

# Obama Administration Hassles Author of Bin Laden Book

☒ The book “No Easy Day,” which was released about six weeks ago, ranks an impressive eighth among all the best-sellers on Amazon.com. The author, who uses the alias Mark Owen, was one of the Navy Seals who raided Osama Bin Laden’s compound in Pakistan last year and killed the Al-Qaeda leader. He wrote the book, he says, because all the other published accounts of the raid have been incorrect, and he wanted the American public to know the true story. He isn’t trying to get rich, he adds. He intends to donate most of the proceeds to organizations that provide support for ex-Seals or, in many cases, their survivors.

If you recall the vague, confusing and conflicting accounts that came out of the Obama administration in the days immediately following the raid, you will know why Owen is exasperated. As one wag put it, Bin Laden got killed but the public got the 72 versions.

One widely circulated account had it that Bin Laden put up some sort of fight, and that he and one of his wives, who tried to defend him, were killed simultaneously. In fact, Owen discloses, that scenario occurred in another of the rooms invaded by the Seals, with another man and his wife cut down by gunfire.

Bin Laden’s demise was humdrum by comparison. According to Owen, the no-good bastard stuck his head out the door to see what the commotion on the stairway was all about, and the Seal who was first in line shot him in the head without knowing for sure who he was. Bin Laden was not holding a weapon, and Owen calls him a “pussy” for not trying to defend himself and his cause.

Owen's true name has been outed by the media, but I will not repeat it here. The disclosure has placed him in danger of reprisal from Al-Qaeda soreheads, and I am not going to make things the least bit easier for them.

When the book came out, it also rankled some soreheads in the administration and the military. Some denounced Owen because the book goes into considerable detail about the way Seals conduct raids, information which the critics say might prove useful to future Seal targets. There also is a lot of detailed information about the kinds of weapons and other gear the Seals use, which may hold some interest for our nation's enemies.

I suspect that the danger of such disclosures has been greatly exaggerated, and I agree with Owen that the public deserved to know the truth about this important event. Owen took great pains to conceal the identities of his colleagues, and if it hadn't been for the media, his story probably would have been reprisal-proof.

The Pentagon contends that Owen, who retired from the Navy not long after the Bin Laden raid, was obligated to submit his book for review before publishing it. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said that the government may bring a legal action against Owen to deter other military operatives from publishing without seeking official clearance.

Could this be the same Leon Panetta who is a creature of a presidential administration that has leaked classified information whenever it suited their political purposes – including information about the Bin Laden raid?

I have read "No Easy Day," which I am happy to recommend to other readers, and I will tell you what I think really bothers the administration about the book.

It is politically incorrect – if your politics happen to favor Obammunism.

The author doesn't like Obama, doesn't like his politics or the way he handles his role as commander in chief, and isn't timid about saying so. In a presidential election year, that is loaded material coming from a military hero, which Owen certainly is.

The administration would dearly love to discredit the book, but evidently can point to no errors, so it has fallen back on a procedural peccadillo.

Here are some passages from the book that undoubtedly would have been blue-penciled out if the administration had gotten its paws on the manuscript before publication:

\*Owen laments the restricted rules of engagement the administration imposed on the U.S. military in Afghanistan, where he participated in many missions. "For years, we had been sneaking into compounds, catching fighters by surprise. Not anymore. On the last deployment, we were slapped with a new requirement to call them out. After surrounding a building, an interpreter had to get on a bullhorn and yell for the fighters to come out with their hands raised...If we found guns, we arrested the fighters, only to see them go free a few months later...The first question to the detainee at the base was always, 'Were you abused?' An affirmative answer meant an investigation and more paperwork."

\*Owen complains about Obama's unaccountable delay in giving final approval to the Bin Laden hit, and says that the same thing happened when he was part of a Seal mission in 2009 to rescue the captain of a cargo ship who had been kidnapped by Somali pirates.

\*Owen and a colleague are chatting, before the raid, about the potential repercussions. The colleague says "...we'll get Obama reelected for sure. I can see him now, talking about how he killed Bin Laden." Owen agrees, recalling how Obama had taken all the credit for rescuing the cargo-ship captain.

\*Soon after getting back to the United States, the triumphant Seal Team Six meets privately with Obama and Vice President Biden to receive their congratulations. Owen describes Obama's speech as full of platitudes, and says that Biden "kept cracking lame jokes that no one got...he reminded me of someone's drunken uncle at Christmas dinner." Obama promises to receive the Seals at the White House for a beer fest, but never keeps the promise.

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## **Signed 'Seal'-ed Delivered Straight to Hell**

✘ I'm so very proud of our military but words can't express the admiration and deep gratitude I feel towards the Navy Seals who, with razor-sharp precision, infiltrated Bin Laden's compound and killed him. I say, "good riddance UBL and may you rot in hell with the rest of your cohorts."

So while I'm reading today that these brave men will have to be honored in private for their clandestine achievement to ensure their own safety, I'm also reminded of some recent stupid comments and conclusions from some really clueless individuals who know nothing about what it takes to defend our country.

Rosie O'Donnell was bemoaning the fact that her teenaged son had shown an interest in the military. Lamenting the idea that here she is, a "peace-loving anti-war Mom" and her son's been interested in the military since he was a "little baby," she was hoping he'd grow out of it but hasn't.

I can't imagine a nobler calling. Without a draft in this country, we still have young men and women who voluntarily

join the military and believe in it so strongly that they're willing to sacrifice their lives for their belief. They're actually ready to die to defend Miss O'Donnell's right to stay stupid stuff like 9/11 was an inside job.

It made me sick to my stomach to read that Anthony Maschek, a Columbia freshman and former Army staff sergeant awarded the Purple Heart after being shot 11 times in a firefight in Iraq, was heckled and called a racist during a town-hall meeting at the University to discuss whether ROTC should be allowed back on campus. So, here's this 28-year old veteran being hissed and booed by a bunch of snotty-nosed little twerps who probably cry over a hangnail and are too afraid to walk through Central Park at dusk.

Whatever your position on the ROTC issue (I say if Columbia receives any federal funding, it should be defunded until the ROTC is back on campus), there's no excuse for "laughing and jeering" this American hero who spent two years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center recovering from his wounds. (When the story broke, I hadn't heard a word from the President how he felt about this disrespectful display at his alma mater – has anyone heard a word from him?)

The only thing worse than these useless twits is the University of Washington assistant professor Amy Hagopian, an author of a report which compared the behavior of military recruiters with the behaviors of sexual predators. In my decades-long career in child abuse and neglect, I've dealt with dozens of sexual predators and to make any comparison between them and our military is disgusting and offensive. To compare sexual predators that groom and psychologically manipulate a vulnerable and weak child to the actions of a military recruiter is sickening and moronic.

I would suggest Miss O'Donnell and Professor Hagopian learn about the training a man must go through before he becomes a Navy Seal or spend some time watching one of the best shows on

television, Lifetime's Coming Home, an uplifting show which reflects the nobility, strength, bravery, and dedication of our military's men and women.

At Christmas, I wrote an article Sacrifice Is Not Faceless about my Goddaughter, Jeannine (an Iraq War veteran herself), and her husband, Jeremy, now serving in Afghanistan. Having a first-hand glimpse into the lives of these two strong and courageous people, I tried to convey the enormous sacrifice our military families make every day. Coming Home brings this dedication into our living rooms every Sunday by showing the mutual love and admiration of our fighting men and women and their children, fathers, mothers, and parents.

Instead of hoping your child's interest in such an honorable career would wane or conclude that our military men and women are the equivalent of defenseless children susceptible to outside influence, we should see our military men and women as the strong, dedicated and brave fighting force they are and that they're worthy of our deepest and sincerest gratitude and respect.

For all the Rosie O'Donnells and Amy Hagopians in this country, thank God for people like Bill O'Reilly who raised \$1 million for the Fisher House, a truly worthy charity, by selling his notes for the Super Bowl Sunday interview with President Obama. There's also Dennis Miller, who is the national spokesman for USA Cares, an organization that assists post 9/11 military service members and their families. And there's also Kaziah Hancock who paints portraits of fallen soldiers free of charge for their families as part of Project Compassion.

Organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project and TAPS support our veterans and their families and recognize the sacrifice they've made for all of us – are you hearing me Miss O'Donnell and Miss Hagopian?

I don't get people who cloak their idiotic statements in the First Amendment but denigrate the system that protects that right, but if you do, God bless you.