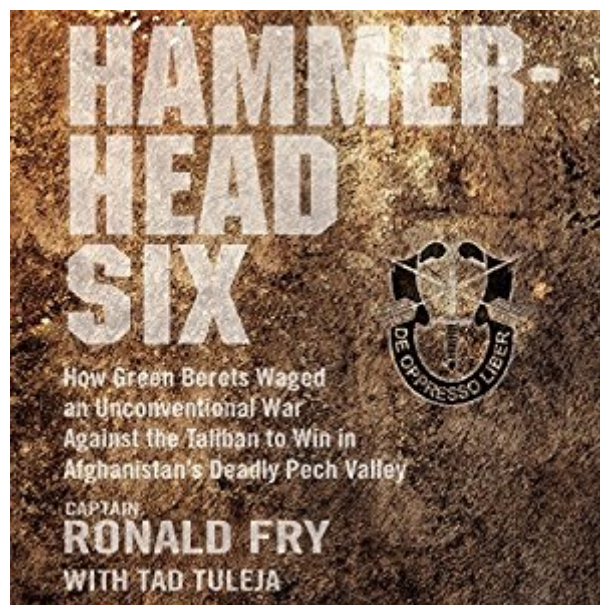




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Hammerhead Six: How Green Berets Waged An Unconventional War Against The Taliban To Win In Afghanistan's Deadly Pech Valley



Synopsis

Two years before the action in Lone Survivor, a team of Green Berets conducted a very different successful mission in Afghanistan's notorious Pech Valley. Led by Captain Ronald Fry, Hammerhead Six applied the principles of unconventional warfare to "win hearts and minds" and fight against the terrorist insurgency. In 2003, the Special Forces soldiers entered an area later called "the most dangerous place in Afghanistan". Here, where the line between civilians and armed zealots was indistinct, they illustrated the Afghan proverb "I destroy my enemy by making him my friend." Fry recounts how they were seen as welcome guests rather than invaders. Soon after their deployment ended, the Pech Valley reverted to turmoil. Their success was never replicated. Hammerhead Six finally reveals how cultural respect and hard work (and the occasional machine-gun burst) were more than a match for the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very well written!!! Every Soldier, Marine, ground pounder, grunt, etc... needs to read this book. This is exactly how this war will be won. Unfortunately, as the book questions near the end "why do you have conventional generals, leading conventional troops, in charge of fighting an unconventional war?" - Having been there and feeling the power from above limiting my actions makes me appreciate this book that much more. This is "One Tribe at a Time" before one Tribe at a time was written. It is sad to know that the tribal and cultural success of Mr. Fry and Mr. Gant have given way to the failures that followed.

A humanising read about the non-sexy aspects of war and an example of a working model of how to win the hearts and minds of a suspicious, if not hostile population. This is the best damn non-fiction piece I have read and should be mandatory reading for our military. Through the book you see a firsthand experience what works, what doesn't, and actual tangible success in a land where empires go to die.

I've read much about combat, wars etc. The baggage of a vet I guess. I loved this book, because of its focus being on SF ways, as opposed to the average disgruntled, trained killer perspective of most combat memoirs. Don't get me wrong, there is a place for everything; I just found this perspective refreshing. Unfortunately that the very thing that Cpt Fry feared, came to pass. The "Man" appeared in the form of convention. Great Book. Thanks

This book should part of the Military's required reading. With the type of warfare the U.S. faces nowadays, this book lays out a roadmap for successful Unconventional Warfare. Well written and insightful.

Excellent account of modern day Green Berets doing exactly what their mission description calls for. Ron Fry's account is personal, direct and to the point. If our mission planners could have followed Hammerhead Six's operation, Afghanistan would be a different place today. Unfortunately it's far from it. This is textbook Green Beret operations in our time, highly recommended. RR To get a true picture of how things can change when new management (Military Units) arrives, read this book then follow it with The Chosen Few.

Well written, easy read without the typical combat story. Not "hype". The REAL treasure in this book is the insight to the attitude and mind set of the Army Special Forces (Green Berets) and how their mission is different than that of direct action units such as the SEALs, Rangers, etc. Very effectively points out how we should be conducting the mission in the Middle East rather than "dumping" tons of bombs and putting large number of US military personnel at risk while spending huge amounts of money and at the end of the day, accomplishing little.

I read a lot of books like this, but this one was different. It was refreshing to read the account of a soldier whose efforts to understand a people's culture and religion enabled him to accomplish much

more than conventional warfare usually allows. I hope current and future soldiers as well as civilians read this book to inspire them think differently when a nation must go to war. Don't worry though, it's still a book about war with lot's of great stories to keep you engaged through the entire book.

How do you lead men unto a country renowned for its stance against outside influences? Read this amazing and heartfelt story and you may have a glimpse into the type of insight required to do such! I found that I could not stop reading from the moment I pick up those book. I highly recommend that you take the time to read such an awe inspiring story that will leave you to ask ... Why did we not follow this model for years to come?

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