

## WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT

The U.S. Army, immediately after the end of the Vietnam War, began a total transformation from a force in complete disarray to an Army of Excellence instrumental in the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

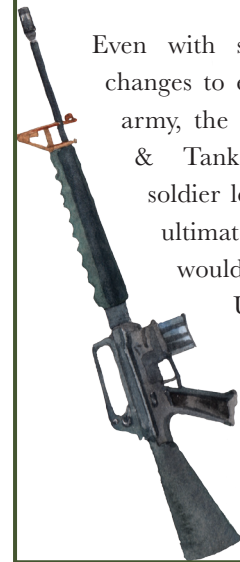
Starting with the end of the draft and moving into the Volunteer Army (VOLAR), Army leadership collectively began to implement significant changes at the strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Clearly the Soviet Union presented the greatest threat to the security of the United States, but also to our NATO allies. The Russians, and their allies constituted a formidable military force also equipped with a nuclear weapons arsenal capable of unspeakable destruction.

In the shadow of this threat, soldiers and officers like Tyler Willett in the U.S. Army provided the foundation for rebuilding the Army into a formidable force capable of blunting any threat.

Even with significant across the board changes to every aspect of a professional army, the Tales within Grunts, Gramps & Tanks capture the day-to-day, soldier level triumphs and tribulations ultimately proving the transformation would succeed. The vaunted Soviet Union finally crumbled and freedom reigned.

**A defeat achieved  
without firing a shot.**



**G**runt level tales of soldiers in the post-Vietnam U.S. Army that shaped a force instrumental in dissolving the Soviet Union. Tyler Willett's journey from young corporate executive who unexpectedly enlists in the infantry, follows he and his young family through the turbulence, setbacks and triumphs shaped and shared by the men who trained him, led him and those he had the honor to lead himself.

### Readers Favorite 5-Star Review Quotes

"Sitting somewhere between the great American short story and the great American novel, Grunts, Gramps & Tanks by Rick Bogdan...reminded me very much of the Nick Adams series of short stories by Hemingway...with sparse, gritty, descriptive writing...Overall, a very polished piece."

"Grunts, Gramps & Tanks is such a brutally honest depiction of military life...so many important and inspiring lessons to be gained...the entire book was extremely compelling."

"Grunts, Gramps & Tanks is straightforward, engaging, educational, and funny as hell."

"The author had me hooked from the first page when the protagonist joins the army without talking it over with his wife first. I had to find out what happened after that."



**Rick Bogdan** retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel and later retired from his Department of the Army civilian position. Living in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife Teresa, he enjoys running, golfing and riding motorcycles, while planning to pen another novel.



★ GRUNTS, GRAMPS & TANKS

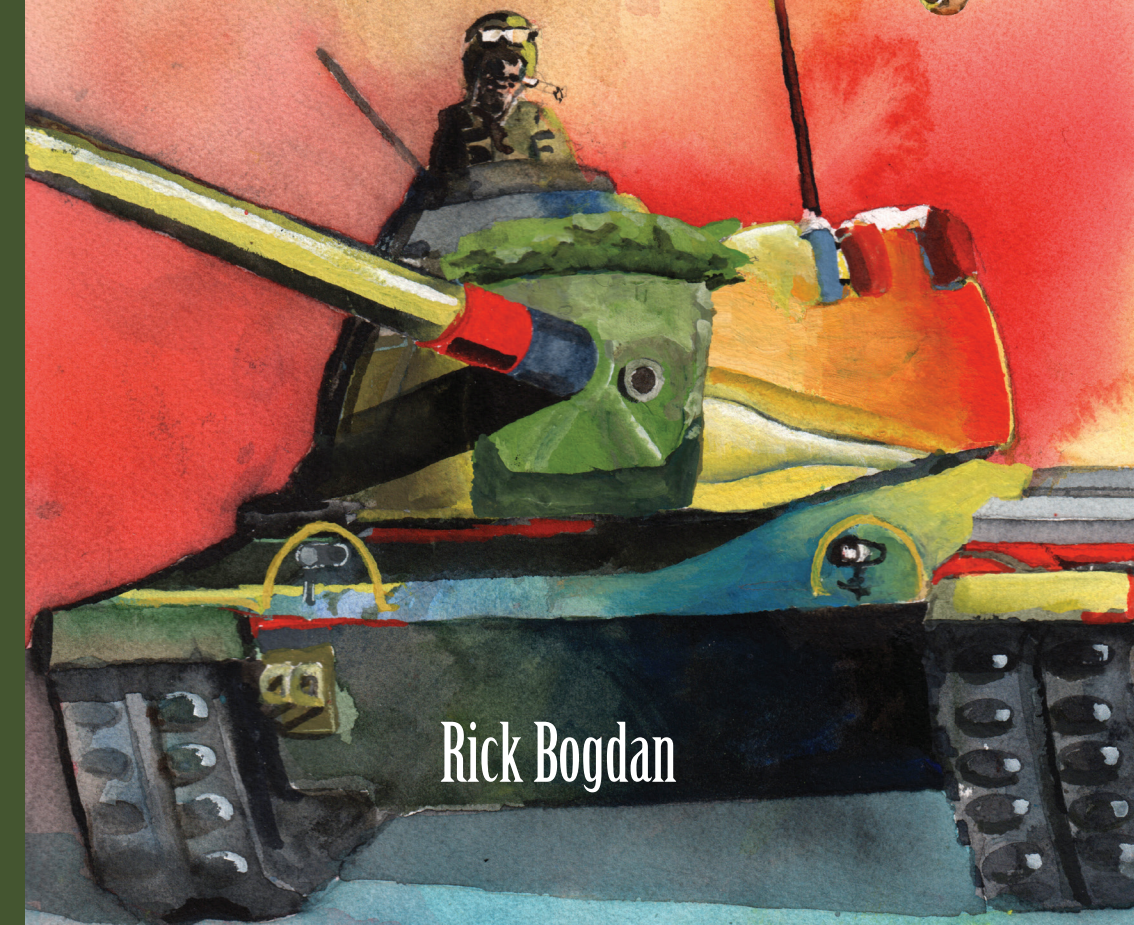
Rick Bogdan

"You have put together a wonderful book!"

— General (R) Gordon R. Sullivan U.S. Army

# GRUNTS, GRAMPS TANKS

A Soldier's Tales



Rick Bogdan

July 1975

Three-piece suit, valise, commuter train?  
Nah. Drop that, junior executive. Enlist in the US Army as an infantry private and see what happens.

Oh yeah, better tell your wife.

Nineteen tales, spanning from July 1975 to June 1984, sewn together with the common thread of Tyler Willett, his wife Nancy and their son Sean. Tales populated by Drill Sergeants, a collection of stalwart NCOs, and various commanders. These tales capture the conflicts, angst, setbacks and triumphs as Willett goes from junior corporate executive to infantry private to armor lieutenant platoon leader and finally a seasoned tank company commander. Spliced throughout are candid insights into military family life with struggles and rewards often peculiar to service families but with a recognizable universality. The fears and tears taken in stride with the pride inherent in serving.