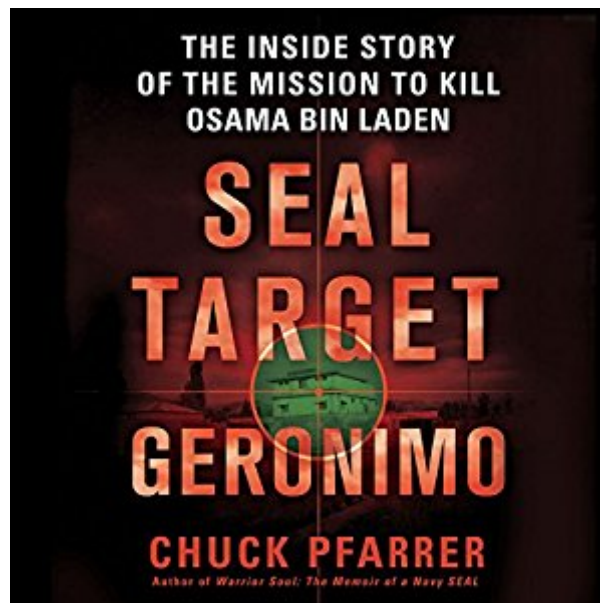




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# **SEAL Target Geronimo: The Inside Story Of The Mission To Kill Osama Bin Laden**



## Synopsis

On May 2, 2011, at 1:03 a.m. in Pakistan, a satellite uplink was sent from the town of Abbottabad, crackling into the situation room of the White House in Washington, D.C.: "Geronimo, Echo, KIA." These words, spoken by a Navy SEAL, put paid to Osama bin Laden's three-decade-long career of terror. SEAL Target Geronimo is the story of Bin Laden's relentless hunters and how they took down the terrorist mastermind, told by Chuck Pfarrer, a former assault element commander of SEAL Team Six and author of the best-selling *Warrior Soul: The Memoir of a Navy SEAL*. After talking to members of the SEAL team involved in the raid, Pfarrer shares never-before-revealed details of the historic raid and the men who planned and conducted it in an exclusive boots-on-the-ground account of what happened during each minute of the mission - both inside the building and outside. Pfarrer takes readers inside the operation as the SEALs flew over the wall of Bin Laden's shabby, litter-strewn compound and then penetrated deeper and deeper into the terrorist's lair, telling us just what it looked, sounded, and smelled like in that sweltering Pakistani suburb. He takes us out to the courtyard to witness the near-disaster of the malfunctioning helicopter and brings us to the exact spot where the al-Qaeda leader was cowering when the bullet entered his head. SEAL Target Geronimo is an explosive story of unparalleled valor, clockwork military precision, and deadly accuracy, carried out by the most elite fighting force in the world: the U.S. Navy's SEAL Team Six.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read a lot of history books, and I find they tend to fall into two general categories -- a) those that

are years in the writing, scholarly, exhaustively researched, extensively footnoted and annotated, and b) those that make history come alive. This book is clearly in the latter category. If you want to know what it's like to train to be a SEAL and to participate in a mission, this is that book. The author -- who was a Navy SEAL and for years has been involved in training Navy SEALs here and in Afghanistan and Iraq -- writes so descriptively, you'll feel the heat of the weapon in your hands, experience the jolt to your foot as you kick down the door in the Abbottabad compound and smell the musty air of Bin Laden's bedroom when you burst in. What I didn't expect, and the book delivered, were chapters that put the mission in context -- including the geopolitical context going back decades, and the preparation for this particular mission through the context of the last several decades of SEAL missions. One element I particularly appreciated in the book was the section that gave a background to what made Bin Laden Bin Laden. It's popular to think that he sprung up from nowhere as a fully formed monster. But many factors made him the man he was who did the things he did. Chuck writes so vividly -- well, you don't exactly sympathize with Bin Laden -- but you do have an idea what it would have been like to BE him. That accomplishment takes a special and rare kind of historian and, I think, represents the main value of this book. A value that will stand even decades from now when the mission is declassified and someone has the extensive time and many research assistants it will take to write the fully annotated, exhaustively researched definitive account of the killing of Bin Laden. Perhaps Chuck will be that person. Perhaps it will be someone else. Perhaps, as is usually the case, it will take several books for the reader to be able to get "the full story". I do want to address the negative reviewers -- not the one-star troll flammers who have never reviewed on before this and clearly have never read this book -- but the people who bought the book and thought it wasn't "extensive" enough. You do know the years and years of work that goes into those sorts of books? I doubt we'll ever have a more definitive book on Seabiscuit than Laura Hillenbrand's or a more multi-leveled biography of Kit Carson and his impact on the American West than Hampton Sides', but it took both of those authors nearly a decade to research and write each of their books. They also had the advantage of being able to stand on others' shoulders as they had access to a wealth of history, research, newspaper and contemporary accounts of their subjects and the gift of distance to put it all into perspective. Chuck's book is first out of the gate and, it does have the advantage of his first-hand research -- both in his role as a contractor involved with the training of SEALs, his former service as a member of the elite SEAL Team Six and his primary research here and in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, not only did he not have Hillenbrand or Side's luxury of time for research, he was dealing with a subject for which many details are classified and necessitated that, even if he was privy to some of those details, he omit or obscure them for

security's sake. It's a huge burden on a historian, but, as I contend, when the exhaustively researched, annotated account of the Bin Laden mission comes out, this book will still stand -- as a visceral description of how the mission went down.

outstanding book that not only covers the mission but gives a great background to US special forces and the countries that comprise the home turf of islamic extremists. its a book i will read and re-read again (have already read it twice) as there is so much there; however, its so well written that it reads like a thriller. frankly, most military books are either excessively technical and a constant barrage of acronyms, or, they are some chest beating rant that gets old by the second chapter. this book explains in plain english and without all the "hoo-rah" you get with most military writers. i think its a must read if you want to know more about OBL and his history, legacy and motives.

This is a really cool book! After I had ordered it I read the politician's reactions in the press before it was delivered but wasn't swayed. I thought I'll read the book first then make up my own mind who is telling the truth. I had already seen parts of the training documentaries on the Discovery Channel which I thought were way cool, so when I saw the book advertised I ordered it right away. I think the guys have genuine gripes and maybe this was a legit way of airing them. They certainly have my respect. To attain then maintain that level of fitness, awareness and focus is really cutting edge physical and mental achievement. Without giving too much away, operations are clearly and convincingly described in the book. I think about as much has been said as could be said, but it is enough to allow insight into how the team functions. I liked the Zen references which highlight the levels of mental and physical control required in extreme situations. The brief references to technology used were also very interesting with enough detail provided to allow visualization of how different aspects come together in general terms. No need to question Chuck's credibility, holding the position he did, obviously he would have had to have the absolute trust of team members he was training. It was also a bonus to have an account of the Maesk Alabama mission included which helps to give a broader picture of how the team operates. I had followed General McChrystal's falling out with the Administration earlier and found that many of the issues raised in this book are consistent with observations he had made back then. Wishing Chuck and members of the team safe passage.

SEAL Target Geronimo by Chuck Pfarrer weaves you through some of Special Operations history. Throughout the book he walks you through some important operations, e.g. Son Tay, Grenada

invasion, and Operation Eagle Claw. He gives details on how hard it is to become a Navy SEAL, and the impossible task of making SEAL Team Six. This book to my knowledge has the most up to date information on ST6. It shows you how incompetent the CIA is, and how even after 9/11 the alphabet agencies are still not sharing information to help stop terrorism. Pfarrer gives you a brief description of Osama's life along with Ayman al-Zawahiri's showing how they became the two most wanted men in America. There is a controversial chapter in the book about WMD's; after reading the book I believe the author that there were WMD's in Iraq. The book is very short on covering the real Osama raid, so don't read this if you're looking for the book to just be about the raid. I recommend reading this book even with the controversy surrounding it. In my opinion I'm going to believe an actual Operator before I believe anything put out by the media.

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