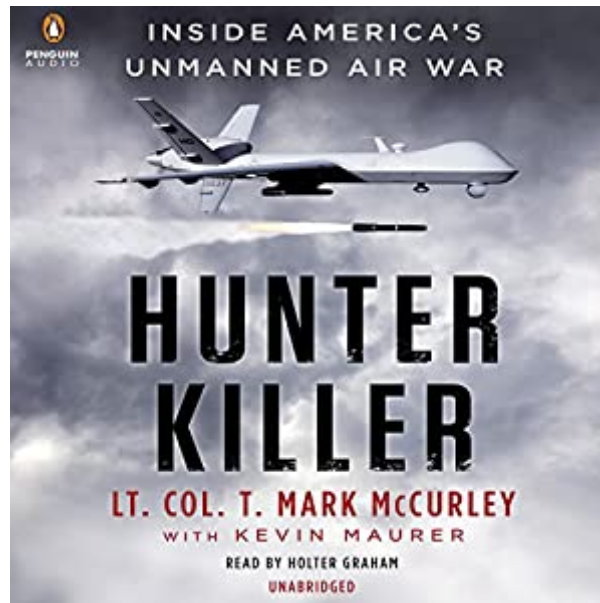




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Hunter Killer: Inside America's Unmanned Air War



Synopsis

The first-ever inside look at the US military's secretive Remotely Piloted Aircraft program - equal parts techno-thriller, historical account, and war memoir. Remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), commonly referred to by the media as drones, are a mysterious and headline-making tool in the military's counterterrorism arsenal. Their story has been pieced together by technology reporters, major newspapers, and on-the-ground accounts from the Middle East, but it has never been fully told by an insider. In *Hunter Killer*, Air Force Lt. Col. T. Mark McCurley provides an unprecedented look at the aviators and aircraft that forever changed modern warfare. This is the first account by an RPA pilot, told from his unique-in-history vantage point supporting and executing Tier One counterterrorism missions. Only a handful of people know what it's like to hunt terrorists from the sky, watching through the electronic eye of aircraft that can stay aloft for a day at a time, waiting to deploy their cutting-edge technology to neutralize threats to America's national security. *Hunter Killer* is the counterpoint to the stories from the battlefield told in books like *No Easy Day* and *American Sniper*: While special operators such as SEALs and Delta Force have received a lot of attention in recent years, no book has ever told the story of the unmanned air war. Until now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Another reviewer disparages the book as "a memoir" but it is a very well written one and the view from inside is often the best view. I was struck at how this book supplements what I consider an excellent movie I saw last year called, "Eye in the Sky." The author of this book even uses the same term. The author graduated from the Air Force Academy and flew for several years but not fighters.

After 9/11, he wanted to get into the war so he volunteered for the Predator program, which was mostly filled with pilots who had screwed up somewhere. It was not a desired career. In the beginning, they were limited to observation. Eventually the armed Predators began to play a role in Afghanistan. He relates the details of the famous "Lone Survivor" mission where bad weather kept manned aircraft grounded. The stories he tells are a great way to learn about the RPA program. Those in it prefer Remotely Piloted Aircraft to the "drone" term. These aircraft are piloted by Air Force officers who are thousands of miles away. The visual systems are operated by an enlisted "Weapons Systems" associate. The pilot fires the weapons. I highly recommend it.

An insider's narrative of the evolution of a weapon system. Killing someone with a remotely piloted drone that has a built-in response lag of several seconds is not as easy as video games make it appear. To make it work requires patience, practice, and planning before an operator can use requisite flying skills to make the kill. The author clearly describes the evolution of this system from concept to kill shot.

I had read Lone Survivor by Marcus Latrell, and in reading Hunter Killer found out one of the drones talked about was the drone that picked up Marcus' signal in the window of his hut where he was waiting for his buddies to come and find him. I saw a little on TV how it was the Marine Rangers that came to his rescue, and he joked about how he'd never live down being saved by the Rangers. Marcus was a Seal. Nice.

There have been many books written on the rise of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, but few have offered the operators perspective. T. Mark McCurley was involved from the beginning of the USAF's adoption of UAVs, helped develop their expanding roles and capabilities in combat, and concluded with the tour as a commander for a front-line UAV squadron. His story is the first book I've read that truly captures the heart, spirit, challenges and perspective of UAV operators that have been at a full sprint since the War on Terror started. McCurley was directly involved in some of the most high profile UAV operations and strikes, and played a critical role in the transition of UAVs from the intelligence to the hunter killer mission. I highly recommend this book for anyone that wants the ground truth on UAVs past operations and in the current fight.

For someone out of the flying business for a while, this was a real good update on this kind of mission. Well written and hard to put down.

Insightful read about the life of an RPA pilot and about the advances in unmanned aerial vehicle technology. This book is an excellent start for anyone seeking to learn more about RPAs.

Well written and informative about the men and women who fly our unmanned aircraft in the global war on terror! Well done!

Goo read truly provides insight into the day to day effort of those protecting us. I am overwhelmed by the dedication of our service men and women.

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