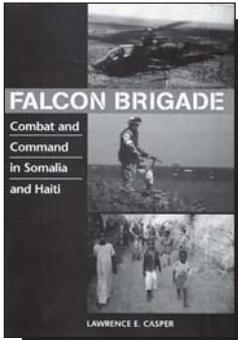


# Book Review

*Falcon Brigade: Combat and Command in Somalia and Haiti*, by Lawrence E. Casper (Colonel, USA, Retired). Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, Colorado, 2001, 278 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55587-945-7, \$35.00 (hardcover)



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*Falcon Brigade* covers the United States involvement in two modern military operations—Somalia and Haiti. These actions were in the “new” era of military commitments that involve “nation building” and intervention aimed at stabilizing regions rather than straightforward military ends. This work describes what it is like to be in command of a combat unit in this scenario.

Casper’s tour as the Falcon Brigade (Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division) commander during these two deployments provides us with a unique comparison between the interventions in Somalia and in Haiti. He shows us the stark contrast between the misguided, underarmed, underarmored, and uncoordinated United Nations

efforts in Somalia and the overwhelming application of force used to quickly restore order in Haiti.

Anyone who has read *Black Hawk Down*, about the 3 October 1993 battle in Mogadishu, knows that it was a horrific action that was saved from complete disaster only by the discipline, esprit, and training of those who fought. Casper brings a unique perspective to that battle. As the Quick Reaction Force commander, he literally overflew the battle as it raged.

Then just six months after returning from Somalia, Casper and the Falcon Brigade were aboard the *USS Eisenhower*, preparing to air-assault the 10th Mountain Division troops onto the shores of Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. Casper recounts the frustrations and challenges of brigade Soldiers working around the clock for thirty days.

This is an outstanding book, strongly recommended for professional development and informative reading for students of modern military operations. Written by one who was there, Casper shares many leadership lessons learned as well as giving a Soldier’s perspective of what happened.

*Reviewed by Mr. Jeffrey L. Rosemann, an Instructional Systems Specialist with the Officers Training Development Division, Department of Instruction, United States Army Engineer School. A retired infantry Soldier, Mr. Rosemann also served as the 2d Infantry Division historian during the beginning of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.*