



Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team

By Michael Smith

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A top-secret U.S. Army Special Operations unit has been running covert missions all over the world, from leading death squads to the hideout of drug baron Pablo Escobar to assassinating key al Qaeda members, including Iraqi leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and, in one of their greatest missions, capturing Saddam Hussein. "The Activity," as it became known to insiders, has achieved near-mythical status, even among the world's Special Operations elite. Now journalist Michael Smith gets inside this clandestine military team to expose their explosive history and secrets.

The Activity's story begins with the abortive attempt to rescue the American hostages from Iran in 1980. One of the main reasons Operation Eagle Claw failed was a chronic lack of intel on the ground, so in January 1981, U.S. military chiefs set up the "Intelligence Support Activity," a cover name for a secret army surveillance team that could operate undercover anywhere in the world. Hidden from the politicians and the government bean counters, it would carry out deniable operations preparing the way for Delta and SEAL Team Six.

Michael Smith has spoken to many former members of the Activity, and we follow them on operations from the war on the drug barons that led Colombian "death squads" to the hideouts of Pablo Escobar and his men. We learn of more recent missions, including snatching war criminals from their safe houses in the Balkans (at one time disguising themselves as French soldiers to lull a Serb warlord into a false sense of security), and operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. Killer Elite reveals the incredible truth behind the world's most secret Special Operations organization, a unit that is at the forefront of the War on Terror.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Former British intelligence officer Smith (*The Emperor's Codes*) shines a light on one of the U.S. Army's blackest agencies and best-kept secrets, the Intelligence Support Activity—aka the Activity—in this extensively researched and crisply written exposé. The Activity was established, after the failed attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran in 1980, as "a dedicated special operations intelligence unit" to provide signals, imagery and human intelligence to other black units: e.g., the army's Delta Force. Although opposed by army traditionalists, the Activity proved itself in operations from El Salvador to Iraq, playing important roles in tracking down Colombian drug czar Pablo Escobar, Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed and several prominent Bosnian war criminals. Since 9/11 and Operation Iraqi Freedom have exposed the shortcomings of U.S. intelligence, the size and scope of the Activity has, according to the author, "dramatically increased." Drawing on recently declassified documents and confidential interviews with key participants, Smith has produced an important primer for anyone hoping to understand the (usually quiet) successes and the (well-documented) failures of U.S. intelligence in the last 25 years. 16 pages color photo insert. (Mar.)

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From Booklist

A British journalist specializing in defense topics offers a readable, useful addition to the literature on American special operations forces. During the expansion of special operations forces in the 1980s, a secret group given the code name Intelligence Support Activity was charged with the primary function of gathering intelligence. It has played a valuable though unpublicized role in both Iraq wars, in antiterrorist operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and in the war on drugs. Its operatives can also fight--very well--as and when necessary. This book is finally a portrait of the unit's founder, Jerry Ryan, who had the usual spec-ops specialist's trouble with the brass. But his unit, now expanded to regimental strength, seems likely to remain on U.S. Army rolls, and military buffs and authorities may some day rank Ryan with Charles Beckwith, the founder of Delta Force. *Roland Green*

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Review

Praise for *KILLER ELITE*:

"Well written and authoritatively sourced, *Killer Elite* is the first detailed account of a special operations unit that Smith regards as America's most effective."

--*Sunday Telegraph*

"Well written and authoritatively sourced, *Killer Elite* is the first detailed account of a special operations unit that Smith regards as America's most effective."

-- *Sunday Telegraph*.

"Intelligence authority Michael Smith has produced a controversial new book which reveals details of an extraordinary covert operation currently in place to track down and eliminate major terrorist figures."

Eye Spy Magazine

'Absorbing material, superbly presented.'

Scottish Legion News

Praise for THE EMPEROR'S CODES:

"An engrossing and exciting recounting of an...important facet of World War II."

--*Booklist*

"A great story and one of importance."

--*Library Journal*

"An enthralling tale, the stuff of John le Carre or Robert Harris, but true."

--Martin Booth, *Daily Telegraph*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melissa Parra:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team. Try to the actual book Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team as your pal. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Judith Robinson:

The book untitled Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team is the publication that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to an individual. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Jimmy Stone:

This Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team is great reserve for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can state

no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America's Most Secret Special Operations Team in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no guide that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this e-book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

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