



Keynote Speaker:

Mark Nutsch

Green Beret Commander featured in '12 Strong'

It is a long way from Kansas to Afghanistan, and competing on K-State's rodeo team is a far cry from riding into battle on horseback. Yet that is exactly what happened to Green Beret Commander Mark Nutsch, whose story of military service is now a major motion picture, "12 Strong," and the subject of the best-seller, "Horse Soldiers."



Nutsch will share those experiences at the Fifth Annual National Association of State Workforce Agency's Veterans conference on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington DC.

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, Nutsch earned a Bronze Star with valor for his bravery.

Nutsch's address will be an edge-of-your-seat, behind-the-scenes account of how this almost unbelievable event played out, and how a 12-man team outmaneuvered the full military force of the enemy to victory. 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.

This keynote speaker is sponsored by DirectEmployers Association.