unwilling Americans, how to get things done from Italians (by drinking lots of espressos), and how to work with an incompetent British boss. She travels all over Afghanistan to visit every airfield, from dirt strips to international airports. And meanwhile uses her leadership skills to get the job done, even if (as the Italians keep insisting) that might harm her career.

The general audience knows that military personnel is being deployed into various conflict zones around the world but few people really know what actually happens there. What is it like to live on a military headquarters? What does it feel like when the alarm sounds in the middle of the night because your camp

is under fire? What is your reaction when a small boy shouts to you that you are supposed to wear a burqa? And what is it like to be a woman in a male-dominated environment?

In *An Officer in Afghanistan* Lieutenant-Colonel Esmeralda Kleinreesink offers a unique insight behind the scenes of an international military headquarters. She describes the frustrations, bureaucracy, constant tension, and how political decisions have an effect on the daily military reality. And she shows how friendships are forged between soldiers from all over the world despite their cultural differences. This is a unique and comprehensive report of the daily ins and outs of a military headquarters, written by one of the few female officers no less.

Published in May 2012 | Paperback | 224 pages | ca. 60,000 words

- Dutch edition published by J.M. Meulenhoff
- English sample translation available
- Over 2,000 copies sold

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr Esmeralda Kleinreesink was an officer with the Royal Netherlands Air Force for 20 years. She was deployed all over the world and wrote in several books about her deployment experiences. During her rotation as a professor at the Netherlands Defense Academy, she obtained a PhD by analyzing international Afghan war memoirs. The trade edition of her doctoral thesis, *On Military Memoirs* (Brill, 2016) won the Caforio Award for best military-science book. She also toured as a stand-up comedian, encouraged (and surprised) by all the reviewers telling her they found

her book humorous. Currently she is a pitch coach and she combines her writing, lecturing, and science knowledge to teach people how to pitch.

RECOMMENDATIONS

"Esmeralda Kleinreesink has succeeded writing a well-written, beautiful, and realistic image of a military mission. *An Officer in Afghanistan* is a great collection of anecdotes you can read in one session. It will be very recognizable for soldiers and veterans, and it offers an interesting glimpse behind the scenes of a military mission for everybody else."

Wapenbroeders

"A Lieutenant-Colonel writes about her experiences in Afghanistan, but is she allowed to speak her mind? The book is open, honest, and critical at times, according to former Secretary of Defense Jack de Vries in his foreword. Kleinreesink addresses the question whether bringing peace and safety is actually useful work, among other things."

Trouw

"Kleinreesink doesn't just show what daily life is like in an international NATO staff, but she also describes the discussions with her Dutch and international colleagues, between whom friendships are forged, despite their cultural differences. And the book shows how soldiers on a mission are being held back by a wall of bureaucracy when they want to start their work right away."

Militaire Spectator

"A enlightening story behind the mission in Afghanistan, not just from a deployed soldier but also from the human behind that soldier. We wish for more writers who write as outspoken Kleinreesink about the actions in Afghanistan."

World in War

"Not just a unique and at times critical insight in the inner workings of the Dutch Defense organization, but most of all a humoristic and well-written book."

Checkpoint

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Simplified Ranks

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