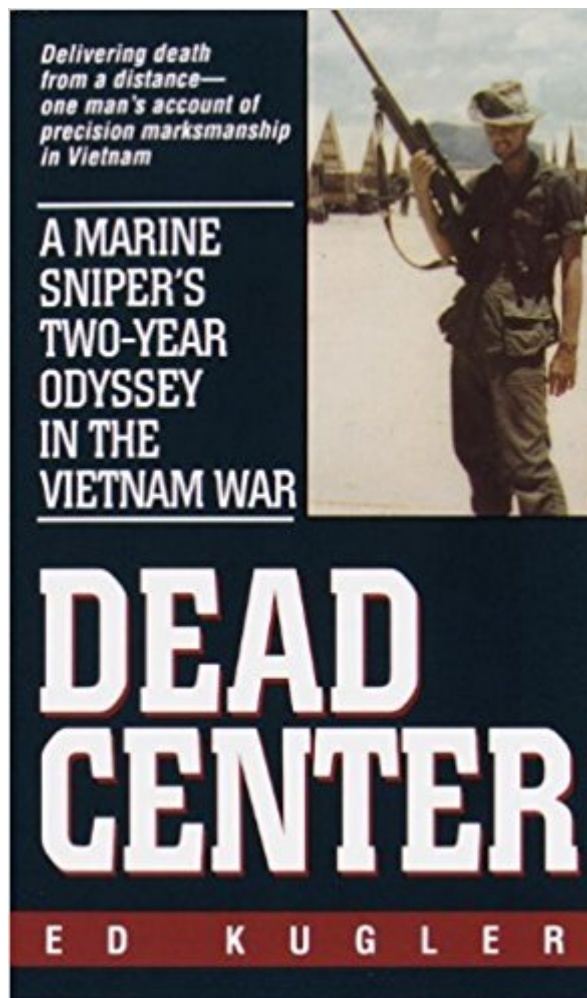




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Dead Center: A Marine Sniper's Two-Year Odyssey In The Vietnam War



Synopsis

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE DEATH BUSINESS, EACH DAWN COULD BE YOUR LAST. Raw, straightforward, and powerful, Ed Kugler's account of his two years as a Marine scout-sniper in Vietnam vividly captures his experiences there--the good, the bad, and the ugly. After enlisting in the Marines at seventeen, then being wounded in Santo Domingo during the Dominican crisis, Kugler arrived in Vietnam in early 1966. As a new sniper with the 4th Marines, Kugler picked up bush skills while attached to 3d Force Recon Company, and then joined the grunts. To take advantage of that experience, he formed the Rogues, a five-sniper team that hunted in the Co Bi-Tham Tan Valley for VC and NVA. His descriptions of long, tense waits, sudden deadly action, and NVA countersniper ambushes are fascinating. In DEAD CENTER, Kugler demonstrates the importance to a sniper of patience, marksmanship, bush skills, and guts--while underscoring exactly what a country demands of its youth when it sends them to war.

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Customer Reviews

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A former Marine scout-sniper, Ed Kugler served two tours in Vietnam as a sniper and sergeant with the 4th Marines in I Corps. He is the recipient of two Purple Hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He is the author of the inspirational self-help booklet *A Dozen Things I Learned About Life as a Marine Sniper in Vietnam*. Following his four-year hitch in the Marine Corps, Ed distinguished himself in the corporate world. He spent ten years in his family's trucking business before working sixteen years in management with PepsiCo's Frito-Lay and Pepsi-Cola divisions. He was then Vice President, Worldwide Logistics, for Compaq Computer Corporation and vice president of Telxon Corporation. Today Ed is a business and change management consultant. He lives with his wife of thirty years and their family in Spring, Texas.

Kug, you have written an excellent book about your time in Vietnam. Your words and emotions during the combat scenes would have brought cheers from Ernest Hemingway. Your descriptions of your comrades, both the crazies and the almost crazies, were right on. Those you bonded to, so did your readers. You made the reader understand that bond and what it feels like to lose your close comrades to the horrors you were all immersed in. I was particularly impressed by your ability to get across to your readers exactly what that nightmare was like -- the swift adrenal swings from extreme fear to just the opposite of peace and tranquility assisted by a good night's drunk with your buddies. Then back into the nightmare again, tempered always by the extreme shocking relief of once more coming out of it alive. And understandably the possible easy addiction that awaits those who begin to long for those incredible alternating extreme highs and extreme lows, the ultimate thrills, causing so much rear end puckering and un-puckering. You did that so much I know it must have been a relief to return to the world where it no longer was necessary and for the first time your relaxed rear end smile went from cheek to cheek. After awhile I plan to re-read *Dead Center* more slowly to savor once again those highs and lows without my own puckering. Thanks, Kug, for such a good read. Robert F. Burgess

Former active duty Marine, 62-66. Most, if not every book written about the Corps, always start with

After graduation from Boot Camp and ITR. Not this one. This book was written by a Marine who is not afraid to admit he made some bad or stupid moves in the beginning of his life. How I remember the wonderful day, my second day at PI, when a naive 17 year old right out of High School, at the suggestion of an older recruit with prior military time told me to put on the post card home "Get me out of here, this place is hell". After what seemed like hours of the DI's yelling at me to do squat thrusts, jumping jacks, push ups and windmills then asking me if I wanted a Captains 'Mast', I thought they said "MASS" of which I said Yes. Possibly the best move I ever made since only 5 recruits out of the original platoon graduated. I was sent packing to the Motivation platoon clearing brush along the roads in the Ammo dumps. Then after I did graduate from a company where I was the Only regular Active duty Marine, the rest were reservist, I was assigned to "India company, 3rd Bn, 6th Marines. This was before the Cuban Missile crisis. I was already on Okinawa, Hq Co, 2nd Bn, 12th Marines, 3rd MarDiv, when I-3/6 went to the DR. Like I said, It's the little personal details in a book about time in the Marines that make it a read or no read. Dead Center is most definitely a **MUST no BS READ!**

One of the best books on a marines life in Vietnam. Even though he's a sniper, the author does a better description talking about the daily life. He glosses over sniper training and takes you right to Nam. The boredom, the heat, the terror, the rain, the loss of friends, the loss of a part of his soul. A great account. If you want the nitty gritty details of sniping, this probably isn't the book for you. If you want a great account of what it was like living life out in the bush for days and on remote outposts, then this is the book for you.

Great job Ed! Thought I was back in country again. After many years this excellent read brought back many of the good and not so good memories almost forgotten. It's been difficult to explain what it was like to be a Marine in Viet-Nam to others. From Cold Beer to Hot Patrols buddy's rotating and some in green body bags - it was one hell of a crazy place. Instead of explaining I'll just point them to Ed's "on target" true story.

I found this book to have the ring of truth from a man who was there. From the making of a Marine to becoming a scout sniper and the missions in Veitnam, I was enthralled with this book and could not put it down. I served in Southeast Asia in 1968 & 1969 passing through Vietnam only briefly. I guess I was one of the REMFs Ed talks about. My job was keeping F-105s and F-4 fighter bombers in the air to fly missions over Vietnam from the relative safety of Thailand. My perspective on the

war was of course different so I search for books that can shed light on the part of the war I thankfully did not experience. I have read many books of this era but this story really captured my interest. Ed was more than a sniper, he was the essence of a special forces type, sneaking and peeking covertly in small groups to observe and gain position on the enemy, wreak havoc and death and then escape to fight again another day in a different place. This type of warfare was what was needed in Vietnam and kept the enemy guessing and made them question their tactics. It is not typical of the Marine warfare that had been fought before and for this reason there seemed to be few who understood how to properly use the scout sniper. if you decide to read this book you won't be sorry. Definitely five star material. I would love to communicate with this author.

Awesome story, follows a snipers journey and the details of what it was like. I really enjoyed this and would recommend to anyone. Ive read other sniper books and this one was top notch. He doesnt spare any detail, but also makes it understandable for all to read.

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