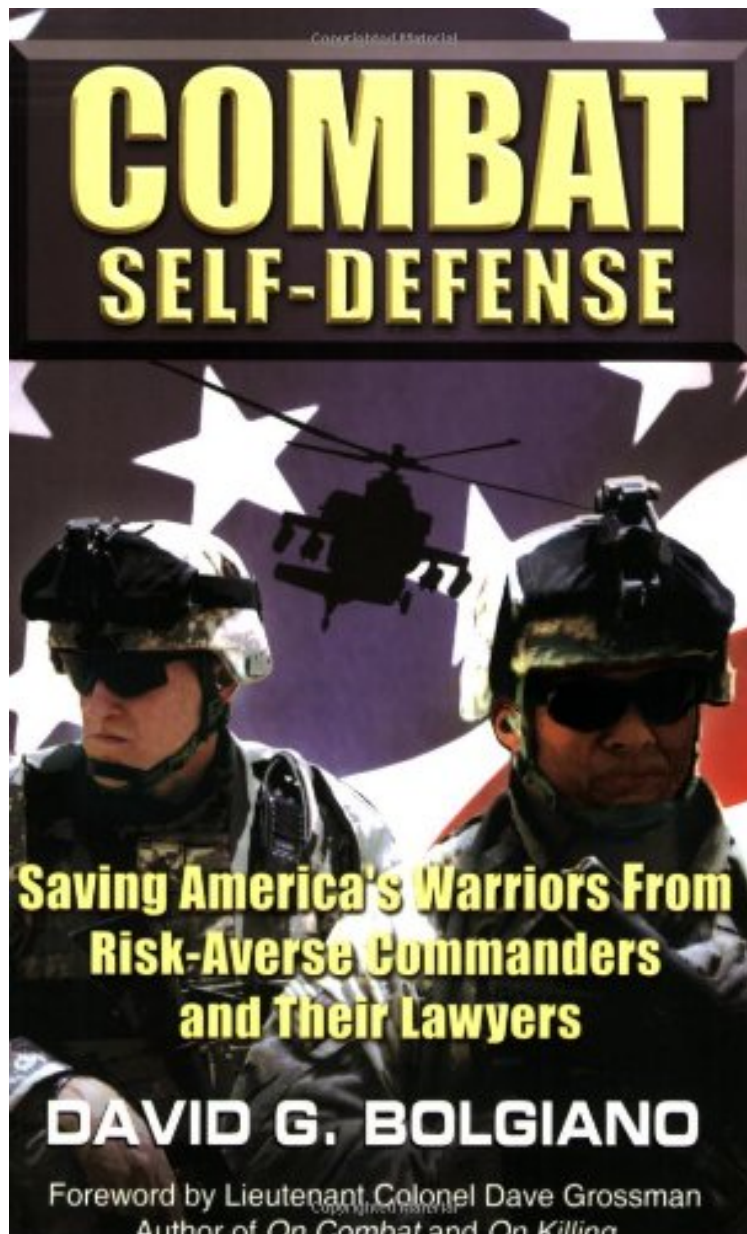


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Combat Self-Defense: Saving America s Warriors from Risk-Averse Commanders and Their Lawyers

David G. Bolgiano

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Combat Self-Defense: Saving America's Warriors from Risk-Averse Commanders and Their Lawyers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must read for all commandersBy Michael L. OatesTremendous book. Clear and compelling logic on Rules of Engagement. Many senior commanders, all arm chair Generals, and most lawyers have no clear understanding of this vital subject. Bo Bolgiano has done a great service to all who command troops in combat.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding ReadBy GraceEvery military member should read this book. It is written very well and from a perspective that has not been done in the past. The author's experience is second to none on the subject. Fantastic!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A seminal and much-needed contribution to the modern debate about military tacticsBy Midwest Book ReviewWritten by former Army paratrooper and judge advocate David G. Bolgiano, who has deployed to Afghanistan, Qatar and Iraq as legal advisor to Commander, Special Operations Command Central, *Combat Self-Defense* is a chilling expose of how legal wranglings and the fear of using force in combat has put modern-day American soldiers in danger. In a post-September 11th era, when enemy combatants are not always in uniform and often masquerade among women and children, or even pose as dead bodies in the street, the restraint instilled by the threat of legal wrangling after the fact is a deadly additional risk, Bolgiano claims. "There's a saying in the legal defense world that it's better to be judged by twelve than carried by six. You may face an investigation following a use of deadly force in self-defense, and in rare cases, a criminal prosecution. But you'll be alive to face them, and ultimately, the law supports reasonable uses of deadly force. Despite media criticism, supervisor scrutiny, and anything else they can throw at you, self-defense is authorized when you reasonably perceive your life is threatened with death or serious bodily injury. Nothing else matters." A seminal and much-needed contribution to the modern debate about military tactics in the Iraq occupation and other venues of the 'war on terror.'

TOO MANY LAWYERS, NOT ENOUGH WARRIORS? Warfare in the post-9/11 era has a new face. Enemy combatants may not be in uniform, and could be hiding in villages filled with women and children or posing as dead bodies lying in the street. Soldiers have fractions of time to decide whether or not to employ the use of deadly force, balancing on a knife-edge of life and death. For many soldiers, the real battle begins after the fatalities in-theater when lawyers get involved. Judgment and honor are called into question and hindsight applied to tactical decisions made in the heat of conflict. Iraq War veteran and former police officer David G. Bolgiano examines how the fear of using force in combat has put American fighting forces in unnecessary danger. Calling for a more reasoned approach, Bolgiano insists on adapting current training methodology to address the present threat to American security.

Dave Bolgiano's concern for America's fighting men and women shines through in this heartfelt and timely book. -- Sean Naylor, author of *Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda* Every person who purports to support our troops should read *Combat Self-Defense: Saving America's Warriors from Risk-Averse Commanders and Their Lawyers*. --John C. Hall, FBI supervisory special agent (ret.) and co-author of *In Defense of Self and Others* This is a terribly, profoundly important book the solution to a major problem that confronts America in our battle against terror. --LTC Dave Grossman, United States Army (ret.), author of *On Killing and On Combat* About the Author David G. Bolgiano has deployed to Afghanistan, Qatar and Iraq as a legal advisor to Commander, Special Operations Command Central. He is also a former Army paratrooper and judge advocate. As a civilian, he was a sworn law enforcement officer in Baltimore, a counselor with the law offices of Peter G. Angelos and the Baltimore Orioles, and an adjunct professor of law at the University of Baltimore. A certified tactical pistol instructor, he is the course director of the Rules of Engagement/Rules of Force Tactical Training Seminar. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.