



## One Perfect Op: An Insider's Account of the Navy SEAL Special Warfare Teams

By Dennis Chalker, Kevin Dockery

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Dennis Chalker says "the greatest challenge offered by the U.S. military [is] to become a Navy SEAL." A former SEAL himself, Chalker tells of his life and times in one of the military's most elite units. Much of *One Perfect Op* describes the extensive training each SEAL goes through, not only to become a SEAL but to remain one: "Our training had been hard and dangerous for a reason: you train as you fight." And the training certainly was hazardous--Chalker describes how one of his teammates was killed during an exercise. About half the book goes by before Chalker sees his first real combat, during the invasion of Grenada in 1983. His unit was tasked with protecting the island's governor. He also saw action in Panama and on a number of other operations, though he often leaves out the names of places and dates because these remain classified. His career was certainly varied. He was once part of "Red Cell," a special SEAL team whose job was to play the part of terrorists and test the security of naval facilities. At another point, he stormed a hostile beach to help a family escape. His equipment included all the standard SEAL hardware--guns, night-vision goggles, etc.--as well as a baby carrier and pacifier. Richard Marcinko writes the introduction (Chalker served under him), and his fans will easily become Chalker's fans as well. --John Miller

#### From Publishers Weekly

Command Master Chief Chalker, a former Navy SEAL, tells the story of his personal involvement with one of the U.S.'s most secretive military organizations, formed to counter terrorism and perform operations in hostile territory. Writing with Dockery (Free Fire Zones), Chalker guides the reader through a three-year stint with the army's 82nd Airborne in the early '70s and a college football injury, quickly moving to his navy career, from getting himself into BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition, SEAL) training to hazing rituals and continued training to ensure that each mission can be a "perfect op" pulled off without discovery by the opponent. In the early 1980s, Chalker became a founding member of SEAL Team Six, which played a prominent role, described in riveting detail, in the U.S. invasion of Grenada. Readers who find the following sort of sentence poetic will not be able to put the book down: "If I had to dump the M4 and switch to my secondary weapon, I would be well served by my SIG P226 loaded with a full fifteen-round magazine of hot copper-jacketed serrated 9mm hollowpoints." But the perfect op is one where the SEALs do not have to fire a round, which is clearly Chalker's preference. After serving with Team Six, Chalker volunteered for one of the new Red Cell units, formed to test American bases for security often entering and leaving a facility without being spotted, which a base commander does not want to happen. Those looking for a larger-scale history of this secret branch of the service should turn to Orr Kelly's *Brave Men, Dark Waters*, but by the time Chalker's 20 years are up, he has indoctrinated quite a few of his own "enswines," and special ops buffs will be satisfied. (Apr. 1)Forecast: Our current operations in Afghanistan will cultivate interest in this title, of course, but Tom Clancy's *Shadow Warriors*, an overview of special forces due out in February, may steal many of Chalker's potential readers.

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#### From Library Journal

A retired command master chief and member of SEAL Team Six, Chalker is more than qualified to give the reader an insider's account of the U.S. Navy SEALs, which are among our nation's elite special forces. He certainly makes readers feel that they are part of "one perfect op" an operation that comes off without discovery or intervention. He describes one such operation in 1992, though exact names and locations are of

course classified. Chalker is more open when describing the invasion of Grenada, his short army "career" before becoming a SEAL, and counterterrorist activities at home and abroad. Together with coauthor Dockery, who has written a number of works on the SEALs and Special Forces, he offers a quick but accurate glimpse into the training and life of a navy SEAL. A brief glossary of military terms appears at the end of the text. One minor flaw is the lack of illustrations or an index. Recommended for casual readers as well as serious students of military history for its accessibility and realism. David M. Alperstein, Queens Borough P.L., Jamaica, NY

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