

# Perspectives speaker takes a hard look at America after the Tet Offensive, 1968

## Next Perspectives in Military History speaker takes a hard look at America after the Tet Offensive, 1968

The violent North Vietnamese surprise attack known infamously as the "Tet Offensive," shattered the already uneasy American view of the war in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, Pa., is proud to sponsor a Perspectives in Military History lecture about the politics, assassinations, conflicts, and culture of the year 1968, through the lens of the Tet Offensive, a turning point in American history.

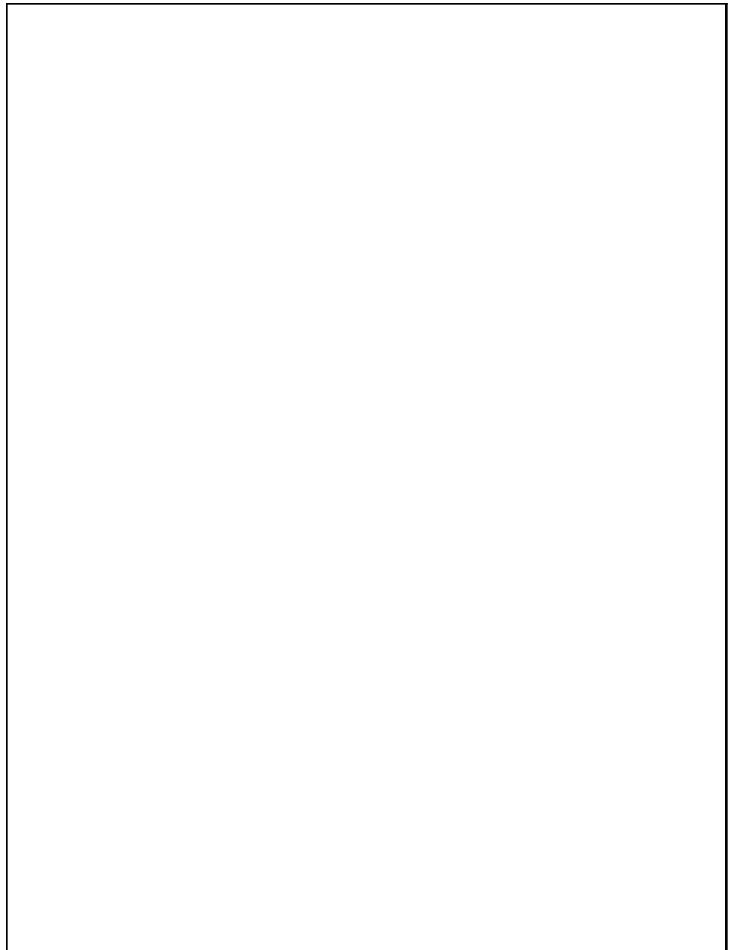
Please join us to listen to a lecture from the current General Harold K. Johnson Visiting Professor of Military History at the United States Army War College, Dr. William T. Allison, as he presents his ideas regarding the socio-political implications of the Tet Offensive on 1968 America. The lecture, entitled "The Year of the Monkey: The Tet Offensive, America, and 1968," will begin at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Allison will base his lecture on his new book, *On Nostalgia's Altar: America 1968* (to be published in 2014), making conclusions regarding how the Tet Offensive changed more than just the military direction of the war. The fighting had wide-ranging consequences and helped to further disillusion the American populace, preventing Lyndon Johnson's reelection.

Subsequently, Robert F. Kennedy ran for the office, resulting in his assassination. In addition, the offensive shattered the U.S. military's belief in North Vietnamese weakness and pushed public opinion of the war to a split between ending the conflict through withdrawal or victory. While the offensive was considered a military failure in its goal of inciting mass riots and sparking a revolution in South Vietnam, the unintended side effects of this "show of force" changed the course of the war and American history itself.

Allison is the current General Harold K. Johnson Visiting Professor of Military History at the U.S. Army War College and former Visiting Professor of Military History at the United States Air Force (USAF) School for Advanced Air and Space Studies from 2010-2011.

He earned his Ph.D. at Bowling Green State and is an accomplished author on the subject of the Vietnam War. He has published numerous books on the subject such as, *My Lai: An American Atrocity in the Vietnam War (Witness to History)*, *Tet Offensive: A Brief History with Documents*, and *Military Justice in Vietnam: The*



*Rule of Law in an American War*. He has served on the editorial board of the Journal of Military History, and as a member of the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Committee.

All Perspectives in Military History lectures are open to the public and FREE to attend. Doors to the Visitor and Education Center will open at 6:30 p.m., and the lecture will begin at 7:15 p.m. Parking is free, and the Museum Store will be open.

For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org) or call 717-245-3972.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 12 February 2014