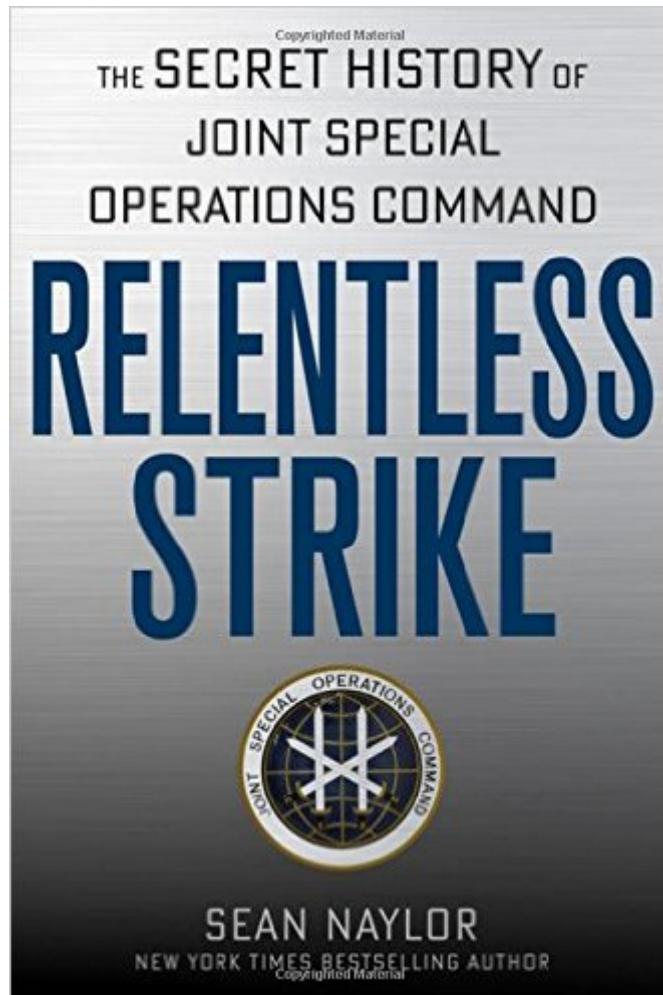


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Relentless Strike: The Secret History Of Joint Special Operations Command



Synopsis

The New York Times Bestseller and Winner of the 2015 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award for Unit History Since the attacks of September 11, one organization has been at the forefront of America's military response. Its efforts turned the tide against al-Qaida in Iraq, killed Bin Laden and Zarqawi, rescued Captain Phillips and captured Saddam Hussein. Its commander can direct cruise missile strikes from nuclear submarines and conduct special operations raids anywhere in the world. Relentless Strike tells the inside story of Joint Special Operations Command, the secret military organization that during the past decade has revolutionized counterterrorism, seamlessly fusing intelligence and operational skills to conduct missions that hit the headlines, and those that have remained in the shadows-until now. Because JSOC includes the military's most storied special operations units-Delta Force, SEAL Team 6, the 75th Ranger Regiment-as well as America's most secret aviation and intelligence units, this is their story, too. Relentless Strike reveals tension-drenched meetings in war rooms from the Pentagon to Iraq and special operations battles from the cabin of an MH-60 Black Hawk to the driver's seat of Delta Force's Pinzgauer vehicles as they approach their targets. Through exclusive interviews, reporter Sean Naylor uses his unique access to reveal how an organization designed in the 1980s for a very limited mission set transformed itself after 9/11 to become the military's premier weapon in the war against terrorism and how it continues to evolve today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The U.S. Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), the U.S. military's most elite fighting force, combining the Army's Delta Force, the Navy's SEAL Team 6, and various Army and Air Force

special mission helicopter and aircraft squadrons is unearthed in this fascinating book. Many of their operations have been documented over time, but the their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria and other places are still secret. This book unearths the history in all of its good, bad, and ugly glory. Apparently, there is a bit of controversy as to whether the material contained within is or should be classified, but Naylor gets around the highly classified nature of many of these missions by using available primary and official sources with interviews from soldiers who have written their own books. The book is very readable and feels like it is part fiction and part military history which keeps the reader engaged, but does not hold back on being sure to analyze the some of the darker moments of this elite force. There is simply too much ground to cover in this review, but the story is exhaustive on detailing the whole evolution of this organization including its controversial missions in the 1980s and 1990s in Central and South America, the invasions of Grenada and Panama. The timeliness of the book is good particularly given the increasing role of special ops during this time. On the whole, this is one of the must-read military history books of the year.

Outstanding work based on excellent research. Many will slam this book because it reveals insider knowledge - but keep mind that many of the complainers often reach out to journalists when it benefits them and their careers. A well-written, balanced account that does not regurgitate standard U.S. Special Operations talking points (see Lindia Robinson's books if you want to read U.S. Special Operations Command public affairs guidance). Unfortunately, U.S. special operations forces will not learn from this and will continue to over-classify their actions in an effort to cover-up mistakes instead of learning from them. Bottom Line - Relentless Strike is the most detailed look into the U.S. special operations community ever written - highly recommended!

I liked the coverage of the growth of JSOC and how it interacted with SOCOM AND the Combatant Commands. Good, entertaining reads of various JSOC operations. I recommend this book to ALL MI personnel and Intelligence operations students. (As a recently released book the citations will be very useful for graduate study research papers). Also recommend for anyone interested in military operations post 9/11. The complaints from other reviewers about TTPs and other OPSEC concerns while valid aren't too troubling. I'm sure the SOF community has developed additional capabilities beyond those mentioned. I dont think that anything in this book has been exposed that hasn't already been revealed to the public by Open source intelligence such as newspapers and websites. There are no redacted portions of this book (like some others) so take that for what it's worth as far as OPSEC concerns. Good read!

With still 100 pages to go, I am indeed impressed with the capabilities described, knowing if/when we ever get serious about influencing events, there are many dedicated Americans willing to risk all to gain all. No, I really have no need to know many of the details about our ability to raid and gather, but still remain in awe by the narrative. My great fear is that we are vulnerable too, with adversaries able to mirror our ability to strike targets. So far, we've been lucky, but that will not last forever. So, will the Sleeping Giant stir when the time comes, or roll over and go back to sleep while a select few step up to the challenge? The oceans we have often assumed will keep our enemies at bay count for almost nothing when challenged by a determined foe. Paranoia doesn't help, but symbolic responses don't count for much either. And size doesn't mean anything, so long as critical forces are kept robust and funded. Others have said this better, but without determination a million rifles won't win much.

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