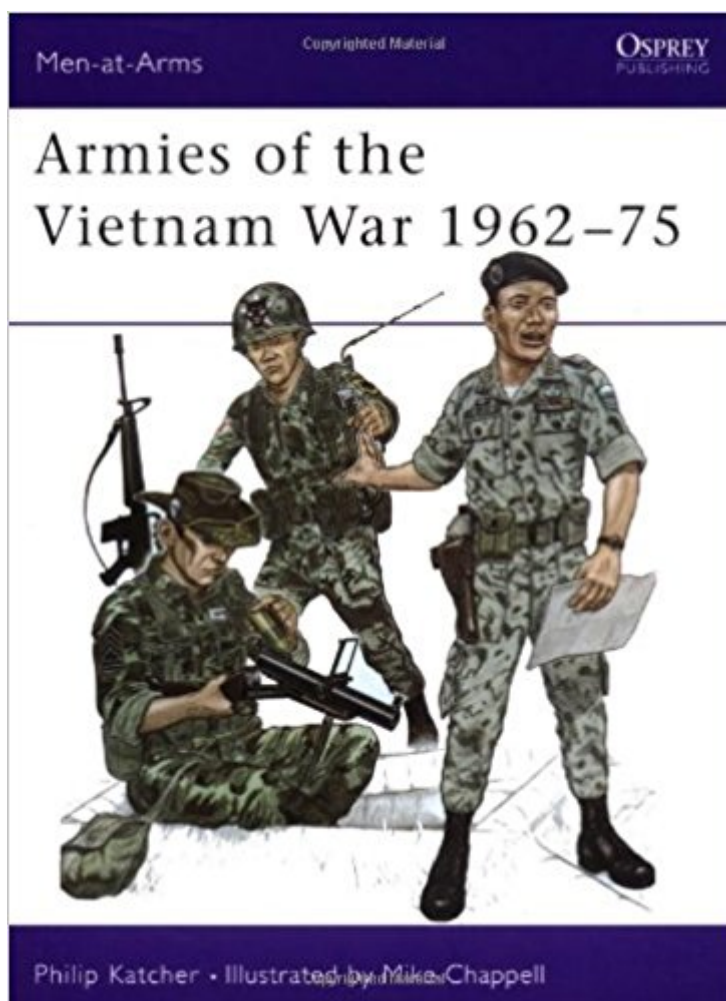




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Armies Of The Vietnam War 1962–75 (Men-at-Arms) (Bk.1)



Synopsis

Philip Katcher provides an overview to the conflict that engulfed Vietnam following the division of the country into two along the 17th Parallel in 1954. The uniforms and insignia of the US forces, including the army, Special Forces, air force, navy and marine corps, are dealt with in detail, together with those of the ARVN, the Allied Forces (such as the Royal Thai Army and Korean troops), and also the Communist NLF (Viet Cong) and NVA forces. Mike Chappell's colourful artwork provides plenty of detail to accompany this authoritative text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present.

Philip Katcher was born in Los Angeles, California, to parents involved in the film industry. He was educated at the University of Maryland and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He has also been an active participant in living history activities, especially in the 18th and 19th century periods. He has written a number of books on various periods of US military history and presently is editor/publisher of Military Images Magazine.

Good book as an overview on uniforms and equipment used by the soldiers of the several countries

that were engaged in the Vietnam conflict. Book came well packed within five days and was as advertised. Very satisfied with seller.

I purchased this book when designing a regional production of Miss Saigon and found it to be the perfect illustrated guide for an era that is often less than perfectly documented.

I have had this book for some time now. Following a concise summary of the conflict, the author launches into the types of uniforms worn. Although he mentions the clothing specified to be worn, there are no illustrations or schematics to follow the text. The author states that he was over there and can attest to personal experience of what was worn, or altered. He mentions that there was cheap tailoring available and most regulation uniforms were altered or substituted. Names and graffiti were written on the fatigues and helmet covers with black markers. Unit insignia of either cloth-woven or hand-drawn were fashioned will-nilly, every other person was wearing peace beads and so on. Basically, no one appeared to follow the dress regulations. So one is left in the dark as to what the regulations were but there are various black and white photos of troops with limited captions. Not the most exciting of text to read. Troops are shown in dark green jungle fatigues with or without camouflage were de rigeur and the VCs are shown in black pyjamas. The illustrations are neither particularly attractive nor informative. They appear washed-out but perhaps that was intentional to show the faded jungle fatigues.

Though I have had this book for a long time, I have seldom looked at it. As a specialist in this period and a veteran of the Cold War Army I have studied this period in real time since the fifties. In any case, the book is now obsolescent except for the color illustrations. At the age of 23 it has long been superseded by the works of Shelby Stanton (c.f.) and others. The author did serve in Vietnam but since we were there for eight years, as often stated, due to the replacement system, we fought eight different one year wars, not one eight year war. Those who were there in 1965 and earlier looked like those who served in the 1950s, by the end of the war, the soldiers' clothing and equipment was totally revised and had gone through two cycles of development and entering on a third which began during the last years of US participation and remained in use till the late eighties. So you cannot generalize about VM, you need to know where someone was, and most important, when. This book is simply not comprehensive enough nor is its companion in this series (#143), which was an attempt to fill in the gaps left by this one. Every national contingent who served in VM could well support its own study, the Australians and the South Koreans come readily to mind.

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