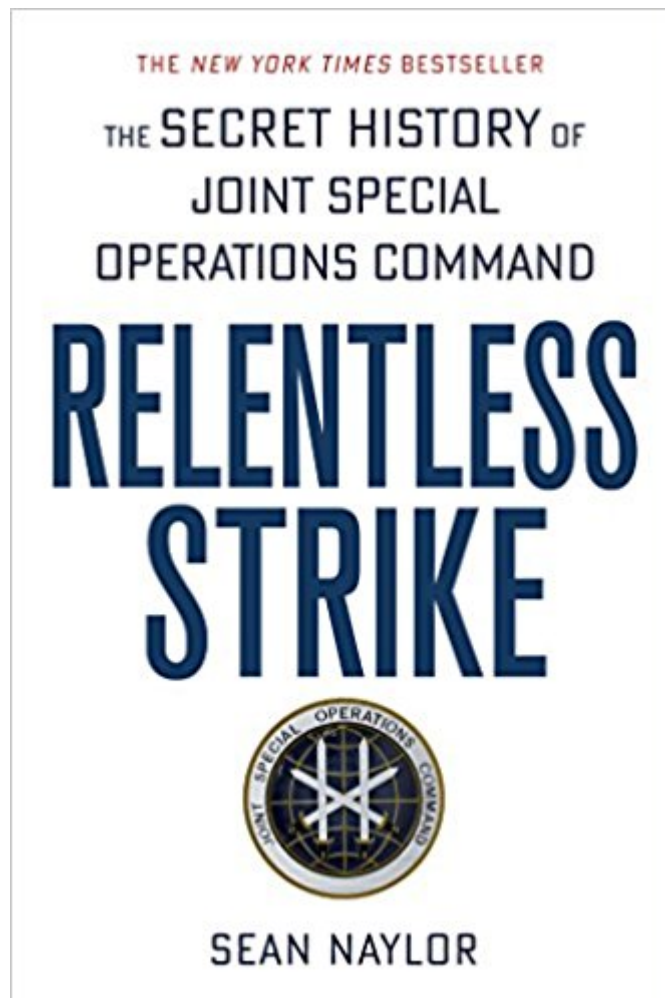




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# Relentless Strike: The Secret History Of Joint Special Operations Command



## 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

“Naylor informs and provokes . . . His interviews with inside sources endow the narrative

with a wealth of information, and the book benefits from Mr. Naylor's familiarity with the subject . . . . Naylor succeeds splendidly in showing how and why the Joint Special Operations Command evolved and why it will remain a valuable weapon. Wall Street Journal "[An] explosive new history of American special operations." - The Washington Post "A must-read book . . . A splendid and real adventure read." The Washington Times "All the intrigue one would expect from the stories of America's most highly classified and secretive military units. . . . Relentless Strike is likely the best definitive history of how America's special operations community rose like a Phoenix from the ashes of the Desert One fiasco to become the most capable elite fighting force in the world."

Washington Monthly "Naylor provides a step-by-step, mission-by-mission, behind-the-scenes account as special operations units under JSOC's umbrella, such as Delta Force and SEAL Team 6, along with its use of drone aircraft to monitor and attack terrorist targets, became better known than JSOC itself. Along the way, he offers numerous revelations."

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review "A comprehensive new book about U.S. special operations . . . well-sourced and researched."

Washington Examiner "Fascinating [Relentless Strike] might've sunk from the weight of its alphabet-agency acronyms in lesser hands. But Naylor, who spent 23 years covering military affairs at Army Times, often accompanying units into battle, sprinkles his 518 pages of heavily footnoted text with plenty of headline-worthy anecdotes. Naylor clearly admires the skill, tenacity and creativity of such troops. You'd think that the U.S. Special Operations Command would quietly, if not publicly, appreciate the publication of this authoritative, largely admiring, history."

Newsweek "Relentless Strike [is] the real thing. . . . You will be fascinated. . . . Naylor has an unusual problem for a writer: He knows too damn much." - Foreign Policy "Naylor (Not a Good Day to Die), a journalist who specializes in covering special operations, has produced the most complete history to date of the most secret organization within the U.S. military: the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). Given the organization's super-secret status, much of Naylor's engrossing material was gleaned from hundreds of interviews with former members. . . . Naylor's powerful and informative history is essential to understanding America's evolving military capability and the on-going war against global terrorism."

Publishers Weekly "A highly readable book that is part military history and part Tom Clancy novel, drawing the reader into tales of bravery and sacrifice on a sometimes unimaginable scale. . . . The history of America's most elite fighting force is told with panache and critical analysis, making this one of the must-read military history books of the year."

NY Journal of Books "The deeply reported, richly sourced, heavily footnoted tome tells the story of the creation of the world's most effective and lethal manhunting organization. . . . What makes Relentless Strike an indispensable history and a hell of a read is how Naylor uses his tremendous access to the community, a treasure of existing literature and documents on the subject, and superb insight to craft a book that informs and entertains.

Tampa Bay Tribune "A superb piece of writing . . . . An exceptionally well written, lucid and comprehensive account as to the rise and supremacy of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) on today's battlefields. . . . The book is extraordinary and is probably better and more detailed than that which would be produced by the several Command historians.

Foreign Policy "Over the past quarter-century, Sean Naylor has become one of the country's foremost experts on special operations forces.

Military Times "A smoothly penned and thoroughly researched account of an important military asset in the ongoing U.S. war against terrorism.

Library Journal "A history of the Joint Special Operations Command, one of the most elite and little-understood pieces of the American military. While most people know about Delta Force and SEAL Team 6, few have heard of their umbrella group, JSOC. . . . Naylor delivers an unquestionably comprehensive history.

Kirkus Reviews "Increasingly viewed as a 'must read' in the defense community" - Mark Safranski, Zenpundit.com

Award-winning defense journalist SEAN NAYLOR is the only reporter who focused on U.S. special ops forces as an exclusive beat for Army Times and he has consistently broken news on JSOC operations since 9/11. He writes for Foreign Policy and contributes to the New York Times. He has earned the White House Correspondents' Association's prestigious Edgar A. Poe Award for his coverage of Operation Anaconda, which led to his New York Times bestselling book about the operation, Not a Good Day to Die.

I bought this book on the advice of a former SOCOM member. I enjoyed it only because it seemed to provide a fairly comprehensive history of SpecOps since Vietnam. It would have been good to have a organization graphic somewhere within. It was, for me, rather difficult to follow the metamorphosis of the various baseline organizations over the years. It would have been nice to have the author's assessment on why a particular organization is (was) successful - or not - and by what measure. I would really need to read other books in the vein in order to give a better review. I read it; I liked it; I would recommend it.

This controversial book by long time war reporter Sean Naylor tells the story from beginning to current day of the secretive military command that has done so much to keep America safe from further terrorist attacks. With roots in WWII, and drawing heavily on other countries' special counterterrorist organization (especially Britain's Special Air Service), Naylor gives the general public as close to a full picture it has yet to receive on the Joint Special Operation Command (JSOC). Created after the failed Iranian hostage rescue attempt in Iran, JSOC went through a lot of growing pains. But after 9/11, and especially when GEN Stanley McChrystal took command, JSOC began to flourish. JSOC was highly effective and proficient targeting the terrorist and insurgent networks in Iraq and Afghanistan. And of course hit a figurative grand slam with the takedown of Osama Bin Laden. The controversy comes when Naylor begins to name names. There are legitimate reasons the names of specific people and specific operations should be left out of the public view. Naylor could have told his fascinating story of some of what has been going on in shadows in the name of America without using so many current active duty and still living retired military members. However, if the reader can set aside skittishness about the use of names they will find an absolutely fascinating story of one of the most effective US military units in recent history. I highly recommend this book.

Great history about details about how things got to where they are now. The book just stops with a "good luck to the new guy" statement. What happened to McCraven and others who made questionable decisions? What are the author's thoughts about the future of special ops? This book needed another chapter to tie the whole thing together. A few nuggets about the stealth-hawk chopper highlighted a somewhat boring tome. Good for a one-time read.

A very good history of US special operations (Delta, Rangers, Seal Team 6). I enjoyed reading it and filling in some of my missing knowledge about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It was interesting to see the changes in how the teams are used, with the increasing focus on smaller and faster missions. While the book doesn't have much recent information about the last two years or so, one can infer the trajectory that the teams are on and imagine how they are being used to combat ISIS today.

An incredible book about the secret war ongoing today. Somehow the American public knows nothing about this war and those waging it, the sophistication of the enemy and the skills of our

special warriors. This book goes beyond the headlines to tell of a ruthless and savage war in the shadows. Fighting within the US military and civilian bureaucracy is as much of the story as the enemy itself. The book raises one's appreciation for those willing to commit their lives to this struggle.

Relentless Strike describes the units and the most recent action of the units that makeup JSOC. Book is well written and easy to follow along with. Interesting portion of the book for me is the mention of special task force names and its objectives combatting terrorists. Book has some black and white pictures that add to the story line of this organization in the post 911 conflicts around the world. Great read

Gives good insight into what the JSOC does and doesn't do, and why they don't always play well with others. Regardless I still want the eye in the sky, and the black helicopters on my side.

The book thoroughly informs the reader of what it took to get to where special ops got to to where it is at the moment where the author finished his research and put fingers to keyboard. It tells of successes and failures and updates a famous event with new info. Loved every chapter. Wish there was more to read.

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