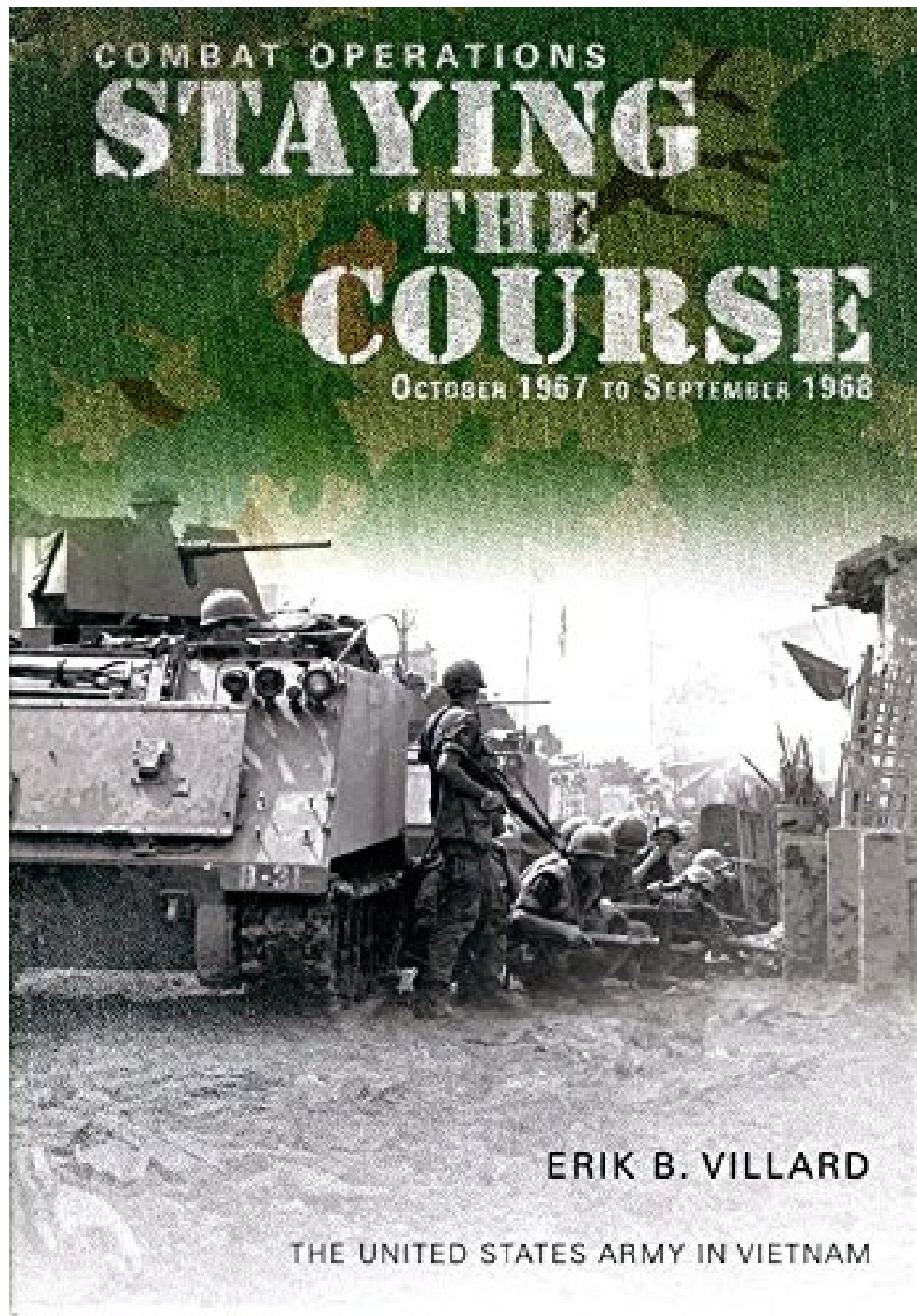


USAHEC presents: “Three Battalions in May: Army Combat Operations during the Communist ‘Mini-Tet’ Offensive”

By USAHEC staff 18 September 2018



Erik Villard, historian at the Center for Military History, is the author of "Combat Operations:

Dr. Erik Villard will speak about the “Mini Tet” offensive in May of 1968, when American and Allied counterattacks knocked the North Vietnamese off balance months after the deadly Tet Offensive had been launched. This is the focus of the next Military History Perspectives at US Army Heritage & Education Center, Wed, Sept 19 at 7:15 pm in the USAHEC Research Room, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle 17013.

In “Three Battalions in May: Army Combat Operations during the Communist ‘Mini-Tet’ Offensive,” Dr. Villard will explore the May Offensive through the experience of three units: the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at Khe Sanh and Dong Ha; the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry; 196th Infantry Brigade at Kham Duc; and the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized) at An Bao.

Their actions led to the success of allied counteroffensives following Tet, forcing the Communists to change and scale back their plans for the May Offensive in I Corps and northern II Corps. Dr. Villard incorporated numerous interviews he conducted with Veterans from all three units, as well as the leadership of their higher headquarters, into his books and presentation.

Dr. Erik B. Villard graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with degrees in history and English literature, later earning a master’s degree and Ph. D in history from the University of Washington in Seattle. He has worked for the U.S. Army Center of Military History since 2000 and has devoted his personal time to helping Vietnam War Veterans through history-oriented social media groups. Over the last few years, he has become involved in digital humanities, applying graphic design software, 3D modeling programs, geospatial information systems, and audio-video production to the field of military history. He is also the author of several books and articles about the Vietnam War, including *Staying the Course: October 1967 to September 1968*, and *The 1968 Tet Offensive Battles of Quang Tri City and Hue*.