



# Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam

By Mark Garrison

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## **Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam** By Mark Garrison

Straight from college, to the US Army, to command pilot of a four ton gunship with a four man crew in Vietnam. From college chess games to a game of life and death. It was surreal to say the least. In this book I pour my heart out and bare my soul to tell you what that was like, from basic to Vietnam and back.

## Synopsis

In the summer of 1967, Mark Garrison had dropped out of college at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, just before entering his third year. He had run out of money and had to work for a while. These were the days before the lottery and the draft soon came calling. In order to somewhat control his own future, he enlisted in the U.S. Army's helicopter flight school program. Little did he know that this adventure would be the most profound experience of his life.

Garrison flew hundreds of missions for the 119th AHC, stationed in the Central Highlands at Camp Holloway in Pleiku, Vietnam. He was awarded twenty-five Air Medals, four campaign Bronze Stars, and The Distinguished Flying Cross among numerous other awards. His narrative takes you through the whole process, from basic training, flight school, flying combat in Vietnam, and his return to the United States. His description includes many incidents in combat flight, including being hit by rocket propelled grenades and being on fire in the air, over hundreds if not thousands of enemy troops. But this is not all. He elaborates on the daily lives, emotions, and nuances of the pilots and what they considered their mission to be.

***GUTS 'N GUNSHIPS*** is a must read if you are to have a realistic understanding of what flying helicopters in Vietnam combat was all about.

## Review

“Mark Garrison’s Guts 'N Gunships is more than just another Vietnam flashback. It is a portal which will transport readers to a most painful American experience. These were definitely goodbye times in America and the author bares his soul with his narrative.

The author reveals how he, his friends and family, like millions of other Americans were sucked into the Vietnam whirlwind while the nation’s leaders wrestled with a domino theory pressed upon the nation by think tanks tied to the military industrial complex.

Guts 'N Gunships follows Garrison’s true life story of being on the short list for the draft, and then going all in by signing up for helicopter pilot training. After just a few months training, he found himself in the mountains of Vietnam flying Huey helicopters into small holes in the triple canopy jungle. He had been assigned to duty with the Crocodiles and Alligators of the 119th Assault Helicopter Company, just a few short miles from the dreaded Ho Chi Minh Trail.

His one year recounting of his numbered days there is painted with blood, pathos and hilarious incidents, stemming from hard drinking and furious nap of the earth flying, while the helicopters were blown apart with the pilots and crews in them.

Most uplifting of all is the author’s first person accounting of a unit of pilots who saw the American mission failing but renewed vows among themselves that they would give the enemy no quarter and would cut no corners in their attempts to bring home alive every American they possibly could.

No one has ever before addressed the American helicopter pilot experience in the way Garrison does.” —Ron Gawthorp



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### **Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam By Mark Garrison Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #22013 in Books
- Published on: 2015-09-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .64" w x 6.00" l, .84 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 282 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Mark V. Garrison was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on December 31st, 1970. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in 1973. Garrison then completed four more years of study at the oldest and largest chiropractic school in the world, Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, where he received a doctorate in 1977. Dr. Garrison then practiced in Illinois for 30 years before retiring in 2006.

Dr. Garrison and his wife of 42 years, Lynn, have four children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include flying, painting, drawing, playing his guitars, and writing. He is now starting his second book about things he encountered in medical practice.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Brian Lopez:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam. Try to the actual book Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

##### **Adrienne McGinnis:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world could share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their own reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the story that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the information about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam.

##### **Leo Osborne:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or

their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

### **Larry Hudgens:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Guts 'N Gunships: What it was Really Like to Fly Combat Helicopters in Vietnam, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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