



**Weapon of Choice: ARSOF in Afghanistan (Army
Special Operations Forces) - 9/11 Attacks,
Toppling the Taliban, Osama bin Laden,
Destroying al-Qaeda in the War on Terror, First
Round of Afghan War**

U.S. Government, Department of Defense, U.S. Army

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Weapon of Choice is a history of the Army special operations forces in Afghanistan from 11 September 2001 to 15 May 2002, during America's global war on terrorism (GWOT). The contributions of Army Special Operations to free an oppressed people and deny sanctuary for global terrorism were absolutely critical to the success of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Army Special Operations spearheaded our Nation's first response to the terrible attacks of September 11, 2001. Their story is one of courage, dedication, and honor. Weapon of Choice tells the Army Special Operations story - from the daring infiltration of Special Forces 'A' teams through the treacherous mountain passes by our 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, to the heroism in Operation ANACONDA, to the courageous night parachute jump by our Rangers, and the phenomenal work done by our Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, and Support Soldiers. Our success, along with our talented Joint and Coalition partners, overwhelmed the enemy and freed a Nation. Small numbers of men and women of Army Special Operations made the difference in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The quality of these great Americans made the difficult missions seem routine - the impossible missions possible. The unique skills, bravery, and harrowing exploits were the foundation of success in Afghanistan.

This extensive account of U.S. Army Special Operations soldiers and their actions in Afghanistan is an important contribution to understanding how these unique individuals removed the Taliban from power and destroyed al-Qaeda and Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan as part of the US global war on terrorism. The originating idea, research, and writing that went into it are strictly the product of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and its assigned authors.

The purpose of this book is to share Army special operations soldier stories with the general American public to show them what various elements accomplished during the war to drive the Taliban from power and to destroy al-Qaeda and Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan as part of the global war on terrorism. The purpose of the book is not to resolve Army special operations doctrinal issues, to clarify or update military definitions, or to be the "definitive" history of the continuing unconventional war in Afghanistan. The purpose is to demonstrate how the war to drive the Taliban from power, help the Afghan people, and assist the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) rebuild the country afterward was successfully accomplished by majors, captains, warrant officers, and sergeants on tactical teams and aircrews at the lowest levels. If Army special operations forces (ARSOF) operations and the operational employment of teams in Afghanistan by various Joint Special Operations Task Forces (JSOTFs) create doctrinal debate, the appropriate venue within which to resolve those issues is at the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center and School.

Chapter 1 - Prelude to Terror * Chapter 2 - Awakening the Giant * "Subdue Without Fighting": JPOTF, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida * Developing the SOF Campaign at SOCCENT, Tampa, Florida * Top Draft Choices: 10th SFG, Fort Carson, CO, and 7th SFG, Fort Bragg, NC * 5th SFG = CJSOTF-North, Fort

Campbell, Kentucky * Standing Up JSOTFs in Tampa and Fort Campbell * Committed to Middle East Exercises * 3rd SFG Prepares for the Horn of Africa at Fort Bragg * Thinking Ahead: Senior Liaison Officers for Resistance Leaders * Civil Affairs to Islamabad, Pakistan * Of Vital Importance: PSYOP * Site Coordination With the Uzbeks at Karshi Kanabad * Uncorking the Bottled Airlift * All Credit Cards Accepted at K2 Gas Station * Air Campaign and CSAR Go Hand in Hand * Making Camp Freedom a Fully Operational Base: K2, Uzbekistan

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