

# UDTs and SEALs 1950-73 Elite: The Unseen Heroes of Warfare

The UDTs (Underwater Demolition Teams) and SEALs (Sea, Air, and Land) of the 1950-73 era were the unsung heroes of warfare. These elite units played a pivotal role in various military operations, working covertly and fearlessly to protect American interests both at home and abroad. In this article, we will delve into the history, training, and feats of these brave men, shedding light on their immense contributions to the defense of our nation.

## History and Origins

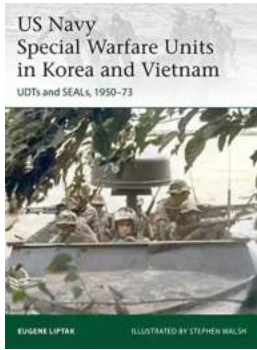
The origins of UDTs and SEALs can be traced back to World War II. The need for specially trained personnel to clear beach obstacles and gather intelligence during amphibious assaults became evident, leading to the formation of the Underwater Demolition Teams. These teams primarily operated in the Pacific theater and were highly successful in their missions, which included beach reconnaissance, mine clearing, and hydrographic surveys.

After World War II, UDTs were disbanded, but the experience gained during the war was not forgotten. With the growing threat of unconventional warfare during the Cold War, the need for specialized forces capable of operating in all environments—sea, air, and land—became apparent. Thus, the Navy SEALs were born in 1962, combining the skills of UDTs with additional training in guerrilla warfare, counterinsurgency, and intelligence gathering.

## US Navy Special Warfare Units in Korea and Vietnam: UDTs and SEALs, 1950–73 (Elite)

by Eugene Liptak (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5



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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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## Training and Selection

The training pipeline for UDTs and SEALs is notoriously grueling and demanding. Candidates undergo a rigorous selection process that includes physical and mental evaluations to ensure only the best make it through. This selection process is often referred to as "Hell Week," a physically and mentally challenging phase during which candidates face extreme sleep deprivation, intense physical exertion, and constant mental stress.

Once selected, candidates undergo specialized training that covers a wide range of skills, including underwater combat, demolitions, parachuting, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat, and survival techniques. The training programs are designed to push recruits to their limits and prepare them to operate in high-stress, high-risk situations.

## Feats and Contributions

The UDTs and SEALs of the 1950-73 era were involved in numerous military operations across the globe. One notable operation was the covert reconnaissance mission during the Cuban Missile Crisis, where SEALs played a vital role in providing intelligence on enemy activities without being detected.

During the Vietnam War, UDTs and SEALs were deployed extensively, conducting a wide range of operations such as beach reconnaissance, direct action, and sabotage missions. They operated in the Mekong Delta, infiltrating deep behind enemy lines to gather intelligence, disrupt supply lines, and neutralize high-value targets.

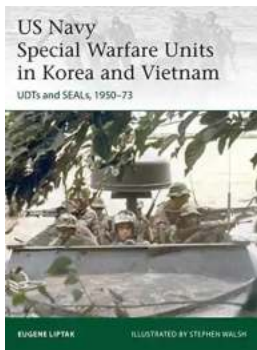
UDTs and SEALs also played a significant role during the Korean War, where they performed detailed hydrographic surveys and conducted underwater demolitions to prepare landing sites for amphibious operations.

## **Legacy and Impact**

The legacy of the UDTs and SEALs of the 1950-73 era cannot be overstated. Their contributions to warfare, intelligence gathering, and reconnaissance techniques have shaped modern special operations forces around the world. The bravery, resilience, and dedication of these men set the standard for future generations of SEALs and special forces operators.

The UDTs and SEALs continue to operate today, adapting to the ever-evolving nature of warfare. Their skills are in high demand, and they remain at the forefront of global counterterrorism efforts, providing invaluable support and expertise in the fight against terrorism.

The UDTs and SEALs of the 1950-73 era were the unsung heroes of warfare. Their dedication, courage, and unwavering commitment to protecting American interests made them a formidable force. They operated silently and efficiently, often in the shadows, completing missions that would go unnoticed by the general public. It is essential to acknowledge and honor their sacrifices, as they ensured our safety and freedom during some of the most challenging times in history.



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During the Korean War and the Vietnam War, US Navy Special Warfare units played a variety of vital combat roles amid two of the deadliest conflicts of the Cold War. In Korea, underwater demolition teams (UDTs) surveyed beaches for amphibious operations, cleared sea mines from harbors, conducted seaborne raids against inshore targets, and served as scouts for the infiltration of Korean guerrillas and British Royal Marine Commando raids along the North Korean coast. In South Vietnam, UDTs surveyed beaches and demolished Viet Cong bunkers, supply caches, and river obstacles in the Mekong Delta. The SEALs (Sea Air Land teams) deployed entire platoons into the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone to conduct guerrilla warfare against the Viet Cong that included ambushes, reconnaissance, and capturing leaders and supply caches. In addition, the SEALs also played important roles in the Phoenix Program and in rescuing prisoners of war. Fully illustrated throughout, this study explores how the US Navy's specially trained naval commandos accomplished their missions in Korea and Vietnam.



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