

NORCO '80:

The True Story of the Most Spectacular Bank Robbery in American History

By Peter Houlahan

**Norco '80 is a gripping true crime account of one of the
most violent bank robberies in U.S. history.**

On May 9th, 1980, five heavily armed young men – led by an apocalyptic born-again Christian – attempted a bank robbery that turned into one of the most violent criminal events in U.S. history, forever changing the face of American law enforcement.

Riverside County law enforcement officers responding to the scene 50 miles east of Los Angeles were showered with gunfire from an escaping band of robbers armed with high-powered rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition. For close to an hour, a running gun battle blazed through the streets of Norco, onto a crowded interstate, and into the rugged canyons of Mount Baldy high above Los Angeles, where the escaping criminals savagely ambushed dozens of pursuing police units.

When it was all over, the toll from the Norco Shootout was staggering: three dead, including Deputy James Evans; eight police officers, five civilians and three bank robbers wounded; one sheriff's helicopter shot down; and 32 police vehicles destroyed or disabled by gunfire and homemade fragmentation grenades.

Norco '80 provides a thrilling and factual account of the event and a vivid portrayal of the law enforcement personnel involved, as well as the impact Norco had on their lives in its aftermath. Norco is a reminder of the courage peace officers consistently exhibit, the extreme dangers they face, and sacrifices they suffer in the line of duty.

“Norco '80 somehow makes meticulous research and devotion to the truth fuse with suspense and excitement until the reader is right there, a witness to this guns-blazing account of a crime that changed American law enforcement's readiness for violence in the extreme.”

- **Joseph Wambaugh, Best-selling author of *The Onion Field***