

Top Secret Missions

John E. Malone

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BY JOHN E. MALONE

TOP SECRET MISSIONS



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#1989278 in Books Trafford Publishing 2004-01-23 2006-07-06 Original language: English 9.00 x .66 x 6.001, #File Name: 1412006449292 pages | File size: 21.Mb

John E. Malone : Top Secret Missions before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Top Secret Missions:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A neglected piece of SF History By Ignatius Malibu I was assigned to the 402nd ASA Detachment in 1979, right before the ASA went away and INSCOM forever changed the MI Corps, but that's another story. I saw the pictures of some old mentors and friends in this book. Many of the men who taught me what SF was all about had previously been in the 400th. Our Detachment was on Ft Devens, in support of the 10th

SFG(A), alongside of our buddies in the 441st MI Detachment (the HUMINTERS and CI types, Squints and other Non-Sigint'ers). Eventually the two units were combined to form the MI Company of 10th SFG(A) and I wish someone would write the History of that esteemed outfit! A former member of the 441st is currently a General Officer in the Special Operations Community, and more than one member of the 402nd held jobs like INSCOM SGM, various Brigade SGMs, Chief NCO for the 1SG Course and other positions. Today's SOT-A Detachments carry on the lineage of these not well known but truly professional outfits. Anyone who ever jumped and carried 100 lbs of "lightweight Gear" knows what I mean. This book shows how it all started. I recommend it to fans and students of Military/SOF History. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One Man's Tribute to Extraordinary Soldiers By Silence Dogood The majority of the book consists of biographies - Meritorious Service Profiles - of more than forty unit members. Their activities before, during and after active duty are enumerated. Included are: a.) the units in which they served throughout their Army careers, b.) the training/courses they took and c.) the individual/special awards they earned. Other sections deal with After Action Reports of Deployments, a Personnel Roster from 1961 to 1975, and some brief data concerning promotions, personnel with Ranger tabs, Scuba qualified individuals, etc. The book also contains numerous photos of unit members including those who were killed in action. After completing the book, I learned which ASA units were stationed in the US and abroad from 1961-1975. A careful reading of the Profiles disclosed which activities they performed: communications security of US forces, signal intelligence collection, location of enemy transmitters; jamming enemy communications and communication deception. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good but not great By Retired dude This book talked more about the ladies of the evening than anything else. There are biographies that list bronze stars with V. And then they list the good conduct medals 5th or 7th medal. I was a member of the ASA in Nam. I don't remember that many good conduct medals in the whole company. I was expecting more stories about Nam since that was where most of the action was. The 403rd was part of our Bn so I kind of hoped I'd see more names and stories about them. Interesting but read more like edited copies of 201 files.

PROLOGUE A total of two hundred and eight American soldiers served with the 400th USASA SOD (Abn) between 1962 and 1975. The US Army Security Agency assigned the men of this unit both Top Secret classified and covert missions. Their operations were conducted under surreptitious conditions for security reasons. All of the 400th ASA SOD members were three time volunteers: first of all, they volunteered for their U.S. Army assignments; secondly, each had to volunteer and successfully complete the US Army Airborne Training School; and thirdly, each had to volunteer to serve with the new ASA Special Operations Detachments. A majority of the enlisted men selected for assignment to the 400th ASA SOD were from the top five percent of all U.S. Army enlisted soldiers. Also, each man had to pass a comprehensive personal security clearance investigation conducted by government agents prior to attending any of the classified ASA training programs. The members were physically conditioned from preparing and completing the arduous airborne training and the physical testing required of all special operations units each year. The first Commanding Officer of the 400th ASA SOD (Abn) unit was 1LT Lewis "DEAN" Kirk. One of his first actions was to initiate a tough training program for the first two-dozen 400th SOD troops assigned to the new unit. He started with long forced marches with full rucksacks in the hot and muggy Okinawa spring and summer months up in the northern training area. The unit performed morning runs of up to three miles too. He encouraged his soldiers to participate in a variety of specialized training programs such as the following: the 1st Special Forces Group (Abn) SCUBA course; the Cold Weather and Ski Training Course up in Hokkaido, Japan; the Jump Master training course; the advanced HALO parachute course; difficult infiltration and extraction training from an USN submarine; extensive weapons training with a variety of American and foreign weapons; and serving as Cadre for the 1st SFGA Airborne Course on Okinawa. Extensive participation in volunteer academic training was also encouraged for all of the enlisted troops. Some examples are cross training as Special Forces radio operations specialist; training in various foreign languages such as French and Vietnamese; enrollment in the Special Forces Qualification Training Program; and classified ASA extension courses (off-duty) were taken to enhance their professional military knowledge, skill and efficiency. Their participation in these extensive training programs assisted the enlisted soldiers of the 400th ASA SOD (Abn) in getting promoted ahead of many of their peers. This was especially true in the enlisted ranks up to Staff Sergeant E-6 rank. So these extraordinary soldiers progressed to rate among the most highly trained and proficient enlisted men not only in the U.S. Army, but soldiers in foreign armies. One pertinent fact that stands out about the 400th SOD soldiers is over seventy of the one hundred eighty-eight enlisted troops served with two or more of the four ASA Special Operations Detachments during their careers. Another impressive fact is the large number (over 60 per cent) of 400th ASA SOD soldiers who served six years or more on active duty. Many of these 400th soldiers transferred to the regular Special Forces Groups after their ASA SOD tours were completed. Some took assignments with other airborne units like the 101st Airborne Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade and served in Viet Nam with those units. These enlisted soldiers were proud American warriors and served their country with distinction and honor. A review of their Meritorious Service Profiles included in this book will demonstrate their exemplary service to America. The ASA SOD units suffered only five Killed-in-Action (KIA) deaths from the many hundreds who served

in Viet Nam during 1963 through 1975. This book was written to preserve the Legacy of these unique and brave soldiers and to identify their many contributions during the Viet Nam era. A total of 107 out of the 208 membership served America in Viet Nam during the war. Their impressive collection of quality Service Awards and Badges demonstrates the exceptional performance of duties and accomplishments of assigned missions by this group of US Army soldiers. 400th USASA SOD (Abn) THEME QUOTE: "Here is to us, there are damn few like us, and they won't forget us."