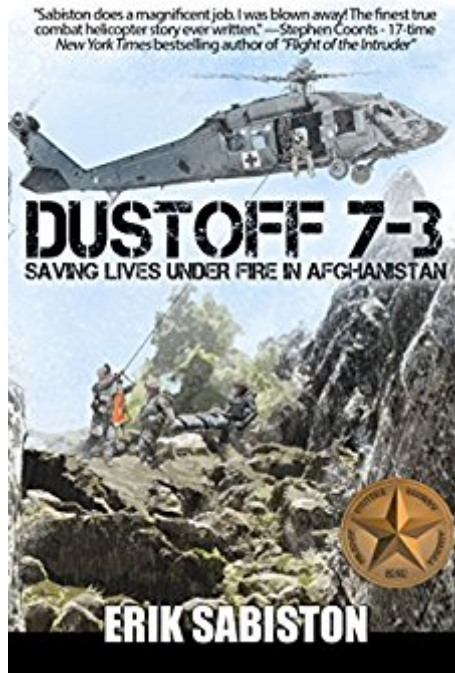




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Dustoff 7-3: Saving Lives Under Fire In Afghanistan



Synopsis

This book is for heroes. Dustoff 7-3 tells the true story of four unlikely heroes in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, where medics are forced to descend on wires to reach the wounded and helicopter pilots must fight wind, weather, and enemy fire to pluck casualties from some of the world's most difficult combat arenas. Complete opposites thrown together, cut off, and outnumbered, Chief Warrant Officer Erik Sabiston and his flight crew answered the call in a race against time, not to take lives—but to save them. The concept of evacuating wounded soldiers by helicopter developed in the Korean War and became a staple during the war in Vietnam where heroic, unarmed chopper crews flew vital missions known to the grateful grunts on the ground as Dustoffs. The crew of Dustoff 7-3 carried on that heroic tradition, flying over a region that had seen scores of American casualties, known among veterans as the Valley of Death. At the end of Operation Hammer Down, they had rescued 14 soldiers, made three critical supply runs, recovered two soldiers killed in action, and nearly died. It took all of three days.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the prologue where I remembered that it was Erik and I picking up that operator that had lost his eye and wouldn't give our medic his name, to the last page I couldn't put the book down. It brought back lots of memories, some good, some bad, laugh out loud moments only because they were so crazy that you had to laugh to keep your sanity to choked up moments because of the feelings of loss and frustration that rose back to the surface. I want to thank Erik publicly for the courage it took to write this, to dredge up and wrestle all those feelings onto paper couldn't have been easy. Lastly I want to thank you for putting this in a way that family and friends understood what we did over there and to know that those actions wouldn't go unremembered.

Excellent book! I couldn't put it down. I gave it to my 83 year old mom and she read it in two days. My heart was pounding so hard that I had to continually remind myself that they survive because he lived to write the book. It was so well written. Erik Sabiston describes the events in a way that you feel that you are in the helicopter with him. He explains all of the terms so well that even civilians can easily understand. His humility is incredible throughout. Erik and his crew are the embodiment of heroism. It makes you realize what all of our men and women in the military are willing to sacrifice. Thank you all for your dedication and service! God bless!

I started reading this book this morning and picked it up again every spare moment I had throughout the day until I could finish it tonight. Erik Sabiston does an amazing job in the telling of the tale of Dustoff 7-3. I cried during the prologue at the humbleness and humility of the author, a hero by just about anyone's standards. Sabiston takes you with him, and his heroic crew, while they defeat the odds during their missions to save wounded soldiers, bring vital supplies to ground troops, and bring the fallen home. I laughed, I cried, and my heart pounded during the reading of this book. Sabiston allowed me, a civilian, a brief but poignant glimpse into the extreme stress and emotional and mental roller coaster the members of our armed forces face when deployed to hostile territories. After reading this account I have an even greater respect and appreciation for those who serve our country. Everyone with friends or family in the military should read this book if for no other reason than to learn and know that their loved ones will not be forgotten when they are in danger. The Angels and heroes of Dustoff will always be watching and waiting to bring them aid.

My son was a pilot with the 159th Medical Company in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we lost him to PTSD in 2012. I had asked him if he or his buddies wanted to write about their experiences, and he

said, "No, mostly we just want to forget everything." He never spoke to me about his experiences, except for telling me about the day SSGT Heathe Craig died (as described in the opening of the book) and telling me how the enemy sometimes injured children so the Army would come to the rescue, and the enemy combatants could try to shoot down the rescuers. I had very little insight into what he went through as a Medevac pilot until I read this excellent, insightful book. I couldn't put it down and have read it cover-to-cover twice now. I'm grateful for Sabiston having the courage to write about the job instead of keeping it all bottled up inside. I'm especially grateful for all the brave men and women who serve as combat medics, pilots and their crews. A great read.

I don't know if there are words to describe the feelings I have after reading DUSTOFF 7-3. It took me two days to read this book and it was well worth the read. I would like to say job well done to David Capps. Having to sit in the same doorway I know how challenging it can be to do that job. When I first met you I never could have imagined the great things you were destined to do. To Erik Sabiston, although I have never flown with you I can say that I would go to hell and back with you. Knowing how Kenny Brodhead is I'm not surprised with his actions during this operation. You couldn't have had a better co-pilot. Lastly to Julie Bringloe, DAMN! You're one hard charger and the dustoff community has one hell of a medic leading the way. As MAJ Charles Kelly said on his last mission moments before he was killed "When I have your wounded".

Deflecting credit while sharing stories that few can relate to is difficult. This book is masterfully written and delivered with a heroes humility. God's grace is witnessed throughout this book, as is the heart of heroes who willingly put others first and risk much for their fellow man. Hope others will buy this book and absorb every word within.

Reading this book has opened my eyes to the realities of war, on a different level than I've ever known. As a child I was taught to honor our troops, and to give them the respect and dignity they deserve. My grandfather was a member of the 815th Airlift Squadron- the "Flying Jennies"- in the Air Force, and served in the Korean war. Several more of my family members served active duty in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. To say the least, American Pride runs thick through my blood. You can watch the movies, and you can read the articles, but for me, reading from the perspective of soldiers in the midst of doing their best to save the fallen, has changed me. I couldn't help the tears that came with the retelling of multiple missions the Dustoff 7-3 crew accomplished, and I can't tell you how much this book has deepened my gratitude for those who have both fought

and died for my freedom! If you're looking for a fast-paced, thrilling read, this book is for you! If you're like me, and you're usually more of a fiction reader, you might just be pleasantly surprised by how much this book will grip you.

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