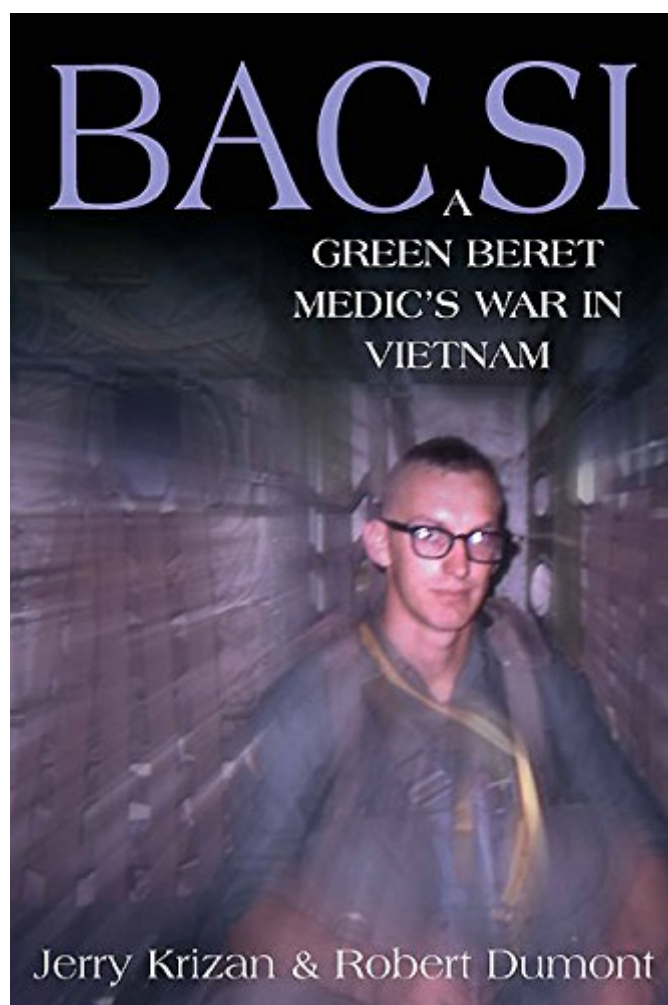


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BAC SI: A Green Beret Medic's War In Vietnam



Synopsis

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Army Special Forces A-Teams were deployed to isolated outposts or "camps" in the remote areas of South Vietnam. Their job was to recruit, train, and house members of the indigenous population while molding them into combat-ready fighting units. A-Teams consisted of up to 12 Green Beret soldiers who were experts in both combat and their individual military specialties. The role of the indigenous units, in conjunction with their American advisors, was to provide border security, counter the Viet Cong insurgency in the countryside, provide intelligence on enemy troop-strength and activities, and when necessary engage elements of the invading North Vietnamese Army. *Bac Si* (the Vietnamese term for "medic") is the story of Sgt. Jerry Krizan who was assigned to Special Forces Camp A-331 in the III Corps tactical zone, only 10 miles from the Cambodian border. Because of its proximity to a major north-south NVA infiltration route, there were constant enemy troop movements through the camp's area of operations and A-331 itself came under attack on more than one occasion. The author meantime needed to accompany patrols and probes into enemy territory, not only prepared to provide aid but fight as a soldier if the squad was ambushed, or itself chose to attack. In this small-unit warfare against an expert enemy, U.S. soldiers had to survive as best they could, with their only succor a Huey, and meantime on the ground by themselves against unknown opposition. Our Green Beret base camps were our very first line of defense along the borders of South Vietnam, and in this book, through the eyes of a medic, we learn how dire, and confusing, a role we asked our Special Forces to play during that era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was a medic classmate of Jerry. He went to Vietnam and I was sent to Panama. I have always been curious how I would have done and what the daily routine was like in a war zone. Jerry's book was a great account of his day to day activities both as a medic and a combatant. I really had no idea that Special Forces medics were so actively involved in combat missions. After reading Bac Si I almost felt like I had been there with Jerry. Excellently written without too much drama and no "John Wayne" stories. A great read.

A very interesting book. It accurately describes my experiences on an A Team in the mid to late 60's. Very explanatory about the many and varied duties of Special Forces medics on A teams. Truly shows that all SF personnel including medics were also required to be infantry soldiers and perform their fair share of the combat duties. Would mostly be of interest to those wanting to remember or those current SF medics who are curious about their heritage.

I loved it. It was written like you were sitting there talking to the guy. A LOT of acronyms..but welcome to the military!

Great account of Jerry's experiences in Vietnam. Well written, I couldn't put it down. I recommend it to all that want a soldier's point of view on combat.

I thought the author had a professional outlook similar to mine as a nurse. He was creative, confrontational, and passionate. I admired his strengths and abilities. He was very brave.

This is a great book. It brought to light many of the things that faced these soldiers in the Vietnam war. I was so engulfed in it that I read it in a day sitting at the local cafe. Although I was born several years after the time that Jerry's story was from, it was still interesting to read the story of a man and

his experiences during that time in the war. The pictures included throughout the book were also a nice touch, (many like this only put them in a chunk in the middle of the book) they helped to remind the reader just how real the situation was. It's a book I'd read again and will be staying on my bookshelf so I can do so in the future.

Jerry Krizan has done a masterful job of presenting the Vietnam war experience from a soldier's perspective. He makes one year at one base for American Special Forces soldiers working with South Vietnamese soldiers remarkably clear and believable. Not much gore, not much drama, just a vivid account of the little things and the big thing that make up a combat soldier's life -- and that stay with him forever.

Very good insight into a conflict most prefer to ignore. Well written.

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