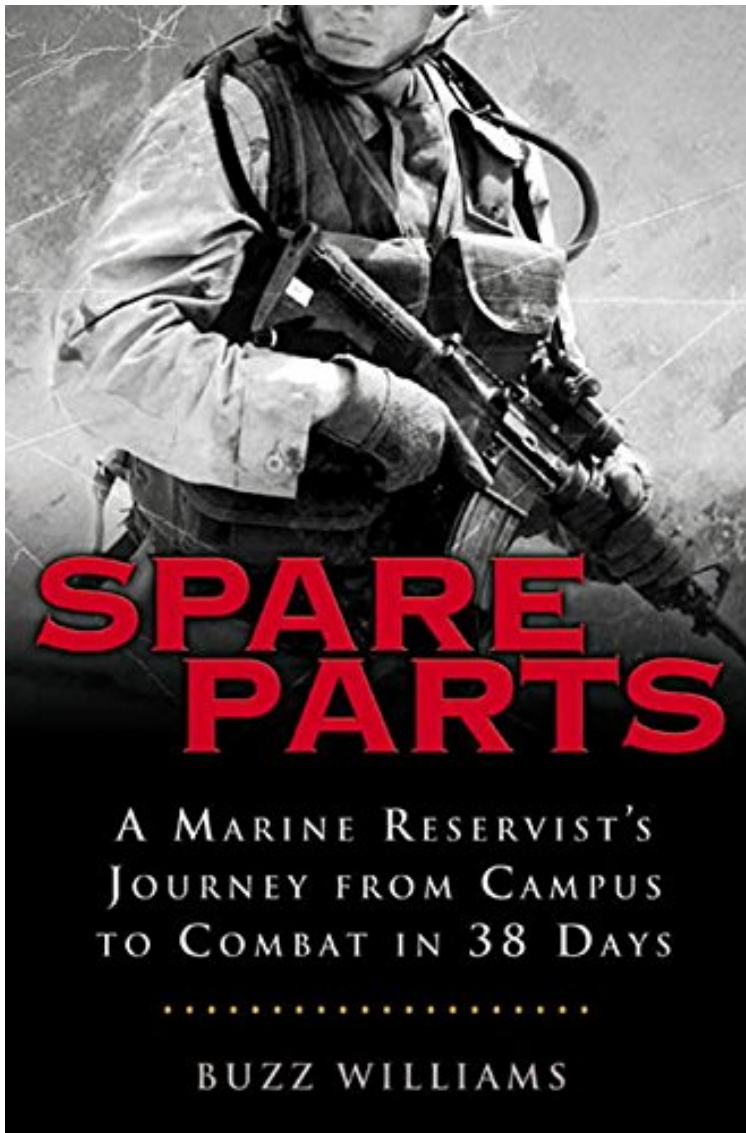


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Spare Parts: From Campus to Combat: A Marine Reservist's Journey from Campus to Combat in 38 Days



Par Buzz Williams
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Description : Description du produitA compelling look into the world of reservists--more than just the "spare parts" of our nation's military--as seen through one mans transformation from weekend warrior to combat marine In 1989, Buzz Williams walked into a marine recruiting office to follow in the footsteps of the deceased older brother he grew up idolizing by signing up to join the Marine Reserves. Over the course of the next year, he would earn money to pay his college tuition by devoting one weekend a month and two full weeks in the summer to the grueling and often dangerous rigors of military training, while enduring the

jarring readjustment that occurred each time he returned to civilian life. But Williams had no idea that even the newest reservists could find themselves on the frontlines of a battlefield in a matter of weeks. On August 2, 1990--the day that he graduated from Light Armored Vehicle School--Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait, and Williams' life would change forever. Spare Parts tells the story of Williams' harrowing deployment to the Persian Gulf, where he would be thrust into battle only 38 days after being called up. Enduring both the condescension of full-time Marines and the danger of his limited training, he managed to form a core group that the struggles to gain respect from a military machine that viewed them as mere "spare parts." In gripping, you-are-there detail, Williams brings to life the physical and emotional trials he would face on the killing fields of Kuwait--where some of the woefully underprepared Marines are able to rise to the challenge and others are broken by the horrors of battle. A powerful portrait of one man's experience in battle--and of the reservists who stand ready to leave civilian life to defend our nation at a moment's notice--SPARE PARTS adds a moving new perspective to the literature of war.

Prsentation de l'diteurA compelling look into the world of reservists--more than just the "spare parts" of our nation's military--as seen through one mans transformation from weekend warrior to combat marineIn 1989, Buzz Williams walked into a marine recruiting office to follow in the footsteps of the deceased older brother he grew up idolizing by signing up to join the Marine Reserves. Over the course of the next year, he would earn money to pay his college tuition by devoting one weekend a month and two full weeks in the summer to the grueling and often dangerous rigors of military training, while enduring the jarring readjustment that occurred each time he returned to civilian life.But Williams had no idea that even the newest reservists could find themselves on the frontlines of a battlefield in a matter of weeks. On August 2, 1990--the day that he graduated from Light Armored Vehicle School--Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait, and Williams' life would change forever.Spare Parts tells the story of Williams' harrowing deployment to the Persian Gulf, where he would be thrust into battle only 38 days after being called up. Enduring both the condescension of full-time Marines and the danger of his limited training, he managed to form a core group that the struggles to gain respect from a military machine that viewed them as mere "spare parts." In gripping, you-are-there detail, Williams brings to life the physical and emotional trials he would face on the killing fields of Kuwait--where some of the woefully underprepared Marines are able to rise to the challenge and others are broken by the horrors of battle.A powerful portrait of one man's experience in battle--and of the reservists who stand ready to leave civilian life to defend our nation at a moment's notice--Spare Parts adds a moving new perspective to the literature of war..comLong the stuff of historical, literary, and cinematic legend, the United States Marine Corps maintains arguably the most fervent cult of devotion of any branch of the Armed Services. Yet despite the colorful Corps traditions and clichs that have long since become a part of American culture, the crucial human dimensions of what drives a man to become a Marine have remained largely unexplored. Buzz Williams bravely stakes out his turf in this insightful memoir of his years as a Marine reservist and tour of duty in the first Gulf War of 1991. Inspired by the USMC service of an older brother who died a tragic, early death, Williams' initial attraction to the Corps is almost cult-like in its intensity (his adopted nickname stems from the close-cropped military haircut he'd worn since childhood). As a way to balance his drive for service with the desire for a college education, Williams joined the USMC Reserves, and quickly found himself a second-class citizen in his cherished institution--when the Marines' "Green Machine" breaks down, they call for "Spare Parts," the Corps' derogatory term for reservists. But, when Iraq invaded Kuwait on the eve of his graduation from armor training at Camp Pendleton, new warrior Williams quickly found himself headed inexorably towards desert warfare in which American forces were often their own worst enemy. What is striking about Williams' tale is its attentive, persistent psychoanalyses of both his fellow warriors and himself--an examination that finds many a conflicted hero with feet of clay. His unflinching observations about a venerable institution hobbled by bureaucracy, recruitment compromises, woefully inadequate training, and a chronic shortage of supplies seem especially timely in light of the contemporary military quagmire in Iraq. Yet through all his doubts and travails, Williams' dedication to the Corps emerges stubbornly Semper Fi. --Jerry McCulleyFrom Publishers WeeklyThis clear and useful autobiography gives a valuable picture of those American fighting men and women drawn from the reserves. Following in his revered older brother's footsteps, the author joined the Marine reserves by way of the full ordeal at Parris Island, described with great and occasionally nauseating vividness. He then spent six years as crew in a light armored vehicle, an armored car with a crew of four, in which he saw combat in Operation Desert Storm only 38 days after being called up. After the war, he continued as a Marine reservist

while making a career as a professional educator, where he drew on his Marine training for dealing with problem students. He served his reserve time with a happy-go-sloppy Sergeant Moss and the gung-ho Sergeant Krause, filled in gaps when nobody showed up for drills and learned the vices and virtues of both his personal equipment and his vehicles. He survived not only combat but the none-too-friendly rivalry between regular and reserve Marines, and worked through a postwar bout of post-traumatic stress disorder while keeping his marriage intact and raising a son. He has written this book with the same care and attention to detail that he exhibited as a Marine. Through him, we have more knowledge about the situation of the reservists on whom this country's military effectiveness increasingly depends. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.