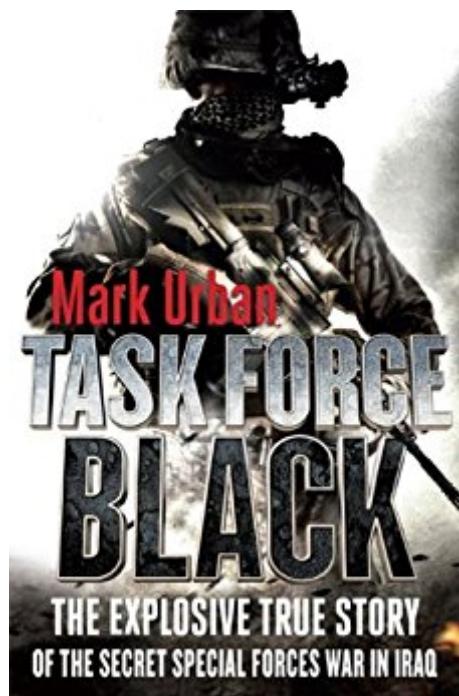


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Task Force Black: The Explosive True Story Of The Secret Special Forces War In Iraq



Synopsis

When American and British forces invaded Iraq in March 2003, select teams of special forces and intelligence operatives got to work looking for the WMD their governments had promised were there. They quickly realized no such weapons existed. Instead they faced an insurgency—“a soaring spiral of extremism and violence that was almost impossible to understand, let alone reverse. Facing defeat, the Coalition waged a hidden war within a war. Major-General Stan McChrystal devised a campaign fusing special forces, aircraft, and the latest surveillance technology with the aim of taking down the enemy faster than it could regenerate. Guided by intelligence, British and American special forces conducted a relentless onslaught, night after night targeting al-Qaeda and other insurgent groups. Task Force Black reveals not only the intensity of the secret fight that turned the tide in Baghdad but the rivalries and personal battles that had to be overcome along the way. Incisive, dramatic, exceptionally revealing, the war in Iraq cannot be understood without this book.

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Customer Reviews

Task Force Black is a true account of the anti-insurgent mission conducted by various special ops

groups in Iraq, especially the US Delta Team and the UK's SAS under the polymath commander Stanley McChrystal. Combining technology, air and ground Black Ops and rapid systematic offenses, they were successful in taking down Al Qaeda's militant arm in Iraq. Well written, detailed and full of insightful material, this is a great read for both entertainment, research and insight into how modern wars are won. McCrystall should be honored and his methodology utilized in the future. Mark Urban's book is a great addition to my collection of military history. As a avid history enthusiast and writer who incorporates historical facts, I highly recommend this book.

Disappointing book because the writer never goes deeper into the operations by task force black. I know that some things need to be kept secret out of safety reasons but I have read other books about the war in Iraq which didn't seem to suffer from this secrecy.

First - given the material published in the book, I'm surprised the manuscript made it to print. Rumors about Task Force 88 (Google "Task Force Black" and it will take you right to TF-88) have been floating around for some time. This book completely throws back the covers behind the action of the world's top Tier 1 units, their critical role in the Iraq war, and the political gamesmanship, intelligence coups and failures, and the difficult decisions made on a daily basis during the war. The verbiage is realistic, and the author went to great lengths to get every single detail as correct as possible. Some key takeaways: 1) For those that keep wondering who the top Tier-1 unit in the world is, this book answers that definitively. Delta Force (CAG) pretty much leads the entire time, with the SAS paired to the hip with Delta, the SBS regarded as "Tier 2" Special Forces by their SAS counterparts, and Seal Team Six barely getting mentioned. It's clear that throughout the Iraq war, Delta and the SAS were the tip of the spear units that did most of the heavy lifting and carried out most of the top missions. The first half of this book details the Delta missions and op-tempo and how the SAS basically had to fight politically just to get in the game for some of the top missions. 2) The book depicts the events on the ground in Iraq in painstakingly clear details. It's not an easy read, and the violence took me back to very unpleasant times when the media coverage in the US showed the carnage in Iraq on a daily basis and the precious loss of life. If you are squeamish about such details, fair warning - this may not be the book for you. 3) Most importantly, the book makes it clear that there was zero, absolutely no strategy whatsoever on the part of US and Coalition military planners on how to fight the insurgency, and most of all, win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Reading this book makes me realize how much we owe our military professionals for not only having to basically "make it up as they went along", but also ensure they get it right more than

they get it wrong, for the sake of the entire world. With events continuing to unfold in the Middle East, this should be required reading by officers in all branches of the military, if it's not already. Overall - a fantastic, just incredible read. My favorite non-fiction military book to date.

Good treatment of the subject. Well written.

This was a very good book and without a doubt worth the buy. Wish we could see more books on the market about international special operations. My only complaint really was that the book did get a bit slow at points, other than that, if you want a good read about our brothers in arms across the pond, start here.

well researched, compelling history of the development of systematic counter terrorism. Heartfelt thanks to the Brits, Americans, and all people opposing organized criminality - especially special forces, civilization's spearpoint; and Stan McChrystal - a great soldier and manager.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It was interesting to read about the SAS experiences in the Iraq War. Especially its interaction with JSOC and their own governments policies.

Mark Urban is an absolute legend...I buy a book if he's the author, and I'm never disappointed. This book is an absolute must read if you want to know more about what happened in Iraq. Very insightful.

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