

the battle of roberts ridge

The Battle of Roberts Ridge: A Defining Moment in Modern Warfare

the battle of roberts ridge stands as one of the most intense and heroic engagements in the history of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. This fierce firefight, which unfolded in the rugged mountains of the Shah-i-Kot Valley in 2002, showcased extraordinary bravery, tactical resilience, and the harsh realities of mountain warfare during Operation Anaconda. Understanding the battle of Roberts Ridge provides valuable insights into the complexities of combat in Afghanistan, the challenges faced by special operations forces, and the enduring spirit of soldiers in the face of overwhelming odds.

The Context of the Battle of Roberts Ridge

Before diving into the details of the engagement itself, it's essential to grasp the broader strategic backdrop. The battle occurred during Operation Anaconda, a large-scale offensive launched by U.S. and coalition forces aimed at flushing out al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters entrenched in the Shah-i-Kot Valley, a remote and mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan.

Operation Anaconda and Its Objectives

Operation Anaconda was initiated in early March 2002 as part of the U.S.-led effort to dismantle terrorist strongholds following the initial invasion of Afghanistan. The operation sought to encircle and eliminate enemy fighters hiding in complex terrain that offered natural defensive advantages. The Shah-i-Kot Valley, with its steep ridges and high elevations, became a focal point due to the concentration of hostile forces.

Introducing Roberts Ridge

Roberts Ridge, named later in honor of Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Roberts, was a steep and rugged mountain ridge that U.S. forces attempted to seize to gain a tactical advantage over enemy positions. The ridge's significance lay in its commanding view of the valley floor, making it a critical piece of terrain for controlling the battlefield.

The Battle Unfolds: A Harrowing Tale of Courage

and Sacrifice

On March 4, 2002, a team of U.S. Army Rangers and members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) embarked on a daring nighttime helicopter insertion onto Roberts Ridge. What followed was a grueling firefight that tested the limits of endurance, leadership, and combat skill.

Helicopter Insertion and Immediate Challenges

Flying into the Shah-i-Kot Valley's treacherous mountainous terrain at night was already a perilous task. The Rangers were inserted under cover of darkness, but rough weather conditions and enemy fire complicated the landing. Upon touchdown, the team quickly discovered they were facing far heavier resistance than intelligence had anticipated.

Enemy Ambush and Intense Combat

Almost immediately after landing, the Rangers were pinned down by well-entrenched enemy fighters armed with automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades, and mortars. The uphill battle was brutal: the enemy had the advantage of higher ground and intimate knowledge of the terrain. Communication difficulties and limited reinforcements added to the peril.

Acts of Heroism and Leadership

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, the Rangers displayed remarkable tenacity. Staff Sergeant Ronald Roberts, after whom the ridge would later be named, exemplified extraordinary leadership. Alongside other soldiers, he coordinated defensive positions, called in close air support, and risked his life to rescue wounded comrades under heavy fire. The battle lasted for hours, with casualties mounting on both sides.

Strategic and Tactical Lessons from the Battle of Roberts Ridge

The battle of Roberts Ridge is studied extensively in military circles for the lessons it offers about mountain warfare, special operations tactics, and joint force coordination.

Importance of Terrain and Intelligence

The rugged geography of Roberts Ridge posed significant challenges that underscored the importance of accurate intelligence and reconnaissance. Underestimating enemy strength and positioning can lead to dire consequences, especially in complex environments like Afghanistan's mountains.

Coordination Between Units

The engagement highlighted the critical need for seamless communication and cooperation between ground forces and supporting helicopter units. The 160th SOAR's pilots were instrumental in inserting and extracting troops under fire, proving that aviation assets are a vital force multiplier in hostile environments.

Resilience Under Fire

The soldiers' ability to maintain composure, adapt tactics, and sustain fighting spirit despite overwhelming odds remains a powerful example for military training and leadership development.

Remembering the Heroes of Roberts Ridge

The battle of Roberts Ridge is not just a military case study; it's a story of human courage and sacrifice. The actions of the Rangers and their supporting units have been commemorated in books, documentaries, and military honors.

Legacy and Honors

Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Roberts was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, highlighting the extraordinary valor displayed during the fight. The naming of Roberts Ridge serves as a lasting tribute to his heroism and the sacrifices of all soldiers involved.

Impact on Special Operations Doctrine

The encounter influenced how special operations units approach similar missions, emphasizing preparation for worst-case scenarios and the need for flexibility in rapidly changing combat situations.

Insights for Understanding Modern Mountain Combat

For those interested in military history or strategy, the battle of Roberts Ridge offers several key takeaways:

- **Preparation is paramount:** Success in mountainous warfare demands specialized training and equipment tailored to high-altitude, rugged environments.
- **Adaptability saves lives:** Commanders and soldiers must be ready to adjust plans on the fly when faced with unexpected resistance or changing conditions.
- **Support is critical:** Close air support, medevac capabilities, and reliable communications are essential for sustaining operations and reducing casualties.

How the Battle of Roberts Ridge Resonates Today

More than two decades later, the battle of Roberts Ridge continues to resonate within the military community and among the public. Its story reminds us of the complexities of modern warfare, the sacrifices made by service members, and the enduring challenges of fighting in difficult terrain against determined adversaries.

This engagement also sparked renewed interest in improving tactics and technologies for mountain warfare, influencing ongoing training programs and equipment development for special forces worldwide.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a military professional, or simply curious about the realities of combat, the battle of Roberts Ridge offers a gripping and informative glimpse into a pivotal moment of the Global War on Terror.

In reflecting on the battle, it becomes clear that the courage and resilience demonstrated on Roberts Ridge embody the spirit of those who serve in some of the most demanding and dangerous conditions imaginable. Their story continues to inspire and educate, ensuring that the lessons learned are not forgotten.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

The Battle of Roberts Ridge, also known as the Battle of Takur Ghar, was a significant engagement during the War in Afghanistan in March 2002, involving U.S. Special Operations Forces.

When did the Battle of Roberts Ridge take place?

The Battle of Roberts Ridge took place from March 3 to March 4, 2002.

Where is Roberts Ridge located?

Roberts Ridge is located on Takur Ghar mountain in the Arma Mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Why is the Battle of Roberts Ridge significant?

The battle is significant due to the intense combat faced by U.S. Special Operations troops against Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters, highlighting the challenges of mountain warfare and the bravery of the soldiers involved.

Which U.S. military units participated in the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

Units involved included Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, Air Force combat controllers, and other special operations forces.

What triggered the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

The battle was triggered when a U.S. helicopter carrying Navy SEALs was shot down while inserting troops on Takur Ghar, leading to a fierce firefight to rescue survivors.

What were the main challenges faced by U.S. forces during the battle?

U.S. forces faced difficult mountainous terrain, heavy enemy fire, limited visibility, and the need to coordinate a complex rescue operation under fire.

How did the Battle of Roberts Ridge impact U.S. military tactics?

The battle led to adjustments in insertion tactics, improved communication protocols, and greater emphasis on air-ground coordination in special operations missions.

Are there any movies or books about the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

Yes, the battle was depicted in the 2010 film "Act of Valor" and is covered in various military memoirs and documentaries.

What honors were awarded to soldiers who fought in the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

Several soldiers received high military honors, including the Navy Cross and Silver Star, for their valor and heroism during the battle.

Additional Resources

The Battle of Roberts Ridge: A Detailed Examination of Valor and Strategy

the battle of roberts ridge stands as one of the most intense and heroic engagements in modern military history, particularly within the context of the Afghanistan conflict. This confrontation, which took place on August 3, 2002, involved U.S. Army Rangers from the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the Afghan National Army as they faced a well-entrenched force of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters on a steep ridgeline in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan's Paktia Province. The battle is notable not only for its ferocity but also for the extraordinary acts of bravery and tactical decisions that have been studied extensively in military circles.

Understanding the battle of roberts ridge requires an exploration of the strategic context, the sequence of events, and the implications it had for coalition forces operating in Afghanistan. It also serves as a case study in small unit tactics and the challenges posed by mountainous counterinsurgency warfare.

The Strategic Context of the Battle of Roberts Ridge

In the summer of 2002, the United States and its allies were deeply engaged in Operation Anaconda, aimed at rooting out remaining al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters from the Shah-i-Kot Valley and surrounding areas. The rugged terrain, characterized by high ridges and narrow passes, made the area a natural stronghold for insurgents familiar with the landscape.

The battle of roberts ridge occurred during a mission intended to capture or kill a high-value target, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a notorious warlord allied with al-Qaeda. The insertion of the Rangers and their Afghan partners via helicopter onto the ridge was part of a larger strategy to seize control of the high ground, which would facilitate further operations in the valley

below.

Terrain and Tactical Challenges

The ridge itself was a formidable position. Elevated approximately 10,000 feet above sea level, it offered the defending insurgents a commanding view of the surrounding area. The steep slopes and rocky outcroppings created natural defensive advantages, complicating any assault or resupply efforts by coalition forces.

The Rangers faced several tactical challenges:

- **Limited visibility and cover:** The mountainous terrain limited lines of sight, requiring careful movement and coordination to avoid ambushes.
- **Communication difficulties:** Harsh terrain interfered with radio signals, complicating command and control.
- **Enemy fortifications:** The insurgents had established well-camouflaged bunkers and machine gun nests.
- **Altitude and weather:** Thin air and unpredictable weather conditions added physical strain on the troops.

Sequence of Events During the Battle

The Rangers were inserted onto the ridge in the early morning hours, initially encountering little resistance. However, as they advanced, they soon came under heavy fire from entrenched enemy positions. The insurgents had anticipated the insertion, and the element of surprise was lost.

The firefight intensified rapidly. In the ensuing chaos, one of the most critical moments was the downing of a MH-47 Chinook helicopter, call sign "Extortion 17," which was shot down while attempting to resupply and evacuate casualties. This loss resulted in the deaths of several Rangers and Afghan soldiers and underscored the perils of operating in such hostile terrain.

Despite overwhelming enemy fire and mounting casualties, the Rangers held their ground. They called in close air support and artillery strikes, which proved crucial in suppressing enemy positions and preventing the ridge from being overrun. The soldiers' ability to maintain communication with supporting units, despite the terrain challenges, was a pivotal factor in their survival.

Acts of Heroism and Leadership

The battle of Roberts Ridge is often highlighted for the extraordinary valor demonstrated by individual soldiers. Several Rangers were awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and other commendations for their actions during the fight. The leadership displayed by the small unit commanders, under extreme pressure and with limited resources, played a vital role in maintaining cohesion and morale.

One notable example was Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, whose selfless efforts to protect wounded comrades became emblematic of the battle's human dimension. The narratives of such individuals have been widely documented and serve as powerful reminders of the sacrifices made during the operation.

Comparative Analysis: Roberts Ridge and Other Mountain Warfare Engagements

When compared to other mountain warfare battles, such as those during the Korean War or the Soviet-Afghan conflict, the battle of Roberts Ridge shares several common characteristics:

- **Challenges of high-altitude combat:** Physical exhaustion and reduced oxygen levels impact combat effectiveness.
- **Importance of air support:** Close air support and helicopter mobility are crucial in rugged terrain.
- **Heavy reliance on small unit tactics:** Success often depends on the initiative and decision-making of individual leaders and squads.

However, the battle also reflects modern adaptations, including advanced communications technology and precision-guided munitions, which have changed the dynamics of such engagements compared to historical precedents.

The Role of Joint Forces and Coalition Cooperation

An essential aspect of the battle was the cooperation between U.S. forces and their Afghan counterparts. The integration of Afghan National Army troops highlighted both the potential and the complexities of coalition warfare. Language barriers, different training standards, and varying combat experience levels presented obstacles, but also opportunities for building local capacity against insurgents.

The battle underscored the necessity of joint operations in counterinsurgency campaigns and provided lessons for future missions involving multinational forces in similarly challenging environments.

Legacy and Impact on Military Doctrine

The battle of Roberts Ridge has left a lasting legacy in military circles. It is frequently studied in military academies and training programs as a prime example of small unit leadership, resilience under fire, and the intricacies of mountain warfare.

Key lessons derived from the battle include:

- The critical importance of preparation and reconnaissance in hostile terrain.
- The value of flexibility and adaptability when initial plans encounter unexpected resistance.
- The necessity of robust logistical support and rapid casualty evacuation capabilities.
- The impact of morale and leadership on combat outcomes.

Moreover, the battle contributed to evolving U.S. military doctrine regarding the use of special operations forces in counterterrorism and irregular warfare scenarios.

The battle of Roberts Ridge remains a testament to the courage and tenacity of the soldiers who fought there. Its detailed analysis provides valuable insights for military professionals and historians alike, continuing to inform strategies for operations in complex and hostile environments worldwide.

[The Battle Of Roberts Ridge](#)

the battle of roberts ridge: Roberts Ridge Malcolm MacPherson, 2005-08-30 Afghanistan, March 2002. In the early morning darkness on a frigid mountaintop, a U.S. soldier is stranded, alone, surrounded by fanatical al Qaeda fighters. For the man's fellow Navy SEALs, and for waiting teams of Army Rangers, there was only one rule now: leave no one behind. In this gripping you-are-there account-based on stunning eyewitness testimony and painstaking research-journalist Malcolm MacPherson thrusts us into a drama of rescue, tragedy, and valor in a place that would be known as... ROBERTS RIDGE For an elite team of SEALs, the mission seemed straightforward

enough: take control of a towering 10,240-foot mountain peak called Takur Ghar. Launched as part of Operation Anaconda—a hammer-and-anvil plan to smash Taliban al Qaeda in eastern Afghanistan—the taking of Takur Ghar would offer U.S. forces a key strategic observation post. But the enemy was waiting, hidden in a series of camouflaged trenches and bunkers—and when the Special Forces chopper flared on the peak to land, it was shredded by a hail of machine-gun, small arms, and RPG rounds. A red-haired SEAL named Neil Roberts was thrown from the aircraft. And by the time the shattered helicopter crash-landed on the valley floor seven miles away, Roberts’s fellow SEALs were determined to return to the mountain peak and bring him out—no matter what the cost. Drawing on the words of the men who were there—SEALs, Rangers, medics, combat air controllers, and pilots—this harrowing true account, the first book of its kind to chronicle the battle for Takur Ghar, captures in dramatic detail a seventeen-hour pitched battle fought at the highest elevation Americans have ever waged war. At once an hour-by-hour, bullet-by-bullet chronicle of a landmark battle and a sobering look at the capabilities and limitations of America’s high-tech army, Roberts Ridge is the unforgettable story of a few dozen warriors who faced a single fate: to live or die for their comrades in the face of near-impossible odds.

the battle of roberts ridge: U.S. Air Force Special Tactics Combat Control School Heritage Foundation, 2022-11-08 The CCT - The Eye of the Storm-series chronicles the exploits of Air Force Special Warfare, Combat Control Teams (CCT). It is told in the form of short stories; many etched by a cocktail of blood, sweat and tears. The Combat Control story began in the de facto Volume I with the appearance of the first CCTs; i.e., command and control teams cobbled together by the WWII U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) for Operation Varsity. The CCT story continued in Volume II, detailing the 21st Century fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Included are two humanitarian missions; operations of epic proportion in Haiti and Japan. In this third volume subtitled - Medal of Honor (MOH) - the CCT story is expanded, incorporating the two previously self-published volumes and adding hundreds of new stories from around the globe. But, with a concentration on operations in southwest Asia; including Afghanistan; now America’s longest war. This volume is an all-inclusive compilation presented as a single, premium publication. The diversity of feature stories, subjects and styles present a well-rounded, unbiased look at the CCT’s view at “the eye of the storm.” Each published PA reporter and volunteer contributor has a by-line in the book. Thanks to all for their remarkable journalistic work. The book is expected to engage a wider-ranging audience of American and allied military elements, families, historians and enthusiasts. More importantly, Medal of Honor celebrates the first-ever award of the Air Force Medal of Honor to a Combat Control patriot and hero. On April 20, 2018 after more than fifteen years technical review and Air Staff deliberation the Medal of Honor for TSgt John Chapman was approved by President Donald Trump. The MOH award ceremonies and associated events are covered in detail near the end of this book. In preparing CCT - The Eye of the Storm - Medal of Honor, the goal was to collect stories from hundreds of sources, written by an even larger band of vetted professionals selected to observe, record and report truths about military units in action. In my mind the U.S. Government Public Affairs Offices were the perfect choice. For that reason, you will find hundreds of PA-generated stories used herein. Through our collective efforts we have published a fair and accurate chronicle of USAF Combat Control Team’s stories; exploiting the public domain and declassified accounts. This is a documentary of Air Force Combat Control Teams operating at The Eye of the Storm. Subtitled Medal of Honor; it is the most in-depth CCT history ever published.

the battle of roberts ridge: On Killing Remotely Lieutenant Colonel Wayne Phelps, 2021-06-08 A “can’t-miss for anyone interested in current military affairs,” On Killing Remotely reveals and explores the costs—to individual soldiers and to society—of the way we wage war today (Kirkus Reviews, starred). Throughout history society has determined specific rules of engagement between adversaries in armed conflict. With advances in technology, from armor to in the Middle Ages to nerve gas in World War I to weapons of mass destruction in our own time, the rules have constantly evolved. Today, when killing the enemy can seem palpably risk-free and tantamount to playing a violent video game, what constitutes warfare? What is the effect of remote combat on

individual soldiers? And what are the unforeseen repercussions that could affect us all? Lt Col Wayne Phelps, former commander of a Remotely Piloted Aircraft unit, addresses these questions and many others as he tells the story of the men and women of today's "chair force." Exploring the ethics of remote military engagement, the misconceptions about PTSD among RPA operators, and the specter of military weaponry controlled by robots, his book is an urgent and compelling reminder that it should always be difficult to kill another human being lest we risk losing what makes us human.

the battle of roberts ridge: Takur Ghar Leigh Neville, 2013-03-20 On March 4, 2002, a team of SEALs was choppered onto a hostile Afghan mountain peak as part of Operation Anaconda. The largest operation by US forces since Vietnam, it was intended to bring to battle foreign al-Qaeda fighters who had fled after the overthrow of the Taliban and the battle of Tora Bora. But when their special ops Chinook was hit by RPGs, it marked the beginning of the SEALs' epic day-long battle for survival, which involved Coalition special forces, gunships and Predators in a 17-hour firefight against the al-Qaeda guerrillas.

the battle of roberts ridge: US Army Rangers 1989-2015 Leigh Neville, 2016-05-19 Written by an expert on modern Special Forces units and the operations they undertake, this book explains the evolution of the Rangers' missions in Panama, the first Gulf War, Somalia and the post 9/11 invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. It reveals the training and organizational changes that the unit has undergone and investigates in particular how their doctrine and tactics have changed during the 14-year war in Afghanistan. At the beginning of the war the Rangers were an elite light infantry unit of picked men tasked with short duration recon raids and securing ground behind enemy lines in support of Special Forces; they have since evolved into a special-mission unit themselves – on the cusp of being assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command.

the battle of roberts ridge: Leadership in Dangerous Situations, 2nd Edition Patrick Sweeney, Michael D. Matthews, Paul D. Lester, Sean Hannah, Brian Reed, 2022-12-15 This guide which, for years, has prepared military, emergency, and first responders to face psychological, social, and physical challenges of leading in dangerous contexts has been updated. The author team, which includes scholars and practitioners, has integrated current research findings, incorporated topics not covered in the prior edition and has created a reference work relevant to leaders at all levels (entry, mid, and senior) in organizations that operate in dangerous contexts. Leadership in Dangerous Situations, Second Edition includes nine new chapters that address character development, ethical decision-making and action, leading in uncertain times, empowering initiative, leading taskforces and cross-functional teams, operating in complex social and political environments, tactical and operational decision-making and planning, red teaming, and incident command. The authors wrote their chapters as acts of service to enhance the professions that serve their countries and societies.

the battle of roberts ridge: Special Ops: Search and Rescue Operations Carol Hand, 2014-12-15 The heroic combat search and rescue work of the United States Air Force's pararescue jumpers, or PJs, is something worth knowing about. After all, these courageous PJs are the first in line to find and rescue fallen soldiers and civilians in the most dangerous of war zones—often risking their own lives in the process. In these pages, the basic principles, history, and structure of American combat search and rescue teams is thoroughly covered, with particular focus on true stories of PJ rescue missions and the equipment, vehicles, and weapons they use.

the battle of roberts ridge: Hunting the Caliphate Dana J.H. Pittard , Wes J. Bryant, 2019-08-27 In this vivid first-person narrative, a Special Operations Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) and his commanding general give fascinating and detailed accounts of America's fight against one of the most barbaric insurgencies the world has ever seen. In the summer of 2014, three years after America's full troop withdrawal from the Iraq War, President Barack Obama authorized a small task force to push back into Baghdad. Their mission: Protect the Iraqi capital and U.S. embassy from a rapidly emerging terrorist threat. A plague of brutality, that would come to be known as ISIS, had created a foothold in northwest Iraq and northeast Syria. It had declared itself a

Caliphate—an independent nation-state administered by an extreme and cruel form of Islamic law—and was spreading like a newly evolved virus. Soon, a massive and devastating U.S. military response had unfolded. Hear the ground truth on the senior military and political interactions that shaped America's war against ISIS, a war unprecedented in both its methodology and its application of modern military technology. Enter the world of the Strike Cell, secretive operations centers where America's greatest enemies are hunted and killed day and night. Plunge into the realm of the Special Operations JTAC, American warfighters with the highest enemy kill counts on the battlefield. And gain the wisdom of a cumulative half-century of military experience as Dana Pittard and Wes Bryant lay out the path to a sustained victory over ISIS. For more information about the book, visit www.huntingthecaliphate.com.

the battle of roberts ridge: This Day in U.S. Military History Paul Brandus, 2019-12-30 For librarians, military history buffs, journalists, speakers, and more, a day-by-day accounting of the most important events, people, and philosophies of U.S. military history. From the author of *This Day in Presidential History* (Bernan Press, 2017), journalist and White House correspondent Paul Brandus. For each of the 366 days of the year, readers will discover landmark battles, key strategies, dramatic anecdotes, legendary leaders, compelling quotes (War is hell.), founding anniversaries and more. * Features a quotation for each day of the year. * Illustrated with 50 historic images. * From the French and Indian Wars to today's conflicts in the Middle East and against terrorism.

the battle of roberts ridge: Summary of Matthew A. Cole's Code Over Country Everest Media,, 2022-03-22T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 On May 24, 2018, retired Navy SEAL Britt Slabinski was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump. #2 The Medal of Honor is the highest award for military service. It was initially established by the Navy during the Civil War, and has been awarded to soldiers who fought for the Union. #3 On March 4, 2002, Slabinski led a team of six SEALs up Takur Ghar, an Afghan mountain. They were ambushed by al Qaeda fighters, and one of their teammates, Neil Roberts, fell off the open ramp and tumbled ten feet into the snow. The team continued their ascent. #4 The battle continued for another fourteen hours. By the time Slabinski and his team landed back at the SEAL Team 6 headquarters at Bagram Air Base, outside the Afghan capital of Kabul, several hours later, a fuller picture of what had occurred on the top of Takur Ghar emerged.

the battle of roberts ridge: The History of Big Safari Colonel Bill Grimes, USAF Retired, 2014 For more than half a century, Big Safari-modified aircraft have performed dangerous and essential missions to collect intelligence, conduct surveillance and reconnaissance, and engage in special operations missions around the globe in the interest of national security. These state-of-the-art aircraft have been flown, operated, and maintained by men and women whose dedication and commitment have made the world a safer place. In *The History of Big Safari*, author Colonel Bill Grimes, a retired US Air Force officer, presents a history of this program, which has been in existence for more than sixty years. Born as a special acquisition program in 1952, Big Safari has been in a unique position to save lives by rapidly fielding essential systems with a quick-reaction capability to ensure decision makers on the battlefield and at the Pentagon have timely intelligence to plan and execute operations. Grimes shows how, without a special acquisition program such as Big Safari, the nation's ability to react to evolving dangers and threats would be mired in bureaucracy when timely responses are critical. With detailed cutaway illustrations revealing aircraft modifications and mission equipment, *The History of Big Safari* also includes photographs, sidebars, and anecdotes. It goes behind the scenes with the men and women who participated in the challenging projects and daring missions. It shares the development of cutting-edge technology and special mission aircraft, as well as the global events that necessitated these once-classified programs. Finally, it provides insight into long-veiled projects, operations, and missions that comprise the world under the purview of Big Safari.

the battle of roberts ridge: The Speed of Heat Thomas W. Young, 2010-03-22 With its fleet of large transport aircraft, the United States military can put personnel and equipment anywhere on

the globe within hours. In the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in particular, virtually every soldier, every bullet, every pint of blood, and every bite of food have arrived in the war zone by airlift. This book tells the story of one Air National Guard airlift wing as related by its members. The 167th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard consisted of a squadron of 12 C-130 cargo planes, their crews, and all the supporting sections--in all, more than 1,200 people. The author, a former Associated Press reporter turned aviator, flew as an active member of that unit and interviewed nearly 70 servicemen and women for this book. They include aircrews who dodged heat-seeking missiles, mechanics who made combat repairs, flight nurses who treated and transported the wounded, even two motor pool truck drivers struck by a roadside bomb.

the battle of roberts ridge: *Toppling the Taliban* Walter L. Perry, David Kassing, 2015 This report describes the preparations for Operation Enduring Freedom, Army operations and support activities, coalition issues, and civil-military operations in Afghanistan from October 2001 through June 2002.

the battle of roberts ridge: *The Ethics of Special Ops* Deane-Peter Baker, Roger Herbert, David Whetham, 2023-11-30 Addresses one largely overlooked trend in the field of military ethics, the emergence of special operations as an instrument of statecraft.

the battle of roberts ridge: *Tactical Emergency Medicine* Richard B. Schwartz, John G. McManus, Raymond E. Swienton, 2008 This brief, practical text covers all aspects of tactical emergency medicine—the practice of emergency medicine in the field, rather than at the hospital, during disasters, police or military conflicts, mass events, and community incidents. Key topics covered include hostage survival, insertion and extraction techniques, continuum of force, medical support, planning and triage, medical evaluation in the incident zone, care in custody, medical control of incident site, decontamination, community communication, and more. Boxed definitions, case scenarios, and treatment algorithms are included. The concluding chapter presents real world scenarios to run tactical teams through and lists recommended training programs and continuing education.

the battle of roberts ridge: *Air Force Magazine* , 2011-07

the battle of roberts ridge: *Operation Anaconda* Lester W. Grau, Dodge Billingsley, 2011-11-25 Long before it became Obama's War, the long-running conflict in Afghanistan was launched by President George W. Bush in retaliation for the 9/11 attacks on the United States. Only a few months later, Operation Anaconda sent American-led coalition forces into their most intensely brutal confrontation with Al Qaeda and their Taliban hosts in the Shar-i Kot Valley near the Pakistan border. The result was an unexpected set piece of conventional fighting in what has become an era of guerrilla warfare. Drawing upon previously unavailable or neglected sources, Lester Grau and Dodge Billingsley give us the most complete and accurate account of this thirteen-day firefight waged in mountainous terrain nearly two miles above sea level. They describe how allied troops fought a fierce and well-entrenched enemy to a standstill, close to an old Soviet battlefield, and then drove them completely out of Afghanistan. Grau and Billingsley's account also highlights problems encountered in Anaconda and the lessons we should learn from their in-depth study. The Army and Air Force operated under conflicting views regarding the appropriate application of Close Air Support, and airpower both crippled and aided the overall effort. In addition, severe shortages of transport, attack helicopters, and artillery hampered the effort, while the acquisition and timely sharing of intelligence barely occurred at all and coalition relations frayed under the intense pressures of combat. As an added bonus, the authors also include with the book a documentary on DVD that features interviews with soldiers who fought in Anaconda, provides additional information concerning major phases of the battle, and presents insightful commentary by Grau and by Billingsley, who was on the ground with U.S. forces for the operation. Providing the richest description and critique of all the forces involved—including those that fought on the enemy side—the combined book-and-DVD surpasses all previous accounts of this landmark engagement and is an essential volume in the literature on our war in Afghanistan.

the battle of roberts ridge: *From Kabul to Baghdad and Back* John R Ballard, David W Lamm,

2012-10-15 From Kabul to Baghdad and Back provides insight into the key strategic decisions of the Afghan and Iraq campaigns as the United States attempted to wage both simultaneously against al-Qaeda and its supporting affiliates. It also evaluates the strategic execution of those military campaigns to identify how well the two operations were conducted in light of their political objectives. The book identifies the elements that made the 2001 military operation to oust the Taliban successful, then with combat operations in Iraq as a standard of comparison, the authors analyze the remainder of the Afghan campaign and the essential problems that plagued that effort, from the decision to go to war with Iraq in 2002, through the ill-fated transition to NATO lead in Afghanistan in 2006, the dismissal of Generals McKiernan and McChrystal, the eventual decision by President Obama to make the Afghan campaign the main effort in the war on extremism, and the final development of drawdown plans following the end of the war in Iraq. No other book successfully compares and contrasts the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan from a national strategic perspective, analyzing the impact of fighting the Iraq War on the success of the United States campaign in Afghanistan. It is also the first book to specifically question several key operational decisions in Afghanistan including: the decision to give NATO the lead in Afghanistan, the decisions to fire Generals McKiernan and McChrystal and the decision to conduct an Iraq War-style surge in Afghanistan. It also compares the Afghan campaigns fought by the Soviet Union and the United States, the counterinsurgency campaigns styles in Iraq and Afghanistan and the leadership of senior American officials in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In the final chapter, the key lessons of the two campaigns are outlined, including the importance of effective strategic decision-making, the utility of population focused counterinsurgency practices, the challenges of building partner capacity during combat, and the mindset required to prosecute modern war.

the battle of roberts ridge: Great Wartime Escapes and Rescues David W. Mills, Kayla L. Westra, 2019-05-17 Students, military historians, and casual readers will all find this compelling collection useful in learning about escape strategies, hostage situations, and rescue operations during times of conflict. Great Wartime Escapes and Rescues tells the captivating stories of dozens of escapes and rescues from conflicts dating from the 16th century to present, with extensive coverage of the world wars of the 20th century and the Vietnam War. In addition, escapes and rescues related to terrorist activities and regional conflicts are featured. Some stories of escapes and rescues included in this work have been written about extensively and portrayed in films, including The Great Escape and Captain Phillips' rescue by Navy SEALs. Other stories are less widely known but just as absorbing. The book opens with a detailed introductory essay that illuminates the government policies and tactics various countries have used to rescue soldiers and civilians during wartime, as well as the diverse methods that prisoners of war have used to escape notorious camps and prisons. The entries, organized alphabetically, are augmented by engaging sidebars related to the escapes and rescues. The book also includes references to such sources as autobiographies, biographies, news accounts, and interviews with veterans.

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