

General Barry R. McCaffrey, US Army (Ret.)

Recommended Reading List

(As published in *Military Review Magazine*)

On War

By Carl von Clausewitz. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret
If you wish to understand war, you must master the concepts contained in *On War*. It will take a month of intense part-time study to complete this complex work. Pulling your thoughts together in an essay will help. The payoff for understanding Clausewitz will be enormous.

The Killer Angels

By Michael Shaara

The poetry and soul of the American soldier is woven into the pages of this beautiful novel about Civil War combat. Sahara's gripping story explains why American military forces fight.

This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness

By T.R. Fehrenbach

This is the essential book for every US Marine and Army combat leader. Reading it can help a young officer define the purpose of a 30-year career. Keeping our military forces prepared to fight and win under the battlefield's total brutality is our only reason for being leaders. Fehrenbach strips away the peacetime military forces' illusions, reminding us of the bloody consequences of unpreparedness.

Once an Eagle

By Anton Myrer

Myrer captures the American soldier's inner spirit. He paints in vivid color the character principles essential to sustain a wartime army. He exposes the "careerism" that tears at the fabric of an Army. This book is one of the most fascinating historical novels ever written about our Army. Read it to discover the soldier you can hope to become.

The Diary of Anne Frank

By Anne Frank

This book chronicles the evil and innocence of human life soldiers are sworn to protect. It is worth reading every five years to underscore a soldier's commitment to honor. *Military Review*

Defeat Into Victory

By Field Marshall the Viscount William J. Slim

This work by World War II's best senior leader is worth a serious reading. Slim is an excellent example of a rare military genius who *got it all*. He understood common men at war and why they fought. He understood logistics and command. He had a sense for combined arms warfare. Slim was also the finest model of a man of honor—a civilized soldier at war.

Infantry Attacks

By Erwin J. Rommel

This World War I combat study should be required reading for military cadets before commissioning. No one should command an infantry company without studying the lessons of history's most brilliant and tactically creative small-unit infantry combat leaders. Rommel's explosive energy, personal courage and sense of daring subsequently guided him to enormous victories in the fluid World War II armor battles of North Africa.

Common Sense Training: A Working Philosophy for Leaders

By Lieutenant General Arthur S Collins, Jr., US Army, Retired

This is an essential training guide for all battalion and brigade operations officers. Collins' classic book describes how to produce units able to execute their wartime and individual tasks. This remarkable volume captures the experiences of one of the great Army trainers.

Thud Ridge

By Colonel Jack Broughton, US Air Force, Retired

Ground combat leaders depend on air power to survive and achieve victory. This powerful tale of air combat over North Vietnam strips away the romanticism of air warfare and reveals the exhaustion, fear, confusion, endless planning, technical complexity and lethality of air combat. Armor and infantry commanders who read *Thud Ridge* will look up at those fighter-bombers shrieking overhead with a deeper understanding and respect.

We Were Soldiers Once... and Young: Ia Drang—the Battle that Changed the War in Vietnam

By Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore, US Army, Retired and Joseph L. Galloway

This is the most gripping, revealing and realistic portrayal of small-unit infantry combat I have read. The courage, blood and confusion of violent, close combat engulfs the reader. The final chapters underscore the tragic cost of changed lives from the losses of young soldiers killed in action. This is a serious work that young combat leaders should read and learn from and policy makers should study.

Prodigal Soldiers: How the Generation of Officers Born of Vietnam Revolutionized the American Style of War

By James Kitfield

This is the first book since 1965 to accurately capture how the US Armed Forces' leadership culture works. It explains how we changed our doctrine, organization and training to produce the Gulf War miracle. It traces our Armed Forces' transformation from Vietnam War failure to Operation Desert Storm triumph as seen through the eyes of the great reformers: General Donn A. Starry; General William R Richardson; Brigadier General Huba Wass de Czege; General Charles A. Horner; Admiral Stanley R. Arthur and others.