

# the battle of roberts ridge

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

**the battle of roberts ridge** stands out as one of the most intense and heroic engagements in recent military history. Fought during the Afghanistan War in 2002, this battle showcased the courage, resilience, and tactical ingenuity of U.S. Special Forces and their Afghan allies against overwhelming enemy forces. If you're keen on understanding the complexity of modern combat or the sacrifices made by soldiers in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, the Battle of Roberts Ridge offers a compelling story filled with both tragedy and valor.

## Setting the Stage: What Was the Battle of Roberts Ridge?

The Battle of Roberts Ridge took place on Takur Ghar mountain in Afghanistan's Shah-i-Kot Valley in early March 2002. It was part of Operation Anaconda, a large-scale mission aimed at rooting out Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters entrenched in the region. The ridge earned its name from Navy SEAL Petty Officer First Class Neil Roberts, who tragically fell during the battle.

## Context of Operation Anaconda

Operation Anaconda represented one of the earliest major offensive operations by U.S. forces in Afghanistan after the initial invasion in 2001. Intelligence suggested that a significant number of al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters had taken refuge in the mountainous terrain of the Shah-i-Kot Valley. The operation involved a coalition of U.S. Army Rangers, Special Forces, Air Force pararescuemen, and Afghan commandos working together to flush out enemy fighters.

## The Strategic Importance of Takur Ghar

Takur Ghar's high altitude and commanding view made it a critical vantage point for controlling the surrounding valley. Holding this ridge meant controlling movement and communication lines, which was vital for the success of Operation Anaconda. This strategic importance made it a focal point for conflict between coalition forces and insurgents.

## The Course of the Battle: Intense Combat on the

# Ridge

The battle unfolded rapidly and violently after a helicopter carrying U.S. Special Operations forces was targeted by enemy fire while attempting to insert troops onto the ridge. The helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), causing it to crash-land on Takur Ghar's steep slopes. This incident marked the beginning of a fierce firefight.

## Helicopter Crash and Initial Engagement

When the MH-47 Chinook helicopter was struck, Petty Officer Neil Roberts was thrown from the aircraft into enemy-held territory. His teammates immediately launched a rescue operation, but the mountainous terrain and intense enemy fire complicated their efforts. The soldiers faced a well-prepared and determined enemy force, resulting in close-quarters combat that tested their training and resolve.

## Challenges of Mountain Warfare

Mountain warfare presents unique challenges: thin air, steep slopes, limited cover, and difficulty in communication. At Takur Ghar, these factors were amplified by harsh weather and the enemy's familiarity with the terrain. The U.S. forces had to adapt quickly, relying on air support, artillery, and their own tactical skills to survive and gain ground.

## Heroes of Roberts Ridge: Acts of Valor and Sacrifice

The battle is remembered not only for its tactical significance but also for the extraordinary acts of heroism displayed by the soldiers involved. Several servicemen received high military honors for their bravery during the engagement.

## Petty Officer Neil Roberts: The Namesake

Neil Roberts' sacrifice embodies the spirit of the battle. Despite being separated from his unit in hostile territory, his actions inspired his teammates to mount a daring rescue effort under heavy fire. His legacy lives on in the name "Roberts Ridge" and in the stories of courage shared among Special Forces communities.

## Medal of Honor Recipients

Two soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during the battle:

- **Technical Sergeant John Chapman:** His relentless defense of his position and counterattacks against enemy fighters were pivotal in holding the ridge.
- **Staff Sergeant Clint Romesha:** He led his team through overwhelming odds, coordinating defense and evacuation efforts under fire.

Their stories highlight the extraordinary leadership and tenacity required in such high-stakes combat situations.

## Lessons Learned and Tactical Insights

The Battle of Roberts Ridge offers valuable lessons for military strategists and enthusiasts alike. It underscores the importance of preparation, adaptability, and coordination in modern warfare.

## Importance of Air Support and Coordination

One of the key takeaways is how vital air support is in mountainous terrain. Close air support, helicopter insertions, and medevac operations require precise coordination to avoid friendly fire and maximize effectiveness. The battle exposed communication gaps that have since been addressed in training and doctrine.

## Adaptability in Unpredictable Conditions

Soldiers had to make split-second decisions in an environment where terrain, weather, and enemy tactics constantly shifted. Flexibility and quick thinking proved essential, reinforcing the need for rigorous training in diverse combat scenarios.

## The Battle of Roberts Ridge in Popular Culture and Military History

The dramatic nature of the battle has inspired books, documentaries, and military studies. It serves as a case study in leadership, combat resilience, and the complexities of asymmetrical warfare.

## Books and Documentaries

Several accounts provide detailed narratives of the battle, including firsthand interviews and tactical analyses. These resources help civilians and military personnel alike grasp the

human and strategic dimensions of the fight.

## **Impact on Military Training**

Lessons from Roberts Ridge have shaped training programs for Special Operations forces. Emphasis on joint operations, mountain warfare skills, and rapid extraction techniques reflect the evolving nature of combat highlighted by this engagement.

## **Remembering Roberts Ridge: Honoring the Fallen and Celebrating Courage**

Memorials and annual commemorations honor the men who fought and died on Takur Ghar. Their sacrifice is a poignant reminder of the costs of war and the enduring spirit of those who serve.

Whether you're a history buff, a military enthusiast, or simply curious about modern conflicts, the Battle of Roberts Ridge offers a profound look into the realities of combat in the 21st century. It's a story of bravery, hardship, and the relentless pursuit of mission success against daunting odds.

## **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 early stages of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in March 2002, involving U.S. special operations forces fighting to rescue a downed helicopter crew on a mountaintop.

### **When did the Battle of Roberts Ridge take place?**

The Battle of Roberts Ridge occurred on March 3-4, 2002.

### **Where is Roberts Ridge located?**

Roberts Ridge is located on Takur Ghar mountain in Afghanistan's Shah-i-Kot Valley.

### **Why is the Battle of Roberts Ridge significant?**

The battle is significant because it involved intense close-quarters combat and demonstrated the bravery and resilience of U.S. special operations forces under heavy enemy fire during a high-risk rescue operation.

## **Which U.S. military units were involved in the Battle of Roberts Ridge?**

The battle primarily involved Navy SEALs from SEAL Team 6 (DEVGRU) and Air Force Combat Controllers from the 24th Special Tactics Squadron.

## **What triggered the Battle of Roberts Ridge?**

The battle was triggered after a U.S. MH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down by enemy fire while inserting special forces on Takur Ghar, leading to a rescue mission that resulted in a fierce firefight.

## **Who was Navy SEAL Neil Roberts in the context of Roberts Ridge?**

Navy SEAL Neil Roberts was a member of SEAL Team 6 who fell from the helicopter during the initial insertion and was killed during the battle, with the ridge later being named in his honor.

## **What were the outcomes of the Battle of Roberts Ridge?**

The battle resulted in several U.S. casualties but ultimately the enemy forces were defeated, and the surviving American troops were extracted. The battle highlighted the challenges of mountain warfare and the heroism of U.S. special operators.

## **How has the Battle of Roberts Ridge been commemorated or portrayed in media?**

The battle has been commemorated in military history and portrayed in books, documentaries, and films, including the 2010 movie 'Act of Valor,' which depicted the bravery of Navy SEALs during the operation.

## **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 harrowing engagements of the Afghanistan War, symbolizing exceptional bravery and tactical challenges faced by U.S. special operations forces and their allies. Taking place in March 2002, this battle tested the limits of combat endurance and showcased the complexities inherent in high-altitude warfare against a determined enemy. Analyzing the battle of Roberts Ridge offers not only insight into modern military operations but also a deeper understanding of the sacrifices and strategic intricacies that define asymmetric warfare.

# Background and Strategic Context

The battle of Roberts Ridge occurred during Operation Anaconda, a large-scale offensive aimed at rooting out Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters entrenched in the Shah-i-Kot Valley of eastern Afghanistan. The operation was significant because it marked one of the first major conventional clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents following the initial invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001. The geography of the region—rugged mountainous terrain with steep ridges and narrow passes—posed an inherent challenge, demanding adaptability and resilience from the troops involved.

The ridge itself, later named Roberts Ridge in honor of Sergeant First Class Nathan Roberts who was killed in action, was a critical vantage point. Control over this elevation promised a strategic advantage for surveillance and artillery placement, vital components in the broader campaign to dislodge enemy fighters from fortified positions.

## Forces Involved and Tactical Overview

The battle primarily involved members of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division and elite units such as the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR). These forces were supported by Afghan commandos, reflecting the coalition's integrated approach to counterinsurgency.

The assault on Roberts Ridge was executed by a small team of Army Rangers and Special Forces soldiers who were inserted via helicopter onto the peak under intense enemy fire. The insertion was met with immediate resistance as enemy combatants had occupied the ridge with superior numbers and advantageous positions. The mission's objective was to secure the ridge to provide a foothold for the larger operation.

## Challenges of High-Altitude Combat

Fighting at high altitudes introduced multiple operational difficulties:

- **Oxygen deprivation:** Troops faced reduced oxygen levels, impacting physical performance and decision-making.
- **Limited air support:** Helicopter operations were precarious due to thin air and unpredictable mountain winds.
- **Rugged terrain:** Steep slopes and rocky outcrops limited maneuverability and cover options.

These factors compounded the risks and required exceptional physical and mental endurance from the soldiers involved.

# The Battle Unfolds: Key Moments and Tactical Decisions

Shortly after landing, the soldiers were ambushed by a well-prepared enemy force estimated to be between 50 and 200 fighters. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the U.S. team managed to establish a defensive perimeter. The firefight quickly escalated, with continuous exchanges of small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

One of the most critical aspects of the battle was the ability of the soldiers to coordinate close air support under extreme conditions. The 160th SOAR played a vital role in providing aerial firepower and medevac capabilities, navigating the treacherous terrain to assist embattled ground forces.

Another pivotal moment was the call for reinforcements and resupply, which became a logistical challenge given the rugged geography and hostile environment. Airborne resupply operations had to be carefully timed and executed to avoid exposing additional personnel to enemy fire.

## Casualties and Impact

The battle of Roberts Ridge resulted in significant casualties. Sergeant First Class Nathan Roberts was among those killed, and several other soldiers were wounded, underscoring the ferocity of the engagement. Despite these losses, the forces successfully held the ridge until relieved by reinforcements, enabling the broader objectives of Operation Anaconda to proceed.

The engagement highlighted the human cost of mountain warfare and the importance of resilience and tactical innovation. It also led to a reevaluation of operational planning for high-altitude insertions and the integration of intelligence and air support.

## Legacy and Lessons Learned

The battle of Roberts Ridge has since been studied extensively in military academies and tactical training programs. It serves as a case study for:

- **Small unit leadership:** Demonstrating how junior officers and non-commissioned officers can influence battle outcomes.
- **Joint operations:** The necessity of seamless cooperation between ground forces, aviation units, and allied partners.
- **Adaptation to terrain:** The critical need to tailor tactics and equipment to challenging environments.

Moreover, the story of Roberts Ridge has permeated popular culture and military literature, honoring the courage and sacrifice of those who fought there. It has been referenced in documentaries and books that aim to preserve the memory of the conflict and educate future generations.

## **Comparative Analysis with Other Mountain Warfare Engagements**

Compared to historical mountain battles such as the Kargil War of 1999 or World War II's Italian campaigns, Roberts Ridge stood out for its reliance on advanced technology, including precision air support and night-vision capabilities. However, the fundamental challenges—altitude, terrain, and isolation—remained consistent across these conflicts.

This comparison underscores that while technological advancements can enhance combat effectiveness, the physical and psychological demands on soldiers in mountain warfare continue to be formidable.

## **Concluding Reflections on the Battle of Roberts Ridge**

The battle of Roberts Ridge encapsulates the complexity of modern warfare where terrain, technology, and human factors converge. It demonstrates the unpredictable nature of combat and the necessity for adaptability, courage, and coordination among diverse military elements. As conflicts continue to evolve in similarly challenging environments around the world, the lessons from Roberts Ridge remain profoundly relevant, informing strategic planning and operational execution in contemporary and future military engagements.

### **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:** *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:** **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:** 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](http://www.huntingthecaliphate.com).

**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: *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: *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: *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 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: 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: 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: 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: 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.

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

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