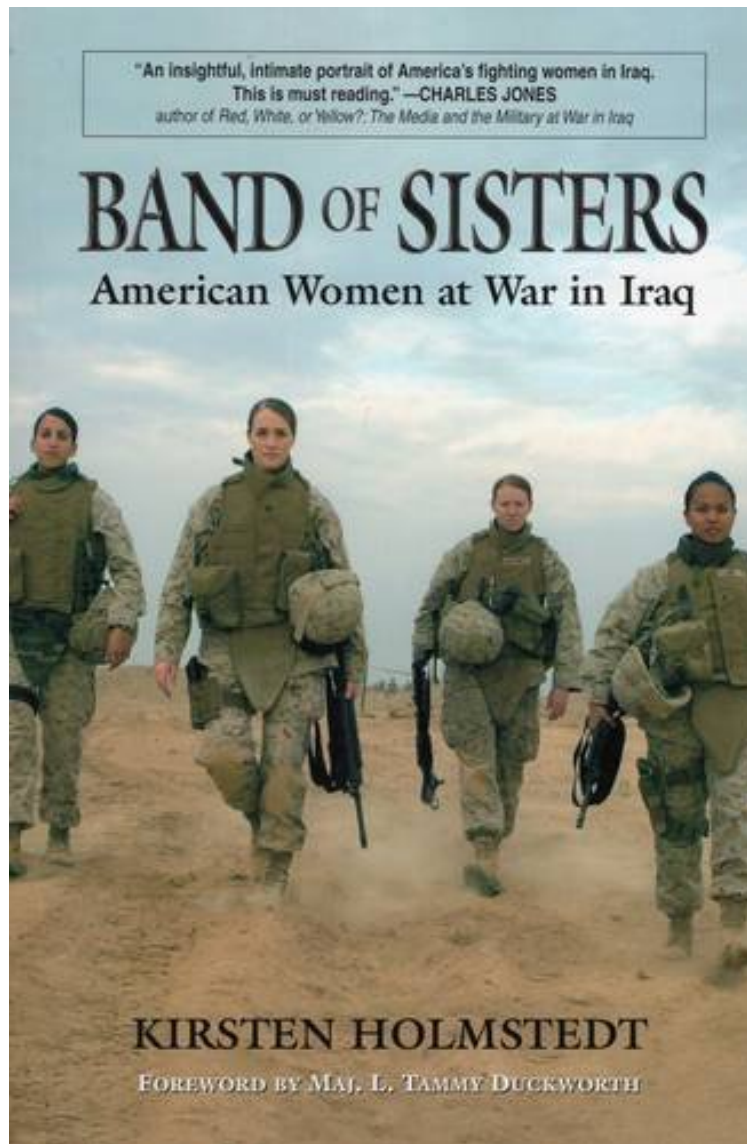


[Mobile ebook] Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq

Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq

Kirsten Holmstedt

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Kirsten Holmstedt : Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The writing makes the book so much lessBy ccasI am so sorry to be writing a less than glowing review but had expected something else when I purchased the book. I ordered the book without even looking at any reviews and I am sorry for that. I thought I saw a book about women in the military that was current as compared to my experience. I served during the Vietnam era. I thought I'd get an up to date perspective

on my experience from long ago. I often avoid books and movies about women in the military since they usually are so inaccurate, it's not enjoyable. But when I saw this book I just ordered it in anticipation of hearing from the service members themselves. I believe that was the intent of the author. I agree with other reviewers regarding the poor writing. Yes I am complaining bitterly because it's a pain to read. Are editors in short supply? The most talented authors still have editors. In spite of that it's still worth reading if you can get past the clumsy and immature writing. As I read I thought I had a young adult book and wondered if this was aimed at youngsters to encourage more women to volunteer. When I volunteered for the service the recruiter openly laughed at me when I asked if I'd ever be able to serve on board ship. He dismissively told me there are no women (on board ship) in this man's navy and never will be. But within a few years of my discharge women had started serving on board some ships. I was encouraged to read in this book that ships are now being built to "accommodate" women crew members. Knowing what I know, that means leaving out the urinals, nothing more. I also agree with one reviewer who acknowledged that some of the poor quality of presentation by the author may be attributed to the writer's lack of personal experience in the military. It's a very intense experience that changes you, hopefully for the better. I don't chat about my military experience with non veterans. Being a woman, most people over the years never guess that I am a veteran. It's not too late for more editing and reissue of this book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. *Band of Sisters* by Kirsten A. Holmstedt
By S. Warfield
Band of Sisters is an excellent account of several women in the military who served with dedication and courage in Iraq. They represent just about every branch of the Armed Forces in the United States, and several of them are from the Marine Corps. Women have served in just about every war, but never as helicopter pilots, pilots of C130s, or as gunnery sergeants. Some are nurses and some record or photograph the news from the area and send it back to the States, but all of these women covered in the book were there because they wanted to be there. The author lives close to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, so she had access to a lot of Marines. Some that she interviewed were wives and mothers who made the difficult decision to leave family behind and go to war. One of the nurses grew up in a family of migrant workers, moving all over the country, but she won several awards for her work in Iraq. She doesn't even remember the names of the awards or what they were for because they were of little importance to her compared to her own personal mission of helping the wounded with care and compassion. What I enjoyed most about this book was reading about how the women were accepted by their male counterparts and the camaraderie that grew among them. Sometimes the women were able to sit down with a male soldier or Marine and talk about their children and reassure the man about a sick child at home, because the man had things blown out of proportion from fear and worrying. They all helped each other, and it was a pleasure to read about how well things went when they were all on the same team and working together for a common goal. It is also good to know that there was a lot of respect going both ways for commanders in these interviews and stories of women in war. The women respected their male commanders and the men respected the female commanders and trusted them. The days have passed when women in the military either did nursing or a desk job. Making it legal for women to serve in combat is being discussed presently, but for many of them, they have already been there. Everyone should enjoy this book and it's a book that everyone should read. It brings the reality of war a little closer as seen through the eyes of women in the military, and tells us how they cope and what their strategies are for when they think they can't. Highly recommended.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The flyer she makes out to be the most amazing warrior and the office staff she paints as a ...
By Jennifer M.
I would have given it 5 stars if Ms Holmstedt had been more encompassing. The only AF women mentioned are a flyer and 1 office staff. The flyer she makes out to be the most amazing warrior and the office staff she paints as a scared mouse who has never seen a gun. First, no one is allowed in Iraq without weapons training. Second, as a woman in the USAF, I have had to "school" some female aircrew for not knowing their jobs or for not being able to pull their weight (literally). Some I wondered how they made it through survival school. I'm not saying all are bad, but I didn't like the one-sided tone in Holmstedt's portrayal. Third, I have never shot less than expert in my AF career - and every time I've shot it has been windy rainy to the point of the target flying off their stands. Last, I have been stranded in the middle of a foreign airfield because aircrew piled into a GOV left us. We had to carry our gear and personal items to where we were staying. Sometimes we just slept on the plane instead. Next time Holmstedt writes a book about women in the military I suggest she talk to warriors such as medics, nurses, aircraft ground maintenance, commanders of units, etc, who would tell their stories without needing to inject some derogatory detail about another member's ineptitude.

Now available in paperback
Winner of the 2007 American Authors Association Golden Quill Award
Winner of the 2007 Military Writers Society of America Founder's Award
In Iraq, the front lines are everywhere - and everywhere in Iraq, no matter what their job descriptions say, women in the U.S. military are fighting--more than 155,000 of them. A critical and commercial success in hardcover, *Band of Sisters* presents a dozen groundbreaking and often heart-wrenching stories of American women in combat in Iraq, such as the U.S.'s first female pilot to be shot down and survive, the military's first black female pilot in combat, a young turret gunner defending convoys, and a nurse struggling to save lives, including her own.

From BooklistHolmstedt started studying the experience of women marines when she lived near Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Her research became a master's thesis in creative writing and the most up-to-date discussion of women in the current war. Unblushingly in favor of women in combat, she doesn't whitewash their experiences or exaggerate their achievements. Their male colleagues aren't universally accepting, but many of them admit that the women are performing effectively; since 20 percent of the troops currently in Iraq are women, they must. Following the tradition of American soldiers before them, they say that they are "just doing the job." That is, they are flying F-18s into enemy ground fire, driving Hummers and trucks that may be ambushed at any moment, and playing invaluable roles in intelligence operations and in the nation building that is one of the more positive aspects of a seemingly interminable and frustrating conflict. Nearly 500 female soldiers have been killed or wounded in Iraq. Invaluable as well as readable. Green, Roland "An extremely well-written book., Highly recommended!" RNSA Summer 2008

About the AuthorKirsten Holmstedt is a graduate of Drake University's School of Journalism and the University of North Carolina Wilmington's master of fine arts program. She has been writer-in-residence at the College of William and Mary and currently teaches writing at a community college. Her previous books are the highly acclaimed *Band of Sisters* and *The Girls Come Marching Home*. She has appeared on PBS, the BBC, and C-SPAN, among other TV and radio programs. As an expert on and advocate for female service members, she has testified before Congress and spoken to countless businesses and colleges around the country. She lives in Connecticut.