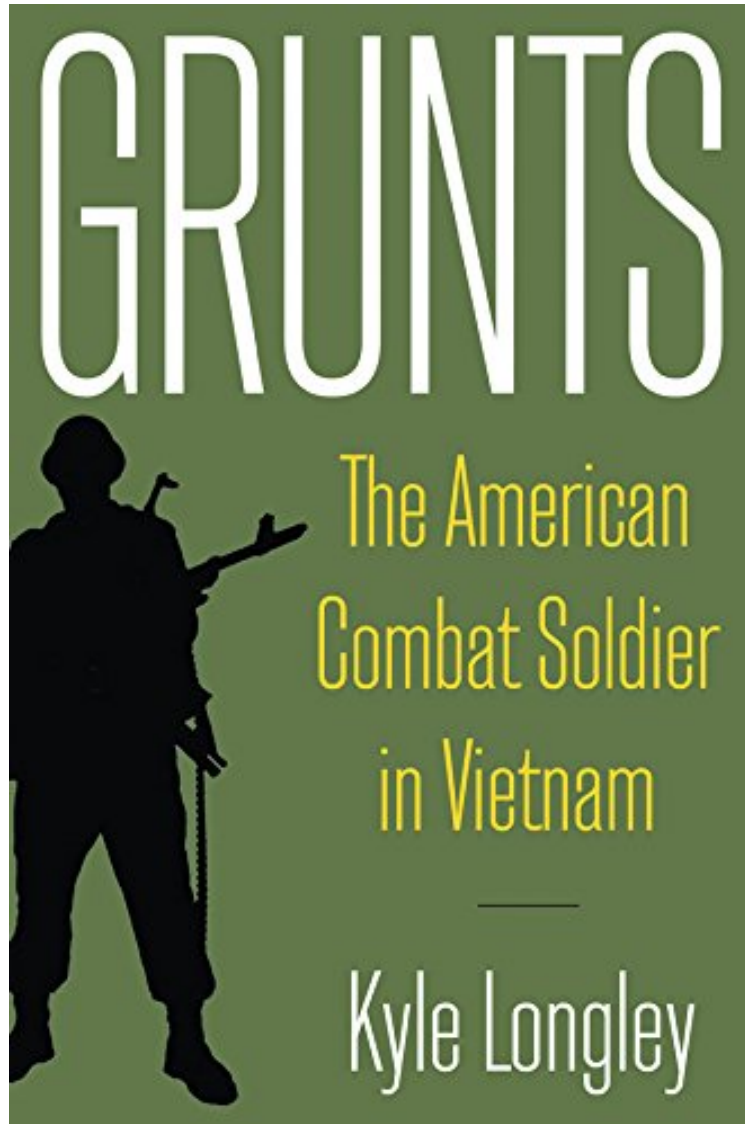


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## Grunts: The American Combat Soldier in Vietnam

*Kyle Longley*

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**Kyle Longley : Grunts: The American Combat Soldier in Vietnam** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grunts: The American Combat Soldier in Vietnam:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for class, but a decent book nonetheless. By Ronald D. Bruner Jr. Taking HST 340 : American Military History at Arizona State University. This si required reading, so I had to buy it, not expecting a whole lot to be honest. Boy was I surprised! The book is pretty amazing and I found myself finishing even the parts I was not required to read. This subject has been beaten to death, but this book sheds a little bit of light and fresh air onto the scene. Whetehr you just enjoy war stories or need to read this for school, check it out. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful read! By Go Hawks Great informative read. Chose

this as a book recommended by my professor at Arizona State University for my US military history class 11 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Should be required reading By Oilcan This is the second review I've written because the first one didn't take. I'll leave out the foul language this time. The first reviewer (Annand) did an excellent job providing details and a synopsis. I was prepared to write a full length book report but he handled it with much more insight. I didn't serve. I did, however, go to the library one day and looked up the September 8, 1967 copy of the LA Times on microfiche. I was born that day. There was a section separate from the obituaries that listed the casualties from the Viet Nam war. There were around 50 casualties that day. I hadn't been looking for it but there it was. A little number I couldn't quite get over. This sparked my interest in the war and I can't quite explain why. Something about being able to see myself in that situation. WW II was too distant and in black and white. I don't see myself in the current war either. It's too stupid. I wouldn't have gone. Vietnam was different and this book hammered that point home. I was looking for something non-partisan about the war and this book was completely perfect in that sense. No anti war carping. No flag waving. Just a ton, and I mean huge amount of research and interviews for this book. Naturally, there is politics involved but you won't be able to tell if Longley is left or right. He's neither as it concerns this book and he gives each side equal footing. I just wanted to learn about the war with no filters and I had read some of Longley's work before. When I found out he wrote a book about the Viet Nam war - I ordered it immediately knowing that he plays it as a historian should...right down the middle. I do think this type of writing will make a comeback of sorts. Maybe when people put down there frantic, one-sided political books like the type Glenn Beck writes, people will come back to actual fact driven history. I think it's in this realm that Longley will become a very important and recognized writer.

This book provides a fresh approach to understanding the American combat soldier's experience in Vietnam. It integrates such topics as the political culture, the experiences of training, the actual Vietnam experience, and the 'homecoming', and offers a remarkable overview of the 870,000 'grunts' who bore the brunt of the fighting in the jungles and highlands of South Vietnam, and eventually Cambodia and Laos. The book addresses many of the stereotypes of the Vietnam combat veteran that have been perpetrated in popular culture, and also considers how Vietnam veterans have been commemorated through memorials and other means, and how the veterans remember each other. The coverage also includes women who served in or near the front lines as well as on the home front. The author draws on memoirs and oral histories including his personal interviews with veterans, but the book conveys a picture of the Vietnam combat soldier's experience far more powerful than what individual memoirs can provide.

"A monument to the Vietnam veteran. It is more than a compilation of some of the best anecdotes of the war. It is an exhaustively researched and analyzed work, and a logical starting point for those who wish to understand soldiers' and marines' experiences in a war that many people still struggle to fathom." --Army History, Spring 2011