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Spetsnaz: Russia's Special Forces (Elite)



Synopsis

When the shadowy, notorious Spetsnaz were first formed, they drew on a long Soviet tradition of elite, behind-the-lines commando forces from World War II and even earlier. Throughout the 1960s-70s they were instrumental both in projecting Soviet power in the Third World and in suppressing resistance within the Warsaw pact. As a powerful, but mysterious tool of a world superpower, the Spetsnaz have inevitably become the focus of many 'tall tales' in the West. In this book, a peerless authority on Russia's military Special Forces debunks several of these myths, uncovering truths that are often even more remarkable. Now, since the chaotic dissolution of the USSR and the two Chechen Wars, Russian forces have seen increasing modernization, involving them ever more in power-projection, counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism and the Spetsnaz have been deployed as a spearhead in virtually all of these operations. This book offers a unique, absorbing guide to the secrets of the Spetsnaz, their most noteworthy missions and personalities, but is also packed with details such as orders-of-battle, equipment and operational doctrine.

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Customer Reviews

As author Mark Galeotti points out, the Spetsnaz, Russia's much-vaunted military special forces, have been the subject of a certain amount of mythologizing over the years, inside and outside Russia. This Osprey Elite Series book is meant to be a corrective as well as a well-written history of Russia's Spetsnaz, including their roles in recent conflicts in Chechnya, Georgia and Ukraine. The introduction makes the crucial point that the Spetznaz are not strictly speaking analogous to U.S. or

other Western special forces units. They are special purpose units, meant for reconnaissance and specialized battlefield tasks, although their professionalism in comparison to the rest of the Russian military has often led to their being used in other roles, such as conventional infantry and for stability operations. The bulk of the narrative is a very readable history of the Spetsnaz, from their roots in the Bolshevik Red Army up through the Spanish Civil War, the Second World War, the Cold War, Afghanistan and the conflicts of modern Russia. The text makes the point that the Spetsnaz have often inspired both imitation and competition from other elements of the Soviet/Russian military, especially the Airborne Troops. The text is very nicely supported by an excellent collection of photographs, illustrations, and maps. Some coverage of uniforms and weapons is included. The concise nature of the book (62 pages of text) limits the amount of detail that can be included. The author has a strong background in the subject and is not shy about sharing his knowledge and his opinions. Recommended as an excellent introduction to the topic.

As always, Osprey publishing delivers. No doubt I am sure more in-depth description of Russian weapon systems could have been added. Still the strength of this book is in the detailed origins of the Spetsnaz. The author dispelled the myth of Russia's most mysterious fighting force and showed the multilayers of this service.

Spetsnaz Russia's special forces is another very well represented book by the Osprey series. Book covers the latest material in an easy to understand writing. Book has many pictures and colored plates in it. I have read several books about this formation but the information is always dated, but not the case with this. Each unit location and mission status is covered also the latest weapons is covered. Great book on the organization and the latest information makes this book worth the purchase. Great read and enjoyable

A nice book on the different Spetsnaz units and sister units trained to the same standard. The author does a good job explaining what Spetsnaz means which has been misunderstood here in the west. There are several Spetsnaz units and each one of them are covered to a limited degree. Their various roles and skillsets are covered as well as some of their operations. I would suggest this to anyone interested in Special Operations units or the Russian military in general.

Unsatisfying. It is rather a Political Manifesto than a military unit description, especially at the end of booklet. Two stars go to the respected authors for omitting the devil's horns and hoofs on the

illustrations - Bravo, Two stars (one star for the hoofs, another one for the horns)!

Clear writing, a nice short summary of Spetznaz.

This book was very informative. Considering all the stories that have been written about these guys there basically no better trained than the 82nd airborne div. A U.S. Marine infantry div. Would kick the crap out of these guys. About the only thing they may be better trained at is hand to hand combat and that's only because they spend way more time on it. These guys aren't even in the top 15 SF units unless you include the FSB counter terrorism unit. All myth not much substance.

Basically it had all the info from the internet. I didn't learn anything new about spetsnaz from this book. So if you know nothing of the Russian Spetsnaz then you'll learn a bit but if you're looking for more info on training and differences between each unit and the future prospects for spetsnaz then you won't find it here. Very basic info for sure

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