

# Trial By Fire The 1972 Easter Offensive Americas Last Vietnam Battle

The Eleven Days of ChristmasThe Eleven Days of ChristmasArmies of SandThe Dictator's ArmyAmerica's Last Vietnam BattleThe Battle of An LocLaunch the IntrudersVietnam Battle ChronologyThe Last BattleAmerica's First Battles, 1776-1965Soldier of FortuneHell On A Hill TopEncyclopedia of the Vietnam WarARVNAbandoning VietnamCURRENT CONTENTSThe United States at WarThe Journal of Military HistoryThe LeatherneckChoice Marshall L. Michel (III) Marshall Michel Kenneth Michael Pollack Caitlin Talmadge Dale Andradé James H. Willbanks Carol Reardon David Burns Sigler Ralph Wetterhahn Charles E. Heller Benjamin L. Harrison Stanley I. Kutler Robert Kendall Brigham James H. Willbanks John C. Super

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by december 1972 the paris peace talks to end the vietnam war had fallen apart with congress preparing to cut off all funding for the war president richard nixon had to act quickly to pressure the north vietnamese into signing a peace agreement he ordered the massive bombing of hanoi for the first time by america s big stick the strategic air command s b 52s but instead of being overwhelmed the north vietnamese sam missile crews initially shattered the b 52 force for eleven days the air battle swung back and forth moving from what appeared to be a certain u s victory to what appeared to be a north vietnamese victory to the ultimate ambiguous denouement marshall michel has used hundreds of formerly classified documents from both american and vietnamese archives and interviews with dozens of americans and vietnamese who participated at all levels to tell for the first time the dramatic story of this critical battle in the war moving from the white house to the b 52 cockpits to the missile sites and pow camps of hanoi the eleven days of christmas is a gripping tale of heroism and incompetence in a battle whose political and military

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since the second world war arab armed forces have consistently punched below their weight they have lost many wars that by all rights they should have won and in their best performances only ever achieved quite modest accomplishments over time soldiers scholars and military experts have offered various explanations for this pattern reliance on soviet military methods the poor civil military relations of the arab world the underdevelopment of the arab states and patterns of behavior derived from the wider arab culture have all been suggested as the ultimate source of arab military difficulties armies of sand kenneth m pollack s powerful and riveting history of arab armies from the end of world war two to the present assesses these differing explanations and isolates the most important causes over the course of the book he examines the combat performance of fifteen arab armies and air forces in virtually every middle eastern war from the jordanians and syrians in 1948 to hizballah in 2006 and the iraqis and isis in 2014 2017 he then compares these experiences to the performance of the argentine chadian chinese cuban north korean and south vietnamese armed forces in their own combat operations during the twentieth century the book ultimately concludes that reliance on soviet doctrine was more of a help than a hindrance to the arabs in contrast politicization and underdevelopment were both important factors limiting arab military effectiveness but patterns of behavior derived from the dominant arab culture was the most important factor of all pollack closes with a discussion of the rapid changes occurring across the arab world political economic and cultural as well as the rapid evolution in war making as a result of the information revolution he suggests that because both arab society and warfare are changing the problems that have bedeviled arab armed forces in the past could dissipate or even vanish in the future with potentially dramatic consequences for the middle east military balance sweeping in its historical coverage and highly accessible this will be the go to reference for anyone interested in the history of warfare in the middle east since 1945

in the dictator s army caitlin talmadge presents a compelling new argument to help us understand why authoritarian militaries sometimes fight very well and sometimes very poorly talmadge s framework for understanding battlefield effectiveness focuses on four key sets of military organizational practices promotion patterns training regimens command arrangements and information management different regimes face different domestic and international threat environments leading their militaries to adopt different policies in these key areas of organizational behavior authoritarian regimes facing significant coup threats are likely to adopt practices that squander the state s military power while regimes

lacking such threats and possessing ambitious foreign policy goals are likely to adopt the effective practices often associated with democracies talmadge shows the importance of threat conditions and military organizational practices for battlefield performance in two paired comparisons of states at war north and south vietnam 1963 1975 and iran and iraq 1980 1988 drawing on extensive documentary sources her analysis demonstrates that threats and practices can vary not only between authoritarian regimes but also within them either over time or across different military units the result is a persuasive explanation of otherwise puzzling behavior by authoritarian militaries the dictator s army offers a vital practical tool for those seeking to assess the likely course costs and outcomes of future conflicts involving nondemocratic adversaries allies or coalition partners

in the spring of 1972 north vietnam launched a massive military offensive designed to deliver the coup de grace to south vietnam and its rapidly disengaging american ally but an overconfident hanoi misjudged its opponents who led by american military advisers and backed by american airpower were able to hold off the north s onslaught in what became the biggest battle of a very long war dale andrade rescues this epic engagement from its previous neglect to tell a riveting tale of heroism against great odds originally published in cloth in 1995 as trial by fire and drawing upon recent vietnamese language sources this new paperback edition will finally allow a true classic on the war to reach the wide readership it deserves

a firsthand account of a desperate battle fought during hanoi s 1972 easter offensive

carol reardon chronicles the operations of attack squadron 75 the sunday punchers and their high risk bombing runs launched off the u s s saratoga during the famous linebacker campaigns based on access to crew members and their families her book blends military and social history to offer a look at the air war in southeast asia

in early 1965 the united states had about 23 000 troops in south vietnam through that date 140 americans had been killed in action 1 138 had been wounded and 11 were listed as missing on march 8 american combat troops battalion landing team 3 ninth marines of the 3d marine division came ashore at 9 02 a m on red beach 2 by june 1 1965 50 000 troops were stationed in the country the escalation had begun this is a chronological listing of over 600 army and marine combat operations from 1965 through 1973 each entry includes the dates name location type of action units involved events individual activities within the area of operations casualties and resulting political or military activity information was derived in part from official documents interspersed chronologically are brief summaries of significant events that affected the conduct of the

war such as major developments ceasefires political observations and troop strength

the final battle of the vietnam war left three forgotten marines on a cambodian beach a fact the pentagon didn t admit for 20 years the last battle recounts their story

this volume a collection of eleven original essays by many of the foremost u s military historians focuses on the transition of the army from parade ground to battleground in each of nine wars the united states has fought through careful analysis of organization training and tactical doctrine each essay seeks to explain the strengths and weaknesses evidenced by the outcome of the first significant engagement or campaign of the war the concluding essay sets out to synthesize the findings and to discover whether or not american first battles manifest a characteristic rhythm america s first battles provides a novel and intellectually challenging view of how america has prepared for war and how operations and tactics have changed over time the thrust of the book the emphasis on operational history is at the forefront of scholarly activity in military history this book is part of the modern war studies series

hell on a hill top for four months in 1970 hell raged on the hill tops of ripcord 805 902 and 1000 all just east of the a shau valley hell on a hill top instead of backing away from the fight the north vietnamese mortar recoilless rifle heavy machine gun sapper and regular infantry attacks increased the last offensive around ripcord was starting to look like the last stand unwilling to keep american soldiers at high risk at this stage of the war ripcord was evacuated on 23 july the battle went unnoticed for 30 years until keith nolan s book ripcord was published as powerful and gripping as was the story of great leadership and courageous fighting by our soldiers the magnitude of the enemy force still remained unknown the author the 3rd brigade commander during the siege and evacuation made trips to vietnam in 2001 and 2004 and interviewed the 324b division commander whose first ever division sole mission was to destroy firebase ripcord the full story is now told

the vietnam war was america s longest conflict outlasting u s participation in the two world wars and the korean war combined this authoritative book separates the facts of the war from the polemics that engulfed them and takes a fascinating look at the people places events and ideas both on the battlefield and the home front of this confusing and contentious period 564 articles 13 maps 210 illustrations

in this first in depth history of the arvn from 1955 to 1975 robert brigham takes readers into the barracks and training centers of the arvn to plumb the hearts and souls of these forgotten soldiers through his command of vietnamese language sources diaries memoirs letters oral

interviews and more he explores the lives of ordinary men focusing on troop morale and motivation within the context of traditional vietnamese society and a regime that made impossible demands upon its soldiers

drawing upon both archival research and his own military experiences in vietnam willbanks focuses on military operations from 1969 through 1975 he begins by analyzing the events that led to a change in u s strategy in 1969 and the subsequent initiation of vietnamization he then critiques the implementation of that policy and the combat performance of the south vietnamese army arvn which finally collapsed in 1975

this two volume set offers compact surveys of the most important military conflicts in which the united states has been involved from the revolutionary war through the iraq war of 2003

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