



Taking Fire: Saving Captain Aikman: A Story of the Vietnam Air War

Kevin O'Rourke, Joe Peters

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Winner of Award of Excellence in the 2014 Videographer Awards in the online video category for the book trailer

American military special operations forces—Rangers, SEALs, and others—have become a well-recognized and highly respected part of our popular culture. But whom do these elite warriors look to in their times of greatest need: when wounded on the battlefield, cut off deep behind enemy lines, or adrift in the expanse of the world's oceans? They look skyward, hoping to catch a glimpse of their own personal guardian angel: a U.S. Air Force pararescue jumper (PJ) who lives, and sometimes dies, by the motto that others may live.

Taking Fire provides an up-close look into the heroism and mystique of this little known segment of the Air Force Special Tactics community by focusing on one of the most dramatic rescues of the Vietnam War. It was June 1972 and Capt. Lynn Aikman is returning from a bombing mission over North Vietnam when his F-4 Phantom is jumped by an enemy MiG and shot down. He and his backseater Tom Hanton eject from their crippled aircraft, but Hanton lands near a village and is quickly captured by local militia. Badly injured during the ejection, Aikman lands some distance from the village, and there is a chance that he can be recovered if American rescuers can reach him before the enemy does.

Now on the ground and drifting in and out of consciousness, Captain Aikman looks up and suddenly sees his guardian angel in the form of USAF Pararescue Jumper Chuck McGrath. As Sergeant McGrath is preparing to hook the downed pilot to a hoist line, he sees it fall to the ground. Hostile fire on the hovering Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter has damaged the hoist mechanism causing the operator to cut the line. While circling A-1 Skyraiders strafe the militia to keep them away from Aikman and McGrath, the helicopter crew races to come up with a plan. It's getting dark, and they'll only have one chance.

Taking Fire is an exciting, highly dramatic story of life and death over North Vietnam. Much more than a chronicle the events of 27 June 1972, the book gives the reader an up-close look at the little known world of the U.S. Air Force's elite aerial rescue force.

REVIEWS

The authors fully researched the action and verified everything with extensive interviews with all of the participants ... gives an excellent picture of Pararescue and of Air Rescue.

James R. Casey, Marine Corps Aviation Association

"In what is above all a gripping illustration of the bond between pararescue jumpers during the Vietnam War, this work covers in detail the dramatic rescue of airforce pilot Lynn Aikman on June 27th, 1972. Readers get an inside look at the Air Force Special Tactics team as they also struggle to save pararescue jumper Chuck McGrath, who because of damage to the hoist mechanism also gets stuck on the ground. O'Rourke

(producer/instructional designer, U. of Massachusetts) has produced a number of documentaries, while Peters (information systems security professional) has years of experience as a journalist and freelance writer. The volume contains several black and white photographs per chapter and closes with a helpful glossary of specialized military terms.
Book News

"...a tribute to airmen who are dedicated to saving lives. The authors have created a vivid, page-turning narrative of war from the first to the final page. A few times I thought I was watching a movie and not just reading about loyalty, courage, sacrifice, and true heroism...
VVA Veteran

"...provides an up close look into the heroism and mystique of this little known segment of the Air Force Special Tactics community by focusing on one of the most dramatic rescues of the Vietnam War...

Airfix Model World

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Anne Larsen:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This Taking Fire: Saving Captain Aikman: A Story of the Vietnam Air War is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Lou Bryant:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Typically the Taking Fire: Saving Captain Aikman: A Story of the Vietnam Air War is kind of guide which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Lorna Dews:

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David Furtado:

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