



Shadow Warrior: The CIA Hero of a Hundred Unknown Battles

By Felix I. Rodriguez, John Weisman

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This is the story of Felix Rodriguez, one of the CIA's most extraordinary agents. A member of the anti-Castro movement from the age of 17, Cuban Felix Rodriguez was infiltrated into Cuba six weeks before the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, and was one of only 15 of the original group of 35 infiltrators who escaped after the invasion failed. In 1967, as CIA advisor to the Bolivian Army, he helped to capture Che Guevara and was the last person to interrogate him. In Vietnam Rodriguez led and advised an elite anti-guerilla force until injuries caused his premature retirement. He was also a major figure in the American support of the Nicaraguan Contras and his claims that they were being poorly equipped, claims which Oliver North failed to heed, were ultimately proved correct during the Congressional Iran/Contra hearings.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A CIA undercover agent in Cuba before the Bay of Pigs debacle, Cuban-born Rodriguez also ran a communications network in Nicaragua, took part in the capture of Che Guevara in Bolivia, led a strike force during the Vietnam war and, more recently, served as Oliver North's liaison to the Salvadorian government. He was roughly handled by a Senate subcommittee investigating ties between the contras and drug smuggling in Central America--its chairman, Senator John Kerry, later apologized to him publicly. Rodriguez's personal adventures, written with freelancer Weisman, make for exciting reading, but of broader historical interest are his comments on Che Guevara's final hours, the dissension within Miami's Cuban community and its various anti-Castro movements and his informed indictment of U.S. operational blunders in Central America. Photos.

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From Library Journal

Cuban emigre Rodriguez was a participant in many of the key political events of the past three decades, ranging from the Bay of Pigs invasion to the Iran-Contra affair. His autobiography effectively captures the idealism and anti-Communist fervor of the early 1960s, and is marked by an obsession with Fidel Castro ("I considered myself at war with Fidel."). Much of this book is a series of descriptions of Rodriguez's intelligence operations in Latin America and Vietnam. He devotes two chapters to his search for Che Guevara in Bolivia, and he provides an unexpectedly moving account of Che's death. Students of American foreign policy will find many scintillating insights on these pages, and the book has an easy narrative flow which will appeal to general readers. Rodriguez's frequent superpatriotic flourishes may bother some readers, but this account is a useful addition to the literature of the Cold War.

- *Thomas Karel, Franklin & Marshall Coll. Lib., Lancaster, Pa.*

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