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Sua Sponte: The Forging Of A Modern American Ranger



Synopsis

Sua Sponte Latin for "Of Their Own Accord" • The 75th Ranger Regiment's Motto "Army Rangers are not born. They are made." The modern 75th Ranger Regiment represents the culmination of 250 years of American soldiering. As a fighting force with "our nation's oldest and deepest tradition, the Regiment traces its origins to Richard Rogers' Rangers during the prerevolutionary French and Indian War, through the likes of Francis Marion and John Mosby, to the five active Ranger battalions of the Second World War, and finally, to the four battalions of the current Ranger regiment engaged in modern combat." Granted unprecedented access to the training of this highly restricted component of America's Special Operations Forces in a time of war, retired Navy captain Dick Couch tells the personal story of the young men who begin this difficult and dangerous journey to become Rangers. Many will try, but only a select few will survive to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment. Sua Sponte follows a group of these aspiring young warriors through the crucible that is Ranger training and their preparation for direct-action missions in Afghanistan against America's enemies, anywhere, any time, and under any conditions. INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoy Dick Couch's writing. He has a really easy-to-read style that isn't as dumbed down as C.B. Colby back in the day. This book is extremely informative and fun to read. It gives a really human insight into the Rangers that people don't often get. Even (especially?) Soldiers often elevate these guys to godlike status, and makes them seem completely aloof and inaccessible. Dick Couch makes them accessible, without dragging them down to a level of not being special anymore, because the Rangers are the best on the planet at what they do, make no mistake about that. The only complaint I have about the book was the lack of editing. I want to mark up every error in the book and send it back to the publisher. The first 100 pages are rife with so many factual errors that they distract from the fine content of the book. It's not anything big that would make you think Couch made anything up, they are a large number of simple errors like saying that Darby did not live to see D-Day, when he was in fact in Washington with the War Department and didn't die until 1945 (perhaps the meaning was Darby wasn't in Europe to see D-Day?), and that the British were defeating Francis Marion in South Carolina in 1881. I don't want to discredit the book, I really enjoyed it, I just hope the second printing shows more attention to detail befitting the Rangers. Mr. Couch, if you need a better editor, I would be happy to work for you!

RANGERS Lead The Way!!!! "Sua Sponte: The Forging of a Modern American Ranger" by Dick Couch is an excellent and lively tribute to the modern Rangers of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment. I severed in the Regiment prior 9/11 and moved onto other Special Operations units. I can tell you what I learned in the Rangers set the foundation of my special operations background. This book clearly sets the record straight on what it takes to be in the Regiment and what life is like in the unit. If you ever wanted to really know about this unit this book is for you. The author briefly covers the ranger history and then delves into the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program (RASP), which was Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) back in the day. I can tell you from when I served in the 75th they have fine-tuned the selection process down to fine science with almost eleven years of straight combat under their belt. RASP is designed to weed out those who do not truly have the physical or mental capabilities to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment. The training curriculum was specifically designed to "smoke" the trainees through endless punishment via constant physical training. In the second week of RASP, the class is sent to "Cole Range" a remote training area of Fort Benning. It is designed to test the individual to their breaking point both physically and mentally;

trainees sleep on average 4 hours total throughout Cole Range as they spend their nights doing tedious tasks such as the "hitting the wood line" for being incapable of meeting the given time hacks. Although training such as patrolling and land navigation is taught at Cole Range, the main focus is to mentally and physically break down the individual. For classes held in the winter; it is not uncommon for 20%-40% of the starting class to quit during the first night of Cole Range. The remainder of the training familiarizes the trainees with the regimental weapon systems and first aid procedures known as Ranger First Responder (RFR), explosive breaching, air assault operations, close quarters battle and a host of other skill-sets. Also, as mentioned in other reviews the book has some historical errors and a couple of minor typos. However, I feel these errors do not distract from the book and will only be viewed as a glaring error to readers with extensive military historical knowledge. However one thing that bothers me is that the book has no contents page, not sure if it was a print error or it was purposely omitted. Overall, The book is an enjoyable read and nicely formatted. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking to journey into the ranks of the Rangers and to the casual reader looking to shed some light on their understanding of this elite unit.

RLTW!CONTENTS:-Dedication-Acknowledgments-Foreword-Preface- IntroductionChapters;1. Ranger History2. Recruiting for the Regiment3. Ranger Assessment and Selection Level One, Phase One4. Ranger Assessment and Selection Level One, Phase Two5. RASP, SURT, and the School6. The Ranger Battalion-Epilogue: The Way Ahead-Post Epilogue: A Look Back-A Personal Note From The Author-Index

I've read other books by Couch before. This one is not as well done but only slightly. He covers the history of the Regiment well as well as the first 2 training events. But during the next part, once the boys are Rangers, it dips a little. The training is so vague it might not even be with mentioning. Other than that small part, this book is great! I really enjoyed learning about what Rangers go through to become and earn their Ranger tab, beret, and scroll. Very well written!

I have read every one of Dick Couch's books on SF selection and really enjoy them. He is able to describe it thoroughly without making it boring, and Rangers are very unique in their selection and deployment, and he really illustrates how demanding their deployment and training schedule is. Overall great reading if you want to know what to expect if you are going through RASP, or if you know a Ranger, or if you want to know if Con-Air was an accurate depiction of how awesome Rangers are (Heavy sarcasm there). I highly recommend his other books on Green berets, Navy Seals and Marine selection!

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