

Keynote Speaker



Commander Mark Nutsch

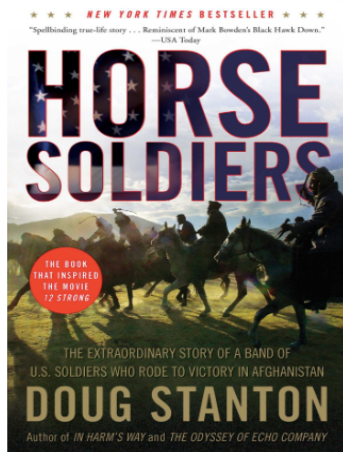
Green Beret Commander Portrayed in the Movie *12 Strong* & *New York Times* Best-Seller, *Horse Soldiers*

As portrayed by actor Chris Hemsworth in the major motion picture, *12 Strong*, Mark Nutsch (aka Mitch Nelson in the film) shares lessons learned in the now-declassified saga of a U.S. Special Forces team that overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to help achieve a historic military victory.



Mark Nutsch shares the true-life story of helping lead what is considered the most successful unconventional warfare campaign in modern history, a victory that changed the course of our country and the world.

In October 2001 following the attacks on 9/11, Nutsch led a heroic 12-man team of U.S. Special Forces on a covert mission to Afghanistan, where they would ride to war on horses to fight the enemy—side by side with their Muslim counterparts—capture the strategic city of Mazar-i-Sharif within a matter of weeks, and successfully overthrow the Taliban. Now a consultant to Special Operations Command, he earned a Bronze Star with valor for his bravery. Nutsch, as "Captain Mitch Nelson," is portrayed by actor Chris Hemsworth in the 2018 major motion picture *12 Strong*, based on the best-selling book *Horse Soldiers* by Doug Stanton.



On stage, Nutsch enralls audiences with an edge-of-your-seat, behind-the-scenes account of how this almost unbelievable event played out, impacted the world, and earned them the gratitude of a nation. He also shares perspectives on preparing his team of “guerrilla diplomats” for ever-evolving on-the-ground circumstances, and how resourcefulness, inventiveness, and commitment, along with adaptability, a diverse team, and a capacity to persevere enabled them to successfully accomplish their mission.