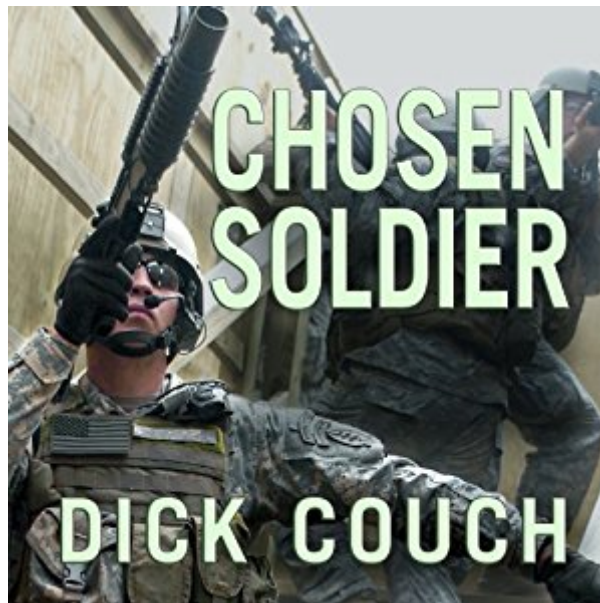




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# Chosen Soldier: The Making Of A Special Forces Warrior



## Synopsis

In combating terror, America can no longer depend on its conventional military superiority and the use of sophisticated technology. More than ever, we need men like those of the Army Special Forces---the legendary Green Berets. In *Chosen Soldier*, Dick Couch draws on nearly a year spent at Special Forces training facilities and offers an unprecedented view of the education of these men.

Following the experiences of one class of soldiers as they endure this physically and mentally exhausting ordeal, Couch spells out in fascinating detail the demanding selection process and grueling field exercises, the high-level technical training and intensive language courses, and the simulated battle problems that test everything from how well SF candidates gather operational intelligence to their skills at negotiating with volatile, often hostile, local leaders. *Chosen Soldier* paints a vivid portrait of an elite group, and a process that forges America's smartest, most versatile, and most valuable fighting force.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you can slog through the author's endless statements along the lines of "band of brothers, fight with honor, protecting democracy, Islamic jihad and the global war on terror", you might find something worthwhile in this book. When you read what he had written in 2007 about how Afghanistan and Iraq are evidence of the brilliant success of modern warfare you have to shake your head, seeing that we are still there 10 years later, fighting the same fight in the longest military engagement the US had ever been stuck in with no end in sight. The author would have done better

to give more insight into the training experience and less flag-waving rah-rah nonsense. Written by the army, for the army to be read by ex-army/wannabe army.

I believe this is the first comprehensive look at the entire U.S. Army Special Forces selection, qualification and training process; certainly the most updated (as of around 2004-5). Couch, a former Navy SEAL, is full of praise for the abilities and character of those young sergeants and junior officers who earn their Green Beret. And while the prose at times lags with over emphasis on procedure, it is still a fascinating look at a world very few of us will ever experience. The main strength of the book is that it's more than an anecdotal telling of what these candidates had to go through. Couch also explores what the SF cadre instructors and trainers bring to the process as well. For instance, I was surprised to learn that there was little of the shouting and hazing that I suppose I'd expect to read about. Instead, Couch shows that throughout all four Phases, the cadre sergeants and officers are extremely considerate AND dedicated military professionals. Although this kind of experience is no longer for me, I believe this is an excellent book for those contemplating a military career in Special Forces. Couch spends a lot of time on each Phase, as well as each Special Forces specialty (communications, engineering, weapons, medical, etc.). There's also a section devoted to the preparation officers undergo to become ODA leaders, although I felt this was where Couch was at his most dryly procedural, whereas I wanted to read more about their field exercises. Finally, the book concludes with a satisfying overview of Robin Sage, the final Phase IV unconventional wargame exercise. Strongly recommended.

Great read. Simple and straightforward (slightly biased) writing at its most informative form. Wish there were separate books for each phase of training with more details on individuals and the types of lives they've left and the mindset and thoughts they were having. The pictures were great, more of those too. I kept going back to each picture with a better understanding of each situation the more I read and feeling more connected.

This book wonderfully illustrates the courage, strength, and intelligence required of a special forces recruit. I especially liked the analogy that a special forces warrior is a member of the peace corp. on steroids. The individual stories of the different recruits that Mr. Couch followed made the difficulty of the training process that much more personal. The intense pressure that a recruit who wants to be at the command level must endure is incredible. This book should be required reading of any man who wants to join the special forces. I really enjoyed it.

Impressive presentation of the extraordinary training process for Green Berets. Very well done.

Dick Couch as always has a captivating way of writing that puts you in the perspective. I've read at least 3 of his books and this one might be the best. Compared to the seal books, this one has less on the managing and administrative side in my opinion and is hard to put down. Not to mention that the training he writes of is classified and hard to find any info on. Dick Couch is just one of those authors that makes feel blessed to live in his time....If you are interested in going SF, it would be a travesty not to read this, and you're definitely a "no go" as far as your intel gathering.

This is the second Dick Couch book I have read (first was Sua Sponte). Besides being extremely thorough, balanced, and interesting, Mr. Couch writes with what can only be described as passion for our warriors being sent into harm's way. To say his writing is informative is to do it a disservice. It is insightful, caring, and motivating in a way that only someone who has been there can portray to their reader. If you are a prospective SF candidate, or simply a fan of our men and women in uniform, you owe it to yourself to read this book.

It's a good read for people interested in joining the Special Forces. It makes an important point that if this is the type of unit you want to join you not only have to be physically fit but smart and competent in your abilities. It also makes references to time spent it's not a short course training. 18 months on average is typical but can be longer based on quals and MOS.

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