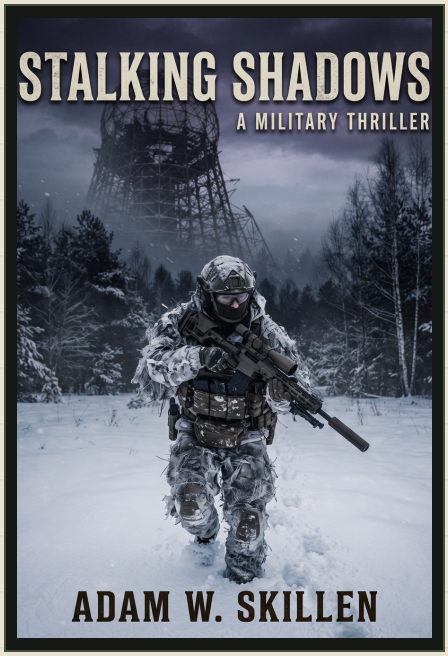
EYES ONLY // PRE-INFILTRATION TARGET PACKAGE

OPERATIONAL DETACHMENT ALPHA 7312
EXCLUSION ZONE BRIEFING

Official companion intelligence packet for **Stalking Shadows: Book One of the ODA 7312 Series** by Adam W. Skillen. Prepared for Task Force Dispatch subscribers. Zero plot spoilers enclosed.



MISSION DIRECTIVE // STERILE WINTER RECON

Forty years after Reactor Four tore open the northern Ukrainian sky, twelve Green Berets insert under a moonless winter front into the sub-zero timber of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Stripped of unit patches, close air support, and digital safety nets, ODA 7312 steps onto the hunting ground of an apex Soviet phantom who knows the dead forest down to the millimeter.

THEATER TELEMETRY & INSERTION CONSTRAINTS

AMBIENT TEMP: -26°C / -15°F (22 KT POLISSIAN WIND)
COMMS POSTURE: EMCON STRICT // ENCRYPTED BURST ONLY
POWER DISCIPLINE: BODY-WARMED LITHIUM CELLS
DOSIMETRY: ELEVATED GAMMA // RED FOREST HOTSPOTS
UNIFORM / CAMO: LAYERED MULTICAM + ALPINE OVER-WHITES



COMMANDER'S FIELD NOTE // CPT MICHAEL "JUST MIKE" HENDERSON

"At twenty below, batteries quit, gun oil turns to glue, and thermal optics lie in the river fog. Trust your cold-bore zero, warm your spare cells against your ribs, and watch the root line."

ANNEX A // FULL 12-MAN GREEN BERET TEAM

DETACHMENT CALLSIGNS & SPECIALTIES

01 // 18A DETACHMENT CDR // OUTLAW ACTUAL

CPT MICHAEL “JUST MIKE” HENDERSON

Detachment commander. Calm, decisive tactician who leads from the front rank when operational plans collide with sub-zero reality.

02 // 180A WARRANT OFFICER // PHOENIX

CW2 PHOENIX

Assistant detachment commander and cryptographic SIGINT specialist tracking hostile electronic corridors and burst transmissions.

03 // 18Z OPERATIONS SGT // TRACER (“TOP”)

MSG TRACER THORNTON

Senior operations sergeant and iron backbone of ODA 7312. Carries a suppressed sterile Kalashnikov and heavy C4 breaching charges.

04 // 18F INTEL SERGEANT // WOLF

SFC WOLF KELLER

Regional linguist, atmospheric spotter, and reconnaissance specialist reading wind shifts and enemy movement across the snowpack.

05 // 18B LEAD SNIPER // EAGLE EYE

SFC EAGLE EYE HARRIS

Master long-gun marksman behind the suppressed MK22 in .338 Norma Magnum, calculating sub-zero air density and spall geometry.

06 // 18B HEAVY WEAPONS // BULL

SFC BULL MURPHY

Heavy-weapons anchor carrying the belt-fed 7.62mm MK48 machine gun to establish fire superiority and break contact in timber ambushes.

07 // 18C SENIOR ENGINEER // BLAZE

SFC DONOVAN “BLAZE” HEWITT

Master combat engineer and demolitions specialist carrying 10 C4 blocks, dual-primary det cord, and structural steel charges.

08 // 18C COMBAT ENGINEER // HAVOC

SSG HAVOC HAWKINS

Hard-edged engineer, claymore rigger, and rear-security overwatch shooter whose Saint Michael medallion never leaves his chest.

09 // 18D SENIOR TRAUMA MEDIC // DOC

SFC DOC MARTINEZ

Senior Special Forces medic outfitted with warmed whole blood, junctional tourniquets, and austere winter surgical instruments.

10 // 18D POINT MEDIC // RAPTOR

SSG RAPTOR CAVANAUGH

Lead-element combat medic running a heavy MK17 7.62mm battle rifle up front while standing ready to treat ballistic and cold trauma.

11 // 18E SENIOR COMMS // JOKER

SSG JOKER WILSON

Forward communications sergeant, frequency manager, and aggressive CQB shooter armed with dry gallows humor in twenty-below dark.

12 // 18E JUNIOR COMMS // MEATHEAD

SGT NATHAN “MEATHEAD” YOUNG

Twenty-two-year-old junior operator hauling spare radio battery bricks, breaching iron, and relentless grit on his toughest mission.

STARTING DEMOLITIONS & MOBILITY LOAD: 10 M112 C4 blocks, dual-primary detonation cord, 6 M18A1 Claymores, Salomon winter boots with steel crampons, synthetic trail snowshoes, LWIR thermal optics, and top-switch radio zeroing protocols.

ORDNANCE & THREAT ASSESSMENT

PRECISION STEEL & SUB-ZERO ACOUSTICS

PRIMARY HOSTILE TARGET // GRU-LEGACY ASSET

ARTYOM VOLKOV (“DYADYA VOLK”)

Known across northern Polissia as **the Ghost of Pripyat**. Trained fifty years ago to stalk timber wolves in the Arkhangelsk taiga, Volkov rejects active electronics that leak RF signatures. He hunts using handwritten drag tables, a wrist-mounted mechanical barometer, charcoal breath baffles, hand-carved ash-wood snowshoes, and decades of absolute mastery over the Exclusion Zone.

DOCTRINE: ERASE MOTION FIRST, STRAIGHT LINES SECOND, THERMAL CONTRAST THIRD.



FIG 2.4 // STERILE ORDNANCE .338 NM // 7.62MM

U.S. PRECISION PLATFORM // ODA 7312

SUPPRESSED MK22 (.338 NORMA MAGNUM)

Barrier-blind tungsten-core armor-piercing ammunition engineered to defeat heavy Soviet masonry and cold-hardened steel beyond 1,200 yards. Requires continuous density-altitude compensation as sub-zero winter fronts compress the air column.

HOSTILE PLATFORMS // ARTYOM VOLKOV

MODIFIED SV-98 (7N1) & VSS VINTOREZ

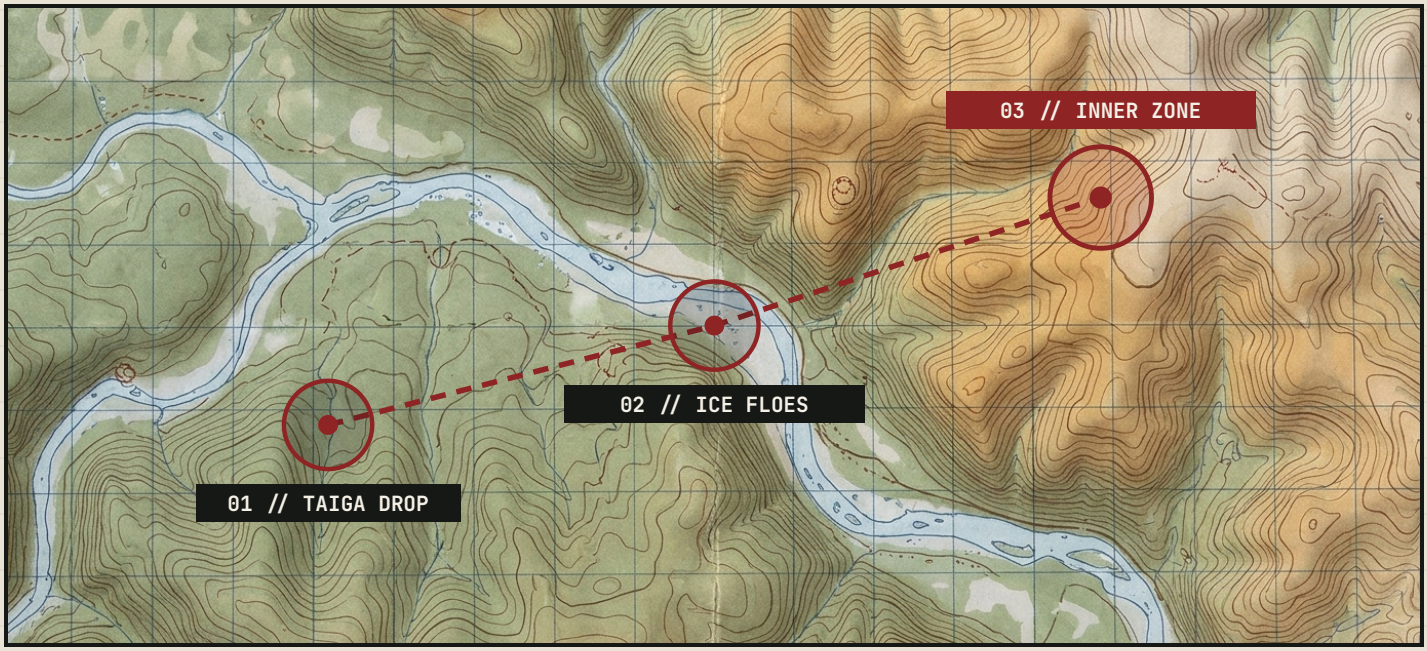
Aviation-grade aluminum-bedded 7.62x54mmR SV-98 firing hand-weighed 7N1 loads to one-tenth of a grain with a honeycomb killflash, backed by cached integrally suppressed 9x39mm VSS Vintorez rifles for subsonic close-timber ambushes.

ACOUSTIC FIELDCRAFT // KZ-AS16 PRO MULTI-DRIVER IEM COMMS

Bulky over-ear headsets trap sweat that freezes against skin and flatten front-to-back soundstage cues. ODA 7312 runs low-profile multi-driver balanced-armature in-ear monitors wired through parallel brickwall DSP limiters, clamping concussive rifle blast in concrete corridors while isolating the faint crunch of a boot or metallic click of a sling swivel in dead winter timber.

THEATER TOPOGRAPHY // ZERO-SPOILER OVERLAY

PRIPYAT EXCLUSION ZONE OPERATIONAL SECTORS



SECTOR 01 // OUTER WIRE

SOUTHERN TAIGA

Old-growth spruce, crusted peat bogs, and sheer railway gorges swept by Orlan-10 thermal ISR drones and winter recon patrols.

SECTOR 02 // RIVER

PRIPYAT ICE FLOES

Fast black water choked with grinding slabs of shelf ice and heavy freezing fog that blinds optics beyond fifty meters.

SECTOR 03 // RED FOREST

INDUSTRIAL CORE

Brutalist concrete coolant trenches, dead municipal blocks, and subterranean utility tunnels where dosimeters never stop clicking.

READY FOR THE FULL 407-PAGE HUNT?

STALKING SHADOWS: BOOK ONE OF THE ODA 7312 SERIES

Available in 6x9 Hardcover, Trade Paperback, and Digital eBook from Thompson Peak Press. Book Two dispatches incoming.

WWW.STALKINGSHADOWSBOOK.COM

dispatch@stalkingshadowsbook.com

© 2026 ADAM W. SKILLEN • THOMPSON PEAK PRESS