Proposal for edited collection - fightingsurrounded@gmail.com
Call for Proposals – Fighting Surrounded

What? We are seeking chapter proposals for an upcoming edited volume of historical essays on the theme of modern military forces (defined as 20th and 21st centuries) fighting while surrounded or those doing the surrounding. Examples of those surrounded include American forces at Khe Sanh in 1968, American and South Korean forces at Pusan in 1950, and Ukrainian defenders of Mariupol in 2022. Those doing the surrounding could include Soviet armies in 1944/45, German forces besieging Leningrad, Yugoslav/Serbian forces outside Sarajevo in the 1990s, or Vietnamese forces at Dien Bien Phu. Strategic analysis of countries or areas which exist in a long-term state of being surrounded by belligerent or potentially belligerent powers are also welcome. Ties to events further back in history and context can be provided but should not be the primary focus of the chapter.

The edited volume will focus on landpower but will also consider proposals on space, cyber operations, electromagnetic, amphibious, naval, irregular/special operations examples, and the role non-military forces play while fighting surrounded. Chapters should address the principles of war, concepts and ideas put forth in doctrine and practice, or the domains of warfare.

Who? Contributors will come from across the spectrum of those who study or work in military history and operations. We seek inputs from across nations and backgrounds, from professional scholars to naval practitioners to amateur historians.

How? For chapter proposals, please submit an approximately 300-word abstract and a current resume or CV, highlighting your experience and/or expertise with the subject on which you wish to write. Unpublished papers presented at conferences, multiple submissions from the same author, and co-authored submissions, are all welcome.

Proposals should document sound scholarship, how the analysis of the selected topic will apply an operational idea or concept, academic theory, or helpful, experience-based lens with which to analyze their subject. Lastly, in some way, the author(s) will describe how and why this particular contribution helps readers understand this element of conflict today and in the future. The editors are happy to discuss potential submissions or proposals.

Where? Owing to the nature of the enterprise, the book’s development will take place in a distributed fashion and collaboration will largely be digital. Google Drive products will be the primary means for collaborative editing and work. Further details will be shared with the selected authors.

The editors are working with an interested professional press and the press has a dedicated slot on their editorial calendar for the work. The editorial board at the press will retain the ability to select individual chapters to meet the press’ objectives and needs.
**Instructions:** Send CV and abstract in Word Documents attachments, subject line reading “SUBMISSION – [Title or Subject you’re proposing] – to fightingsurrounded@gmail.com by Jan. 10, 2024.

**Chapter specifics and requirements:** Chapters should be between 3,500-7,000 words, in Chicago Manual of Style, with open-source imagery. Writing must be based on documented and sourced research. Maps, graphics, tables, and charts are welcome but must be author-created or in the public domain. The editors and press will be able to provide additional guidance for specific questions. Citations and endnotes should be in the Chicago Manual of Style ‘Notes and Bibliography’ format. Self-plagiarism should be avoided.

All chapters will be double-blind peer reviewed in addition to going through desk review by the editors. The press will also conduct a review and conduct copy editing.

**Security and Public Affairs**

It is the responsibility of contributors who are in government service or who are writing on subjects related to their areas of government expertise to personally ensure that their submission receives any relevant security and public affairs reviews, and to note that requirement on their proposal.

**Tentative Timeline:**

10 January 2024: Proposals due to editors.
1 February 2024: Authors notified of proposal status. Accepted authors will be notified of their essay submission deadline and all other requirements.
1 June 2024: Anticipated due date for final drafts.
2024: Editing, peer review, revisions.
2025: Publication.

**Editors:** Timothy Heck and J. Overton have both edited and coordinated similar volumes in the past.

Timothy Heck is a joint historian with the Marine Corps History Division and the Joint History and Research Office. He is the co-editor of *On Contested Shores: The Evolving Role of Amphibious Operations in the History of Warfare* (Marine Corps University Press 2020) and *Armies in Retreat: Chaos, Cohesion, and Consequences* (Army University Press 2023).

J. Overton is the editor of *Seapower by Other Means: Naval Contributions to National Objectives Beyond Sea Control, Power Projection, and Traditional Service Missions* (ISPK Seapower Series 2023), and a former Non-Resident Fellow with the Modern War Institute at West Point.