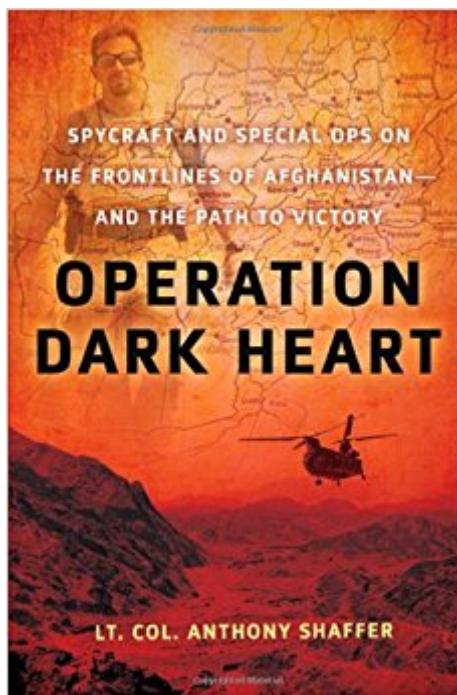




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Operation Dark Heart: Spycraft And Special Ops On The Frontlines Of Afghanistan -- And The Path To Victory



Synopsis

Based on Department of Defense security concerns, sections of Operation Dark Heart have been redacted in the published edition. The newly revised book keeps our national interests secure, but this highly qualified warrior's story is still intact. Shaffer's assessment of successes and failures in Afghanistan remains dramatic, shocking, and crucial reading for anyone concerned about the outcome of the war. "While I do not agree with the edits in many ways, the DoD redactions enhance the reader's understanding by drawing attention to the flawed results created by a disorganized and heavy handed military intelligence bureaucracy." --Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer Lieutenant

Colonel Anthony Shaffer had run intelligence operations for years before he arrived in Afghanistan. He was part of the "dark side of the force"---the shadowy elements of the U.S. government that function outside the bounds of the normal system. His group called themselves the Jedi Knights and pledged to use the dark arts of espionage to protect the country from its enemies.

Shaffer's mission to Afghanistan, however, was unlike any he had ever experienced before. There, he led a black-ops team on the forefront of the military efforts to block the Taliban's resurgence. They not only planned complex intelligence operations to beat back the insurgents, but also played a key role in executing those operations---outside the wire. They succeeded in striking at the core of the Taliban and their safe havens across the border in Pakistan. For a moment Shaffer saw us winning the war. Then the military brass got involved. The policies that top officials relied on were hopelessly flawed. Shaffer and his team were forced to sit and watch as the insurgency grew---just across the border in Pakistan. This wasn't the first time he had seen bureaucracy stand in the way of national security. He had participated in Able Danger, the aborted intelligence operation that identified many of the future 9/11 terrorists but failed to pursue them. His attempt to reveal the truth to the 9/11 Commission would not go over well with his higher-ups. Operation Dark Heart tells the story of what really went on--and what went wrong--in Afghanistan. Shaffer witnessed firsthand the tipping point, when what seemed like certain victory turned into failure. Now, in this book, he maps out a way that could put us on the path to winning the war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A nonfiction book that frequently reads like an adventure novel, this account of the author's intelligence operations in post-9/11 Afghanistan should definitely strike a chord with readers. Shaffer was an intelligence operative from an early age, joining army counterintelligence in the early 1980s at the age of 19. By 1991, he was running HUMINT, the army's clandestine human-intelligence program. Prior to 2001, he was working on an operation called Able Danger, which, according to Shaffer, uncovered some of the 9/11 terrorists a full year before the attacks, although—again, according to Shaffer—the government blocked attempts to act upon the information. He saw the same sort of thing happen again in Afghanistan, when red tape and inept policies hindered efforts to fight the Taliban. This is almost two books in one: a rousing chronicle of the author's experiences on foreign soil and an examination of a bloated bureaucracy that is in desperate need of retooling. Shaffer adopts a mostly objective tone, although there are moments when his personal views sneak through (the phrase “Bush administration lunacy,” for example). Although no coauthor is listed, the book reads like it was transcribed from taped interviews (see the occasional oddly constructed paragraph where it looks like someone stuck in parenthetical explanations of things the author was saying). All in all, a fascinating, eye-opening book. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

“Anthony Shaffer has written a gripping account, filled with amazing detail, of an otherwise secret world. Shaffer has the instincts of a thriller writer and the knowledge and perspective of the professional insider. Operation Dark Heart is a fascinating page-turner.” -- Doug Stanton, author of *Horse Soldiers* “A fascinating look into the highly complex world of modern combat, clandestine intelligence and bureaucrats run amok.” Tony Shaffer walks and runs us through a critical time in the history in the war in Afghanistan. From the opening to the closing, you

are on the edge of your seat. Tony is, in all aspects, the real Jack Bauer - but with an intellect. --Dr. Christopher M. Lehman, a former Special Assistant to President Reagan, National Security Counsel "[Operation Dark Heart] takes you inside the espionage world, a labyrinth of secret agencies that do not like to share secrets." --Army Times

This was a very interesting story, from Tony Shaffer's account while in Afghanistan, and therefore a worthy read. It flowed ok, and centered around his time in the early years of the US occupation of Afghanistan, although it went back and forth a little abrupt and sometimes you had to wonder where you were in the story. Some further background information would be useful in some of the characters, and in the locations. The book used some acronyms throughout the book, although they are listed in the beginning. Keep in mind this is a first hand account and not well polished work with a staff to work the rougher edges, but recommended for someone who was there early on. Yeah, the redacted portions make it a little rough at times but it is readable, just a visible reminder what Tony Shaffer had to do to get the work published. I would recommend this book for an understanding of the US effort in Afghanistan.

Very difficult to read with all the redacted text. Just rewrite it. I will upgrade the review if the stuff becomes declassified and my copy is updated. Edit after reviewing I read other reviews. I disagree that it is interesting and that only names and locations are missing. There are entire paragraphs missing and sometimes several in a row. Then the writing after refers to that text and it makes no sense. If you want to charge me full price, just rewrite the book so that it flows and I am not left wanting for more information.

I was not happy when I opened the book to find out half the book is nothing but huge black marks. How is one suppose to read a story and understand it when lots of the book is blacked out? Does not make for an interesting read and I am very disappointed that .com did not state this in their description of the book. I would not have made the purchase had I known that and I guess that is why .com did not mention it. They did not want to lose out on potential sales. You may have gotten my money from this book sale, but I will give my money to other companies in the future.

Too Censored for its own good. The moment the history of event begins to flow the reader is greeted with three to four black bars. Annoying as all hell. Would have done better to release it under fiction and work around the DOD.

It was a shame that Big Brother stood over this authors shoulder and redacted much of what he wrote. Other people have written about the same things that happened, about the same subject matter and didn't have the black line bandits go wild in blacking out full paragraphs. If your have read a lot about what happened during the opening days of what occurred here, you'll find nothing taken out from other publications by different authors. It appears that someone in this authors chain of command did not like him; typical gov't horse pucky, however, I think that Shaffer in his current position may now be laughing at them with his on target analysis.

I've only read a chapter or two, then stopped so I cam finish "No Room for Error". So far it is really interesting. The main issue, like everyone else is the redaction. Sometimes a whole paragraph is gone. A lot of times it takes out a big piece of the story. There are websites that you can retrieve parts of the redacted text. The original book is sold on EBAY for hundreds of dollars, that would be a waste since you can google it.If you like this genre, its worth reading. Just stop every chapter and google what you can.

Excellent read. Kept me locked and loaded. Well written. Even the stupid redacts didn't keep me from reading what this brave soldier did for our country. I applaud Lt Col Shaffer for his courage and for writing about this adventure. I got to live it with him from the safety of my living room. Those who criticize his effort should try doing what he did.

This is one of the most intellectually and emotionally honest books I've read in a very long time. The author is truly a warrior in every sense of the word. He had to battle the careerists in the bureaucracy as well as enemies who are more overt about their intentions. What he went through would have shaken a lesser man to the core--it's a testimony to his spirit that he didn't back down or back away. Instead, he kept moving onward and upward. If you want a lesson in bravery - read this book.

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