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## For Immediate Release

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## Award Winning Journalists Mitch Weiss and Kevin Maurer to Speak at Union County Public Library

**February 23, 2012, Monroe, NC** – Union County Public Library with Park Road Books will host award winning journalists Mitch Weiss and Kevin Maurer on Wednesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Monroe Library. The authors will speak about their new book, ***NO WAY OUT: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan*** that will be released on March 6. The authors will be available for signing copies of their books following the presentation. Copies will be available for purchase.

In their new book ***NO WAY OUT: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan*** these distinguished journalists turn their attention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group based out of Fort Bragg, NC, who were assigned a nearly impossible US mission in the Shok Valley in the remote Afghan mountains. The heroics that ensued during the six-hour battle earned this team 10 Silver Stars, the Army's third highest honor and the most awarded to any unit in one battle since Vietnam.

The Special Forces team, plus a company from the 201<sup>st</sup> Afghan Commando Battalion, were sent to the Shok Valley, an area never before penetrated by US forces, to capture or kill members of the Hezeb Islami al Gulbadin terrorist group. As they climbed the cliffs to the outskirts of the terrorist sanctuary they were ambushed by more than 200 enemy fighters. Pinned against the cliff, the teams radioed for air support. For the next six hours, the assault continued until a way down the cliff was found. Snipers with the help of air support provided cover while the teams carried the injured to safety. No American lives were lost.

Mitch Weiss is the winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Journalism, who in 2003 was assigned to a series that uncovered the longest string of atrocities carried out by the U.S. fighting unit, Tiger Force, in the Vietnam War. A previous editor at the Charlotte Observer, Weiss is now a correspondent for the Associated Press based in Charlotte. Kevin Maurer is an award-winning reporter who has covered special operations forces for seven years. He has been embedded with the



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US Special Forces in Afghanistan six times in the last five years. He currently reports for the Star News Online in Wilmington, NC.

For further information, call the library at 704-283-8184. The library is located at 316 East Windsor Street in Monroe.

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