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# The Operator: Firing The Shots That Killed Osama Bin Laden And My Years As A SEAL Team Warrior



## Synopsis

Stirring evocative, thought provoking, and often jaw dropping, *The Operator* ranges across SEAL Team Operator Robert O'Neill's awe-inspiring 400-mission career that included his involvement in attempts to rescue "Lone Survivor" Marcus Luttrell and abducted-by-Somali-pirates Captain Richard Phillips and culminated in those famous three shots that dispatched the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden. In this book O'Neill describes his idyllic childhood in Butte, Montana; his impulsive decision to join the SEALs; the arduous evaluation and training process; and the even tougher gauntlet he had to run to join the SEALs' most elite unit. After officially becoming a SEAL, O'Neill would spend more than a decade in the most intense counterterror effort in US history. For extended periods, not a night passed without him and his small team recording multiple enemy kills - and though he was lucky enough to survive, several of the SEALs he'd trained with and fought beside never made it home. *The Operator* describes the nonstop action of O'Neill's deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, evokes the black humor of years-long combat, brings to vivid life the lethal efficiency of the military's Tier One units, and reveals firsthand details of the most celebrated terrorist takedown in history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Operator: Firing the Shots that killed Osama Bin Laden" by Robert O'Neill, (publ. Apr. 25, 2017); 358 pp, hardback. (Amazingly, as I write this review while holding the book in hand, one can read almost the entire book as provided for in Books!) This book regards the experiences of the

author in serving as a U.S. Navy SEAL member on some 400+ "missions", with his account of being the person who actually shot and killed Osama Bin Laden -- the Islamist who coordinated the hijacked airplane, suicidal Islamikazi attacks on 9/11/2001 that destroyed several skyscrapers in NYC and damaged the Pentagon. The author recounts growing up in Montana and the road that led to his joining the U.S. Navy to become a SEAL. He recounts his SEAL training -- a trying, exhausting experience that one has read in many other SEAL-training books written by other SEAL-school graduates. Following SEAL training, he discusses other combat-oriented training that he undertook during his 16 years as a SEAL. What, of course, is of primary interest here is his account as to how his SEAL team trained for their mission to "neutralize" Osama Bin Laden at his secretive Abbottabad, Pakistan compound. I'm not going to recount the author's entire 25-page raid of rappelling from a helicopter into Osama's high-walled "fortress", but will quote the author as claiming that as he climbed up a stairwell to Osama's third floor: "Osama bin Laden stood near the entrance at the foot of the bed, taller and thinner than I'd expected, his beard shorter and hair whiter....In less than a second, I aimed above the woman's right shoulder [who was standing in front of Osama] and pulled the trigger twice. Bin Laden's head split open, and he dropped" (p. 310). Well, there's more to the author's account as to how his team searched through the building for documents and computers for intelligence data, and their escape back to their Afghanistan base. About a year-and-a-half after shooting bin Laden, the author decided to retire -- but still about 3 years short of being able to retire from the military and qualify for a monthly pension. Towards the end of his SEAL career, he came under criticism from other SEALs that he was planning on quitting early in order to "cash in" on writing a book such as this. The author was bothered by such criticism, and he pondered in his concluding paragraph: "I've had many moments when I've wondered if being the one who killed Osama bin Laden was the best thing that ever happened to me, or the worst. I'm still trying to figure that out" (p. 336). Even if the author hadn't been the SEAL who downed Osama, his recounting of his other combat experiences would still make this book an interesting read. I highly recommend it.

I really like this book. The most important thing that I learned was that I definitely don't have what it takes to be a SEAL. Jeez, how does a normal human live through that? Rob has a great conversational style of writing. He lets you see his personal side and he's very funny. I appreciate how he portrays the team aspect of being a SEAL, how each team member is really your brother. I highly recommend this book for a lot of reasons, most importantly because it tells a great story about a great man. Rob, thank you for your service. Oorah!

Thank you Rob O'Neill and your brothers for all you have done and for all they continue to do for our country. I laughed, I cried, and while I have always respected the military and those who chose to fight for our freedom, I have an elevated appreciation for all of you. I knew BUD/S training was rough, but now I know why 80% of those who apply don't make it to the end. I was fascinated and totally captivated with your story and so glad I read it. "Sugar Cookie" will always have a different meaning for me now.

What a book! I was so disappointed when he kept saying he was not writing a book. Each time I saw him on Fox, my comment was you have got to write a book. He did. It is awesome. I could not put it down. I read it twice. I would stop and think about his missions and wonder how in the hell he did it? How did he survive? His mission on top of the mountain with no cover is one of the many missions that he commanded. His team was after a high powered Taliban leader. He finally got air support. He was told it would be two minutes. His comment was where is it coming from the shuttle? I had to laugh. The Stealth finally dropped a few. But he was most excited when the Dude, an F15 Navy pilot appeared. . His comment was that those guys are young and will get down and hot and go after them. Thank goodness for the Dude in the F15. I use to teach reading to elementary and junior high kids. This is a book I would assign as an extra reading assignment. It flows and is about a hero. Kids love these books, anything to encourage them to read. They should know that we do have war heroes. Yes, they love sports figures. However, so few know about our warriors and heroes. I loved this book. I think Rob O'Neil, an elite Navy seal, is awesome. I hope he runs for the MT Senate seat coming up for election. We need those who have served in Congress. Thanks Rob for your service. So glad you are alive. Our country still needs you. Thanks for getting Osama Bin Laden. Our country is safer for your incredible risky mission. A wonderful self help book!!

Riveting portrayal of humility, grace, fortitude and humor (the unsung hero of any true success story). Rob and the team have chronicled the journey in a relatable humanistic manner that transcends to the struggles and successes of every American. "Never Quit"

"Thank you for your service" doesn't begin to cover what this country owes to you and to all the Special Operators. Your account of your experiences as a SEAL should be required reading. You made the Bin Laden raid seem like an everyday op, primarily because you trained so hard for it. God Bless you and your family.

I alternate my reading between fiction and non-fiction. This one just came up in the rotation and I was blown away. I have always been an admirer of the Navy SEALs because of a close friend's oldest son who was part of the original deployment to Afghanistan and seeing pictures of him in the foothills blew my mind. This book picture together in very vivid terms and real personal terms too.

Thanks you Robert and all veterans,

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