

Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

# TODAY'S ★★ NAVY ★★★ HEROES



by Jessica Rudolph

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**NAVY**  
☆☆☆☆HEROES



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U.S. SOF Adviser

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# September 11

September 11, 2001, started out as a beautiful, clear day in New York City. People hurried to work in the bright sunshine. At 8:46 that morning, however, everything changed. An airplane going more than 450 miles per hour (724 kph) slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Seventeen minutes later, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. Smoke poured from the massive buildings and flames shot out of the top floors.

**The North and the South Towers, called the Twin Towers, after the plane crashed into the North Tower on September 11, 2001**

About two hours after being hit by the planes, both towers collapsed.



Later that day, the U.S. government learned that the two planes had been **hijacked** by members of a **terrorist group** called **Al Qaeda**. New York City, however, was not the only place that was attacked on September 11. Al Qaeda terrorists had also hijacked two other planes. They flew one into the **Pentagon** in Virginia, and the other one crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. In all, nearly 3,000 people died. Al Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden, had organized the attack on the United States from his base in Afghanistan. To destroy the terrorists' training camps and find bin Laden, the U.S. government sent troops to Afghanistan in October 2001.

U.S. Navy sailors in  
Afghanistan



# At War with Iraq

Less than two years later, in 2003, the U. S. war against terrorism expanded to Iraq. Some government officials believed that Saddam Hussein, the ruler of Iraq, was trying to build powerful weapons, including **nuclear** ones, to use against the United States and other countries. They thought he needed to be stopped. On March 20, 2003, the United States sent military troops to invade Iraq. Though weapons were never found, the United States and its **allies** were able to remove Saddam Hussein from power.



○ Some of the places where Navy sailors have served in Afghanistan and Iraq

Thousands of brave men and women served in Afghanistan and Iraq in the years following September 11, 2001. This book recounts some of the acts of courage by U.S. Navy sailors who have fought in these wars. The bravery and selflessness they have shown in fighting for their country is the very definition of *hero*.

A Navy sailor on patrol



The Navy is the branch of the **armed forces** responsible for military operations on the seas.

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## About the Author

Jessica Rudolph lives in Phoenix, Arizona. She has edited and written many children's books about history, geography, science, and nature.

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# TODAY'S ★★ NAVY ★★★ HEROES

In the years following September 11, 2001, thousands of brave men and women have fought in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of them have faced highly dangerous and even deadly combat situations. This book recounts stories of several U.S. Navy sailors who have acted with tremendous courage during these wars. From Hospital Corpsman Juan Rubio, who saved members of his unit while wounded, to Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor, who gave his life so others could live, the sailors in this book show what heroism truly means.

**TODAY'S AIR FORCE HEROES**

**TODAY'S ARMY HEROES**

**TODAY'S COAST GUARD HEROES**

**TODAY'S MARINE HEROES**

★ **TODAY'S NAVY HEROES**

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