

2014 United States Air Force Professional Reading List

Film List

The Invisible War: Kirby Dick, 2012. *The Invisible War* is a groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of our country's most shameful and best kept secrets: the epidemic of rape within our US military. Today, a female soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire, and the number of assaults across the Department of Defense over the last decade may range in the hundreds of thousands. Focusing on the powerfully emotional stories of several young women, the film reveals the systemic cover up of the crimes against them and follows their struggles to rebuild their lives and fight for justice. *The invisible war* features hard-hitting interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of Congress that reveal the perfect storm conditions that exist for rape in the military, its history of cover-up, and what can be done to bring about much needed change. (355.0082 I62)

Inside Combat Rescue: National Geographic, 2013. The elite Combat Rescue members of the U.S. Air Force, Pararescuemen or PJs, have one mission: rescue American or Allied forces in extreme danger. Whether their targets are shot down or isolated behind enemy lines, surrounded, engaged, wounded, or captured by the enemy, PJs will do whatever necessary to bring those in peril home. For the first time in their history, the PJs allow camera crews to cover their missions in Afghanistan. (Not in Collection at this Time)

The Battle of Algiers: Gillo Pontecorvo, 1966. This is a highly political film about the Algerian struggle for independence from France. The bulk of the film is shot in flashback, present as the memories of Ali (Brahim Haggiag), a leading member of the Algerian Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN), when finally captured by the French in 1957. Three years earlier, Ali was a petty thief who joined the secretive organization in order to help rid the Casbah of vice associated with the colonial government. The film traces the rebels' struggle and the increasing extreme measures taken by the French government to quell what soon becomes a nationwide revolt. (791.43 B335)

Command Decision: Samuel Wood, 1948. *Command Decision* is a stage bound but consummately acted adaptation of William Wister Haines' Broadway play. Clark Gable plays Air Force Brigadier General "Casey" Dennis, who sends waves of bomber squadrons into Germany to knock out the enemy's jet plane factories. Though Dennis seems utterly unconcerned about the fate of his pilots (even his superior officer Walter Pidgeon is appalled by the heavy losses), the audience knows that his duty is exacting a severe emotional toll on him. Thanks to pressure from a misguided US Senator, "Butcher" Dennis is replaced by the supposedly more humane Brian Donlevy. But Donlevy realizes that Dennis' decisions were the correct ones, and he vows to continue his predecessor's "suicide missions". (Not in Collection at this Time)

Memphis Belle: Michael Caton-Jones, 1990. The ensemble cast is composed of ten young actors portraying the crew of the World War II B-17 bomber “Memphis Belle,” anticipating their 25th and last mission before they will be able to go home. Having won fame with their exemplary war record and amazing lack of casualties, they expect their final assignment to be a cakewalk, but instead they are ordered to bomb Bremen, a heavily defended German city that will mean almost certain loss of life. Led by their experienced captain, Dennis Dearborn (Matthew Modine), the crew shoulders its responsibility despite mounting fears, while their commanding officer (David Strathairn) and a public relations specialist (John Lithgow) wait anxiously for their return. With weather, nerves, and dreams all playing a part in finishing the mission, the crew has to become the lead plane in the squadron and get the job done of bombing a vital Nazi supply factory. (791.43 M533)

Zero Dark Thirty: Kathryn Bigelow, 2012. For a decade, an elite team of intelligence and military operatives, working in secret across the globe, devoted themselves to a single goal: to find and eliminate Osama Bin Laden. The film follows the career of CIA agent, Maya, in her singularly focused mission to locate and track Osama Bin Laden over an eight year period. After multiple false leads, an attempt on her life, and personal introspection, Maya pieces together the pieces that inexorably lead to the assault on Bin Laden’s Islamabad compound. (791.43 Z58)

Band of Brothers: Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, 2001. Drawn from interviews with survivors of Easy Company, as well as their journals and letters, *Band of Brothers* chronicles the experiences of these men from paratrooper training in Georgia through the end of the war. As an elite rifle company parachuting into Normandy early on D-Day morning, participants in the Battle of the Bulge, and witnesses to the horrors of war, the men of Easy knew extraordinary bravery and extraordinary fear – and become the stuff of legend. (791.45 B214)

Reading List

Worm: The First Digital World War: Mark Bowden, 2011. Despite the growing importance and virtual ubiquity of the Internet, the open nature of this 20th century innovation makes the Internet vulnerable to attack. *Worm: The First Digital World War*, by veteran journalist and bestselling author Mark Bowden, looks at the evolving cyber arena and the serious threats that will continue to challenge the security of all Internet users, including individuals, the private sector, and governments. This real world account tracks the discovery of the Conficker worm, which proliferated to infect millions of computers, and focuses on the determined efforts of a disparate group of hackers, academics, and computer security experts who came together to neutralize this threat. (Not in Collection at this Time)

Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High: Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler, 2002. A crucial conversation, as opposed to a casual exchange, is a discussion between two or more people about tough issues where opinions vary, stakes are high, and emotions run strong. When a topic needs to be breached that could easily lead to disaster, such as approaching a boss who is breaking his or her own safety or quality policies, or critiquing a colleague's work, or talking to a team member who isn't keeping commitments, talking openly is a must, but can be very difficult. Through the art of dialogue, a free flow of meaning between two or more people, we are able to put all the relevant information out in the open. We safely share our ideas and as a group are able to use the most accurate and relevant information to make better decisions. (Not in Collection at this Time)

The Art of Significance: Achieving the Level Beyond Success: Dan Clark, 2013. Dan Clark offers a unique blend of psychological insights, historical examples, military stories, and personal experiences in a collection of essays that will help readers improve not only their financial and career performance, but also their human performance. With powerful, emotionally stirring, and entertaining illustrations, Dan's eloquence will take you from where you are to where you want to be! (170.44 C592)

Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard: Chip and Dan Heath, 2010. In a compelling, story-driven narrative, the Heaths assemble decades of counterintuitive research in psychology, sociology, and other fields to shed new light on how individuals can achieve transformative change. Using the model of the rational versus the emotional, Switch shows that successful change follows a pattern that leaders can use to inspire reform, whether in a staff, a unit, or even one's own personal habits. (303.4 H437)

Sticking Points: How to Get 4 Generations Working Together in the 12 Places They Come Apart: Hadyn Shaw, 2013. Hadyn Shaw, popular business speaker and generational expert, has identified 12 places where the 4 generations come apart in the workplace (and in life as well). These sticking points revolve around differing attitudes toward managing one's own time, texting, social media, organizational structure, and of course, clothing preferences. If we don't learn to work together and stick together around these 12 sticking points, then we'll be wasting a lot of time fighting each other instead of enjoying a friendly and productive team. (Not in Collection at this Time)

On Combat: Dave Grossman, 2004. *On Combat* looks at how the stresses of deadly battle affect the human body: the impact on the nervous system, heart, breathing, visual and auditory perception, and memory. The reader will learn what measures warriors take to prevent such debilitations to stay in the fight, survive, and win. *On Combat* presents emerging research for inoculating the mind to stress, fear, and even pain. (355.0019 G878)

Undaunted: Tanya Biank, 2013. Since 9/11, over 240,000 women soldiers have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan – more than 140 have died there, and they currently make up 14 percent of the total active duty forces. Despite advances, today's servicewomen are constantly pressed to prove themselves, to overcome challenges men never face, and to put the military mission ahead of all other aspects of their lives, particularly marriage and motherhood. (355.0092 B578)

Fearless: Eric Blehm, 2013. *Fearless* is the story of a man of extremes, courageous and determined, fueled by faith and family. It's about a man who waged a war against his own worst impulses and persevered to reach the top tier of the U.S. military. Adam Brown was a devoted man who was an unlikely hero but a true warrior, described by all who knew him as fearless. (359.0092 B646)

The Doolittle Raid: Carroll V. Glines, 1988. On April 18, 1942, 16 B-25s launched from the carrier Hornet, under the command of Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, flew 650 miles to Japan, dropped their bombs on Tokyo and other targets, and escaped to China and neutral Soviet territory. Although a very small affair in comparison with the B-29 strikes three years later, the Doolittle raid was a severe psychological blow to Japanese military leaders and had far-reaching strategic effects, providing an electrifying boost to American morale. (Not in Collection at this Time)

A Higher Call: Adam Makos and Larry Alexander, 2013. Four days before Christmas 1943, a badly damaged American bomber struggled to fly over wartime Germany. At its controls was a 21-year-old pilot. Half his crew lay wounded or dead. It was their first mission. Suddenly, a sleek, dark shape pulled up on the bomber's tail – a German Messerschmitt fighter. Worse, the German pilot was an ace, a man able to destroy the American bomber in the squeeze of a trigger. What happened next would defy imagination and later be called the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II. (Not in Collection at this Time)

The Unseen War: Benjamin S. Lambeth, 2013. *The Unseen War* offers a comprehensive assessment of the air contribution to the three weeks of major combat that ended the rule of Iraq's Saddam Hussein in 2003. In contrast to Operation DESERT STORM in 1991, the role of allied air power in the Nation's second war against Iraq was not apparent to most observers, due to the concurrent land and air offensives coupled with the overwhelming majority of reporters embedded with ground units. Even today, the air war history of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM remains largely unreported, despite the fact that American air assets, aided substantially by the air forces of the United Kingdom and Australia, played a key role in achieving the coalition's immediate campaign goals. (Not in Collection at this Time)

House to House: David Bellavia, 2008. One of the great heroes of the Iraq War, Staff Sergeant David Bellavia captures the brutal action and raw intensity of leading his Third Platoon, Alpha Company, into the lethally choreographed kill zone of booby-trapped, explosive-laden houses of Fallujah's militant insurgents. Bring to searing life the terrifying intimacy of hand-to-hand infantry combat, this stunning war memoir features an indelibly drawn cast of characters, not all of whom would make it out of the city alive. Bellavia also recounts his story of courage: entering one house alone, he used every weapon at his disposal in the fight of his life against America's most implacable enemy. (956.70443092 B437)