



**NON-FICTION**

## TUNNEL RATS VS THE TALIBAN

Sandy MacGregor and Jimmy Thomson,  
Allen & Unwin, \$30

Reviewer: Ian McPhedran

Vietnam War "tunnel rat" Colonel Sandy MacGregor knows his stuff and he and journalist Jimmy Thomson have opened the curtain on one of the least known stories of the war in Afghanistan. *Tunnel Rats vs The Taliban* tells the story of the sappers or combat engineers who are the unsung heroes of the campaign. These are the soldiers who travel ahead of convoys scanning with their "wands" for buried bombs or sending their explosive detection dogs out and prodding the ground when the mutts sniff out a dreaded improvised explosive

device (IED). They are also the men who plunge head first into dark tunnels or bunkers searching for bombs or weapons hidden away and often booby-trapped by the insurgents. Sappers are the bravest of the brave and their high casualty rates mean that many other lives are saved. This book is a tribute to them.

**Verdict: Worthy tribute.**

