

# Conflict in Ethical Crises

A Case for Command

# Major Premise

*When Crises arise, catastrophe may follow*

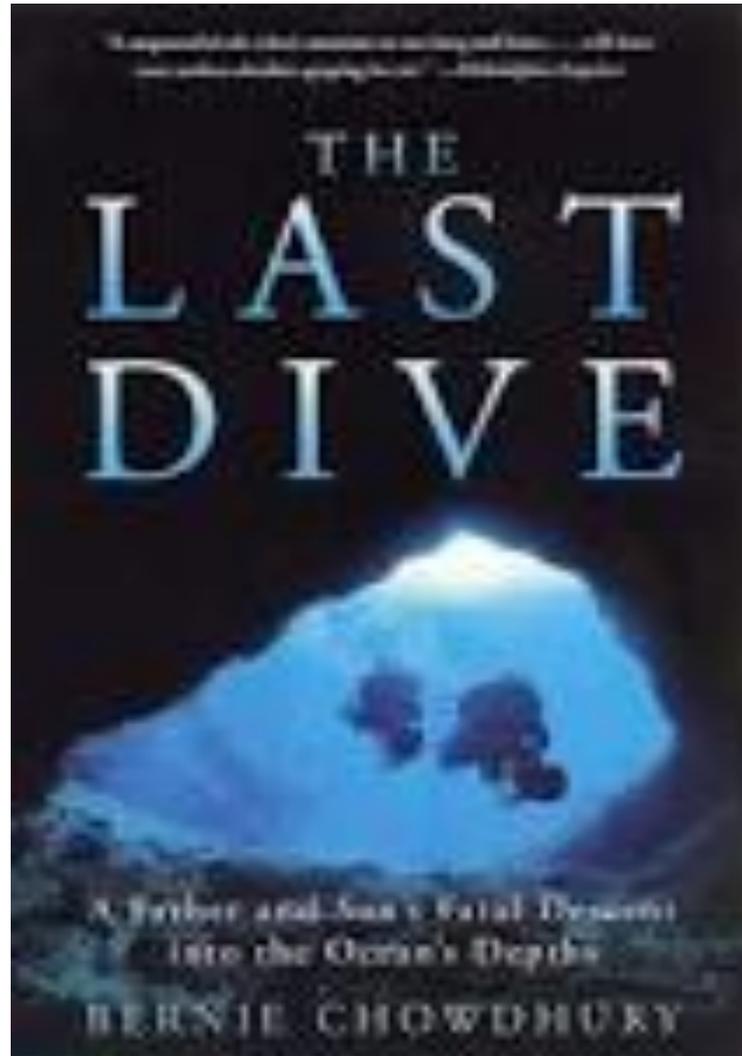
*Unless an appropriate command and control*

*Structure is in place and fully functioning.*

*If no one, or the wrong ones are in charge:*

***WATCH OUT!***

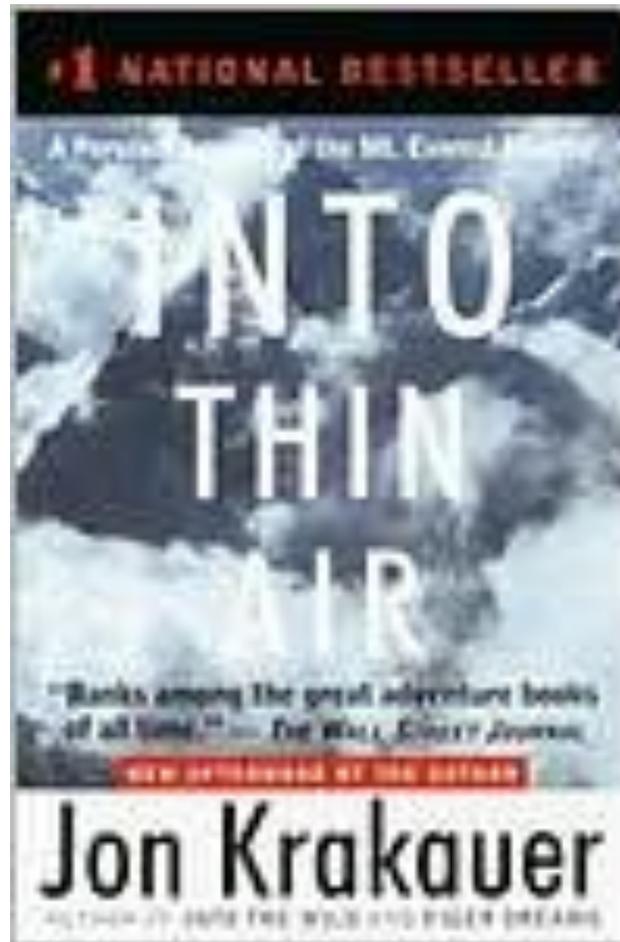
# Case One



## Last Dive: A Father and Son's Fatal Descent Into the Ocean's Depths

Chris and Chrissy Rouse, an experienced father-and-son scuba diving team, hoped to achieve widespread recognition for their outstanding but controversial diving skills. Obsessed and ambitious, they sought to solve the secrets of a mysterious, undocumented World War II German U-boat that lay under 230 feet of water, only a half-day's mission from New York Harbor. In doing so, they paid the ultimate price in their quest for fame.

# Case Two



# Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for **Into Thin Air**, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

# Ethical Crises Abound

- Breaking News: G.M. Said to Face Criminal Inquiry on Safety Problems
- Breaking News: Federal Prosecutors Investigating Chairman of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

# And News of Potential Command Failures, Too

The New York Times

## [At Least One Dead in East Harlem Building Collapse](#)

At least one person was killed when two buildings collapsed in East Harlem on Wednesday morning, according to authorities, and a senior city official suggested that there would most likely be more fatalities.

Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like an explosion before the buildings collapsed. **BEA** Flames and smoke could be seen billowing from the street, and the force of the damage blew out windows in neighboring buildings.

At least 16 people were injured, including four seriously, according to city officials. The police said that two residential buildings — 1644 and 1646 Park Avenue — had collapsed.

## Political corruption identified as a Caribbean scourge

Caribbean people have identified corruption — particularly political corruption — as one of the main elements of what is wrong with their societies...

But, what are we supposed to do about it, that's what we'd like to know!

# Conclusions

During crisis situations, anarchy naturally tends to reign. The result is tragedy. On an individual as well as a group level, the failure to provide an adequate chain-of-command resulted in the deaths of both a father and his son on a foolish dive to an unknown submarine wreck. A similar failure of command caused many needless deaths on Mt. Everest, as well. Though unpopular in modern circles, only effective command and control structures can prevent similar disasters in other, future, crises, some of which just might include the ultimate in massive, even global, ethical conflict: War.