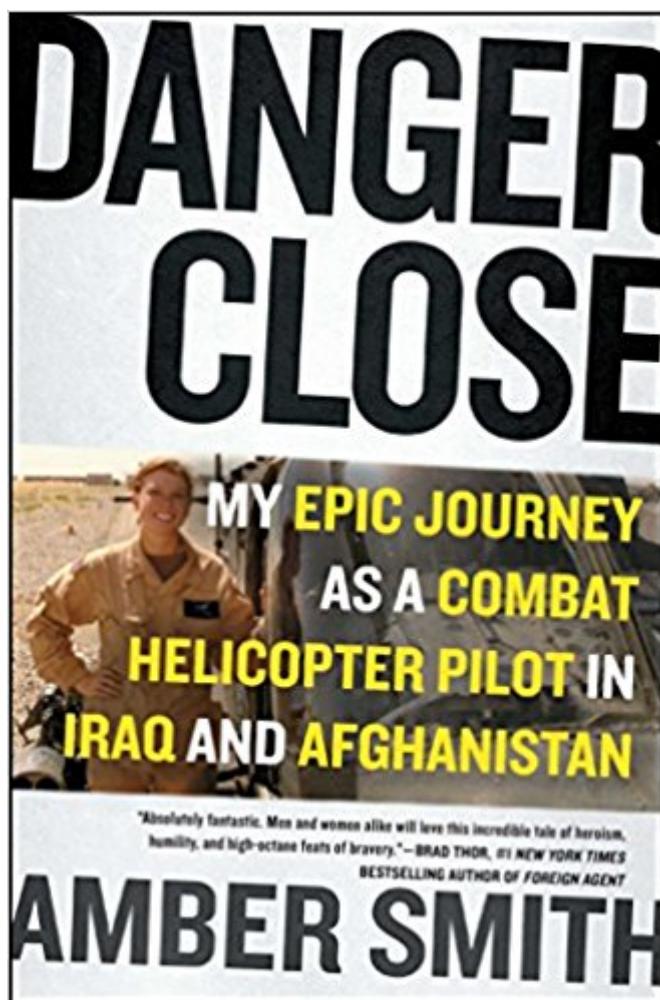


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# Danger Close: My Epic Journey As A Combat Helicopter Pilot In Iraq And Afghanistan



## Synopsis

Inspiring and “riveting” vivid and harrowing (Sean Parnell, author of *Outlaw Platoon*), *Danger Close* is the first memoir of active combat by a female helicopter pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan. New York Times bestselling author Brad Thor raves, “Men and women alike will love this incredible tale of heroism, humility, and high-octane feats of bravery.” Amber Smith flew into enemy fire in some of the most dangerous combat zones in the world. One of only a few women to fly the Kiowa Warrior helicopter—whose mission, armed reconnaissance, required its pilots to stay low and fly fast, perilously close to the fight—Smith deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and rose to Pilot-in-Command and Air Mission Commander in the premier Kiowa unit in the Army. She learned how to perform and survive under extreme pressure, both in action against an implacable enemy and within the elite “boy” club of Army aviation. In *Danger Close*, Smith “covers each mission with edge-of-your-seat detail and a coolness that demonstrates how she gained the respect of fellow pilots and soldiers on the ground” (Library Journal). Smith’s unrelenting fight for both mastery and respect delivers universal life-lessons that will be useful to any civilian, from “earning your spurs” as a newbie to “embracing the suck” through setbacks that challenge your self-confidence to learning to trust your gut as a veteran of your profession. Intensely personal, cinematic, poignant, and inspiring, *Danger Close* is “the captivating story of one woman’s fight to serve her country in the direct line of danger” (Dana Perino, co-host of *The Five* on Fox News).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Danger Close is absolutely fantastic. This is one of the most exciting and inspirational books I have read in years! Men and women alike will love this incredible tale of heroism, humility, and high-octane feats of bravery. Danger Close is the real deal!" (Brad Thor, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Foreign Agent*)"Danger Close is a riveting and intensely personal account of a woman who spent nearly a third of her life at war. Amber Smith goes beyond detailing the experience of women in the military and takes the reader into the cockpit with her to explore the vivid and harrowing world of being a combat helicopter pilot. Amber is one hell of a Soldier and an American hero on every level." (Sean Parnell, New York Times bestselling author of *Outlaw Platoon*)"While the debate goes on about the role of women in combat, Amber Smith's *Danger Close* reminds us that pilots are pilots and the American warrior ethos is alive and well, regardless of what restroom you use. When my squad was under fire in Iraq, the buzz of Kiowa rotors was our lifeline. The simple truth is that many children have fathers today because of the daring close support of Amber Smith and her elite colleagues. I am proud to be a part of an Army that produces pilots like Amber, who are unapologetic about the pure fury they unleash on a deserving enemy." (David Bellavia, author of *House to House*)"Danger Close is a fantastic view into the world of combat helicopter pilots as seen through the eyes of a successful and proven US Army female combat helicopter pilot. It is an exciting ride through training and combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I laughed at the antics only found in military training and operations and cried at the anguish experienced through combat loss. As a combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, I and my team called in airstrikes from pilots across all services, including from some amazing women pilots. Amber Smith proves she is one of these pilots and that she has what it takes as an American warrior. Danger Close gives tremendous insight into the sacrifice our American men and women make every day for Freedom across the globe. Most importantly, Amber sets the example for all young women who aspire to serve our nation's armed forces and I encourage any young woman looking to join the military to read this book." (LT Jason Redman, Retired Navy SEAL, author of *The Trident*)"The captivating story of one woman's fight to serve her country in the direct line of danger. Amber Smith shows readers the true meaning of patriotism and how to survive under extreme pressure. This book will keep you on the edge of your seat and you won't want to put it down." (Dana Perino, New York Times bestselling author of *And The Good News Is...*, Former White House Press Secretary, and co-host of Fox News' *The*

Five)

Amber Smith is a former U.S. Army Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot and air mission commander who flew two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. She frequently appears on national TV and radio networks, analyzing national security, military operations, foreign policy, politics, veterans' affairs, and women's issues. Her articles have been widely published in Forbes, The Washington Examiner, Aviation Week, and other publications. Smith has traveled across the nation to tell her inspirational story and to speak to military and corporate audiences, veterans organizations, at grassroots events, and on Capitol Hill. She lives in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit [OfficialAmberSmith.com](http://OfficialAmberSmith.com).

I finished reading every word and each sentence in this most interesting story about growing up in a quality family, reacting to the 9/11 attacks on the United States, and entering the U.S. army with a mission to fly aircraft. The step by step training in uniform, assignments, deployments, combat, deaths, accidents, R & R, sisters on deployment were all presented thoroughly without too much detail. The transitions throughout the timeline were logical and excellent in keeping my interest and attention. I highly recommend this book to veterans and civilians both male and female. High school age students should read this work to get an understanding about military life, training, and service. Excellent soldiering and superb writing, Amber!

Couldn't put it down. Well written for those not familiar with the military, she blended in explanations where needed. An amazing journey, and lots of hardships overcome, yet ready to jump and protect her brothers and sisters. Flying doorless up in extreme cold air probably a lot worse than being stuck on a ski lift at Breckenridge, I can't even imagine. Reading it also gave me a big kick in the butt for not working on my heli pilot license :) Thanks Amber!

I was really intrigued and impressed with this story. A seemingly average accounting of two tours in two different wars. What stands out is the simple fact that nothing in these military experiences are average. They fight continuously and are expected to do so with very little support or understanding from people who will never see what they see. Amber is a hero and a role model for women and girls everywhere. Thank you Amber for your service, sacrifice and story.

I really enjoyed her book. As an Army vet myself, a lot of the personnel interactions brought back

memories, both good and bad. Her descriptions put you in the pilot's seat without getting too technical. This is a great read and I cannot recommend this book enough!

Amber Smith is the real deal. She trained hard (up hill as she's a woman) and succeeded with style and strength. As a scout pilot, she needed to have piloting skills to the max (a good stick as we say) but also smarts and finesse. She did the deed, made Pilot in Command and Mission Commander. I'd gladly serve in her flight. Thank you Amber for all you gave and for this inspirational account of your military service. Hand salute.

Refreshingly accurate and authentic book about a pilots time in two different theatres of war. It's nice to read a book written by a veteran that is sensational and gripping without trying to be such. Ms Smith seems to humble in giving the reader insight to her experience. I aplaude her in being at times self-deprecating and honest. If there ever was a book that should be made into a movie this is one people on both sides of the war would appreciate.

This book is very good for any person who would like to know what flying helicopters is like in combat. WO2 Smith goes into detail about learning to fly, but in away that most people can understand. WO2 Smith is a very good story teller and makes the stories flow. I had no problems with the way WO2 Smith's wrote this. She did not thrown to much of her political or social thinking's in the book like a lot of modern military writers have done lately. I do must point out that Camp Buerhing was changed from Camp Udairi back in 2004. When I worked out there the name had been changed and a big sign erected at the entry point all ready. What I did not like about this book is what a lot of these books have in common. They are too short. WO2 Smith puts in some great flying stories and stories on dealing with the Army mentality/ other Army persons. She could have gone more in detail about about them. If you look at the Vietnam pilots and their books are much longer and more detail about every thing that went on. WO2 Smith could have written more about her post Army life and how she is dealing with life out side the military.

I found this to be a refreshing and compelling read. Amber does a really clear description of how to succeed and not whine about how tough it is. I recommend it to anyone interested in our warriors wageingthe battle against the forces of evil in the middle east.

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