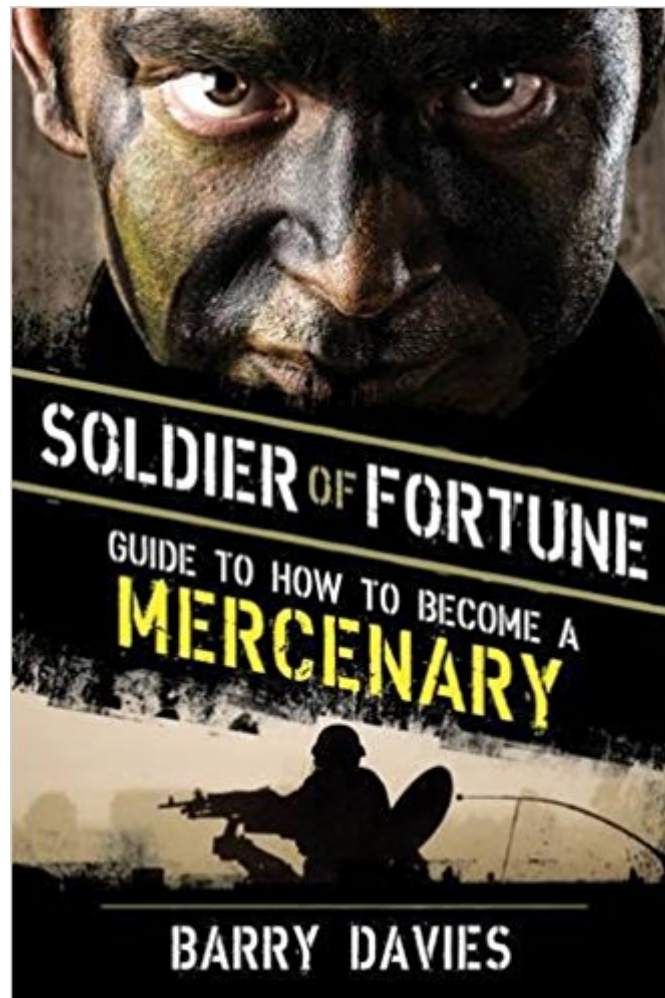




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# Soldier Of Fortune Guide To How To Become A Mercenary



## Synopsis

Mercenaries perform one of the most dangerous and feared jobs in the world. Their task is to go into remote locations and remove their targets by any means necessary. They are "hired hands," and have no remorse for their actions. Along with *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, Barry Davies teaches you the training and knowledge that goes into being a mercenary. Davies will also go into the history of the profession and show how it has evolved. It's always been about the money, but in this book, you will learn all the skills that you must acquire before you take your first job. You will learn:

- Where and how to find work
- How to understand and apply the most modern tactics
- What languages to master
- Which weapons are preferred
- How to disappear after you've completed your job

Mercenaries are usually trained as part of the best Special Forces, including American Delta Force, British SAS, French Foreign Legion, Marines, SBS, SEALs, and many others. This guide will teach you everything you've ever needed to know about becoming a mercenary, and also how to excel at it with information on weapons, escape plans, and overall safety. Remember, Article 47 of the Geneva Convention states that "a mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war." Getting caught is not an option, and in this manual, you will learn how to avoid that at all costs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barry Davies, BEM spent eighteen years in the British Special Air Service serving around the globe. He participated in the storming of the hijacked Lufthansa plane at Mogadishu in 1977 and was awarded the British Empire Medal. He is the author of *The Complete SAS Survival Manual* and *The*

SAS Self-Defense Handbook. Davies lives in England.

Having worn out my copy of Paul Balor's (aka Mitch Wer-Bell) seminal MANUAL OF THE MERCENARY SOLDIER, a text that I have been referencing within my own books and articles for the past quarter of a century (a book rarely more than five feet away from my desk), I tore into this book with a great deal of anticipation, perhaps unnervingly setting an all-time record for speeding reading. The haste did not disappoint me. While definitely not as, say, "ground breaking" as Balor's book, this particular option should not disappoint anyone seeking information about the privatization of modern warfare (wars, incidentally, have always been privatized to a degree). That said, I personally cringe whenever the terms Mercenary and/or Soldier of Fortune are used today. The industrialization of war and private security, through PMC/PSCs, I feel, has abandoned the concept of the private soldier in exchange for simply another degree of bureaucratization. And this remains the distinction between Balor's original text and this latest entry into private soldiers penned by Mr. Davies. First, for the benefit of the reader, permit me to outline the book's chapters: 1. Some friendly advice; 2. What a "Soldier of Fortune" Needs to Know; 3. The Enemy; 4. VIP and Personnel Protection; 5. Assessment, Assignments, and Contingencies; 6. Force Protection; 7. Maritime Protection; 8. Weaponry and Equipment; 9. Know When to Get Out (and Know When to Run); 10. PMC Medic. This remains a decent and well-illustrated book that should remain within any professional's library (in the words of Balor, we are ALL very literate within this particular field). That said, permit me to play Devil's advocate a bit and suggest some relatively minor faults within this book, as no decent review fails to consider criticism as well as support. #1. On Page 63, Mr. Davies writes "...but I cannot understand why some people believe that their religion is superior to another. In the West, we tend to see the Islamic militant world as the enemy, but this is not so. I have visited many Islamic countries, and to be honest, their societies are little different from our own. Brunei, Malaysia, and Oman are just three examples of Muslim societies where I could happily live out the rest of my days. In the end it is down to the individual state and its people, not the religion." At face value, the author is correct. However, he overlooks several fundamental problems with this analysis. First, religion - representing man's dealing with God, as opposed to politics, which represents man's dealing with other men - requires an adherent to believe that his or her faith remains superior to all other beliefs. Otherwise, we fall into collective progressivism. Second, as I pointed out within one of my own intelligence journal articles, it remains the "minority" of any particular ideology that remains true to the core doctrine. Compare, say, Islam with Roman Catholicism. Muhammad and Jesus ended their respective lives within diametrically opposed manners. Within a professional course on

assassinations at my alma mater, we spent an entire week examining the assassinations carried out by or on orders of, Muhammad. Today, I would argue that the vast majority of Muslims do not adequately understand the violence of their faith's founder. In comparison, we could also argue that a similar percentage of Roman Catholics fail to understand their Church's doctrine (just consider how many "Catholics" support abortion, gay marriages, female priests, etc.). Mr. Davies singles out Brunei, Malaysia, and Oman, but I view these nations as more "Westernized" than traditional Muslim states. They are not Iran or Saudi Arabia. A minor complaint about the book, sure, but any professional soldier needs to understand the deepest aspects of any enemy that he is confronting. One must be a historian before he can remain a tactician.#2. Paul Balor's book was about the professional soldier evolving into "something unique" that he could offer a client. Mr. Davies's book borders upon conventional PMC wisdom. That is, this particular book remains more about fitting into an existing team and understanding the technology that exists rather than understanding what might happen should one find himself within another primitive war. Again, a minor squabble, but we are threatening to dissipate the demarcation between "mercenary" and national soldier. As discussed within Balor's book, mercenaries continue to exist because the "Western Way" of war has always fallen short. PMCs are simply war bureaucratized through private means rather than political oversight.#3. The inherent value of this book - its wide range of photographs and illustrations - serves to suggest that warfare will continue to be a high-tech industry. While basically true, there is the danger that a less-trained, mercenary-to-be will assume that being technologically fluent eases one's acceptance into the field. Again, the growth of PMCs and the massive influx of money hamper wars leading to little difference between, say the British or American Armies and private contractors such as Blackwater/Xe and others. Mercenaries did not aid the British outcome within the American Revolution and they are compounding the situation in Iraq today. Think of today being more "security provision" whereas past mercenaries actually fought "wars". A rose by any other name still bears thorns.In conclusion, this book represents Paul Balor's work brought into the modern age. That cannot be bad or a waste of money. Add it to your professional library.R.J. GodlewskiAuthor, SKILLS OF THE ASSASSIN: UNDERSTANDING THE TACTICS OF THE PROFESSIONAL KILLER

Finally a book of this kind has been written. There are only few books out there that go into detail on what a PMC or Mercenary needs to know.If you want to be a Private military contractor and think all you need is this book, find a different job. This book gives the reader a great base to work on or add to their already gathered experience and knowledge.This book discussed topics that I thought most

other authors would just skip over. Barry Davies does an excellent job putting all this information together. It is an easy read. It is written for anyone to read. This book comes at a great time. The fact that the shape of military in the world is changing. This is a must read for anyone who is interested in the topic. Davies does a great job with this book. The fact that PMC is the way of the future in regards to how the military will grow, this book is an interesting read to people who are new to this topic. However, it is also for those who have an extensive military book library. For the price, I can't see why anyone would not buy this book if they are interested in this area. All I can say is, finally, someone has written a book like this. I was not only completely satisfied with this book but it went beyond my expectations. I thought that the author might be trying to make money just by the title alone. It is a hook, but when you are pulled inside you see that there is no fluff. Overall, this book is excellent.

This work is a good general overview of the world of PMC/PSC operators but is not a definitive work by any stretch of the imagination. It's catchy title and cover art has surely sold the author a lot of books but is misleading. The information found here can be gleaned from PMC/PSC web sites. I don't believe the target audience is those seeking to enter the profession, but rather those who just want info and insight into the subject. One would be better served reading Paul Balor's Manual of the Mercenary Soldier, but that is dated info that in many instances is no longer relevant. Save your money and do Internet research. You'll get the same info.

The topics are interesting and well presented. The Lesson Plan examples given in the back are a nice bit as well. I would not use this alone to try to gain the skills necessary to become a PMC but then the book says the same...frequently. The chapter on "When to get Out" is valuable.  
Entertaining Military reading.

Good book, well written and very informative. It is written for people who have no military experience so if you have served, most of the book does you no good. The author is very realistic though and keeps the reader aware of the dangers as well as the benefits.

This is a GREAT book. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I like to read about mercenary history as its an underground MASSIVE influencer of history that no one likes to own up to save the men and women themselves.

BEEN A BIG FAN OF SOF MAG SINCE 1975. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THIS IS THE ONLY MAGAZINE WORTH READING FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT WORLD EVENTS. IF COL. BROWN PUTS THE NAME SOLDIER OF FORTUNE ON AN ITEM BUY IT. D.O.L.

Really interesting book if you ever wondered what its like or how to become a mercenary

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