LESSONS

OF

HISTORY
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.”

BACKGROUND
THE VIETNAM WAR
FIRST TOUR
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”
The Easter Offensive of 1972

"The Battle of Kontum"

SECOND TOUR
Dec 1971 – Dec 1972
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

GT John G. Herbin
“The Senate”

15 June

1. General situation.
2. The situation here remains relatively quiet today. Only one incident was reported in WVN, and that was the contact made on line, ranging from 4000 feet of the city. Yesterday's operation for the latest phase to open the WVN zone quickly timed was removed with limited activity. The battle was no progress was going to the works today. Our new troops were located south of 70th and NW of the city. The most significant development today was the relief of a company of the 25th Division, Company D, at a point 3000 feet south of Kontum.

2. The main body of the 25th Division was now 5000 feet north of Kontum. The division's main body was located south of 70th and NW of the city. The 25th Division was subject to an enemy attack from NW of the city. The attack was led by a M1A1 tank. The tank was called on and fired twice from a distance of about 5000 feet. The 25th Division was subject to an enemy attack from NW of the city. The attack was led by a M1A1 tank. The tank was called on and fired twice from a distance of about 5000 feet. The 25th Division was subject to an enemy attack from NW of the city. The attack was led by a M1A1 tank. The tank was called on and fired twice from a distance of about 5000 feet. The 25th Division was subject to an enemy attack from NW of the city. The attack was led by a M1A1 tank. The tank was called on and fired twice from a distance of about 5000 feet.
150 DEAD, 500 LOST IN S. DAKOTA FLOODS

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 andthunderstorms and trees were broken by strong gust winds.

At least 100 bodies were reported found between Rapid City and Hill City and in two towns southeast of Rapid City. The floods were described by one water manager as the second largest in history.

A major flood control project, however, experts estimated, would cost between $1 billion and $1.5 billion. But many of residents of the area were left temporarily homeless.

Mayor Don Hurst of Rapid City, speaking, declared, "I am not sure if anyone ever will know how bad it was."

Major Don Hurst of Rapid City, speaking, declared, "I am not sure if anyone ever will know how bad it was."

Water was seen in every part of the city. The streets were filled with water and many were suffering losses of their homes. The floods were described by one water manager as the second largest in history.

Corpsmen, who arrived on the scene, were helping to clear the streets and to remove debris.
Jane Fonda in Hanoi July 1972
Treason is the only crime defined in the Constitution.

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.
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!
General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS: June 1975.
Atkeson, Edward B. The Dimensions of Military Strategy. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle
173.
College, Newport, RI: 1976.
Brennan, Donald G. "The Soviet Military Buildup and its Implications for the Negotiations on Strategic Arms
Limitations." Orbis, Spring 1977, p. 107-120.


  . Thoughts on War. London: Faber & Faber, Ltd., 1944.


____. *Thoughts on War*. London: Faber & Faber, Ltd., 1944.
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 -

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 –
The Easter Offensive of 1972

“The Battle of Kontum”

WEBSITE MARCH 30, 2002
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"
  - F. P. Serong's monograph, "The 1972 Easter Offensive,"
    Southeast Asia Perspective
  - Rufus Philips book, “WHY VIETNAM MATTERS”
  - Philip Jenning’s book, “THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT GUIDE TO THE VIETNAM WAR”
The Battle of Kontum

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

Camp Holloway
Pleiku, Vietnam
Spring 1972

"Blue One" "Alligator 3"
"Dragon 3" "Eagle 3 alpha" "Sage Street"

"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 Haslin, Author 'THUNDER - Stories From the First Tour'"

"Vietnam veteran Jack Haslin 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.
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.
The Battle of Kontum

"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

Major General Hieu, ARVN

Captain Kenneth Yonan

The Long Way Home Project

A-1 Skyraider Combat Journal

57th Assault Helicopter Company

Dak To Memories - A Vietnam Scrapbook
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
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
SECRET/SENSITIVE/YES 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 if or 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...
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 Web sources

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
- 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"
  - F. P. Serong's monograph, "The 1972 Easter Offensive," Southeast Asia Perspective
  - Rufus Philips book, "WHY VIETNAM MATTERS"
  - Philip Jenning'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”
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."
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 << COMMUNISM CAPITALISM

>> ITALIAN FACISM

>> JAPANESE IMPERIALISM
THE MARCH OF COMMUNISM

WWII - JAPAN

COLD WAR

CHINA

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.
JAPANESE STRATEGY
VS
AMERICA
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.
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.
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.

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.
THE MARCH OF COMMUNISM

WWII -

COLD WAR

CHINA

KOREAN WAR

CUBAN REVOLUTION

VIETNAM WAR
THE REMAINING -ISMS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

WESTERN DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM >>>>>> <<<<<<COMMUNISM
THE MARCH OF COMMUNISM

WWII -

COLD WAR

CHINA

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 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
A PARADIGM OF ACTUALIZED FORCE

SURVIVAL

BALANCE

DYNAMIC

OPPONENT

IDENTIFY

PHYSICAL

PSYCHOLOGICAL

MILITARY STRATEGY

DEFINES

ÒQuiVICURITY ÒDEFEND

DOMINATE

OFFENSE

DESTROY

OFFENSE

SURVIVAL

DEFENSE

FORCE

COMBAT

POWER

TACTICS

OBJECTIVE

AMBUSH

WAR

FIRE

MASSEFFECTIVE FIRE

PRODUCE

WEAPON

MUNITION

CONVENTIONAL

NUCLEAR

CHEMICAL

BACTERIOLOGICAL

ELECTRONIC

PSYCHOLOGICAL

BASE ELEMENT

SOLDIERS

SIZE

MOBILITY

WEIGHT

MEDIUM

TIME

SPACE

WEAPON SYSTEM

TANK

SUBMARINE

FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

LAND

SEA

AIR

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 Áp Bác 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.
SOUTH VIETNAMESE STRATEGY VS COMMUNIST VIET CONG (VC)
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
PERFECT SPY

THE INCREDIBLE DOUBLE LIFE
OF PHAM XUAN AN,
TIME MAGAZINE REPORTER &
VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AGENT

LARRY BERMAN

Smithsonian Books

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


“No news picture in history,” John F. Kennedy once said, “has generated so much emotion around the world as that one.”
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
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.
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.
NORTH VIETNAMESE / VC / CHINESE / USSR STRATEGY VS SOUTH VIETNAMESE / AMERICAN & ALLIES
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 Yann, Senior Military Advisor, seen here in his helicopter with his pilot, First Lt. Ronald H. Doughtie. This picture was taken outside Kontum City, June 6th, 1972, three days before his 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 ceasefire. 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 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 objectives.
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 >>>
(Is 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!