

*LESSONS*

*OF*

*HISTORY*



The Battle of Kontum

**A presentation on the  
Vietnam War based on Jack Heslin's  
Website the 1972 Battle of Kontum**

**LESSONS LEARNED**

**August 15 3:00 pm**

**WHY DO  
WE STUDY  
HISTORY?**

**THE STUDY OF HUMAN CONFLICT  
AND THE OFTEN VIOLENT  
COMPETITION OF IDEAS / *IDEOLOGY***

## **PURPOSE**

**My purpose today is to provide an overview of my Battle of Kontum website and, using some historical events, illustrate a conceptual model that I hope will provide insights and understandings of those events. I hope through these insights and understandings we will be able to identify patterns which may provide lessons learned that can be used today and into the future.**

# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **THE VIETNAM WAR - LESSONS LEARNED**

**BACKGROUND**

**BATTLE OF KONTUM WEBSITE -**

**CONCEPTUAL MODEL – (AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO CONFLICT)**

**AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – (SETTING THE STAGE)**

**THE ARC OF THE VIETNAM WAR –**

**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND THE BATTLE OF KONTUM -**

**THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**

**“If the free nations want a certain kind of world, they will have to fight for it, with courage, money, diplomacy -- and legions.”**

**“A nation that does not prepare for all forms of war should then renounce the use of war in national policy. A people that does not prepare to fight should then be morally prepared to surrender.”**

T. R. Fehrenbach, This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1964.

**BACKGROUND**





# THE VIETNAM WAR

# THUNDER

STORIES FROM THE FIRST TOUR



JACK HESLIN

## FIRST TOUR

Oct 1967 – Oct 1968



**Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.**



# Tet Offensive 1968

January 30 – March 28, 1968

**“FALSE NARRATIVE”**



# SECOND TOUR

Dec 1971 – Dec 1972

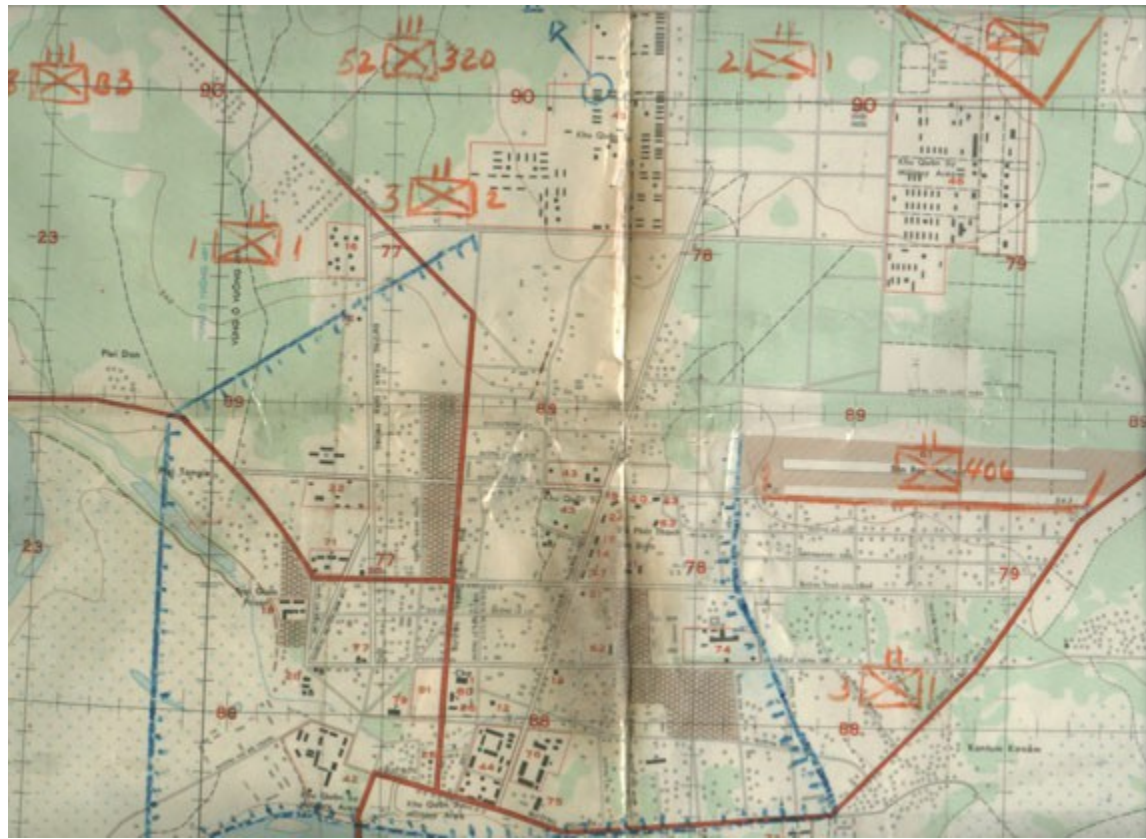
*The Easter Offensive of 1972*

**“The Battle of Kontum”**



**Bell OH-58 Kiowa**

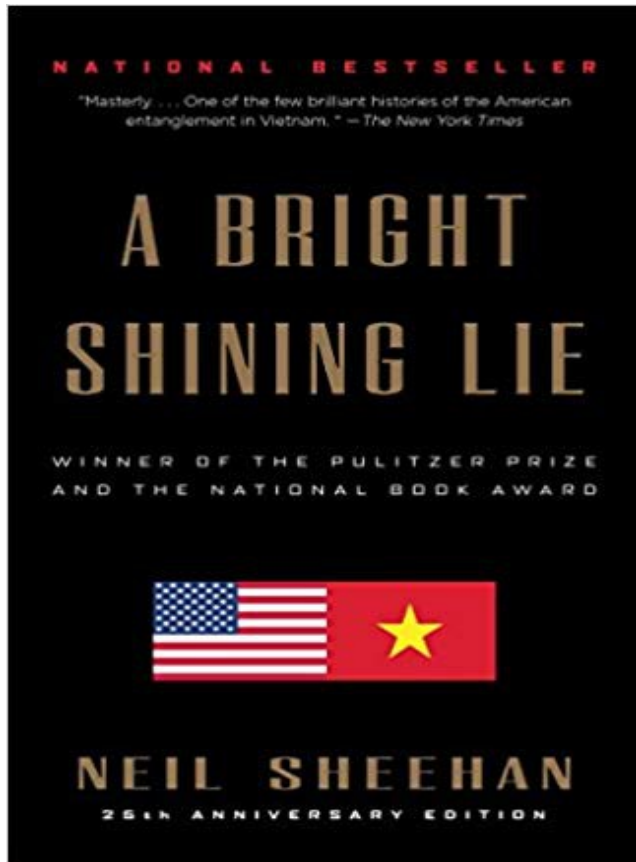




**The "Air Boss" mission was to provide control and coordination of all the aviation assets in the battle area. This map was the one I used and reflects the enemy positions and friendly lines on May 28th, 1972.**







**Oct 1972 - Captain Heslin: “You know, this was, in my opinion, a fantastic allied effort. It was absolute interdependence. We could have never done this without the ARVN, and the ARVN couldn't have done it without us. We needed the ARVN, as maneuver and they needed us for the fire power. But together we could do it. .... I think that this battle we saw here in 72, was the battle that was intended in 1965.**

**In 1965 when the first hard core NVA units started moving in through Plei Me and the first CAV, met NVA regulars for the first time. US units against NVA, we picked up the ball, I know ARVN would never have been able to hold them, in my opinion, and we held them until they faced the match in 72. I think they have proven themselves.”**







## The Battle of Kontum

### Notes on The Battle of Kontum 1972

CPT John G. Heekin

"The SCRIBE"

15 June

#### 1. General situation:

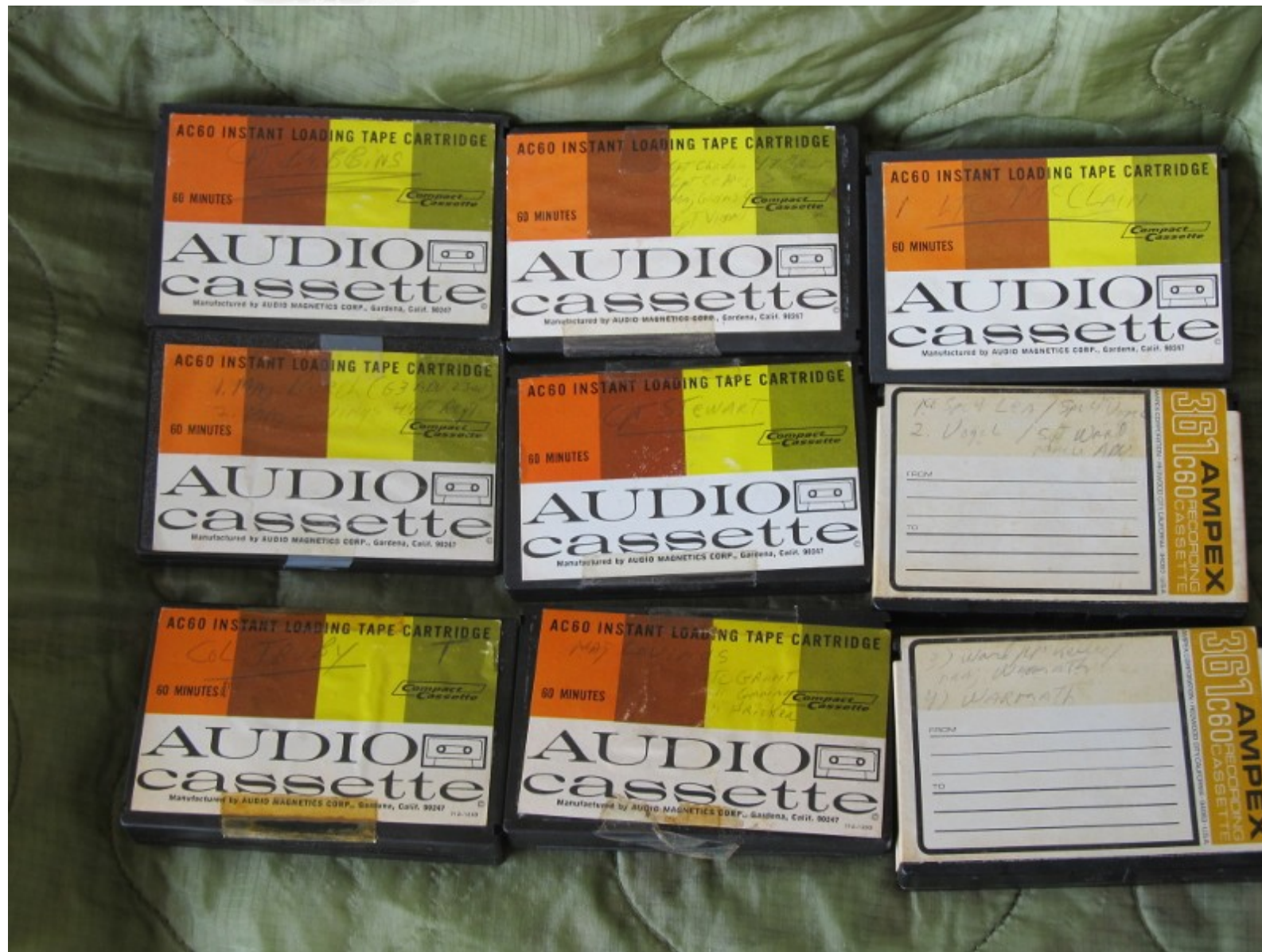
A. The entire MK was relatively quiet today. Only one contact was reported in KTM when elements of the 23rd Div made contact with a enemy force 4 KM NW of the city. Yesterday's optimism for the latest plan to open the KTM pass quickly turned sour as it became evident that little or no progress was going to be made today. Our own troops worked north of KTM and NW of PKU city. The most significant happening today was the crash of a C-130 Pacific Convair 580 about 35 KM Southeast of PKU.

B. The enemy only fired a few rounds at KTM city today. No serious damage was reported. Friendly units continued patrolling action on the northern side of the city out to a distance of about 5-6 KM. The 4/44th made contact with an unknown size enemy force NW of the city. VNAF Tac Air was called in and arty was fired at the enemy positions. The contact continued through out the afternoon. It appeared as if the enemy may be leaving forces in contact to prevent ARVN from putting pressure on his withdrawing elements. Last night 18 C-130's landed and off loaded without incident. The





## The Battle of Kontum



# 150 DEAD, 500 LOST IN S. DAKOTA FLOODS

## PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
FOR THE U.S. ARMED FORCES OF THE PACIFIC COMMAND

Vol. 28, No. 163

Monday, June 12, 1972

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities listed 150 persons known dead and 500 missing Saturday after heavy rains in the Black Hills sent flash floods tearing through Rapid City and surrounding areas during the night.

Walls of water, described at times as three to four feet high, battered houses and swept away cars, mobile homes and some bridges. The devastation was compounded by landslides and explosions and fires triggered by ruptured gas lines.

Bodies of the victims were reported found in trees, cars and along the edges of ditches as the waters began to subside and a fog set in over the region.

Sheriff Glenn Best told a special meeting of the Pennington County commissioners Saturday that he believes only a third of the dead have been found. He made the comment when the death toll stood at 119.

In Washington, President Nixon declared the Black Hills region of western South Dakota a disaster area, and the President was deeply distressed by the loss of life.

Sen. Gen. Duane L. Corning, state adjutant general, estimated after an inspection of the area that damages from the disaster would run between \$80 million and \$120 million. Hundreds of residents of this city of 47,000 were left temporarily homeless.

Mayor Don Barnett of Rapid City requested military policemen to patrol the area after reports of looting at a west side shopping center during the day.

Police Chief Ronald Messer said he could use 1,500 military policemen to aid his department.

Gov. Richard Kneip, who arrived Saturday, said rescuers "were picking up bodies all across the southwestern part of the city."

Corning also said there was general flooding in the northern Black Hills area of Lead, Deadwood and Sturgis.



UPI

FLOOD SURVIVOR WANDERS PAST A PILE OF AUTOS WRECKED BY FLASH FLOOD IN RAPID CITY, S.D.



C130 - Kontum Airfield - 1972





**Jane Fonda in Hanoi July 1972**



# Treason is the only crime defined in the Constitution.

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**Treason is:**

- 1. Levying war against the United States or**
- 2. Giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States.**

A person can only commit treason in times of war, and it is punishable by the death penalty.

Other related acts, such as sabotage or espionage, can be committed in peacetime.

John Brown, who was hanged as a traitor to Virginia because of his raid on Harper's Ferry, is the only person ever to be executed for treason against a State.

# **The *Fall* of *Saigon***

**30 April *1975***

**THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF A FREE AND  
INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN COUNTRY  
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM**



**The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, passed on May 23, 1975, under President Gerald Ford, was a response to the Fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War.** Under this act, approximately 130,000 refugees from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were allowed to enter the United States under a special status, and the act allotted for special relocation aid and financial assistance.





### **Operation Frequent Wind**

**The Indochina refugee crisis was the large outflow of people from the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, after communist governments were established in 1975. Over the next 25 years and out of a total Indochinese population in 1975 of 56 million, more than 3 million people would undertake the dangerous journey to become refugees in other countries.**

**According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 250,000 Vietnamese refugees had perished at sea by July 1986. More than 2.5 million Indochinese were resettled, mostly in North America, Australia, and Europe.**

# WHAT COULD WE DO?



**WHAT HAPPENED !**

**HOW DID IT HAPPEN !**

**WHY DID IT HAPPEN !**

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# NAVAL WAR COLLEGE NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND

1977 - 1978





# **“COMBAT POWER: AN ONTOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

**In the spring of 1978, as a US Army Major attending the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, I researched and wrote the paper "Combat Power: An Ontological Approach."**

# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **VIETNAM LESSONS LEARNED**

**BATTLE OF KONTUM WEBSITE -**

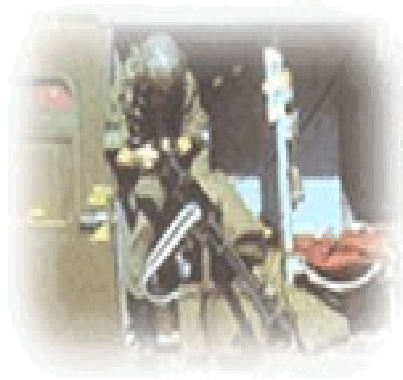
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**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND THE BATTLE OF KONTUM -**

**THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**



The Battle of Kontum

# ***The Easter Offensive of 1972***

## **“The Battle of Kontum”**

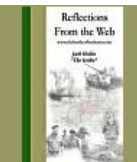
### **WEBSITE MARCH 30, 2002**



## The Battle of Kontum

### SOURCES & REFERENCES - a partial list

- **Personal Notes and Experiences**
- **Audio Taped Interviews**
- **Pacific Stars and Stripes Newspapers**
- Lewis Sorley, **"A BETTER WAR: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam"**
- Dale Andrade's book, **"TRIAL BY FIRE: The 1972 Easter Offensive, America's Last Vietnam Battle"**
- Neil Sheehan's book, **"A BRIGHT SHINING LIE: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam"**
- F. P. Serong's monograph, **"The 1972 Easter Offensive,"**  
Southeast Asia Perspective
- Rufus Philips book, **" WHY VIETNAM MATTERS"**
- Philip Jennings's book, **"THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT GUIDE TO THE VIETNAM WAR"**



Reflections  
From the Web

[Sponsors](#)

[Search the  
Battle of Kontum](#)

[Home](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Battle Area](#)

[The Battle Begins](#)

[Battle Summary](#)

[Phase I  
FSB's and Tan Canh](#)

[Phase II  
Border Camps](#)

[Phase III  
Kontum City](#)

[Order of Battle](#)

[Helicopter Losses](#)

[The Hawk's Claw](#)

[ARC Light Strikes](#)

[The Map Room](#)

[Audio Interviews](#)

[Stars & Stripes](#)

[Guestbook](#)

[Memories Book](#)

[Team 33 Reunion](#)

[MACV Team 24  
Reunion](#)

[Discussion Board](#)



## The Battle of Kontum



Camp Holloway  
Pleiku, Vietnam  
Spring 1972

["Blue One"](#) ["Alligator 3"](#)  
["Dragon 3"](#) ["Eagle 3 alpha"](#) ["Sage Street"](#)



FAITH - COURAGE - DUTY

[The Scribe](#)  
Lt. Col. John G. "Jack" Heslin  
(U.S.Army, retired)

Announcing the release  
of ["THUNDER: Stories  
From the First Tour"](#) by  
Jack Heslin, The Scribe.  
A personal account of  
Jack's first tour of duty  
as a helicopter pilot in  
Vietnam, 1967-1968.  
Profits from the book

HOME



"*THUNDER* is extremely well documented and gives kudos to those who deserved them. In this book which covers his first tour, he goes from FNG (if that needs to be translated, you shouldn't be reading *The Aviator*) to platoon commander and company operations officer. The matter of fact way Jack tells his experience makes it easy to follow and for those of us over fifty, the fourteen point type is easy on the eyes.

"For those of you who want to read about what it is like to fly a helicopter in Vietnam, supporting the Special Forces Top Secret SOG mission into Laos and Cambodia, *THUNDER: Stories From the First Tour*, is one of those books you have to read."  
-Marc Liebman, a VHPA Life Member, is a retired Navy Captain and Naval Aviator who flew combat search and rescue missions during the Vietnam War. He is also the author of five published novels with more coming.

*This review by Marc Liebman appears in the VHPA Aviator Magazine  
September/October 2018 issue*

***Lessons of Vietnam Web Broadcast 08-08-2018 "w/ Jack Heslin, Author 'THUNDER - Stories From the First Tour'"***

***"Vietnam veteran Jack Heslin unveils new book and a quest"***  
*Supplement to the Brunswick Beacon, October, 2018*

***"THUNDER: Stories From the First Tour" is available for purchase from  
Barnes & Noble  
AMAZON  
Outskirts Press  
and other fine booksellers.***

***A PDF version of the book is available for instant download from Outskirts Press for \$5.00***

***Profits from this book will be used to support the Battle of Kontum web site.***



Monday, April 3, 1972

## **30,000 'INVADERS' HURL BACK S. VIETS**

**SAIGON** (AP and UPI) --South Vietnam's northern quarter erupted Saturday into the bloodiest battlefield since the 1968 Tet offensive, and the commander of government forces said more than 30,000 North Vietnamese troops had invaded Quang Tri Province.

The South Vietnamese, calling it an "invasion" from North Vietnam, reeled back 10 miles from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) frontier between the two countries. They set up a makeshift defense line along the Cua Viet River, also known as the Dong Ha.

By nightfall Saturday, the South Vietnamese had abandoned 10 outposts of the DMZ defense line as well as the town of Cam Lo (population 50,000). Streams of refugees had been walking the dusty roads south from Cam Lo since the Communist artillery barrage began Thursday.



Reflections  
From the Web

Sponsors

Search the  
Battle of Kontum

Home

Introduction

Battle Area

The Battle Begins

Battle Summary

Phase I  
FSB's and Tan Canh

Phase II  
Border Camps

Phase III  
Kontum City

Helicopter Losses

The Hawk's Claw

The Map Room

Stars & Stripes

Guestbook

Memories Book

Discussion Board

Kontum Images

Unit Rosters

Vietnam Revisited

Sources &



## The Battle of Kontum

## LINKS

["Lessons of Vietnam" by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, ca. May 12, 1975](#)

["Iraq: Learning the Lessons of Vietnam" by Melvin R. Laird](#)

[MACV Command History 1972-1973 Annex K Kontum - The NVA Buildup](#)

[Vietnam War Bibliography](#)

[The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University](#)

[VietnamWar.net](#)

[European and Pacific Stars & Stripes](#)

[1st Battalion 69th Armor](#)

[Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association](#)

[North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association](#)

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[Captain Kenneth Yonan](#)

[The Long Way Home Project](#)

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## The Battle of Kontum

### SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER LESSONS OF VIETNAM - MAY 12, 1975

A draft of a memo from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to President Gerald Ford containing the Secretary's thoughts on the "Lessons of Vietnam." The memo, which was never signed or sent, was intended to provide background information to the President which would be useful in dealing with the press.

MEMORANDUM 3173-X 1c

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Lessons of Vietnam

At your request, I have prepared some thoughts on the "lessons of Vietnam" for your consideration and for your background information in dealing with further press questions on the subject.

It is remarkable, considering how long the war lasted and how intensely it was reported and commented, that there are really not very many lessons from our experience in Vietnam that can be usefully applied elsewhere despite the obvious temptation to try. Vietnam represented a unique situation, geographically, ethnically, politically, militarily and diplomatically. We should probably be grateful for that and should recognize it for what it is, instead of trying to apply the "lessons of Vietnam" as universally as we once tried to apply the "lessons of Munich".

The real frustration of Vietnam, in terms of commentary and evaluation, may be that the war had almost no end.

[RVN Listing of Locations - Bill Kindred](#)

[Mesothelioma Group](#)

[Lung Cancer Alliance](#)

[99 Crucial Sites On 20th Century American Military History](#)

[Pushing On: Gen. Ly Tong Ba Remembers the Fall of Saigon](#)

[John Paul Vann: American Hero](#)

[North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.](#)

[Vietnam War Websources](#)

[Lessons of Vietnam Web Broadcast 02-22-2017 "1972 - The Battle of Kontum w/ LTC Jack Heslin"](#)

[Vietnam Veterans for Factual History](#)

[Video - World in Action: The Siege of Kontum](#)

[Vietnam Helicopter History - Second Regional Assistance Command - TOW Firings](#)

[North Vietnamese Tanks and AFV Destroyed by NUH-1B Helicopters with XM26/Airborne TOW](#)

[Johnny Mack Jones](#)

[UH-1H Iroquois "Huey" Helicopter](#)

[Lessons of Vietnam Web Broadcast 08-08-2018 "w/ Jack Heslin, Author 'THUNDER - Stories From the First Tour'"](#)

[Video - The Battle of Kontum - Presentation by Jack Heslin at VHPA Reunion 2006](#)

[The Hero of the Battle of Kontum Refutes Neil Sheehan](#)

[John G. \(Jack\) Heslin Collection \(3008\) Finding Aid - The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University](#)

[Kontum: Battle for the Central Highlands - Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#)



## General Resources

- **Vietnam Center & Archive** (Texas Tech) • Search
  - Resources • **Map Search** • Map Index • Collections
- **Combat Arms Research Library** (lessons learned)
  - More
- **National Archives: Vietnam War Topics**
- **DoD Dictionary of Military Terms**
  - 2005 Edition (more detailed)

## History of Vietnam

- **Vietnam Before 1959** (graphic)

## Vietnam War Portals

- **Vietnam War** \*\*\*\* • 1959-1963
  - Competing Strategies
  - **Digital History** \*\*\*\*
  - **Olive-Drab** \*\*\*\*
    - History.com (multimedia portal)
    - Vietnam War Commemoration
  - **Global Security** \*\*\*\* • Legacy (c 2009)
    - First Indochina War
    - Second Indochina War
  - **Companion to US Mil History** \*\*\*\*
    - Causes of the War
    - Military & Diplomatic Course of War
    - Domestic Course of the War
    - Post-War Impact
    - Changing Interpretations of the War
- **Grunt-Redux**: weapons, tactics (was GruntOnline)
- **Tactics** • Organization (scroll down to *Orders of Battle*)
- Fire Support Coordination
- Background to the Vietnam War
- **US Army in Vietnam 1950-1967**
- Weapons & Equipment
- **American Heritage** (articles)
- Battlefield Vietnam (PBS overview & portal)
- **Vietnam War '54-'64** (SMU) • '65-'68 • '69-'73
  - Election of 1968
- **HistoryNet** (Vietnam Magazine) • Articles

## Map Resources

- **RVN Corps/Provinces Map** \*\*\*\*
- **Vietnam Maps** \*\*\*\* (UTexas: operational & city maps)
  - Vietnam: Danang north (ONC: 1:1M)
  - Vietnam: Danang south (ONC: 1:1M)
  - Vietnam: Danang north (TPC: 1:500K)
  - Vietnam: Danang-Nha Trang (TPC: 1:500K) • Coastal
  - Vietnam: Nha Trang south (TPC: 1:500K) • Coastal
  - **Southeast Asia** (JOG Index, 1:250K) • Clickable Index
    - DMZ to Vinh Loc • Danang to Quang Ngai
  - **Vietnam Cities** (NARA, 1:12.5K)
  - **Hue Area Map** (detailed: 1:12,500) • Key
- **Vietnam Tactical Maps (1:50K) • Index**  
(Vietnam Center & Archive, TTU)  
(Use Arabic vice Roman numerals for map sheets)
  - Example: Hue - Use 6541-4 vice 6541-IV (actual sheet number)
- Lat/Long <=> UTM Converter • Alt
- Convert D-M-S to Decimal
- **Reading 1:50K Map Coordinates** • Alt
- **Ray's Map Room** \*\*\*\* (1:50K topos of major actions)
  - Pleiku-Kontum-Dak To
  - Saigon-Cu Chi-Lai Khe
  - QL19 - Qui Nhon-Pleiku
  - Street Without Joy (Northern I Corps) • Map only
- Southeast Asia: Topography
- Geography of Vietnam
- **Laos Map** (CIA, expandable)
  - NVA Base Areas, Southern Laos (map)
- **West Point Vietnam War Maps** • Alt
- Historical Geography of Vietnam
- Spelling Vietnamese Geographical Names
- **Interactive Maps** (PBS)
- French Indochina (NMUSAF)
- Vietnam 1954-1975 (NMUSAF)
- Major US Units in Vietnam (c 1969-70) • **N I Corps**
- **SEA Maps (1:250K)** (Jim Henthorn)
  - South Vietnam • North Vietnam

## Forward Air Controllers

- **Forward Air Controllers in SEA**
- **Forward Air Control in Sea** (NMUSAF portal) • Alt
  - In-Country FACs
  - FAC Aircraft • More • Alt • **Details** (internal)
  - **Video** (Wings Over Vn) • Video (History Channel)
- **Forward Air Controller Heritage** (USFA AOG)
- A Brief History of Forward Air Controlling
  - Vietnam • Army Light Aviation in WW II (FAC history)
- **History of Airborne FACs in SEA** (ACGS, 2004)
- FAC Ops in CAS Role (CHECO 69)
- FAC Ops in SEA 1961-65 (AFHSO 72)
- FAC Ops in SEA 1965-70 (AFHSO 75)
- FAC History (Fast FAC Evolution)
- **Mosquitoes to Wolves** (book) • Alt
- *Da Nang Dairy* (Google book)
- **O-2 Operations in Vietnam** (video)
- FAC Forward Operating Locations (FOL)
- **FAC Procedures in Vietnam** • More
  - Target Marking • VR
- **O-2 in Vietnam** (early tactics, pp 89-92) • cont'd
- Rules of Engagement (ROE)
- **Close Air Support in SEA** (internal link)
- FAC Units in SEA • More
- RAAF FACs in Vietnam • More
- **Forward Air Controllers Association**
  - **FAC History & Individual Vignettes**
  - Related FAC Organizations & Links
  - Book Project
  - FACNET Message Board • Photos (sign-in req'd)
- **505th Tac Cntrl Gp** • Links
- 619th TCS Air Ops Trng Manual
- **504th Tactical Air Support Group**
  - 19th TASS • More
  - 20th TASS • More • More • Photos
    - Trail FACs at Hue, Tet 1968
    - Danang FAC, 67-68
    - Camp Evans FACs (3d Brd, 101 ABN)
  - 21st TASS • More • More
  - 22nd TASS • More • More • More
  - 23rd TASS • More • More • More • More • Song

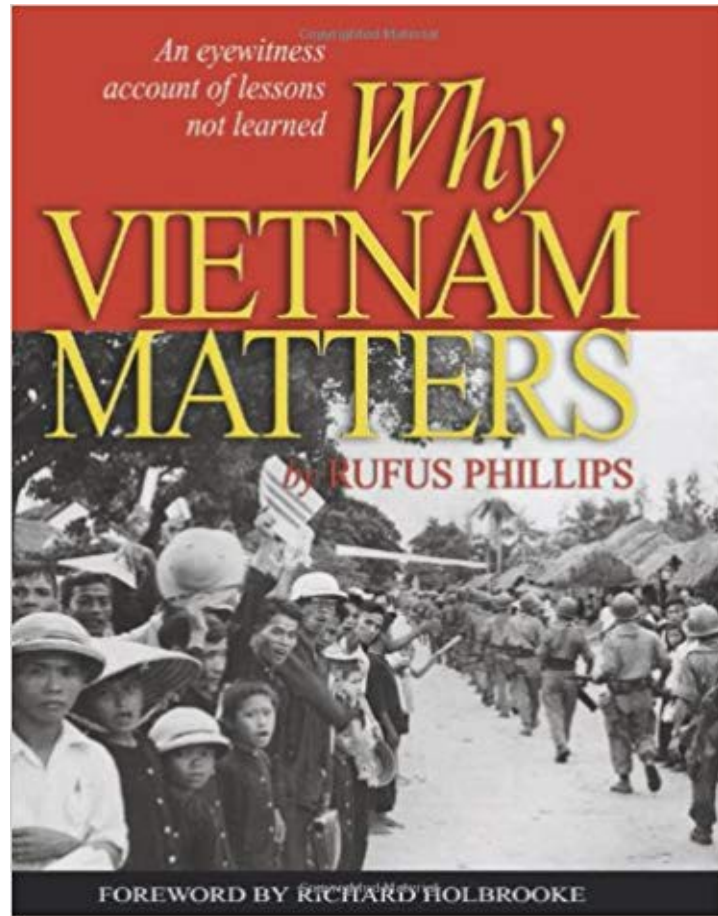


## The Battle of Kontum

### SOURCES & REFERENCES - a partial list

- **Personal Notes and Experiences**
- **Audio Taped Interviews**
- **Pacific Stars and Stripes Newspapers**
- Lewis Sorley, **"A BETTER WAR: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam"**
- Dale Andrade's book, **"TRIAL BY FIRE: The 1972 Easter Offensive, America's Last Vietnam Battle"**
- Neil Sheehan's book, **"A BRIGHT SHINING LIE: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam"**
- F. P. Serong's monograph, **"The 1972 Easter Offensive,"**  
Southeast Asia Perspective
- Rufus Philips book, **"WHY VIETNAM MATTERS"**
- Philip Jennings's book, **"THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT GUIDE TO THE VIETNAM WAR"**





**“Beginning in 1954, Phillips spent almost 10 years doing undercover and pacification work for the CIA and the U.S. Agency for International Development in South Vietnam.”**

**“Phillips states firmly that those best and brightest, especially McNamara, exhibited poor judgment, bureaucratic prejudice, and personal hubris as they steered Vietnam War policy on a disastrous course.”**

**“Phillips gives an extraordinary inside history of the most critical years of American involvement in Vietnam, from 1954 to 1968, and explains why it still matters. Describing what went right and then wrong.”**

**PEOPLE WHO  
INFLUENCED  
ME**







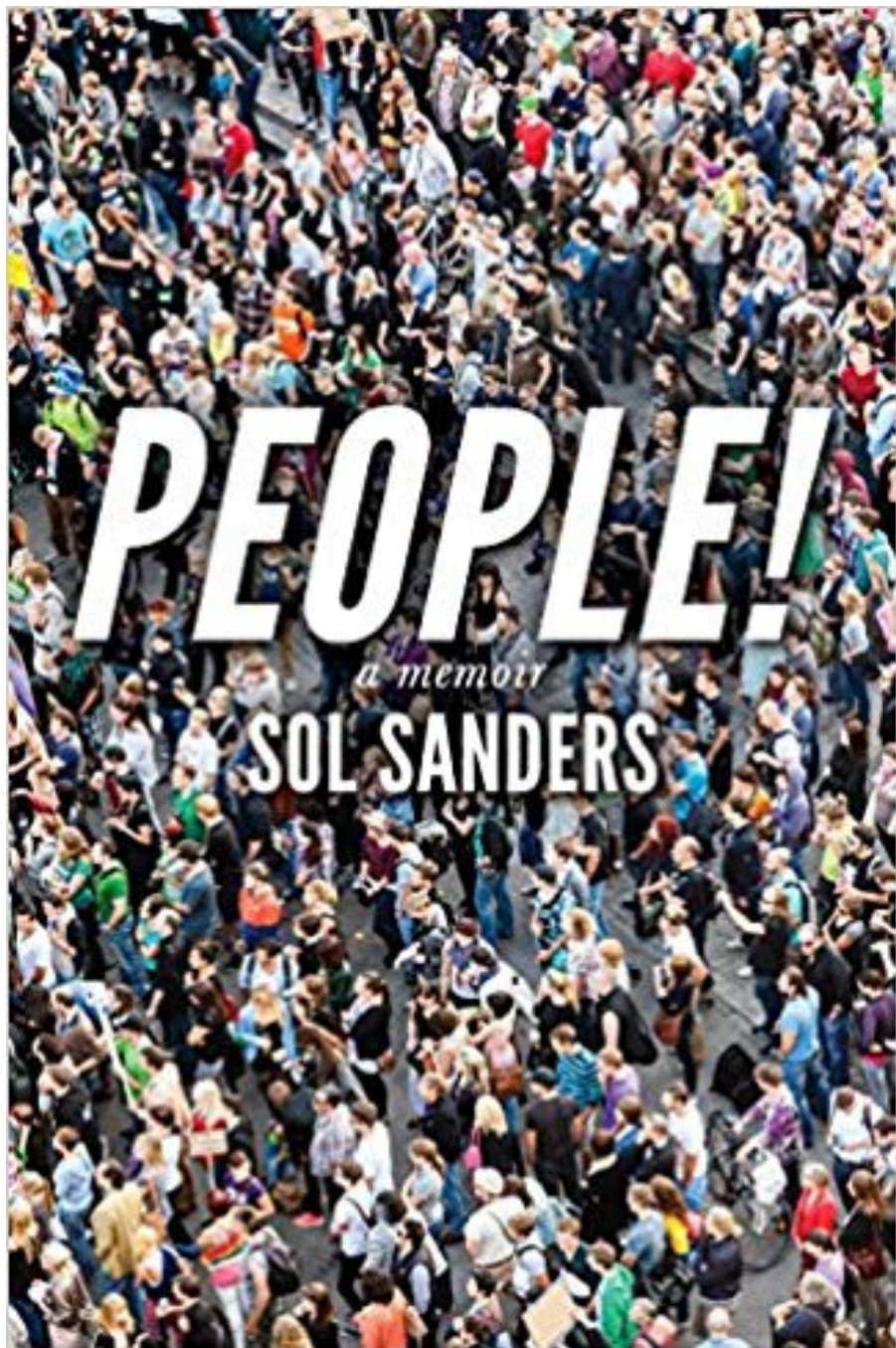
**Margarete Healy - "Gretel"**







**Sol W. Sanders is an American journalist specializing in Asia with more than 25 years in the region. He is a former correspondent for Business Week, U.S. News & World Report and United Press International. He traveled extensively in Mexico during the 1950s and was a correspondent in Vietnam in the 1960s.**



**French General De Lattre 1951**

**Ngo Dinh Diem 1951, 1958**

**General William Westmoreland 1964**







**General Ly Tong Ba – “The Lion of Kontum”**









**To Jack Heslin, one of my dearest American friends from the Vietnam War mainly in the heroic battle of Kontum in 1972 where the 23rd ARVN Division alone supported by the US Air Forces, US Army helicopters and advisors destroyed 3 NVA Communist divisions.**

**Thank you Jack for telling the story of the Battle of Kontum on your web site and for the true remarks about me in your book “Reflections From the Web.”**

Gen Ly Tong Ba

Las Vegas, NV USA - Saturday, September 20, 2008 at  
08:03:37 (PDT) (Died 22 February 2015)



**General Ly Tong Ba died 2/22/2015,  
he was 85 years old.**

# AFTER THE WAR WAS OVER

Hanoi and Saigon

NEIL SHEEHAN

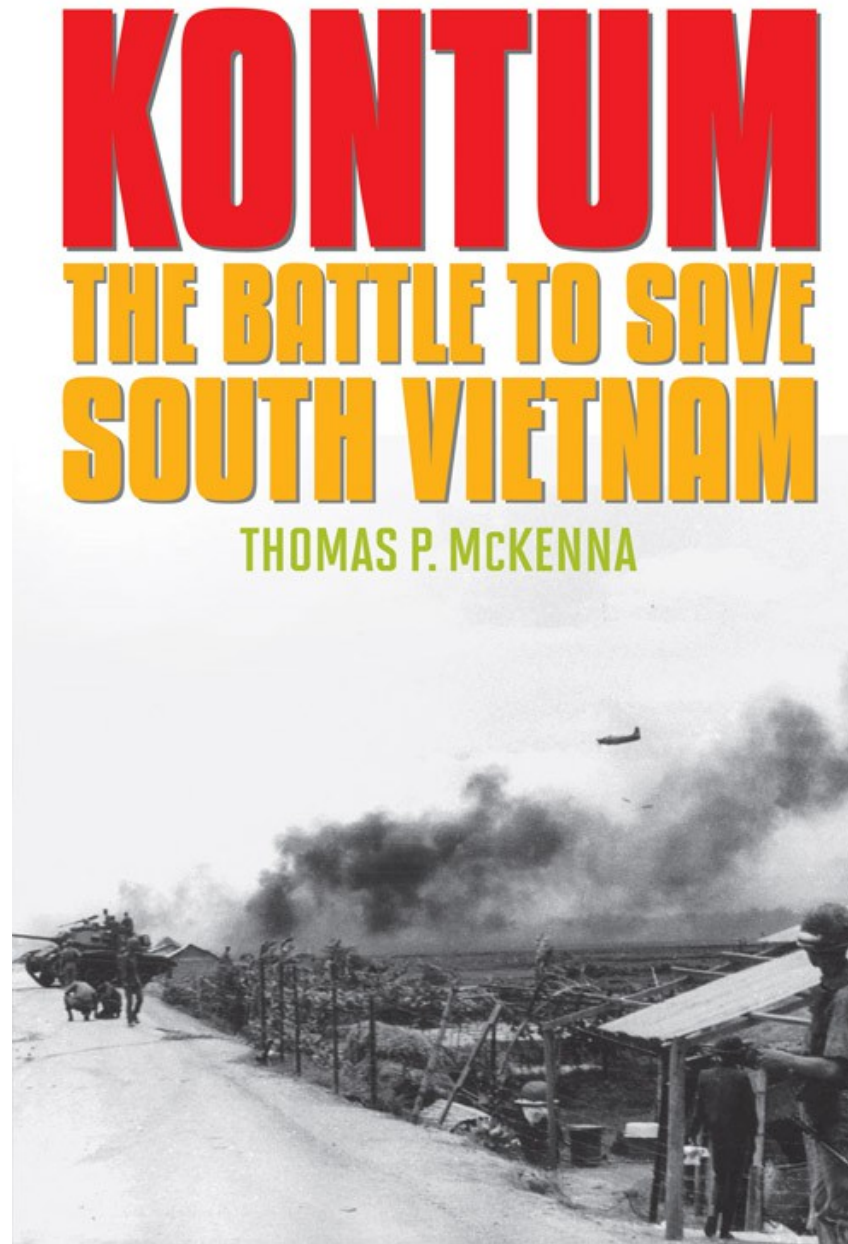
Author of A BRIGHT SHINING LIE



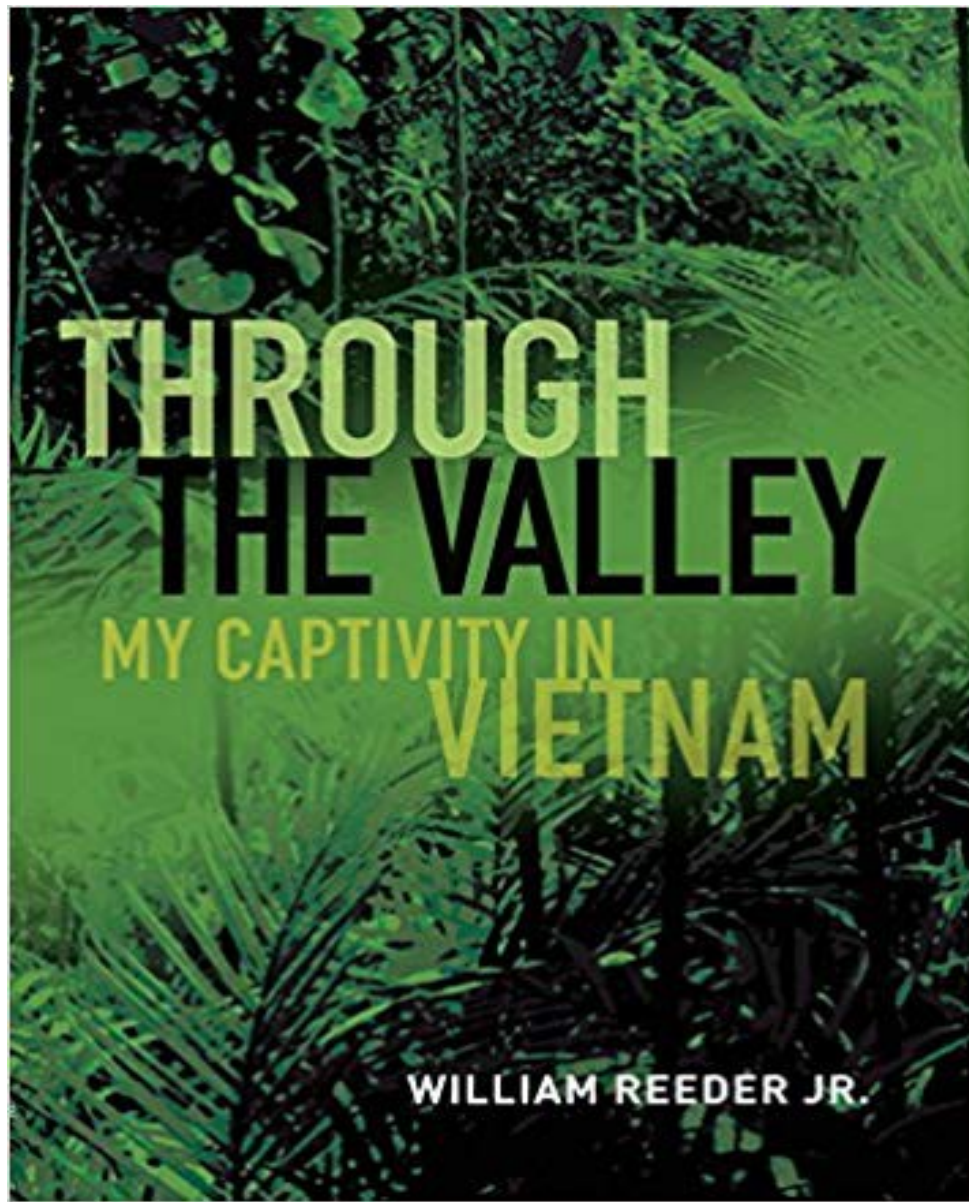
**Thomas P. McKenna**

**Infantry LTC**

**Military Adviser to the  
23rd ARVN DIV**







**“Through the Valley” is the memoir of an American prisoner of war in Vietnam, Bill Reeder. It is the true story of courage, hope, and survival after he was shot down in Vietnam during the Battle of Kontum 1972.**

# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

**CONCEPTUAL MODEL – (AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO CONFLICT)**

**AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE –**

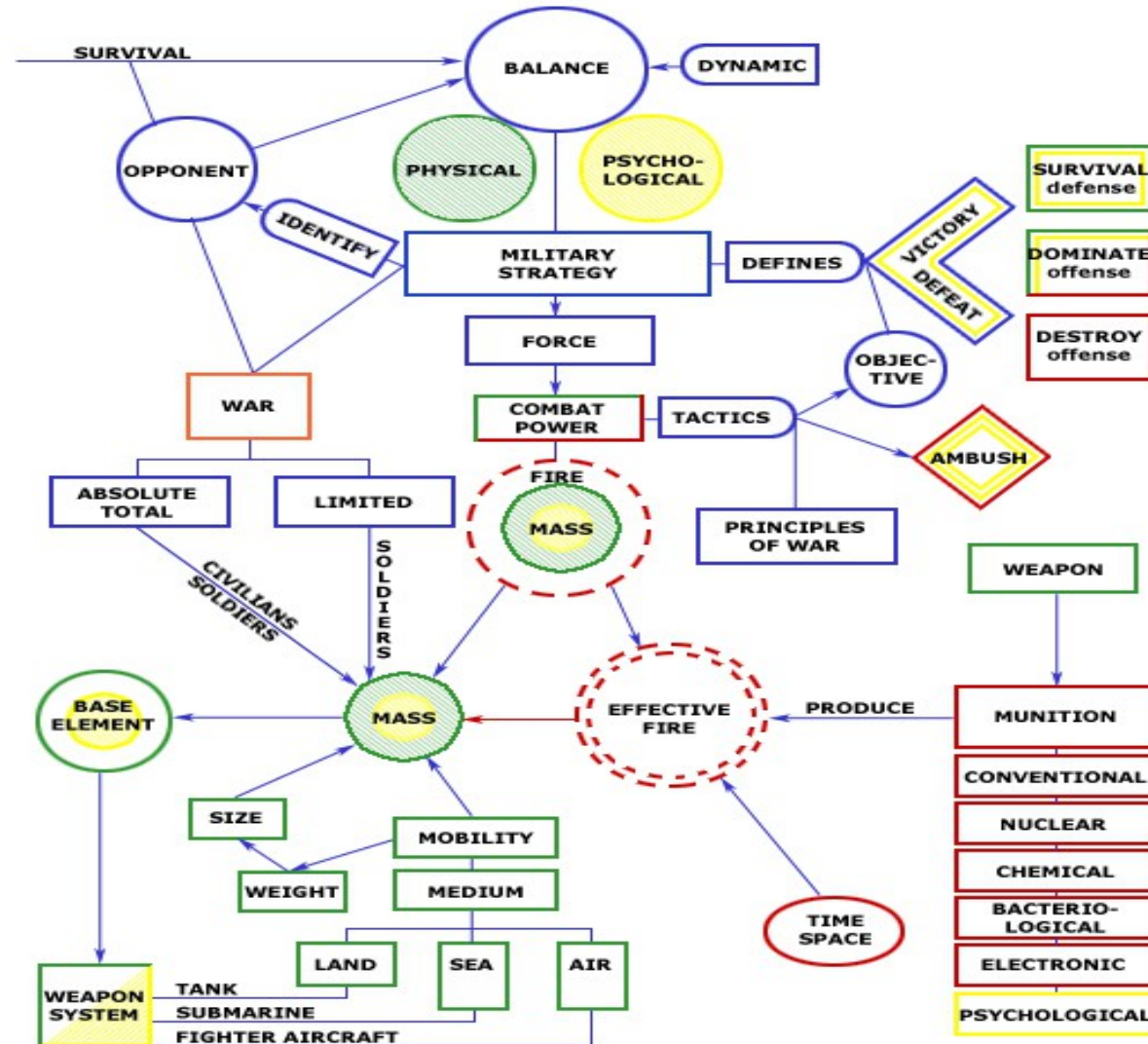
**THE ARC OF THE VIETNAM WAR –**

**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND THE BATTLE OF KONTUM --**

**PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**

# A CONCEPTUAL CONFLICT “TEMPLATE”

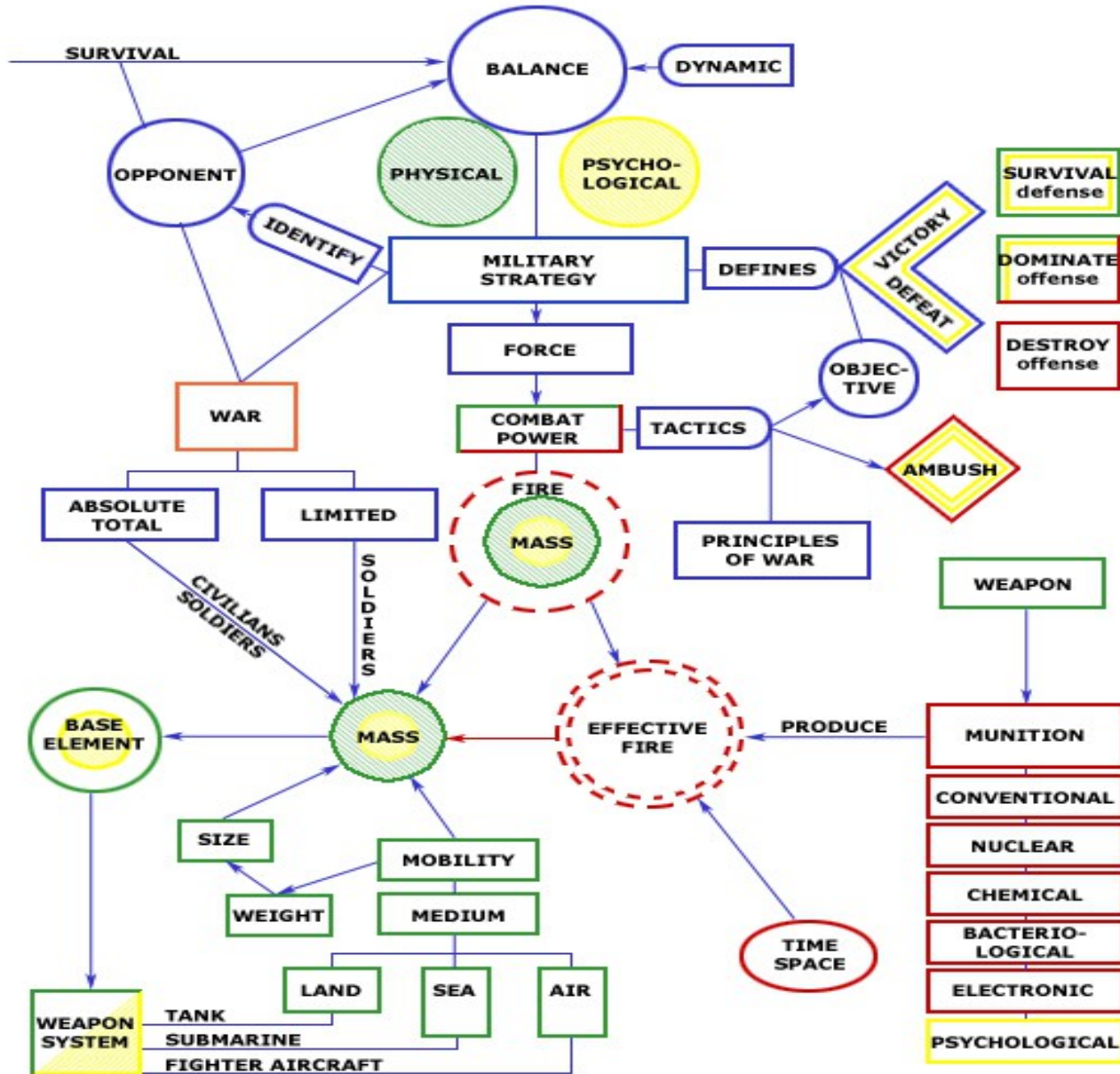
A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



# MILITARY STRATEGY

It is in the formation of military strategy that the interface between the military and civilian leaders takes place. The primary responsibility for the formation of strategy in our democratic society rests squarely with civilian Political leadership. **"In its fuller meaning, strategy is defined as the art of mobilizing and directing the resources of a nation or community of nations--including the armed forces--to safeguard and promote its interests against those of its enemies actual or potential."**

## A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



# POINT OF CONTACT



# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **VIETNAM LESSONS LEARNED**

**AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE –**

**THE ARC OF THE VIETNAM WAR –**

**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND THE BATTLE OF KONTUM -**

**THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**

# **SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE VIETNAM WAR**

# THE FIVE *-ISMS* OF THE 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN / BRITISH  
WESTERN DEMOCRATIC >> GERMAN NAZISM << SOVIET UNION  
CAPITALISM COMMUNISM

>> ITALIAN FACISM

>> JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

[illegible]

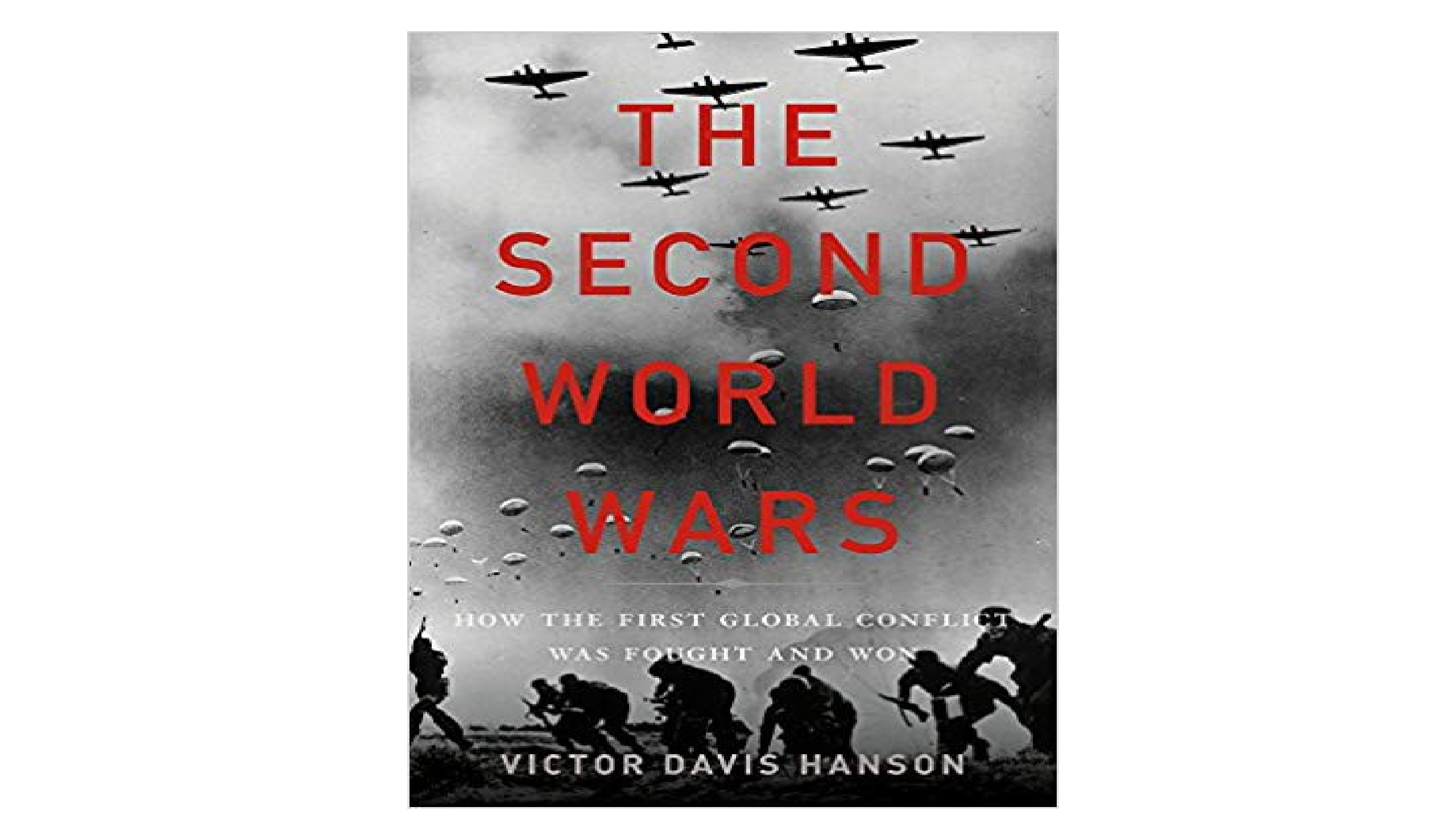
# WWII - JAPAN

[illegible][illegible]

# KOREAN WAR>>>>>

# CUBAN REVOLUTION>>>>

# VIETNAM WAR>>>>>



# THE SECOND WORLD WARS

HOW THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFLICT  
WAS FOUGHT AND WON

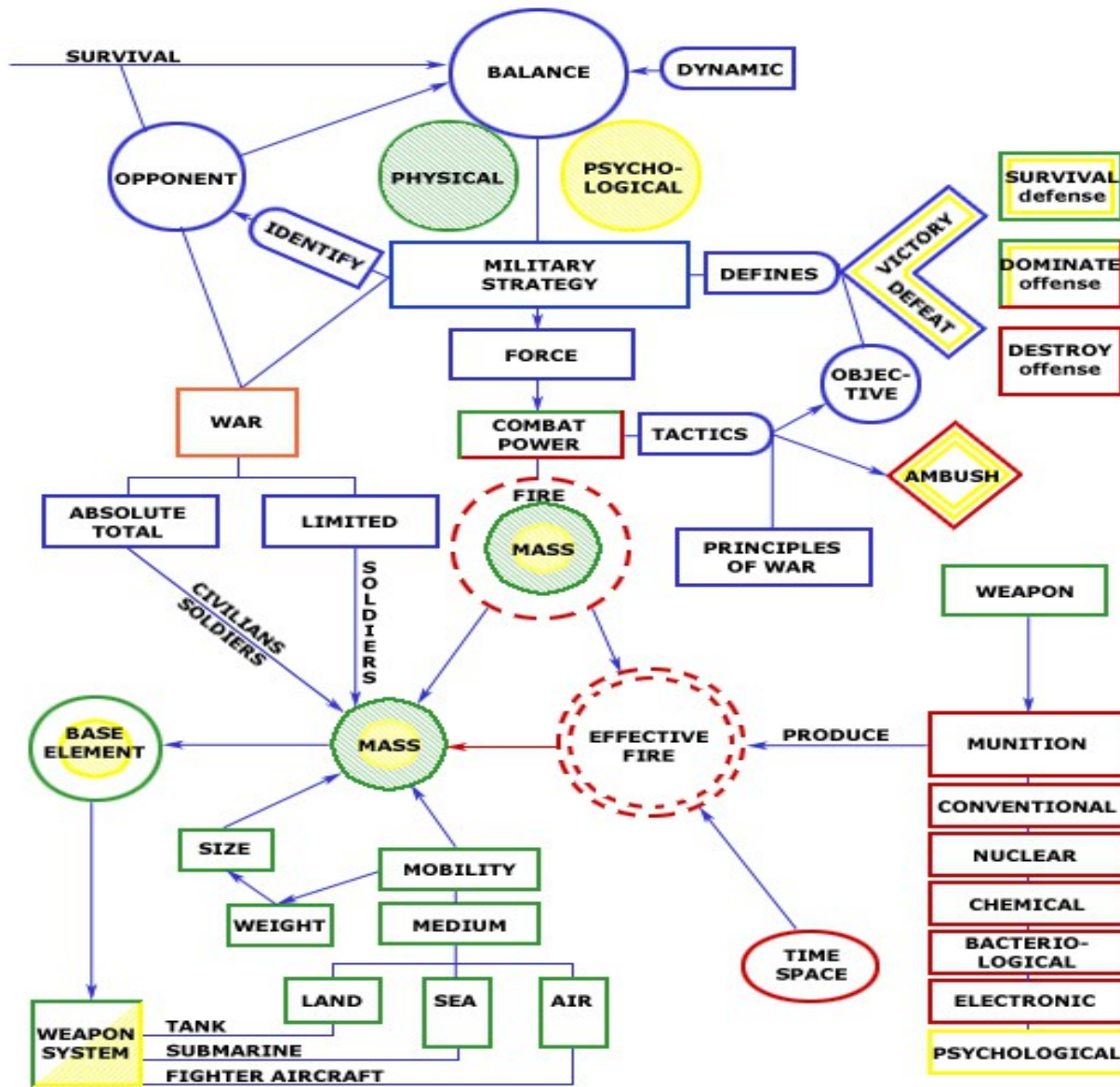
VICTOR DAVIS HANSON





**Japanese imperialism was not simply about increasing the nation's territory. It was also fueled by a strong ideological sense of mission and racial superiority. These ideas were captured in a word widely used at the time but rarely heard today: Pan-Asianism. Advocates of Pan-Asianism in Japan believed that they were expanding their empire in order to liberate Asian territories from Western imperialism.**

# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE

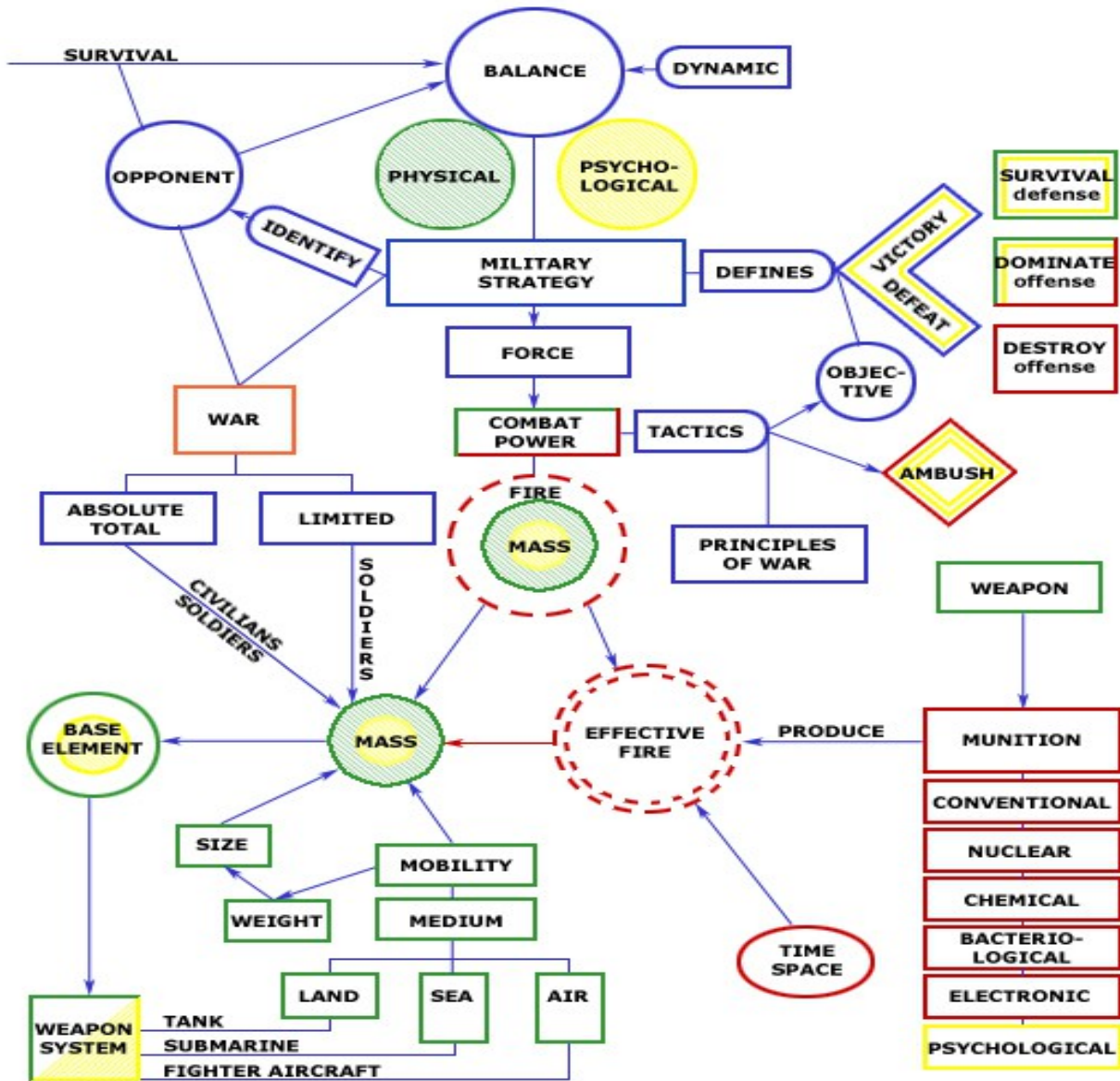


# JAPANESE STRATEGY

# VS

# AMERICA

## A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



In 1939, the United States Army ranked thirty-ninth in the world, possessing a cavalry force of fifty thousand and using horses to pull the artillery.

JAPANESE STRATEGY VS AMERICA

**In November 1941, U.S. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall explained the American air war strategy to the press—it was top secret and not for publication:**

**“We are preparing for an offensive war against Japan, whereas the Japs believe we are preparing only to defend the Philippines. ...We have 35 Flying Fortresses already there—the largest concentration anywhere in the world. Twenty more will be added next month, and 60 more in January....If war with the Japanese does come, we'll fight mercilessly. Flying fortresses will be dispatched immediately to set the paper cities of Japan on fire. There won't be any hesitation about bombing civilians—it will be all-out.”**



# Attack on Pearl Harbor December 7th 1941

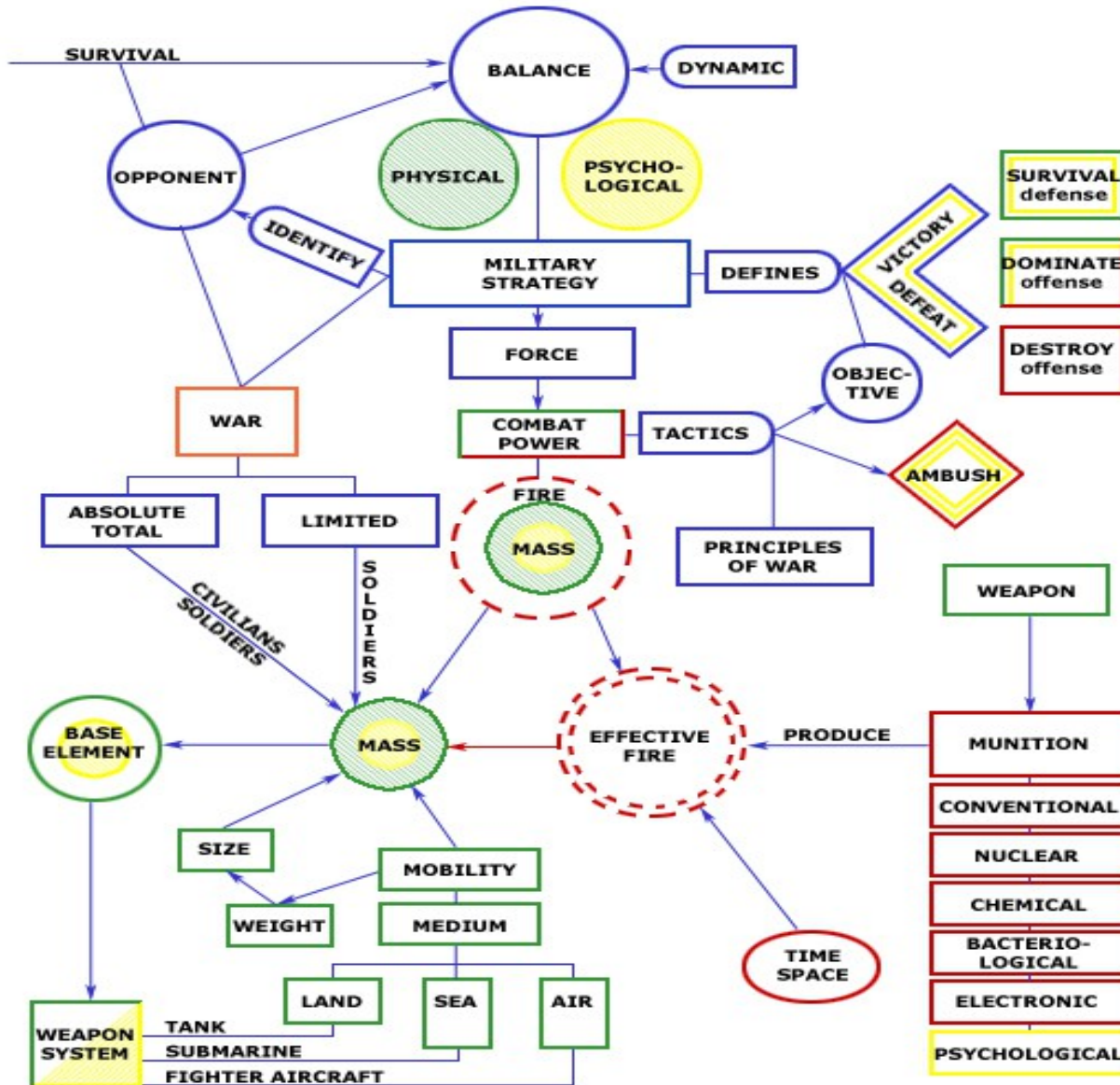


**The total number of military personnel killed was 2,335, including 2,008 navy personnel, 109 marines, and 218 army. Added to this were 68 civilians, making the total 2403 people dead. 1,177 were from the USS Arizona.**



**U.S. naval commanders in the Pacific were ordered by the U.S. Navy Chief of Staff to "execute unrestricted air and submarine warfare against Japan" on the afternoon of 7 December 1941, six hours after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor.**

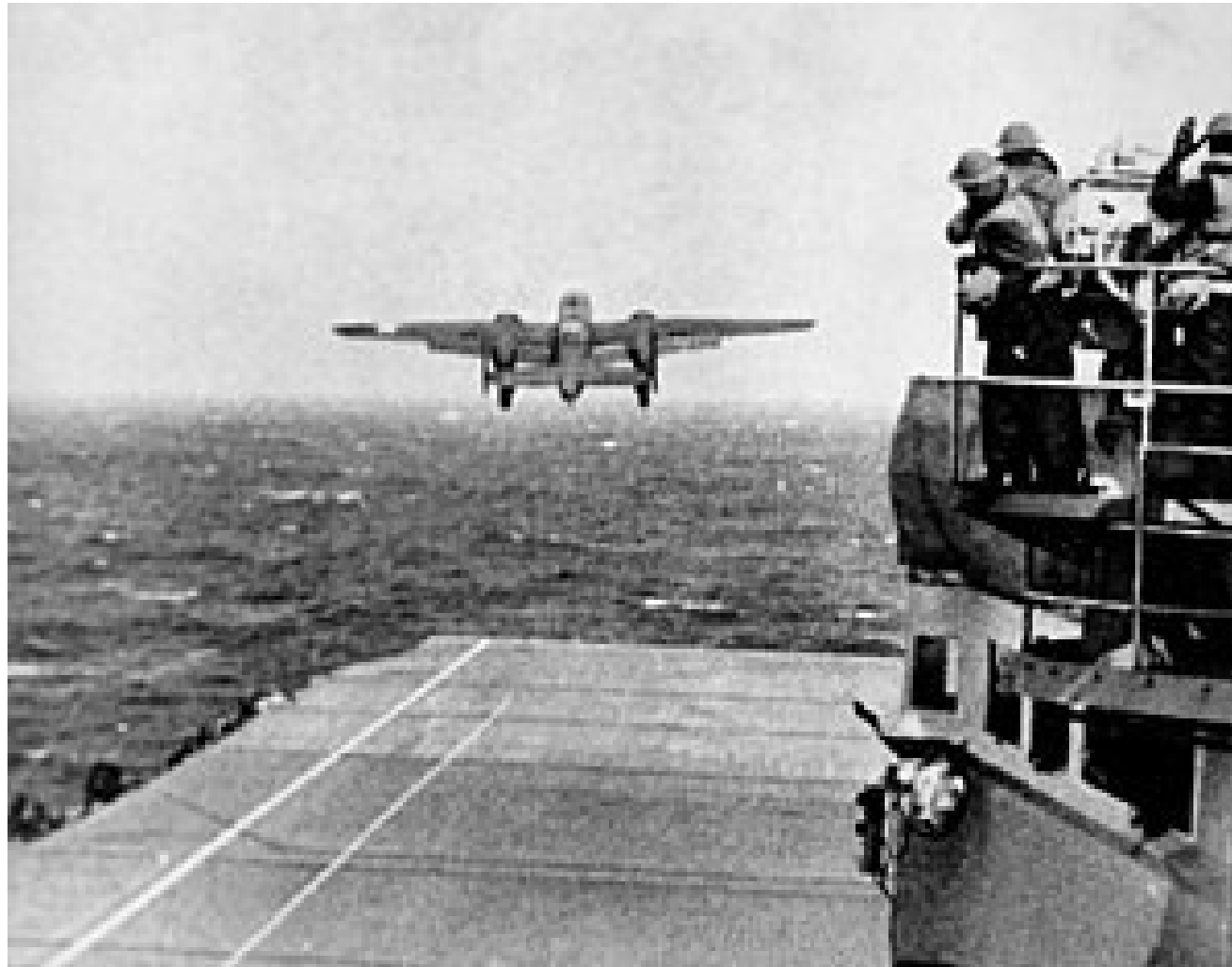
## A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



# AMERICAN STRATEGY

## VS

# JAPAN



**A B-25 taking off from the USS Hornet for the raid on Tokyo 18 April 1942 - The Doolittle Raid**



**How close did the US come to losing the Battle of Midway during WWII? ... Answer: Pretty close**

**The Battle of Midway was a decisive naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II that took place between 4 and 7 June 1942, only six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and one month after the Battle of the Coral Sea.**



**Mitsubishi A6M Zero**



**The Akutan Zero is inspected  
by US military personnel on  
Akutan Island on 11 July 1942**





**Map showing the main areas of the conflict  
and Allied landings in the Pacific, 1942–45**



**Bodies of American soldiers on the beach of Tarawa, fought on 20–23 November 1943. The Marines secured the island after 76 hours of intense fighting. Over 6,000 American and Japanese troops died in the fighting.**

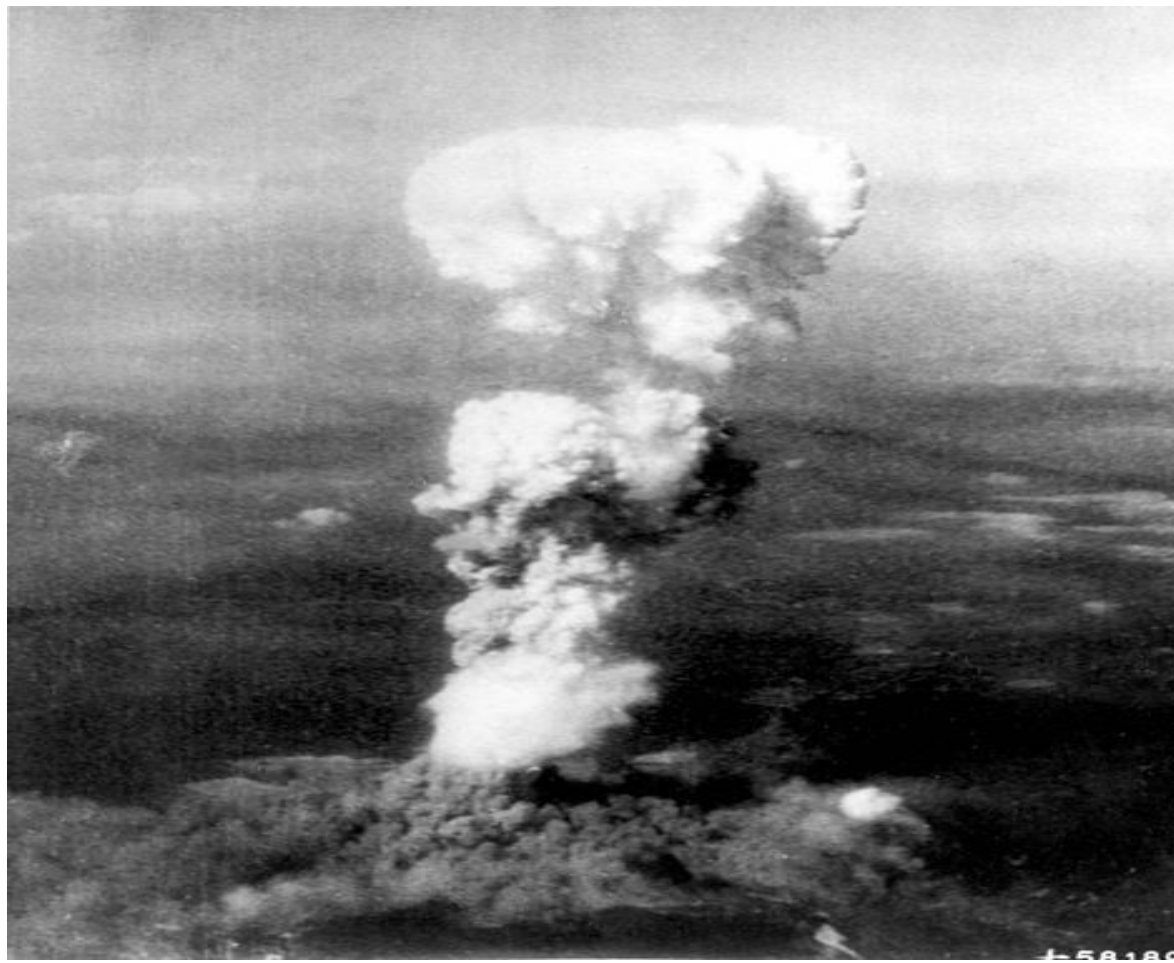


**Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima is an iconic photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945**



## **US ships hit by *kamikaze* pilots**

**The tradition of death instead of defeat, capture and shame was deeply entrenched in Japanese military culture**



**On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima**



**Irving L. Janis**

**Air War and Emotional Stress:**  
**Psychological Studies of Bombing and**  
**Civilian Defense.**

**New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951.**

**In the three years following the Battle of Midway, the Japanese built six aircraft carriers. The U.S. built 17.**

**American industry provided almost two-thirds of all the Allied military equipment produced during the war: 297,000 aircraft, 193,000 artillery pieces, 86,000 tanks and two million army trucks.**

**In four years, American industrial production, already the world's largest, doubled in size.**

[illegible]

# WWII -

[illegible][illegible]

# KOREAN WAR>>>>>

# CUBAN REVOLUTION>>>>

# VIETNAM WAR>>>>>

# THE REMAINING *-ISMS* OF THE 20TH CENTURY

WESTERN DEMOCRATIC  
CAPITALISM >>>>>

<<<<< COMMUNISM

[illegible]

# WWII -

[illegible][illegible]

# KOREAN WAR>>>>>

# CUBAN REVOLUTION>>>>

# VIETNAM WAR>>>>>



# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **VIETNAM LESSONS LEARNED**

**THE ARC OF THE VIETNAM WAR –**

**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND**

**THE BATTLE OF KONTUM –**

**THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**



# THE ARC OF THE VIETNAM WAR

"The war America never lost, but wasn't allowed to win."

—L. Brent Bozell III



# The Politically Incorrect Guide® to THE VIETNAM WAR

From the bestselling P. I. G. series

*You think you know the Vietnam War. But did you know:*

- When we left South Vietnam we had won the war (congressional liberals later ensured that South Vietnam lost)
- Enemy body counts were actually *underreported*
- The United States never carpet-bombed urban areas
- Soviet and Chinese support for North Vietnam was even more extensive than we realized (and Ho Chi Minh was a hard core Communist, not a mere nationalist)

Phillip Jennings



**1960 – 1963 KENNEDY McNAMARA YEARS**

**1961 – SECRET WAR IN LAOS (MORE THAN 10 YRS)**

**1963 – JANUARY – BATTLE OF AP BAC**

**JUNE - BUDDHIST MONK IMMOLATION**

**NOVEMBER 2ND – REMOVAL AND ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT DIEM**

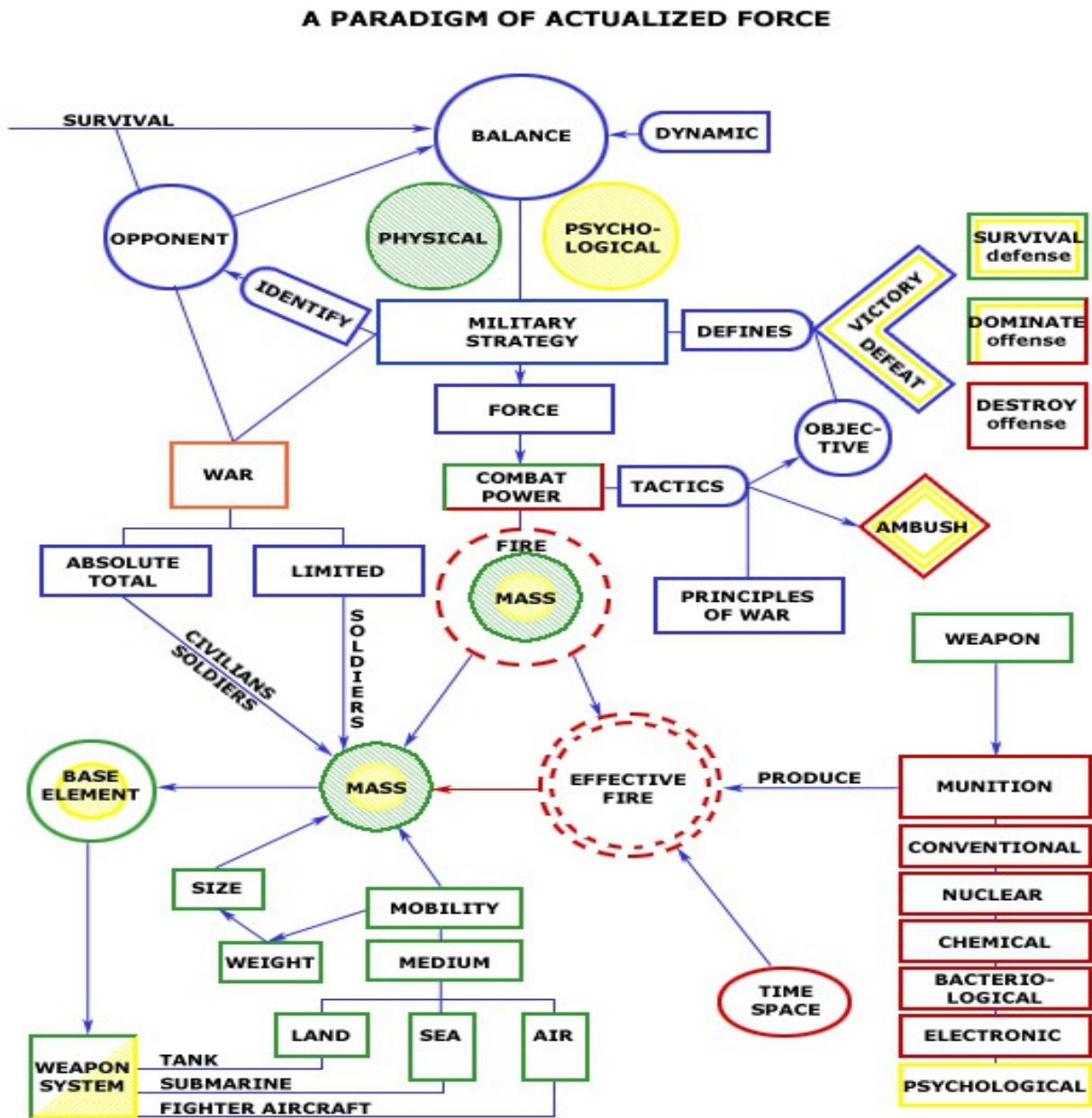
**NOVEMBER 22ND – ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY**



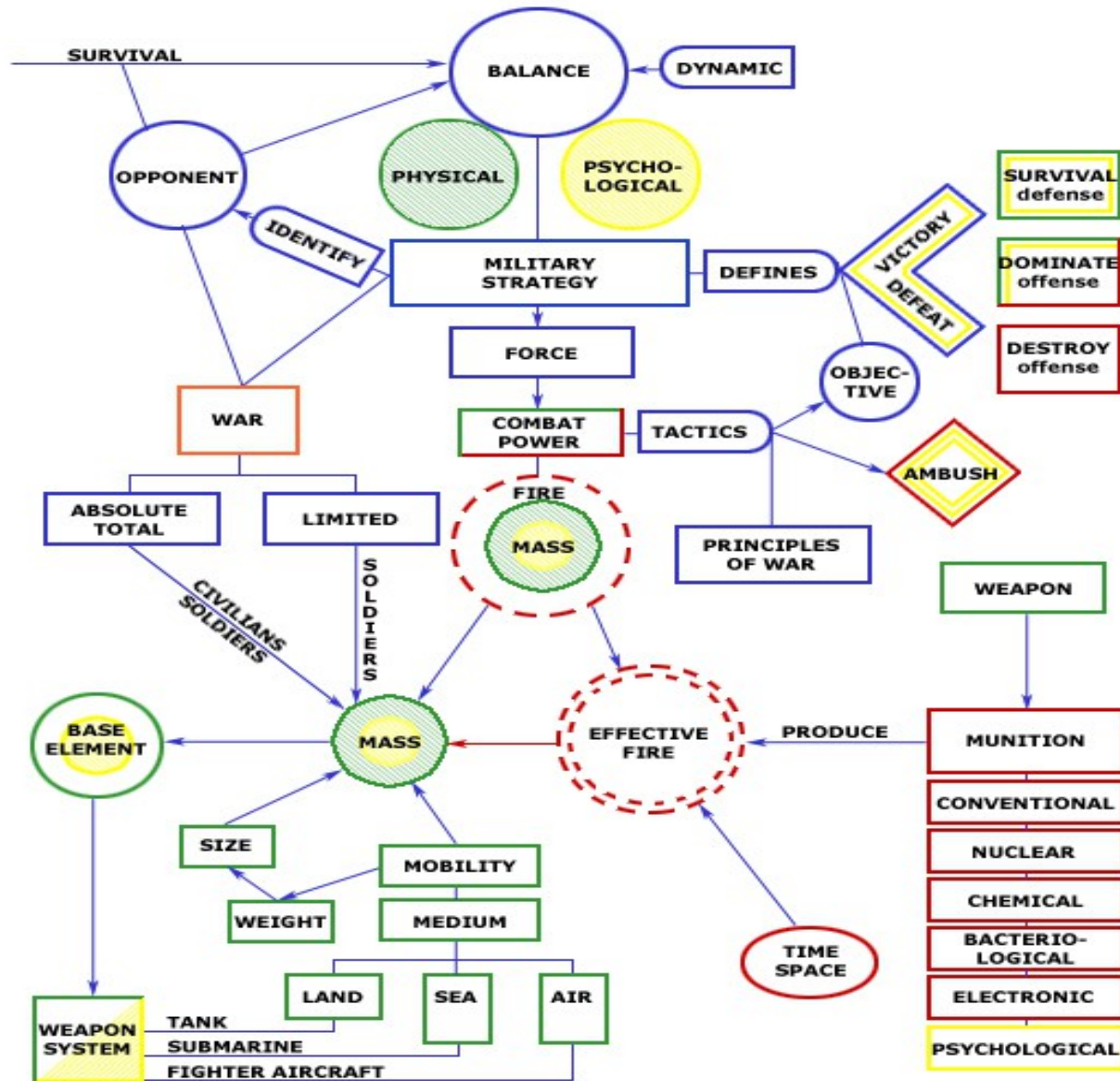
# THE SECRET WAR IN LAOS



**NORTH  
VIETNAMESE  
STRATEGY  
VS  
LAOTIAN /  
AMERICAN**



# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



**AMERICAN / LAOS**

**STRATEGY**

**VS**

**NORTH**

**VIETNAMESE**

**1960 – 1963 KENNEDY McNAMARA YEARS**

**1963 – JANUARY – BATTLE OF AP BAC**

**JUNE - BUDDHIST MONK IMMOLATION**

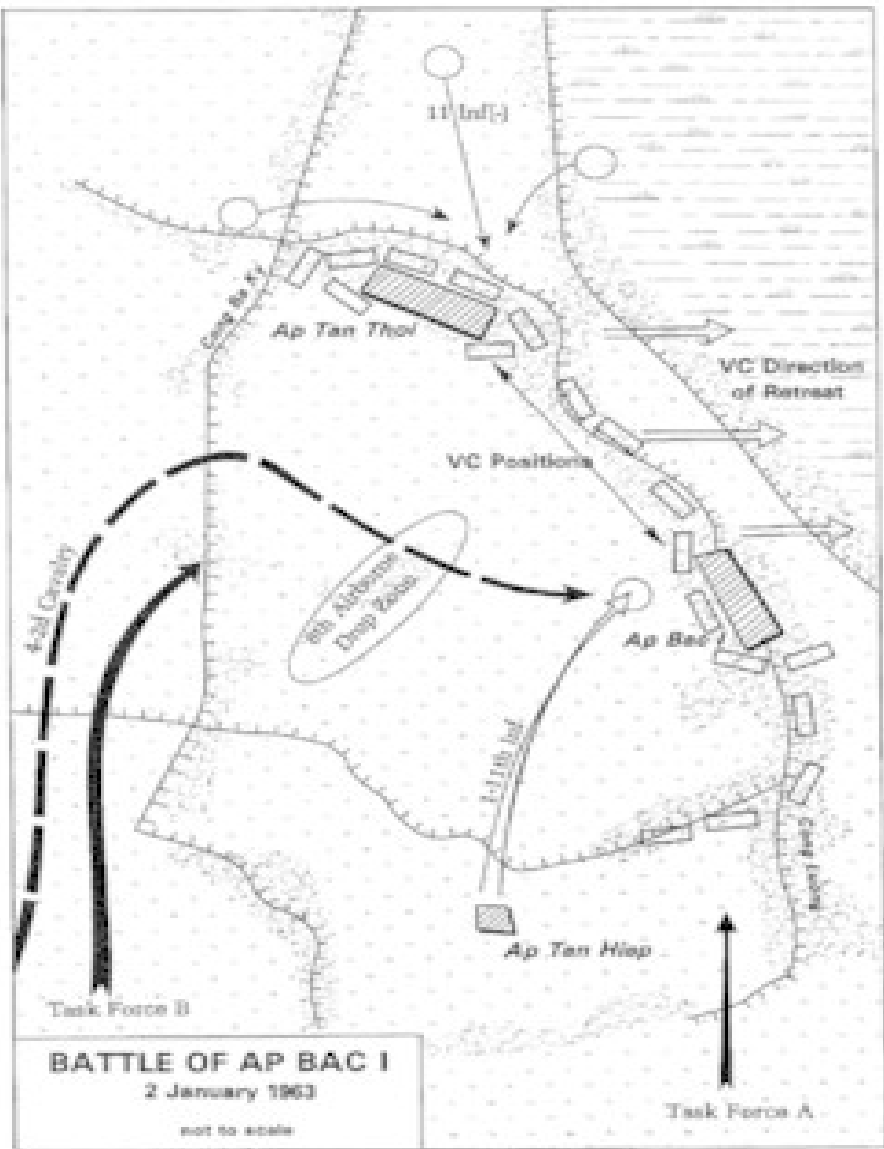
**NOVEMBER 2ND – REMOVAL AND ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT DIEM**

**NOVEMBER 22ND – ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY**



# 1963 – JANUARY 2nd

## BATTLE OF AP BAC

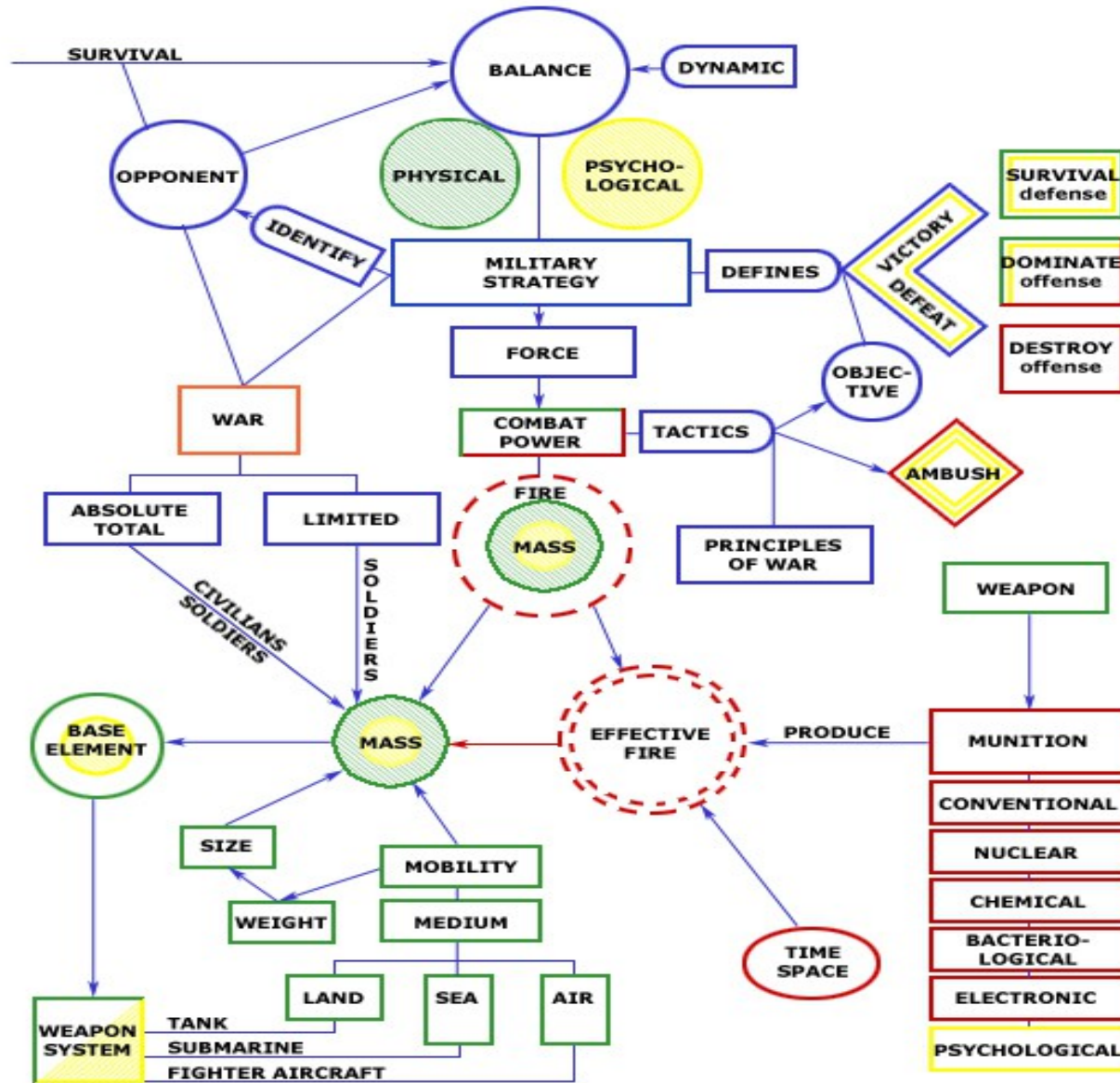


**The Battle of Ấp Bắc was a major battle fought on 2 January 1963. On the morning of 2 January 1963, unaware that their battle plans had been leaked to the enemy, the South Vietnamese Army units attacked; however, when they reached the hamlet of Ap Bac, they were immediately pinned down by elements of the VC 261st Battalion.**





# COMMUNIST VIET CONG STRATEGY VS SOUTH VIETNAMESE











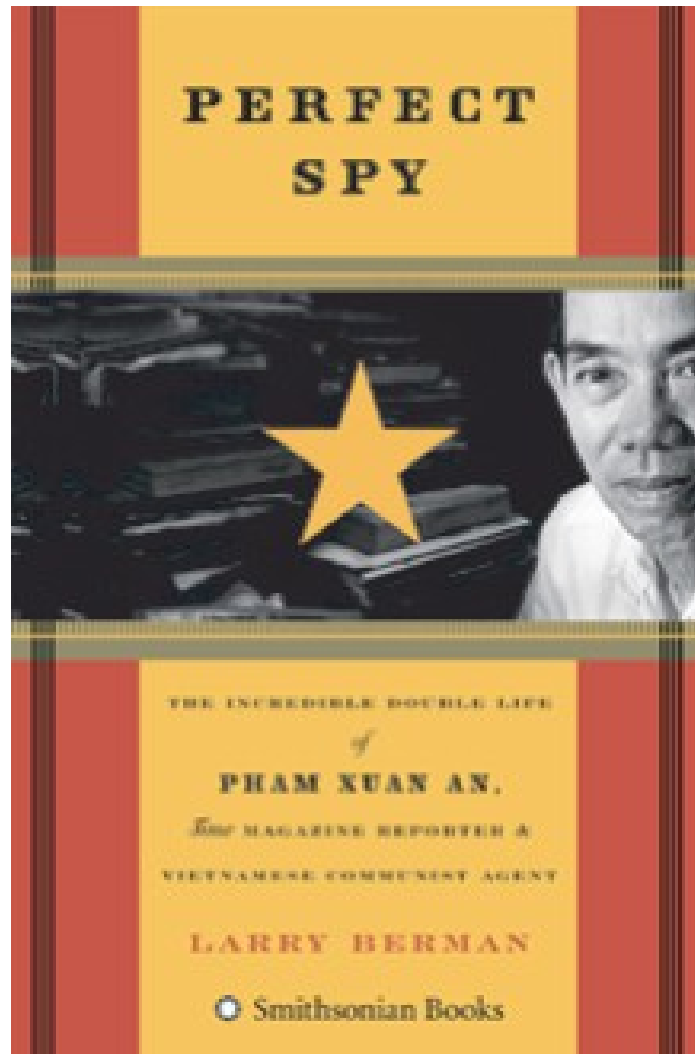
PHAM XUAN AN

Educated in America in Journalism  
Time Magazine Correspondent for 10 years  
and became Bureau Chief In Saigon

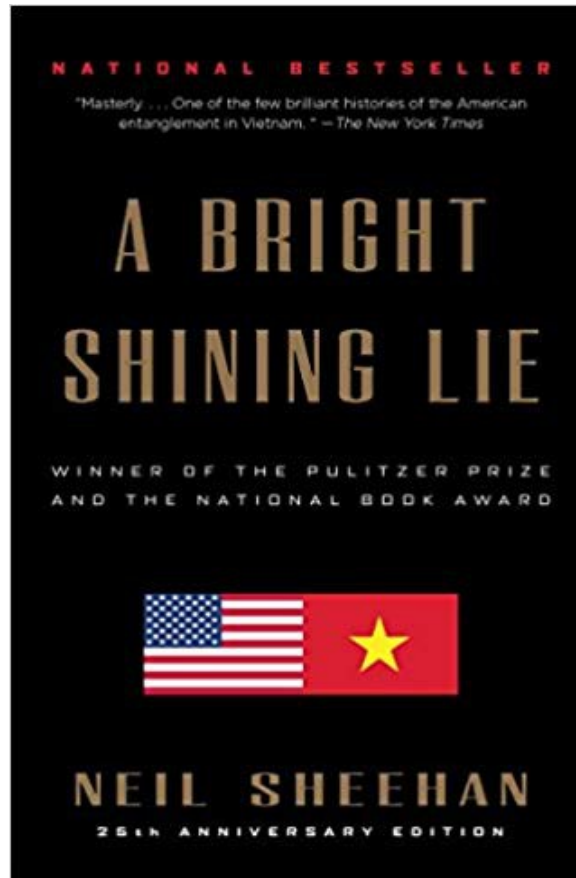




COLONEL PHAM XUAN AN  
North Vietnamese Army  
Master Spy for the NVA



Larry Berman  
2008



**25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION. One of the most acclaimed books of our time—the definitive Vietnam War exposé.**

**Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.**

# **Stolen Honor – The Battle of Ap Bac**

Most of us understand the concept of stolen valor when someone claims heroic acts and military awards they do not deserve. There has been much written about this to include **“Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation Was Robbed of Its Heroes and Its History”** by **B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley**. There have been public cases revealed of men who have made false claims, and there have been legal efforts to hold these men responsible for their actions.

**1960 – 1963 KENNEDY McNAMARA YEARS**

**1963 – JANUARY – BATTLE OF AP BAC**

**JUNE - BUDDHIST MONK IMMOLATION**

**NOVEMBER 2ND – REMOVAL AND ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT DIEM**

**NOVEMBER 22ND – ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY**





**The self-immolation of Thich Quang Duc. Saigon, South Vietnam. June 11, 1963.**

**Picture by Malcolm Wilde Browne**

**“No news picture in history,” John F. Kennedy once said, “has generated so much emotion around the world as that one.”**

**The practice continues, notably in India: as many as 1,584 self-immolations were reported there in 2001.**



PHAM XUAN AN

Educated in America in Journalism  
Time Magazine Correspondent for 10 years  
and became Bureau Chief In Saigon

**1960 – 1963 KENNEDY McNAMARA YEARS**

**1963 – JANUARY – BATTLE OF AP BAC**

**JUNE - BUDDHIST MONK IMMOLATION**

**NOVEMBER 2ND – REMOVAL AND ASSASSINATION  
OF PRESIDENT DIEM**

**NOVEMBER 22ND – ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY**

# **1964 – 1968 PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND McNAMARA’S WAR – MEASURED RESPONSE**

**1964 – GULF OF TONKIN INCIDENT AUGUST  
AIR STRIKES AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM**

**1965 – MARCH - MARINES LAND AT RED BEACH**

**1965 – AUGUST US ARMY DEPLOYS THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY  
DIVISION**

**NOVEMBER - BATTLE OF THE IDRANG VALLEY LZ XRAY**

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON’S, McNAMARA AND  
GEN.WESTMORLAND’S WAR**



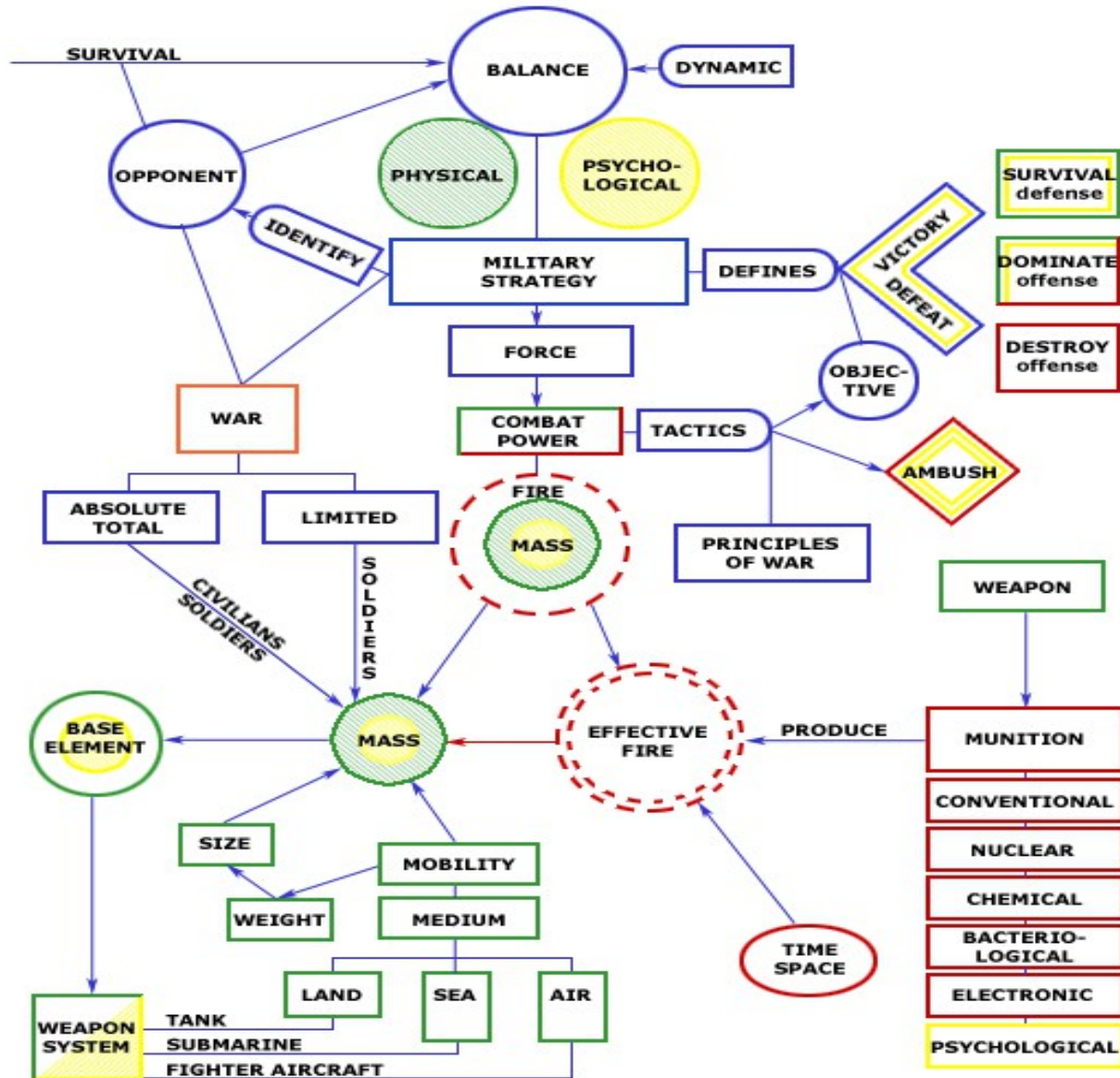
# The 1st Cavalry Division VN 1965







**In 1965 The Vietnam War becomes an American War**

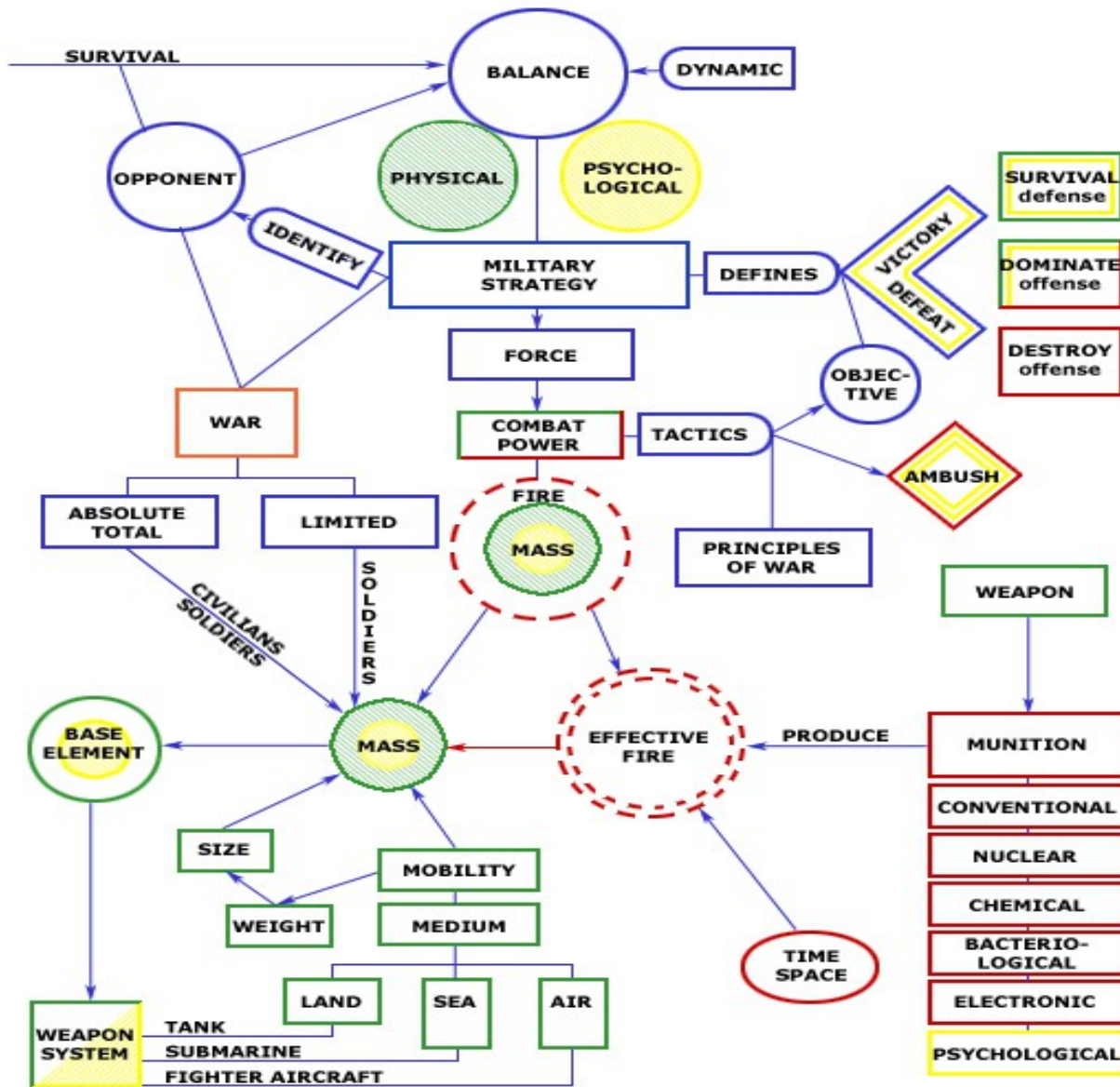


**AMERICAN & ALLIES**  
**/ SOUTH**  
**VIETNAMESE**  
**STRATEGY**

**VS**

**NORTH VIETNAMESE**  
**/ CHINA / USSR**

# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



**NORTH VIETNAMESE /  
CHINESE / SOVIET  
STRATEGY**

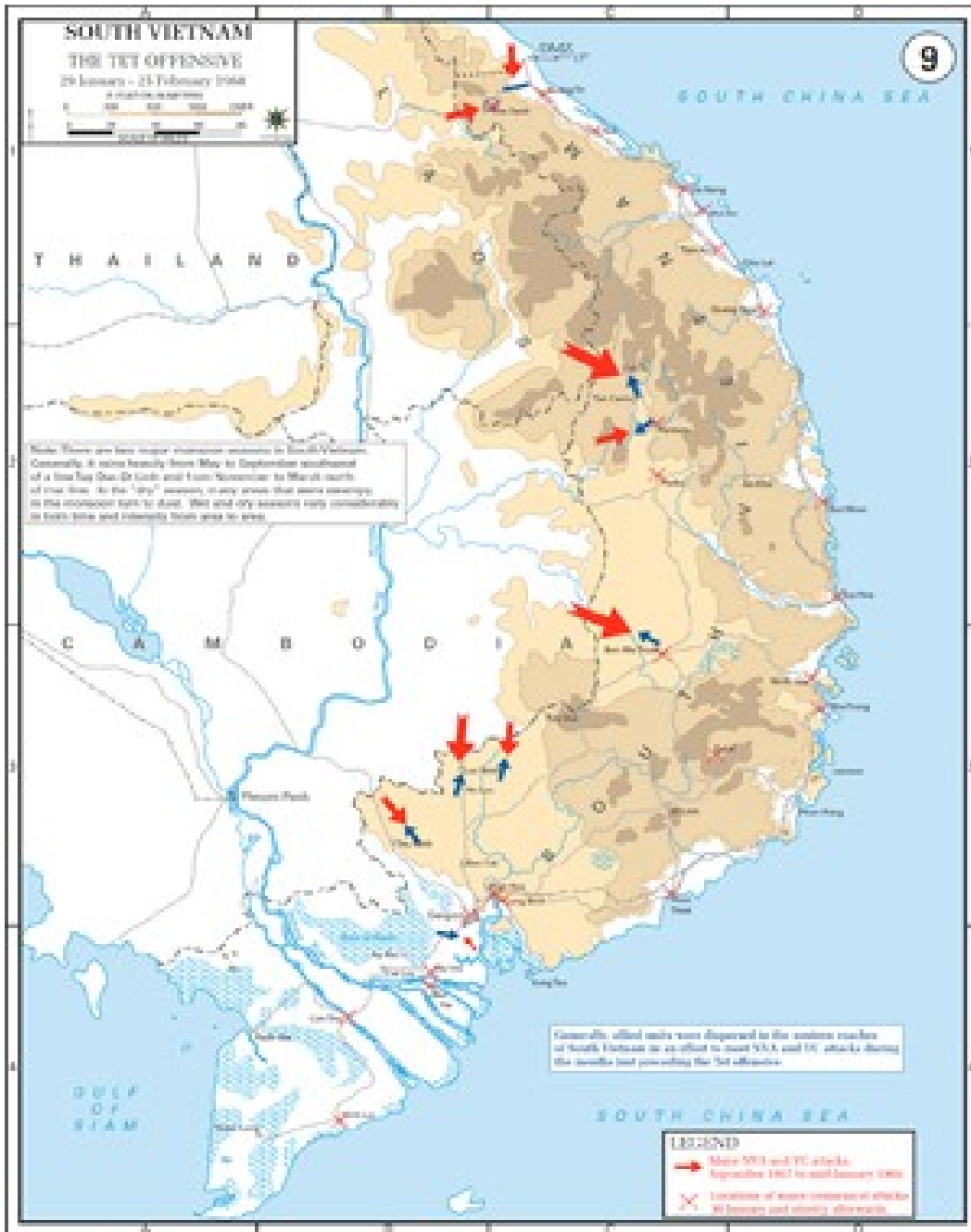
**VS**

**SOUTH VIETNAMESE /  
AMERICA & ALLIES**

1968 – AMERICAN TROOP STRENGTH 536,100

SEARCH AND DESTROY – BODY COUNT

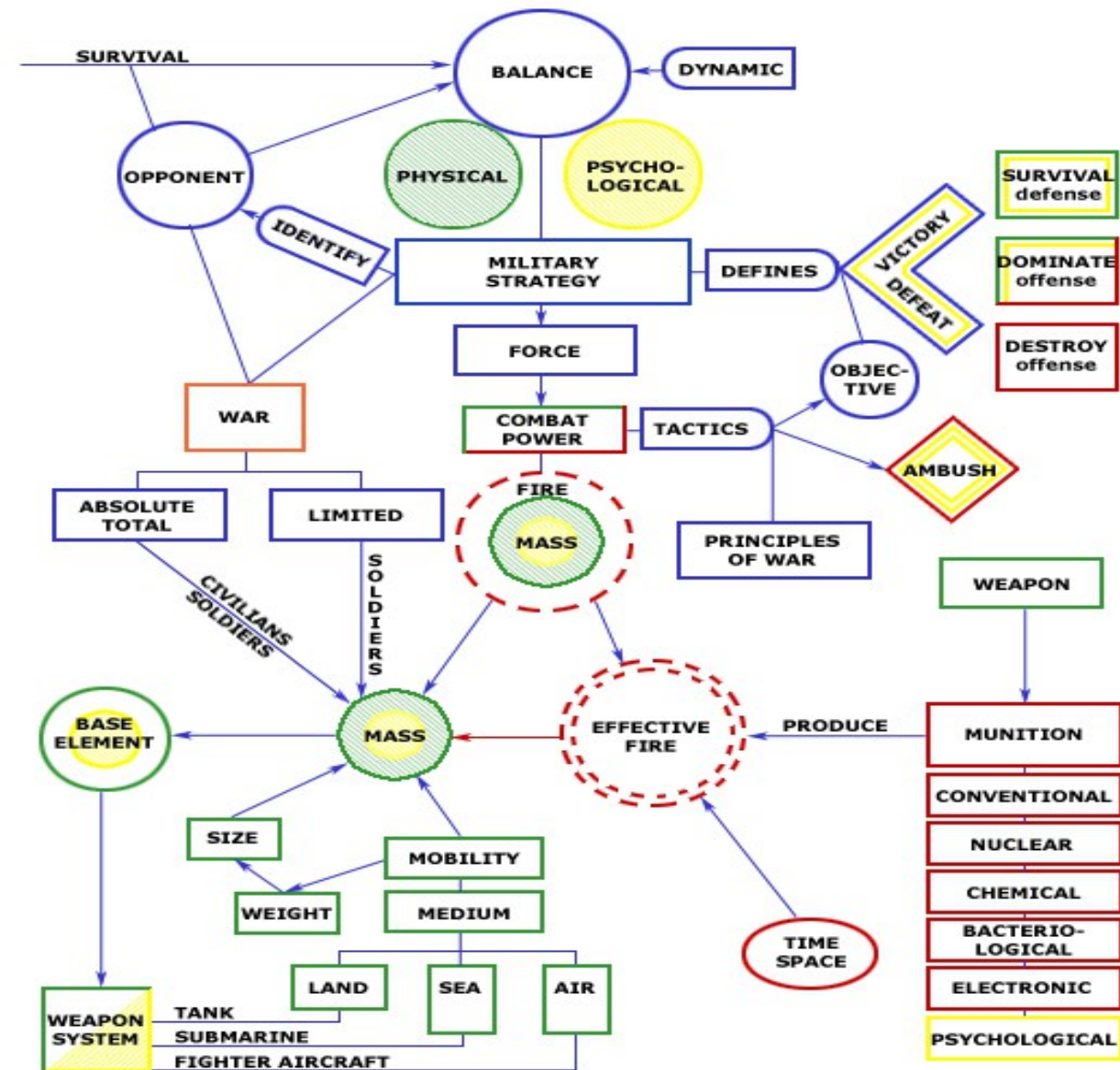
**TET 1968**



**The Tet Offensive, or officially called The General Offensive and Uprising of Tet Mau Than 1968 by North Vietnam and the Viet Cong, was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on January 30, 1968 by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States Armed Forces, and their allies. It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam.**



# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



**NORTH**

**VIETNAMESE / VIET**

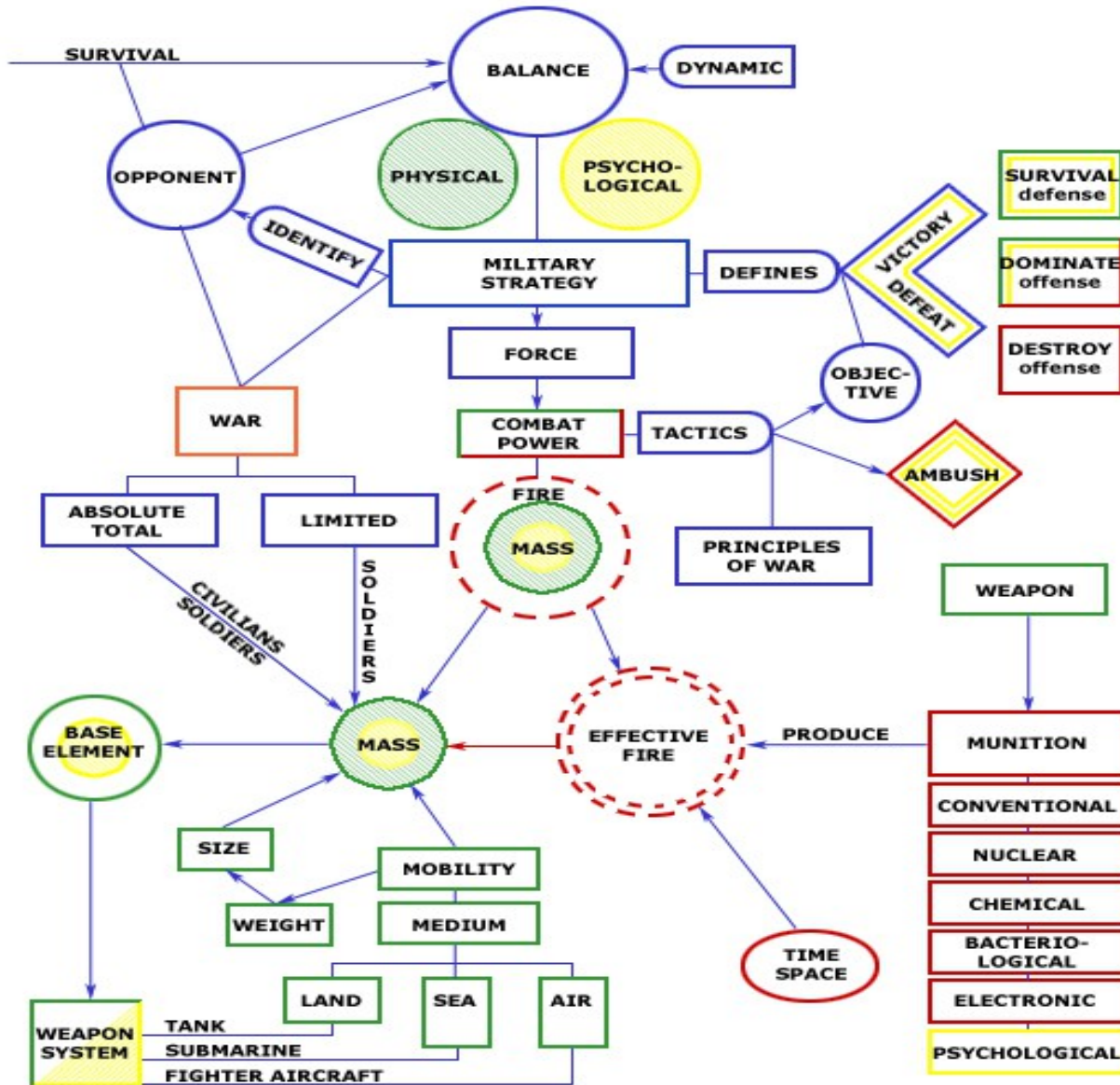
**CONG STRATEGY**

**VS**

**SOUTH VIETNAMESE**

**/ AMERICA & ALLIES**





**SOUTH VIETNAMESE**  
**/ AMERICAN &**  
**ALLIES STRATEGY**  
**VS**  
**NORTH**  
**VIETNAMESE / VIET**  
**CONG**

## **TET OFFENSIVE 1968**

More than **80,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops** struck more than 100 towns and cities.

The Battle of Hue began on January 31, 1968, and lasted a total of 26 days. During the months and years that followed, **dozens of mass graves** were discovered in and around Huế. Victims included women, men, children, and infants. **The estimated death toll was between 2,800 and 6,000 civilians and prisoners of war, or 5–10% of the total population of Huế.**



PHAM XUAN AN

Educated in America in Journalism  
Time Magazine Correspondent for 10 years  
and became Bureau Chief In Saigon



**General Nguyen Ngoc  
Loan summarily executes  
Nguyen Van Lem**

**This photograph and footage were broadcast worldwide, galvanizing the anti-war movement. Eddie Adams' photo won Adams the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography. The image became an anti-war icon. Adams later apologized in person to General Nguyễn and his family for the damage it did to his reputation.**

## **NEW YORK TIMES - Tet Offensive: Turning Point in Vietnam War**

**It was a military turning point in the war, but it was far more than that in its painful demonstration of the limits of American power in Asia and in the psychological impact it was to have on Americans at home.**

**Hanoi radio said the aim of the offensive was to overthrow the South Vietnamese Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu. The next day, President Thieu declared martial law throughout South Vietnam.**

**Poll in February reported that 50 percent of those surveyed disapproved of President Lyndon Johnson's handling of the war, while 35 percent approved. In March, Gallup reported a wave of pessimism about the war.**



**“FALSE NARRATIVE”**

**THE QUESTION IS**

**WHO BENEFITS!**

**PRESENTATION OUTLINE**  
**VIETNAM LESSONS LEARNED**

**THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 AND THE BATTLE OF  
KONTUM –**

**THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS JAN 1973 –**

**1969 – 1972 PRESIDENT NIXON’S, MELVIN  
LAIRD’S AND GEN. ABRAMS’ WAR – PEACE  
WITH HONOR**

# **VIETNAMIZATION PLAN**

**1972 EASTER OFFENSIVE SPRING –**

**I CORP QUANG TRI**

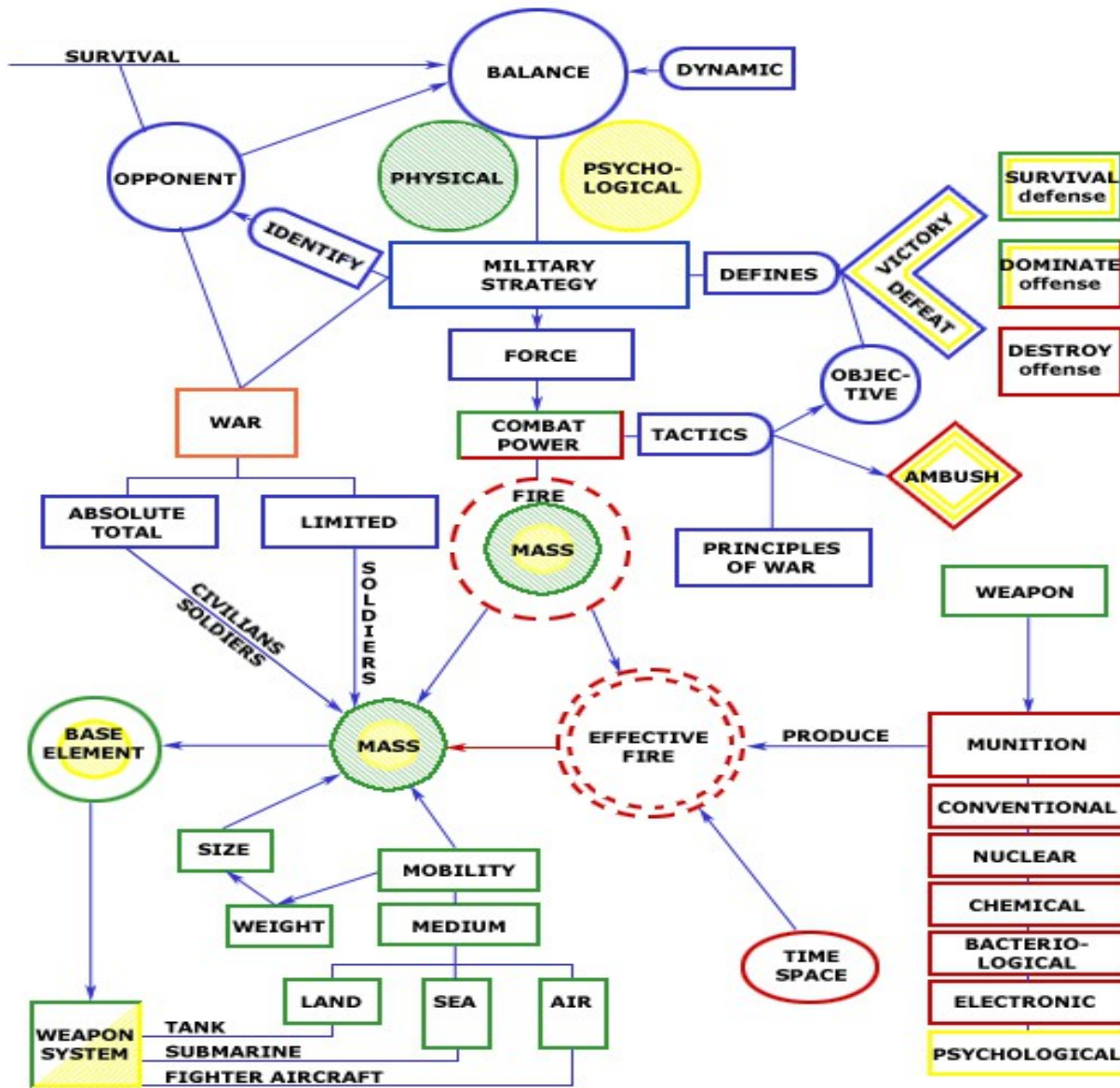
**III CORP AN LOC**

**II CORP KONTUM**



**Easter Offensive of 1972 Hanoi  
had committed 14 divisions and  
26 independent regiments to the  
offensive.**

# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE



**NORTH**

**VIETNAMESE / VC**

**/CHINESE / USSR**

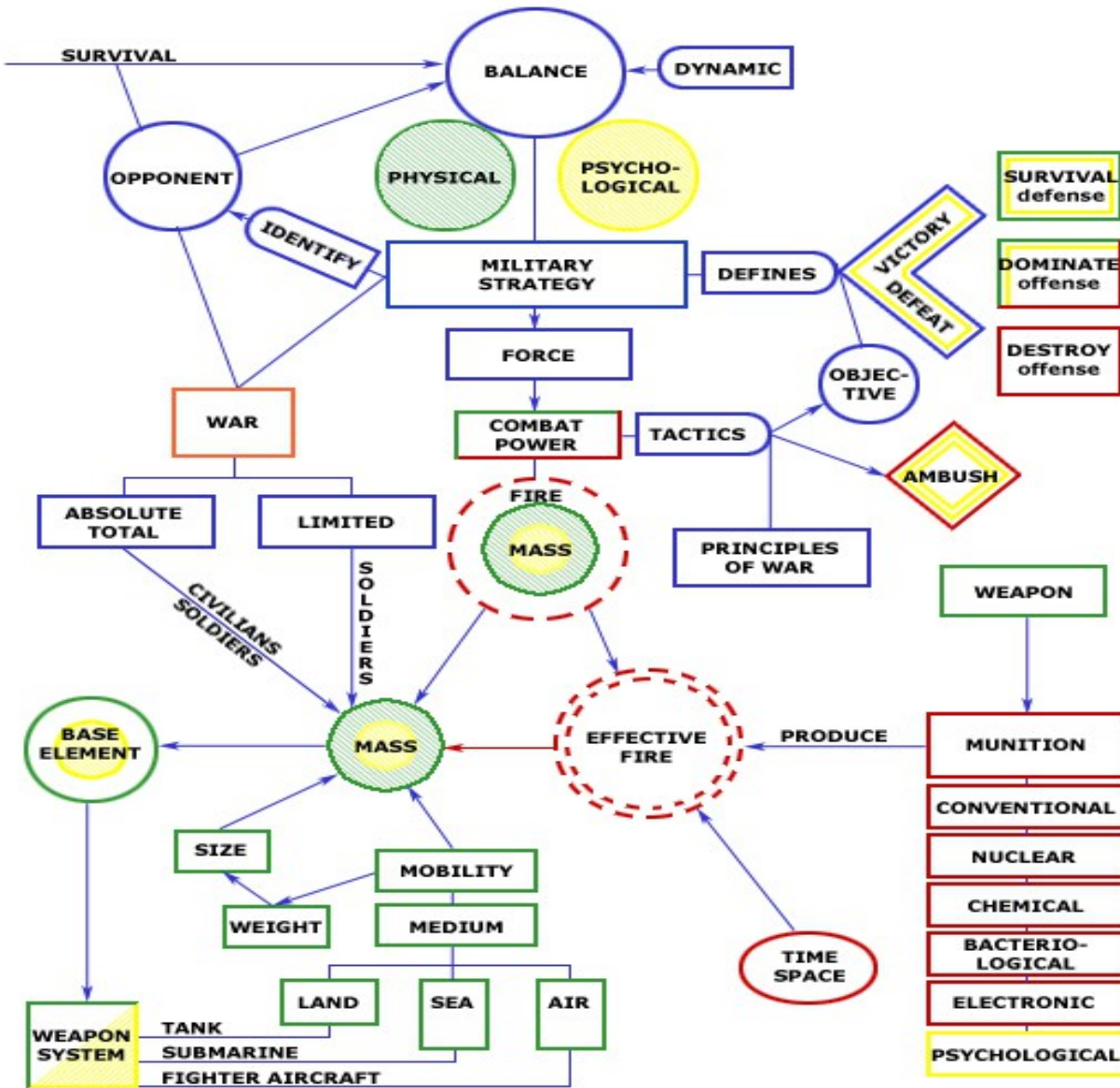
**STRATEGY**

**VS**

**SOUTH VIETNAMESE /**

**AMERICAN & ALLIES**

# A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE

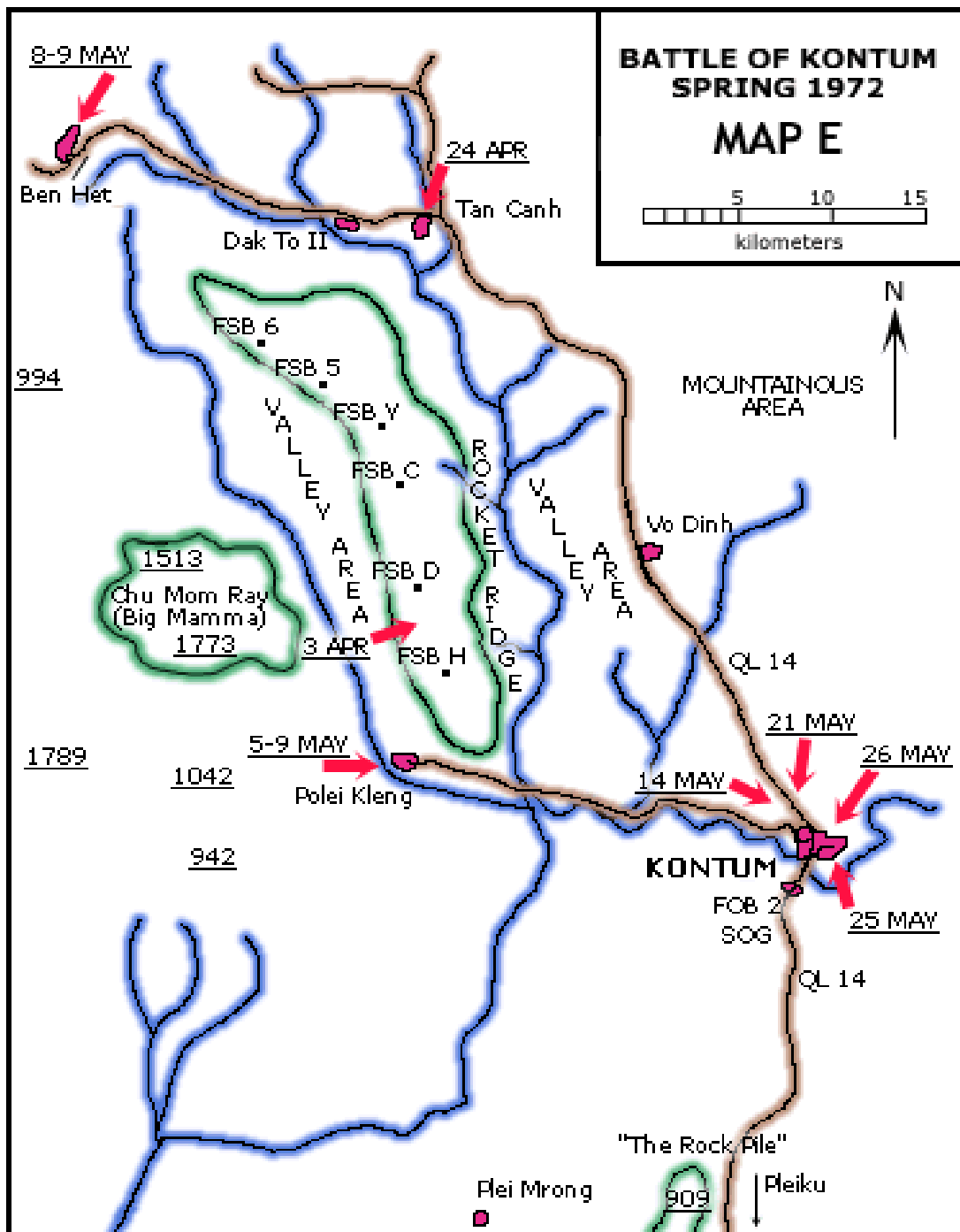


**SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
AMERICAN & ALLIES /  
STRATEGY**

**VS**

**NORTH VIETNAMESE /  
VC / CHINESE / USSR**





**22ND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
VIETNAM (ARVN) DIVISION**

**23RD ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
VIETNAM (ARVN) DIVISION**

**US ARMY MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
COMMAND VIETNAM (MACV)  
ADVISORS (ABOUT 50 MEN TOTAL)**

**US MILITARY AVIATION ASSETS  
HELICOPTERS AND FIGHTER  
BOMBERS**

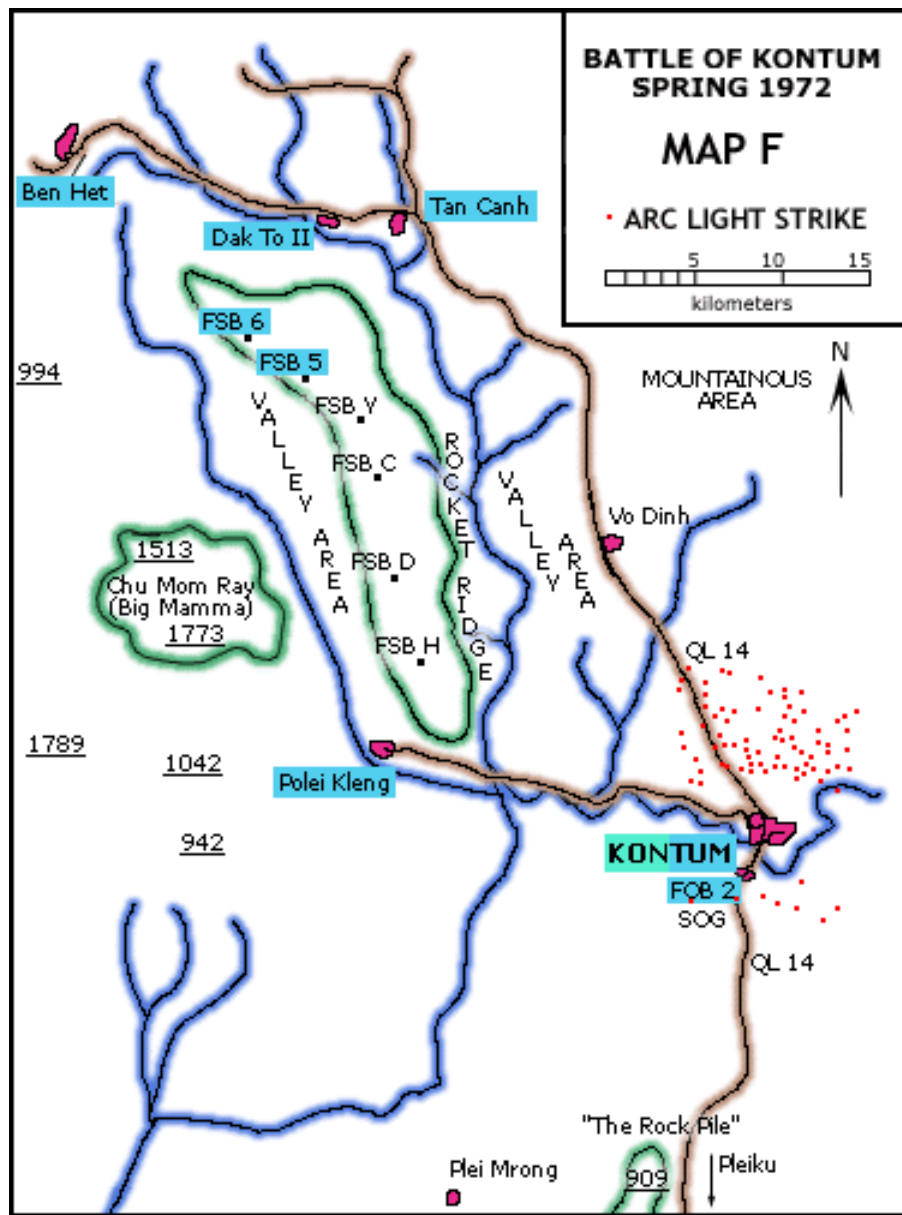








**The TOW missile system in its airborne configuration (XM26 armament subsystem) became the first American-made guided missile to be fired by U.S. soldiers in combat. The first airborne TOWs had arrived in Vietnam on 24 April 1972, six days after MICOM had received the initial deployment order. The airborne TOW served in Vietnam until 1973.**



**DURING THE BATTLE  
OF KONTUM THERE  
WERE 840 B – 52 ARC  
LIGHT STRIKES**





**Bombs from B-52 Arc Light strike exploding**



John Paul Vann, Senior Military Advisor seen here in his helicopter with his pilot, First Lt. Ronald E. Doughtie. This picture was taken outside Kontum City, June 6th 1972, three days before fatal crash.



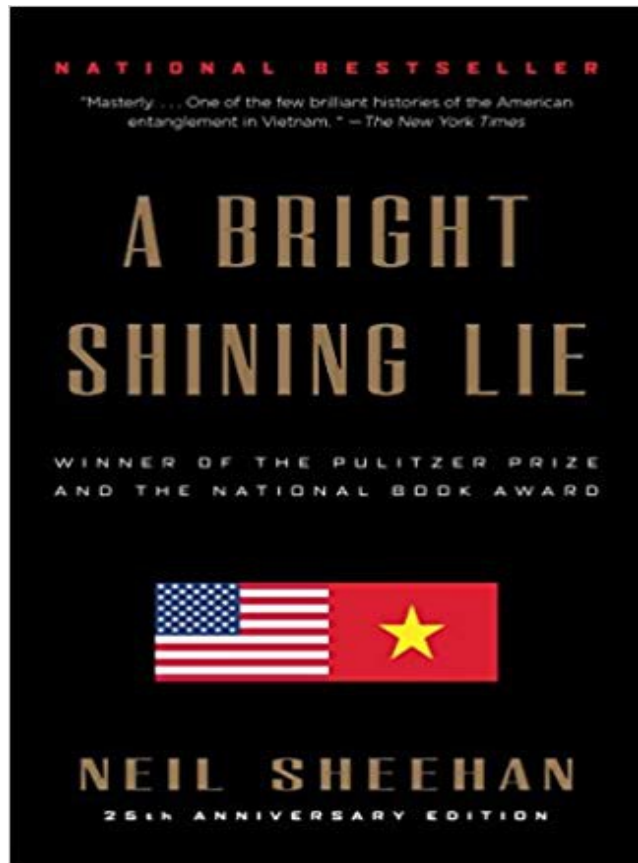
## The Battle of Kontum







In the Easter Offensive the **North Vietnamese** suffered **approximately 100,000 casualties** and lost almost all of their committed armored forces. **American deaths were 300.**



**Oct 1972 - Captain Heslin: “You know, this was, in my opinion, a fantastic allied effort. It was absolute interdependence. We could have never done this without the ARVN, and the ARVN couldn't have done it without us. We needed the ARVN, as maneuver and they needed us for the fire power. But together we could do it. .... I think that this battle we saw here in 72, was the battle that was intended in 1965.**

**In 1965 when the first hard core NVA units started moving in through Plei Me and the first CAV, met NVA regulars for the first time. US units against NVA, we picked up the ball, I know ARVN would never have been able to hold them, in my opinion, and we held them until they faced the match in 72. I think they have proven themselves.”**





**1969 – 1972 PRESIDENT NIXON’S,  
MELVIN LAIRD’S AND GEN. ABRAMS’  
WAR – PEACE WITH HONOR**

**VIETNAMIZATION PLAN**

**1972 DECEMBER –**

**LINEBACKER II – Dec 18 – Dec 29**

**“11 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”**

**AMERICAN**

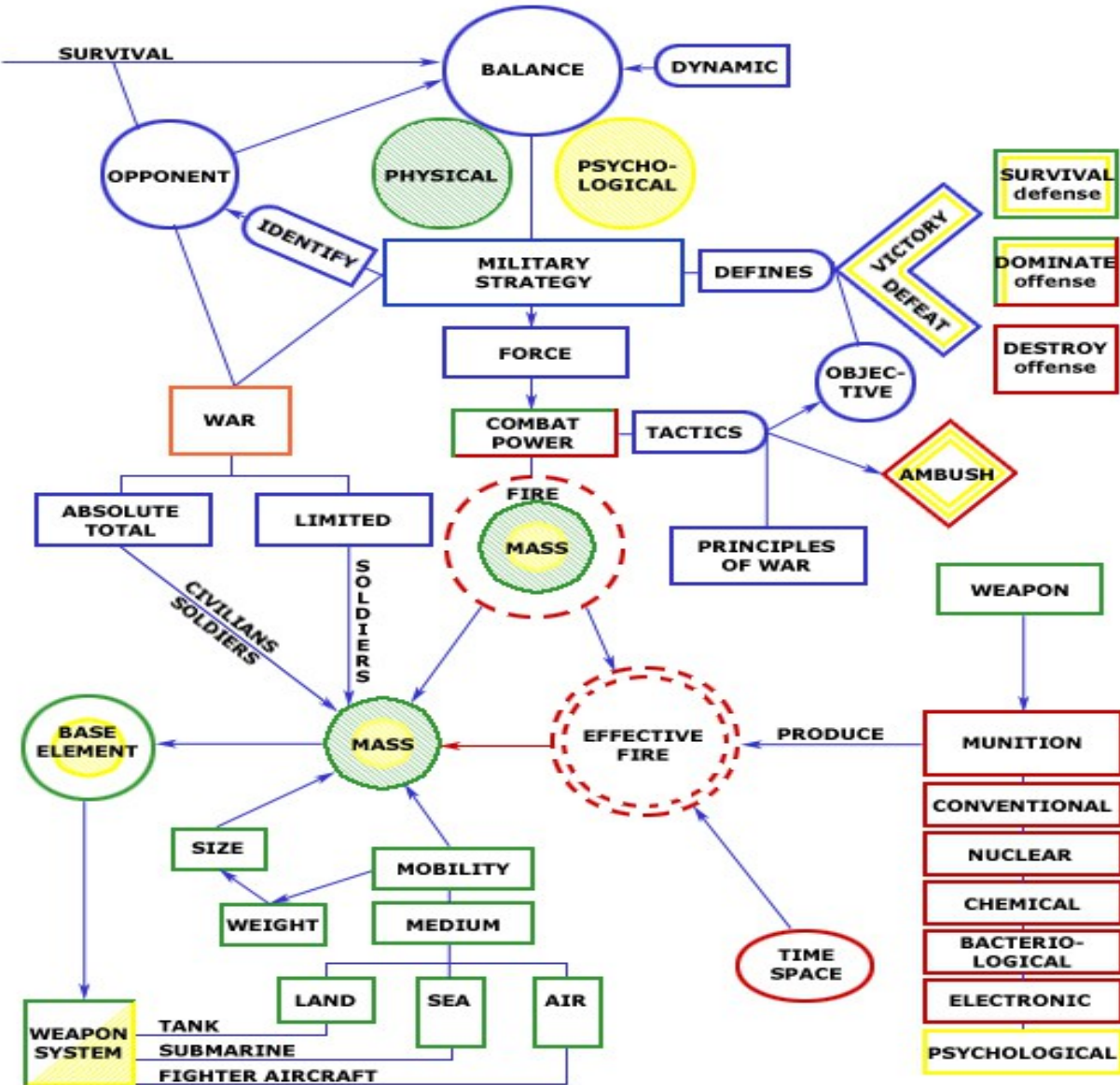
**STRATEGY**

**VS**

**NORTH**

**VIETNAMESE /**

**CHINESE / USSR**



**1973 – PARIS PEACE ACCORDS**

**PROMISES!**

# **The agreement called for:**

- **The withdrawal of all U.S. and allied forces within sixty days.**
- The return of prisoners of war parallel to the above.
- The clearing of mines from North Vietnamese ports by the U.S.
- **A cease-fire in place in South Vietnam followed by precise delineations of communist and government zones of control.**
- The establishment of a “National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord” composed of a communist, government, and neutralist side to implement democratic liberties and organize free elections in South Vietnam.

- The establishment of “Joint Military Commissions” composed of the four parties and an “International Commission of Control and Supervision” composed of Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, and Poland to implement the cease-fire. Both operate by unanimity.
- **The withdrawal of foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia.**
- **A ban on the introduction of war materials in South Vietnam unless on a replacement basis.**
- **A ban on introducing further military personnel into South Vietnam.**
- U.S. financial contributions to “healing the wounds of war” throughout Indochina.

# VIETNAM - A FAILED STRATEGY

Vietnam is a perfect example of the political leadership not understanding the instrument of violence and, therefore, using it inappropriately and not exploiting battlefield success. Battles were won, but the war was lost. As in all wars the defeat was ultimately moral rather than physical. **"...defeat results not from loss of life, save indirectly and partially, but from loss of morale."** Military objectives were achieved; however, they were not exploited by the American political leaders to attain more important political



**By this e-mail I also would like to thank all the Veterans who served in Viet-Nam. No matter what other people said, please remember that you had made a difference in the lives of 40+ millions South Vietnamese people who couldn't have enjoyed freedom and democracy for two decades (1955-1975) without your sacrifice. Thank you.**

**Binh Thanh Nguyen**

**This is a great site done by person who was there, it helps me understand more into what took place then. I am interested in the Indochina conflict, things happened all around Vietnam including Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. We were saved from communist invasion after everybody fell in '75 by the war you fought in Vietnam, thank you.**

**Pramut Jira, Bangkok, Thailand**

# **IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNED**

- 1. THE IMPORTANCE OF MORALE**
- 2. MUST HAVE CLEAR OBJECTIVES**
- 3. MUST UNDERSTAND THE ENEMY**
- 4. FORCE PROJECTION MUST HAVE SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS**
- 5. SUPERIOR MOBILITY IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS**
- 6. EFFECTIVE FIRE IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS**
- 7. DO NOT ROTATE INDIVIDUALS INTO COMBAT; ROTATE UNITS**
- 8. MANAGE THE PRESS IN THE BATTLE AREA**



**Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf commanded a force larger and more complex than the D-Day invasion in WWII.**



**He commanded a Coalition of 670,000 personnel from 28 countries, along with combined Naval and Air Forces, with 425,000 troops from the United States.**

**An estimated 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed in the conflict, while the United States had only 383 fatalities in the region.**

# THE REMAINING *-ISMS* OF THE 21ST CENTURY

WESTERN DEMOCRATIC

CAPITALISM >>>>>

<<<<<COMMUNISM

<<<ISLAMISM>>>

(Islamic militancy or fundamentalism)

# **100 Years of Communism—and 100 Million Dead**

**The Bolshevik plague that began in Russia was the greatest catastrophe in human history.**

(David Satter Nov. 6, 2017)

**The Bolsheviks called for the abolition of private property, but their real goal was spiritual: to translate Marxist-Leninist ideology into reality. For the first time, a state was created that was based explicitly on atheism and claimed infallibility. This was totally incompatible with Western civilization, which presumes the existence of a higher power over and above society and the state.**



**As of Jan. 31, 2015, there were close to 1.4 million people serving in the U.S. armed forces, according to the latest numbers from the Defense Manpower Data Center, a body of the Department of Defense.**

**That means that 0.4 percent of the American population is active military personnel.**

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR INTEREST!**