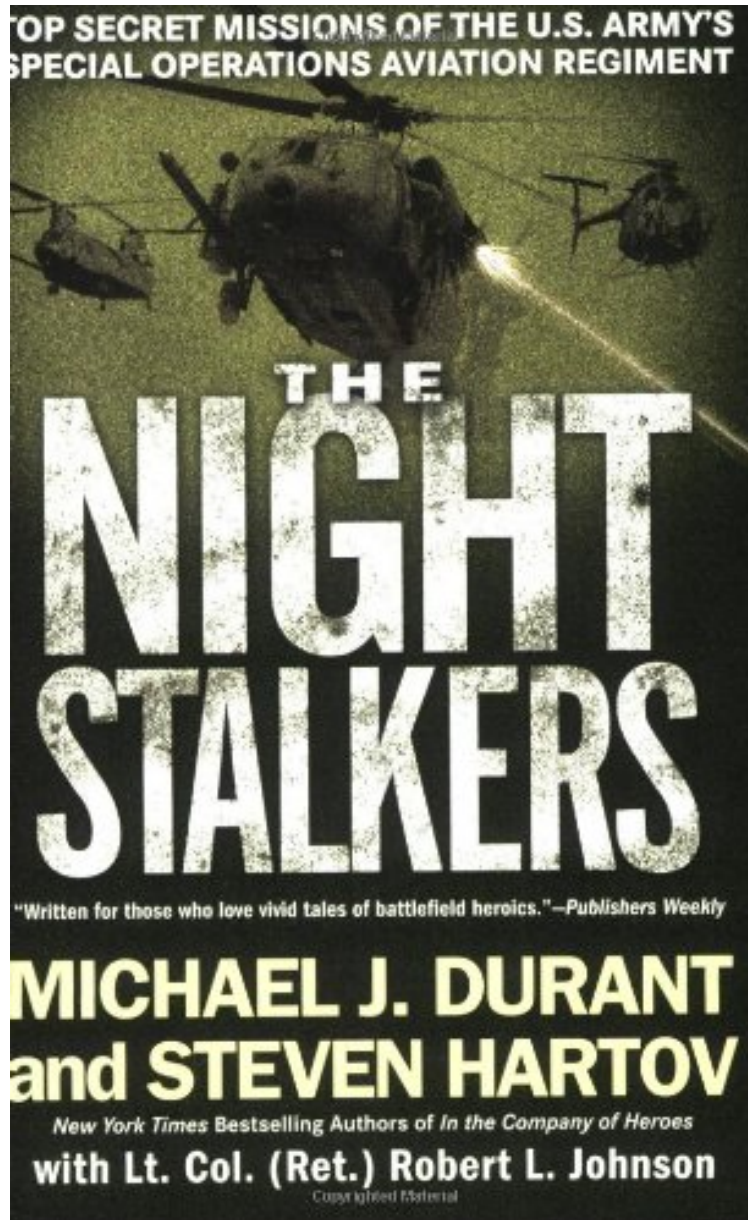


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The Night Stalkers: Top Secret Missions of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment

Michael J. Durant, Steven Hartov, Lt. Col. Robert L. Johnson

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#202566 in Books Michael J Durant 2008-01-02 2008-01-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.97 x .77 x 6.00l, .88 #File Name: 0451222911352 pages The Night Stalkers Top Secret Missions of the U S Army s Special Operations Aviation Regiment | File size: 46.Mb

Michael J. Durant, Steven Hartov, Lt. Col. Robert L. Johnson : The Night Stalkers: Top Secret Missions of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Night Stalkers: Top Secret Missions of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment*:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An overview of the development of Special Ops Aviation in the US Army By Flying Photographer The authors are presenting a brief and bit shallow overview of the history of the US Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment, from its first missions after Vietnam to Afghanistan, through short chapters, each one dealing with one particular mission and with extensive narrative from the participants. As a former member of this regiment, Mr. Durant is evidently well prepared to tell the stories "from within". Unfortunately, as with so many books dealing with the rather secretive Special Forces, the need to keep (still widely used) tactics and procedures secret means that sometimes many interesting facets of the operations are kept untold. At least I found myself (too) many times asking "why" and "how", without finding any answers in the book. Nevertheless, the brief glimpse that the reader is allowed into this secretive world reveals a long succession of very professional men (and women) with a strong dedication to their job and a deep sense of duty and honor. The overall reading experience is positive and interesting, it's just that many times you wish the authors would be allowed to tell us more of the full story behind the few facts uncovered. In case you wonder, only the truly gripping description of the (failed) mission in Afghanistan is well worth the price of the book! Overall, the authors provide us with a unique insight into an area of the US military forces that is usually invisible for us "mortals", and does so in an interesting and engaging way - recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A tremendous read that shines a small light on best pilots in the world These brave soldiers are too ... By Irock A tremendous read that shines a small light on best pilots in the world These brave soldiers are too proud and humble to expose much of what they have done in service of our country. This gives a glimpse into their lives and service. A excellent book that is a must read. Thank you for your service. These truly are the best pilots in the world, yet you will never know it if you talk to a 160th pilot. Humble and quiet, true professions who serve us all without fanfare. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read By Charles Macdonald Interesting read. Got a sense for the aviation SpecOps unit history told through missions executed by Chief Durant. Highly recommend this book if you are interested in Spec Ops unit history relayed through real life experiences.

From the New York Times bestselling authors of *In the Company of Heroes*. In the world of covert warfare, Special Operations pilots are notoriously close-lipped about what they do. They don't talk about their missions to anyone outside their small community. But now, Michael J. Durant and Steven Hartov shed fascinating light on the mysterious elite commandos known as SOAR (Special Operations Aviation Regiment) and take readers into a shadowy world of combat they have only imagined.

From Publishers Weekly Until 1980, Special Forces (Delta, SEALs, Rangers, Green Berets) relied on ad hoc transportation from other units to get to every operation. That led to disaster in 1980, when the failed Iranian hostage rescue left hulks of five helicopters in the Iranian desert. The U.S. Army decided to do it right the next time, resulting in the creation of SOAR, the Special Operations Aviation Regiment, a highly trained, aggressive unit of helicopter pilots and crew. Durant (*In the Company of Heroes*) and coauthors recount half a dozen SOAR missions from Grenada in 1983 and Panama in 1989 to Afghanistan and Iraq today, all with abundant fireworks and casualties. However, in this account, bravery occurs only on our side, while opponents are gleefully cackling comic-book villains blown to smithereens by America's deadly firepower. Readers who wonder why our magnificent troops are assailing, say, the Panamanian army, which no one would mistake for the Wehrmacht, have picked up the wrong book. It's written for those who love vivid tales of battlefield heroics and seek no more insight from books than they do from video games. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Three authors, all army veterans, join forces for this history of their service's Special Aviation Regiment. Founded in the 1970s, the unit received a boost from the Iran hostage fiasco. It first went to war in Grenada in 1983 and since then has flown, usually by night, hence the name Night Stalkers, everywhere army special-ops troops have needed to be delivered and supported. Durant and coauthor Robert L. Johnson are veterans of the regiment itself, so they can retell, vividly but discreetly, what it feels like to go into action against what are frequently blood-chilling odds. Sometimes the Stalkers use state-of-the-art stealth helicopters, in whose development the regiment played a significant role; at other times, they use more conventional "birds" and rely on darkness and skill. The book's action scenes are numerous and spine-tingling, its portraits of men living a life of danger absorbing, and the regiment's sadly long roll of honor distinctly moving. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. Three authors, all army veterans, join forces for this history of their service's Special Aviation Regiment. Founded in the 1970s, the unit received a boost from the Iran hostage fiasco. It first went to war in Grenada in 1983 and since then has flown, usually by night, hence the name Night Stalkers, everywhere army special ops troops have needed to be delivered and supported. Durant and coauthor Robert L. Johnson are veterans of the regiment itself, so they can retell, vividly but discreetly, what it feels like to go into action against what is frequently blood-chilling odds. Sometimes the

Stalkers use state-of-the-art stealth helicopters, in whose development the regiment played a significant role; at other times they use more conventional "birds" and rely on darkness and skill. The book's action scenes are numerous and spine-tingling, its portraits of men living a life of danger absorbing, and the regiment's sadly long roll of honor distinctly moving. -- Roland Green