



A Higher Standard: Leadership Strategies from America's First Female Four-Star General

Ann Dunwoody

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On June 23, 2008, President George W. Bush nominated Ann Dunwoody as a four-star general in the US Army—the first time a woman had ever achieved that rank. The news generated excitement around the world. Now retired after nearly four decades in the Army, Dunwoody shares what she learned along the way, from her first command leading 100 soldiers to her final assignment, in which she led a 60 billion enterprise of over 69,000 employees, including the Army's global supply chain in support of Iraq and Afghanistan.

What was the driving force behind Dunwoody's success? While her talent as a logistician and her empathy in dealing with fellow soldiers helped her rise through the ranks, Dunwoody also realized that true leaders never stop learning, refining, growing, and adapting. In *A Higher Standard*, Dunwoody details her evolution as a soldier and reveals the core leadership principles that helped her achieve her historic appointment. Dunwoody's strategies are applicable to any leader, no matter the size or scope of the organization. They include lessons such as "Never Walk by a Mistake," a mandate to recognize when something is wrong, big or small, and to hold people accountable. Not only can this save billions for industry, it can sometimes save the lives of soldiers and citizens. She also advises that "Leaders Aren't Invincible-Don't Try to Be": to be our best, we have to acknowledge our worst. And she encourages readers to "Leverage the Power of Diversity" by creating teams of people from different backgrounds to provide a broad range of ideas and devise the best-informed decisions.

With these and other guiding principles, *A Higher Standard* offers practical, tactical advice that everyone can use to lead and achieve with maximum success.

A Higher Standard: Leadership Strategies from America's First Female Four-Star General Details

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Jonathan Pevernek says

A very good book going over the life of a remarkably gifted leader in the army. General Dunwoody tells many stories about her career and I found many of those stories to have very clear takeaways for how people in general could be more effective and just better overall. Without question, there's some useful tips I can take away and use in my own life.

One thing that would have been nice from an editing perspective would be to trim down the repetition. The same stories, framed almost exactly the same way, were retold many times throughout the book, and it kept giving me a sense of déjà vu.

notgettingenough says

Curious to look at this because the head high honcho of WordPress thinks it's great and she's been appointed to the board of WP, the first appointment since the board was first established.

Will it unlock some secrets behind the WP mindset?

Walt Campbell says

Love her story but didn't love this book. It ambles, rambles, and recovers ground so often that it feels like you've been dropped into the middle of a narrative jungle and have to find your way out. I listened to the audiobook version, not sure if I would have come away with the same impression if I had read a printed copy.

Mare says

Not a memoir. Not an autobiography -- though autobiographical elements appear on each page. This is a book about leadership strategies. Even if you are not looking to lead, the advice Dunwoody provides will inspire and influence you for the better.

Kim says

Interesting Leadership Reading

The frequent and necessary reminder of the need for an ethical foundation and belief system as well as an ability to look within one's self. Excellent writing style. Factual as well as interesting.

Anne Mccune says

Inspiring

General Dunwoody has high standards that served her well as she grew in her various assignments in the army. She gives us good ideas about improving our own lives, to seek ways we too can help this world be a better place. She was often recognised as a leader with great potential. Kudos to those who were willing to give her chances to advance. I am so glad she had so much support from her husband.

I also liked the way she talked about convincing people to do the right thing... how to keep right on promoting the necessary action, in response to stonewalling...how to defuse a possible clash of ideas. Nicely done!

Fred says

This was a good book. It wasn't great which was a bit disappointing to me considering that I have been hunting for it on the cheap for a while. The flow of the story wasn't really there. It was more than a bit out of order. Rather than Gen. McChrystal's biography that was fantastic, this one didn't go in a linear fashion a hundred percent of the time. Sometimes things happened out of order and she would go from talking about her time as a Lieutenant General to her time as a Major or Lieutenant Colonel.

All of that said, the leadership lessons were relevant I think but they were not clearly defined as to what the lesson was. I could point out the major themes that are echoed throughout the military right now since I am in the military, but she didn't state at the beginning of a chapter or otherwise what the actual lesson was in such a way that someone with no military background would find it easy to see in my opinion.

Additionally, she spent a significant amount of time talking about how much she downplayed the fact that she was a woman while she was in the military and then as a result of spending all her time doing that in the book spent what seemed like half the book talking about being a woman in the military. It was very clearly a biography not about a "Soldier" but instead about a "female Soldier" because of her constant reminder that she wasn't a "female Soldier" but a "Soldier" if that makes any sense. Hopefully it does.

Allie Weiskopf says

General Dunwoody was the first woman to become a four star general, and chronicles her journey from the Women's Army Corps in 1974 to commanding an organization of 69K Soldiers in 2012. The book was a bit more disjointed than I would have liked, by the stories and leadership techniques were worth the read.

Lance Willett says

This book is enjoyable to read as it follows General (US Army, Ret.) Ann Dunwoody's wonderful and amazing life journey through career, family, and life. From her first days as a commissioned officer all the

way to the Pentagon and her retirement from active duty. Throughout the book she grounds the narrative with lessons and principles. Guideposts.

My full review: <https://sensible.blog/2018/01/15/a-high-standard/>...

James Pritchert says

This was a terrific book. It may be because the General and I were assigned to the same places on some occasions and we shared some similar experiences but I really enjoyed this book. Looking back over her military career, she provides many useful insights and observations into the US Army and into the politics that goes into that career field. If I were to embark on a military career now, I would devour this book and keep it as a ready reference. I have seen too many young officers run afoul of the "system" and this book might just help them to navigate their way through it. There were a few factual errors in the book but they were not serious enough to change the tone or content in any way. Its just a problem with the publisher's fact checker who was not performing their job as well as the General was performing hers. Don't be deterred by a couple of minuscule mistakes, read this book and enjoy the message it imports.

Aseel says

I enjoyed every aspect of this book! It's an easy read, and very enjoyable. Amy's lessons of leadership and life are very sincere and relatable. The book definitely had a very similar format to Lean In, which is another great book.

The ultimate theme, as evident from the title, is a higher standard. No matter of the set backs, the hardship, or the situation; a higher standard is what is going to be your key to success.

The book consists of 11 chapters, each designed to provide an insight and a lesson that others might benefit from. And even though Amy's lessons are driven from her Army career, the lessons do in fact apply to any other industry/ career. I highly recommend this book!

Esther says

I loved this book, it affirms my beliefs and values of what I already believe in, she is a bad ass. This book has inspired me to believe in myself mainly, and be a part of the "boys club" which the military is no longer. But very good Valuable leadership lessons learned.

Ian Stewart says

I mined this book for insight into leadership skills and management anecdotes but what I especially enjoyed in the end was a newfound respect for military life. And most especially the sense of multi-generational teamwork along with the sense of dedicating one's life to something bigger than themselves. But back to leadership skills: I wound up highlighting almost an entire chapter on what it means to have a vision, develop

it, share it, and drive towards it. Probably the best no nonsense explanation of that task out there.

George says

First review of this book. I'll be honest, I wanted to read what the author said about leadership, the Army, and others who I know or know of. Her lessons on leadership were good ones; especially for one who lives in a large bureaucracy like the Army. I was especially amused at the powerpoint slides that describe vision...Army ones are usually too busy to absorb without some contemplation. These were no different. Further, the story was pretty "green," Army green. Even more telling, the anecdotal stores and her positive attitude under many slights by the "ole boys" as she rose in the ranks.

Heather says

Another great book pick from Julie! A positive story with practical leadership lessons from our first female to four.
