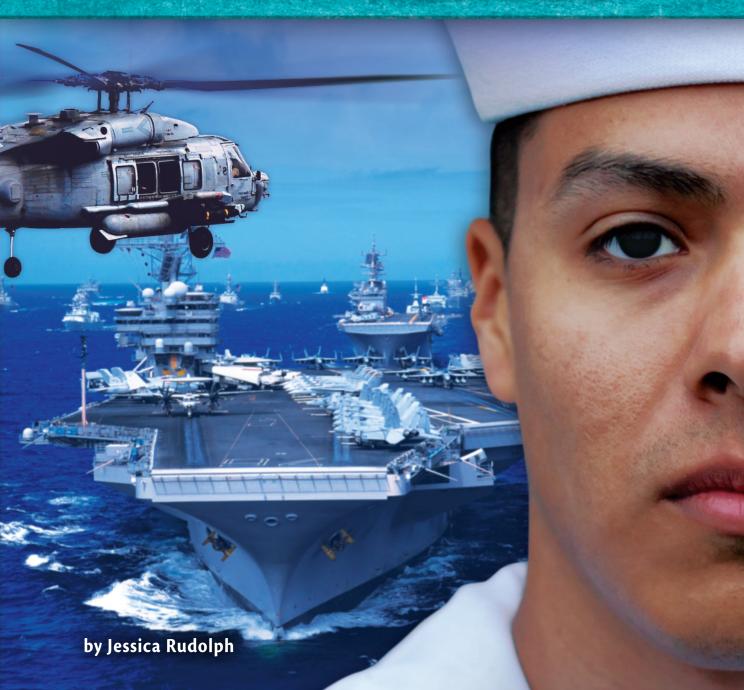
Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military





Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military





by Jessica Rudolph

Consultant: Fred Pushies U.S. SOF Adviser



New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Jake Warga/Corbis and © Stocktrek/Getty Images; 4, © Greg Martin/SuperStock; 5, © U.S. Navy/SIPA/Newscom; 6, © U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Seth Maggard; 7, © U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Seth Maggard; 8T, © U.S. Navy/Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Wayne Nelms; 8B, © AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg; 9L, © Mujahed Mohammed/AFP/Getty Images; 9R, © Eric Feferberg/AFP/Newscom; 10, © AP Photo/Kevin Frayer; 11L, © U.S. Marine Corps/ LCPL Nathan L. Barnes; 11R, © Charlie Neuman/San Diego Union-Tribune/ Zuma Press/Newscom; 12T, © U.S. Navy/Mr. Bill W. Love; 12B, © U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl Brian M. Henner; 13, © Louie Palu/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 14, © Photo provided by Richard S. Lowry, author of New Dawn: The Battles for Fallujah; 15, © AP Photo/Caller Times, George Gongora; 16T, © Chief Petty Officer Terry Leeper; 16B, © Chief Petty Officer Terry Leeper; 17, © Chief Petty Officer Terry Leeper; 19L, © Sean M Haffey/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 19R, © GSgt. Mark Oliva/DOD/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 20T, © U.S. Marine Corps; 20B, © AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed; 21, © Katie Callan; 22T, © U.S. Navy/Photo courtesy Monsoor family; 22B, © AP Photo; 23, © U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist Brian Aho; 24T, © U.S. Navy; 24B, © U.S. Navy; 25, © Chuck Liddy/Raleigh News & Observer/MCT/Landov; 26, © AP Photo/Pat Wellenbach; 27, © Jim Bourg/Reuters/Landov; 28T, © Dr. Heidi Kraft; 28B, © U.S. Navy photo by Mr. Oscar Sosa; 29T, © Defense Department Photo; 29B, © U.S. Navy/Gary Nichols 31, © Keith McIntyre/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman Creative Director: Spencer Brinker Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Rudolph, Jessica.

Today's Navy heroes / by Jessica Rudolph; consultant, Fred Pushies.

p. cm. — (Acts of courage: inside America's military)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Audience: Ages 7-12.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-446-6 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-446-7 (library binding)

1. United States. Navy—Biography—Juvenile literature. 2. Iraq War, 2003—Juvenile literature. 3. Afghan War, 2001—Juvenile literature. I. Pushies, Fred J., 1952- II. Title.

V62.R84 2012

956.7044'345092273—dc23

2011040259

Copyright © 2012 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10987654321

*** Contents ***

September 11	4
At War with Iraq	6
The Battle of Al-Nasiriyah	8
Bullets and Rockets	10
By Boat, by Foot	12
"Doc's Hit!"	14
A Secret Attack	16
Standing His Ground	18
Helping Others	20
The Hardest Decision	22
Fighting the Taliban	24
True Heroes	26
More Navy Heroes	28
Glossary	30
Bibliography	31
Read More	31
Learn More Online	
Index	32
About the Author	32

September 11

September 11, 2001, started out as a beautiful, clear day in New York City. People hurried to work in the bright sunshine. At 8:46 that morning, however, everything changed. An airplane going more than 450 miles per hour (724 kph) slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Seventeen minutes later, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. Smoke poured from the massive buildings and flames shot out of the top floors.

The North and the South Towers, called the Twin Towers, after the plane crashed into the North Tower on September 11, 2001

About two hours after being hit by the planes, both towers collapsed.



Later that day, the U.S. government learned that the two planes had been hijacked by members of a terrorist group called Al Qaeda. New York City, however, was not the only place that was attacked on September 11. Al Qaeda terrorists had also hijacked two other planes. They flew one into the Pentagon in Virginia, and the other one crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. In all, nearly 3,000 people died. Al Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden, had organized the attack on the United States from his base in Afghanistan. To destroy the terrorists' training camps and find bin Laden, the U.S. government sent troops to Afghanistan in October 2001.



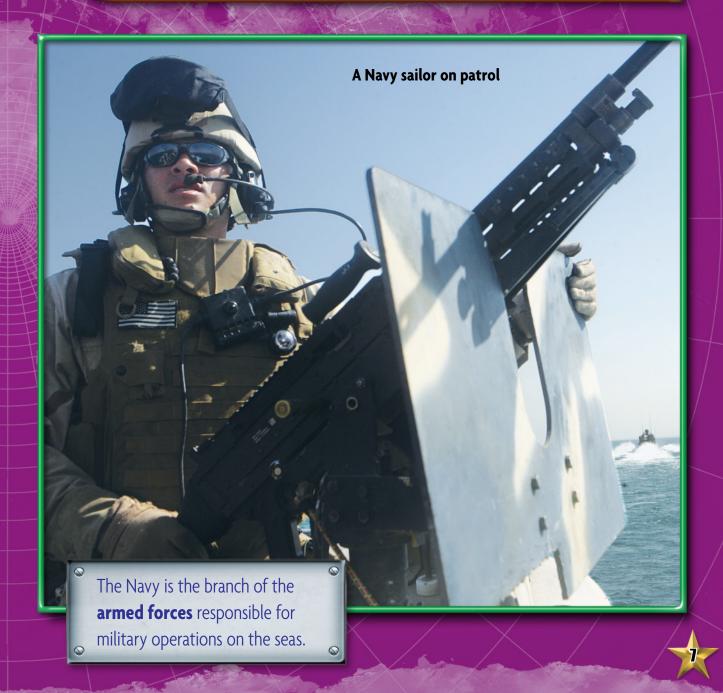
At War with Iraq

Less than two years later, in 2003, the U. S. war against terrorism expanded to Iraq. Some government officials believed that Saddam Hussein, the ruler of Iraq, was trying to build powerful weapons, including **nuclear** ones, to use against the United States and other countries. They thought he needed to be stopped. On March 20, 2003, the United States sent military troops to invade Iraq. Though weapons were never found, the United States and its **allies** were able to remove Saddam Hussein from power.





 Some of the places where Navy sailors have served in Afghanistan and Iraq Thousands of brave men and women served in Afghanistan and Iraq in the years following September 11, 2001. This book recounts some of the acts of courage by U.S. Navy sailors who have fought in these wars. The bravery and selflessness they have shown in fighting for their country is the very definition of *hero*.



Index

Afghanistan 5, 6-7, 16, 24 Al-Nasiriyah, Iraq 6, 8-9, 11 Al Qaeda 5 amtracks 8-9, 10 Axelson, Matthew 24, 26

bin Laden, Osama 5 Bronze Star 16, 19, 20–21, 29

Chavez, Ralph 29 civilians 16, 25, 29 corpsmen 8–9, 11, 12–13, 14–15, 20–21, 29

Dean, Reginald 29 Dietz, Danny 24, 26

Fonseca, Luis 8–9, 10–11 Fort Tal Afar 6, 29 Haditha, Iraq 6, 12 Hamill, James 16–17, 18–19, 20 Humvees 20 Hussein, Saddam 6

improvised explosive devices (IEDs) 13, 15, 20 Iraq 6–7, 8, 12, 20, 22

Khost, Afghanistan 6, 16 Kraft, Heidi 28

Leoncio, Nathaniel 20–21 Luttrell, Marcus 24–25, 26–27

Marines 8–9, 10–11, 12–13, 14–15, 20–21, 28 Medal of Honor 11, 22–23, 24, 26, 28 Monsoor, Michael 22–23, 24 Murphy, Michael 24–25, Navy Cross 8, 11 Navy SEALs 22–23, 24–25, 26

patrols 7, 12, 16, 20 Pentagon 5 Purple Heart 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24

Ramadi, Iraq 6, 20, 22 Rubio, Juan 12–13, 14–15

September 11 4–5, 7 Silver Star 12, 15

About the Author

26-27

Jessica Rudolph lives in Phoenix, Arizona. She has edited and written many children's books about history, geography, science, and nature.



Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

TODAY'S * * TODAY'S * * HEROES

In the years following September 11, 2001, thousands of brave men and women have fought in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of them have faced highly dangerous and even deadly combat situations. This book recounts stories of several U.S. Navy sailors who have acted with tremendous courage during these wars. From Hospital Corpsman Juan Rubio, who saved members of his unit while wounded, to Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor, who gave his life so others could live, the sailors in this book show what heroism truly means.

TODAY'S AIR FORCE HEROES

TODAY'S ARMY HEROES

TODAY'S COAST GUARD HEROES

TODAY'S MARINE HEROES

* TODAY'S NAVY HEROES

BEARPORT WWW.bearportpublishing.com

