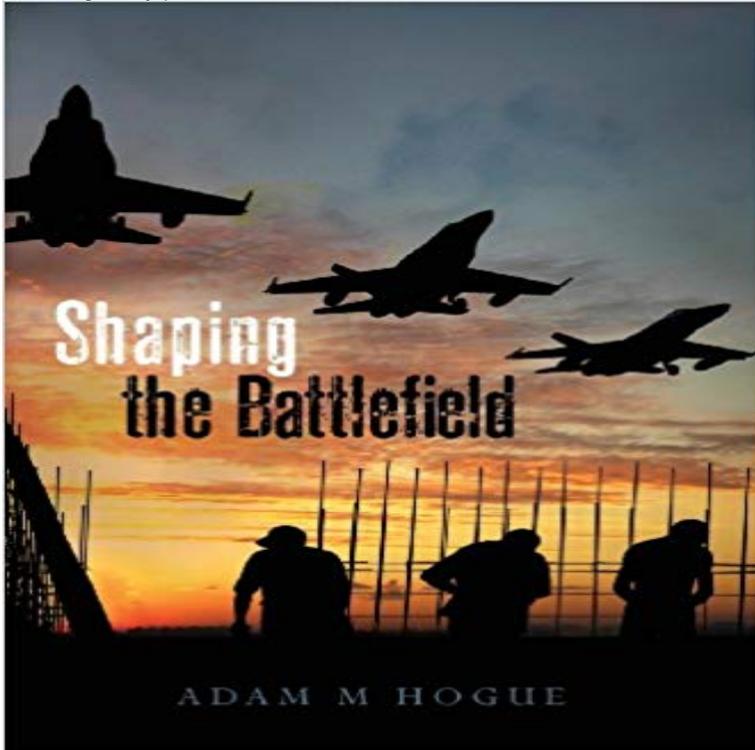


Shaping the Battlefield



What makes a successful military man? How can one man best serve his country, preserve our freedoms, and achieve his personal best? *Shaping the Battlefield* is Captain Adam Hogue's incredible, true story of how he offers combat support during the surge in forces in Afghanistan in 2011, leads a successful mission, and completes his astonishing project with courage, grace, and a good sense of humor. Hogue's story begins in the debris of 9/11, a moment that shocked the world and caused men and women to go into action to fight terrorism. Clearly and vividly, Hogue shows how 9/11 changed his life. A huge supporter of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, he joins the war effort in 2005 to put his money where his mouth is, so to speak. Worried that the war will end before he has a chance to deploy, Hogue takes an Active Duty Operational Support assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There, he works with the United States Special Operations Command Sustaining Brigade. Sixteen months into his assignment, he is sent to Afghanistan, where he is tasked with planning a surge in forces to support operations. In January 2011, Hogue and forty-seven other people arrive in Germany. Hogue makes his narrative sparkle by giving an insiders view to events. For example, any time the Air Force lands a plane in Germany, Spain, or any other interesting location, Hogue knows it's a well-known secret that the plane will go down for maintenance. Hogue also supplies fascinating details on rules and regulations, like obeying speed limits, how and when to salute officers, and why, if you didn't follow protocol, the Military Police would come in. Beautifully detailed and remarkably told, *Shaping of the Battlefield* juxtaposes the beauty of the terrain with the evils of the terrorists. As he builds and expands the Special Forces footprint in Afghanistan, he gets to see the war from both an inside and outside

perspective, both while planning as a junior officer, and sitting in on high level meetings. This experience gives him a special understanding of the war, people, and the challenges. But being at a desk is not very challenging, and though Hogue is giving his job one hundred percent, hes soon chafing at the bit to do something more exciting, which happens very soon when he is sent to Mazir-I-Sharif, where he is instrumental in building a base for over three hundred soldiers. This is a tremendous memoir with a real in-the-trenches feel. Hogue details the dangers of his mission in pitch-perfect prose, and he makes you feel his own growth as both a leader and a man. As Hogue himself says of his mission, As we flew into the clouds and over the mountains, none of us really knew what was going to happen next, but that was always the case in Afghanistan. You never knew what was going to happen next, but in this case, we received a mission and shaped our own piece of the battlefield. Whether you are in the military, you know someone in the armed forces, or you simply have an interest in the events tearing apart Afghanistan, you are sure to love Shaping the Battlefield.

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