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Business Books: A good wingman as a key to success

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Never Fly Solo:

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Lead With Courage, Build Trusting Partnerships,

And Reach New Heights in Business

By Lt. Col. Rob "Waldo" Waldman

McGraw-Hill, \$24.95

In the movie *Top Gun*, Iceman in the end tells Maverick, "You can be my wingman anytime." Maverick then returns that expression of mutual trust with added emphasis. Former Air Force Lt. Col Rob "Waldo" Waldman, who is now a successful leadership consultant, stresses the importance of having good wingmen and being one to succeed in business, work and life. *Never Fly Solo* is in large measure autobiographical. Waldman evolves from a young man who was claustrophobic and afraid of heights into a decorated fighter pilot with 65 combat missions in Iraq and Serbia. "We all have fears, doubts, and self-limiting beliefs that hold us back from breaking the performance barrier in our work and our lives. Yet it's the relationships we build and the people whom we trust that give us the courage to take risks and make ourselves better," Waldman writes. He touches on a variety of important issues for success, including being prepared for a mission, having integrity, communicating and knowing when to abort the mission. The wingman metaphor is effectively sustained through it all. A glossary of wingman terminology is even appended for readers who may not have seen *Top Gun*.

— Cecil Johnson, special to the Star-Telegram

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