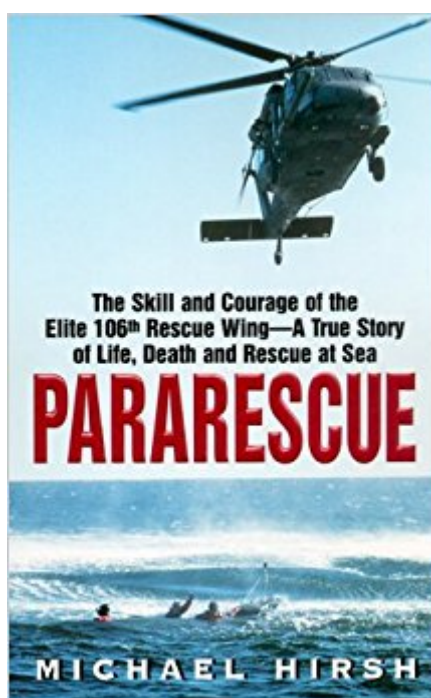


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Pararescue: The Skill And Courage Of The Elite 106th Rescue Wing--The True Story Of An Incredible Rescue At Sea And The Heroes Who Pulled It Off



Synopsis

"So That Others May Live" In December 1994, two gargantuan rogue waves struck the Salvador Allende, knocking down the 450-foot cargo ship in the mid-Atlantic. In the darkness and howling winds, in the midst of a horrific, impenetrable storm, the terrified survivors clung to their lives by the thinnest of threads-out of contact and out of the reach of any ship afloat. A thousand miles away, one of the world's most elite rescue teams scrambled into action... This is the gripping and unforgettable true adventure of an astonishing rescue at sea -- a tale of the unparalleled courage and skill of men who endured a record-breaking fifteen-hour, non-stop helicopter ride through bone-jarring turbulence to carry out a mission on the ragged edge of impossibility. It is the story of a unit of the New York Air National Guard, the 106th Rescue Wing, which includes the famed PJs, the Pararescuemen, whose training is so rigorous and standards so high that only a dedicated handful qualify to join; heroes without peer who were willing to brave a maelstrom of forty-foot waves and schools of killer sharks, to risk their own lives "so that others may live." Includes 16 pages of authentic photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pararescue is Michael Hirsh's first book. He spent much of his career as a broadcast journalist producing documentaries and specials for PBS and WTTW/Chicago, where he won a Peabody Award as well as a lot of other stuff his wife is tired of dusting. Hirsh served as an Army combat correspondent with the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, Vietnam. He and his wife, Karen, live in Los Angeles with Kipper the Golden Retriever and Alfie the Aussie. Their two other children, Bill and

Jennifer, work in New York.

Michael Hirsh's first book is a fantastic true story about a dangerous and daring rescue at sea. The Motor Vessel SALVADOR ALLENDE was a 450ft bulk carrier with 31 crew members that was set to sail from Freeport, Texas to Helsinki, Finland in December, 1994 when the vessel encountered heavy winds and seas 1,200 miles off the coast of New Jersey. The vessel was struck by a gargantuan rogue wave (approximately 100 FT) on December 8th, 1994 causing the vessel to sink rapidly. The crew scrambled to launch rafts and lifeboats but unsuccessful due to heavy winds. The arduous rescue efforts were coordinated between the U.S. Coast Guard, the 106th Rescue Group of the New York Air National Guard, the Air Force Pararescuemen, and the Canadian Air Force. As someone who has served over 10 years in the Coast Guard, I have been involved in search and rescue cases. This book was very heartfelt. I could imagine what the air crews were going through having to refuel in mid-air multiple times in very difficult weather conditions. The author does an incredible job not only telling the story but allowing the reader to feel like they are right there in the middle of all the action. I was blown away by the bravery of these incredible men who willingly risked their lives to save people they didn't even know, as well as endure the hardships of adverse weather and sea conditions. This book is a great read. If you are interested in finding out more about Pararescue and their intense training and missions, Michael Hirsh also wrote a book called None Braver, about the PJ's involvement in Afghanistan after 9/11. It was one of the most amazing books I've ever read in my life. It takes a lot of experience, devotion, and skill to write such fantastic books. Thank you, Michael Hirsh for putting together such awesome accounts of bravery displayed by our kickass military.

An excellent read and I related very well to the "politics" of decision making and the CYA games that go along with the huge liabilities that aircraft commanders and commanders must face. Loved the Marines and the helo crews in the story and those Tang drinking PJ's. Michael Moore (aka "Speed" & "Fruit") was perfectly characterized by the author, as was the forever beloved Jimmy Dougherty! Well written and researched.

The account of the rescue is incredibly detailed as the author painted a riveting story of dedication to duty and true heroism. Really good stuff. Can't wait for the movie.

Fabulous

My friend Mike was a PJ, the best in the business! This is a must read! Everyone knows about the SEALs, and they are great, but the PJs are so cool, and nobody knows who they are! Only about 600 PJs in the field at any given time!

I found the story of what actually goes on 'behind the scenes' just as fascinating as the rescue itself. Extreme training and calculated risk beyond what most of us consider acceptable is what these people commit to every day!

Never realized all the planning and coordination (and cooperation) that needs to go into a rescue at sea. What these guys do is just utterly amazing. Beyond comprehension how they place their lives on the line without a thought.

Incredible true story and immersively readable.

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