

Leadership Reading List

The purpose of this list is to provide academic resources and firsthand accounts of leadership and combat, to further educate and develop junior leaders in the United States Army. This list is not comprehensive, but rather a starting place for professional development. Provided are links for free PDF versions or places to purchase audio, digital, and paper copies of each book. However, most if not all are available for free through the Donovan Research Library, library databases or by request through various DOD libraries available to Army soldiers. To register and gain access, contact Donovan Research Library, Building 70, Fort Moore, Georgia.

“Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.” - Harry S. Truman

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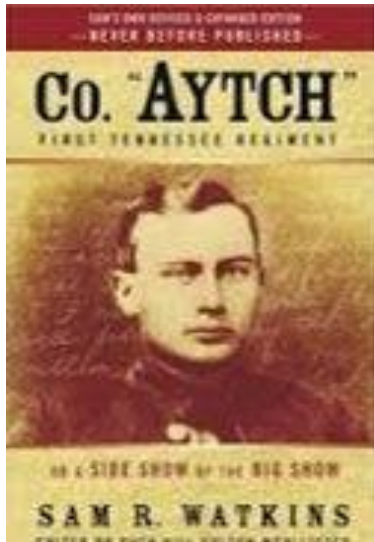
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Co Aytch by Sam Watkins



This book gives a first-person account of war and fighting at the Infantry Company level during the Civil War. Considered to be the best personal account of a soldier during the Civil War.

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/coaytch00watk/coaytch00watk.pdf>

https://www.amazon.com/Co-Aytch-Sam-R-Watkins/dp/1491283319/ref=sr_1_1?crid=34JMLF0YNZFC&keywords=co+aytch+by+sam+watkins&qid=1680796248&s=books&prefix=co+aytch+%2Cstripbooks%2C105&sr=1-1

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Co-Aytch-Audiobook/B002V0AGBU>

Company Commander by Charles McDonald



Accounts from a newly assigned Infantry Company Commander in the Battle of the Bulge. A classic gaining loyalty from your Soldiers and leading them in a brutal battle.

<https://www.overdrive.com/media/2636889/company-commander>

<https://www.amazon.com/Company-Commander-Charles-B-MacDonald/dp/0739402250>

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Company-Commander-Audiobook/B01H2H4V08>

If You Survive by George Wilson



First-hand account of leadership and learning to lead in one of the most difficult situations.

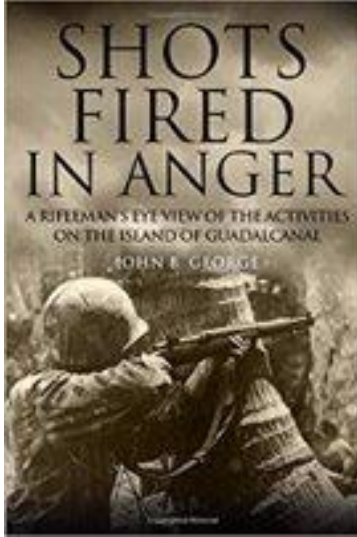
Wilson served as a rifle platoon and rifle company commander from Normandy through the end of World War II in Europe.

<https://www.overdrive.com/media/479315/if-you-survive>

https://www.amazon.com/If-You-Survive-Normandy-American/dp/0804100039/ref=sr_1_1?crid=O1NTRD65OHH7&keywords=if+you+survive+by+george+wilson&qid=1680796198&s=books&sprefix=if+you+survive+by+%2Cstripbooks%2C134&sr=1-1

<https://www.audiobooks.com/audiobook/if-you-survive-from-normandy-to-the-battle-of-the-bulge-to-the-end-of-world-war-ii-one-american-officers-riveting-true-story/249026>

Shots Fired in Anger: A Rifleman's Eye View by John B. George

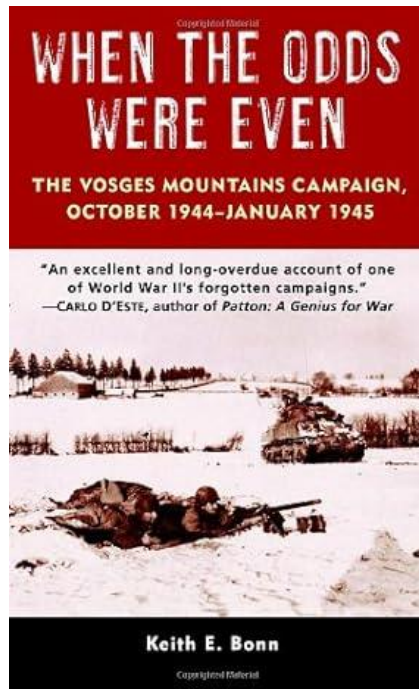


First-hand account of a Junior Infantry Officer during the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War 2.

https://www.amazon.com/Shots-Fired-Anger-Activities-Guadalcanal/dp/1075706483/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3JFN9L0WDSFCO&keywords=Shots+fired+in+anger&qid=1680793195&s=audible&srefix=shots+fired+in+anger+%2Caudible%2C101&sr=1-1-catcorr

<https://www.audiobooks.com/audiobook/shots-fired-in-anger-a-riflemans-eye-view-of-the-activities-on-the-island-of-guadalcanal/404898>

When the Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945
by Keith Bronn



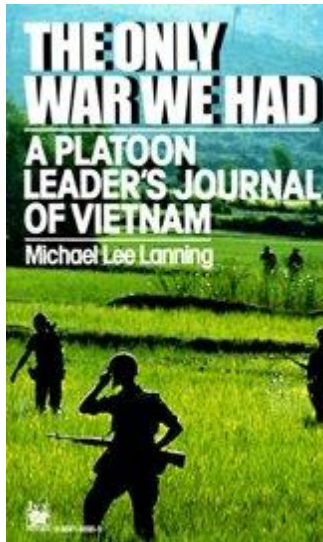
Provides information on combat when the enemy force is equal or greater than your own.

<https://www.amazon.com/When-Odds-Were-Even-1944-January/dp/0345476115#:~:text=Keith%20Bonn's%20fascinating%20study%20of,weapons%2C%20supplies%2C%20and%20support>

Additional Information on this battle

<https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA149117.pdf>

The Only War We Had: A Platoon Leader's Journal of Vietnam/Vietnam 1969-1970 by Michael Lee Lanning



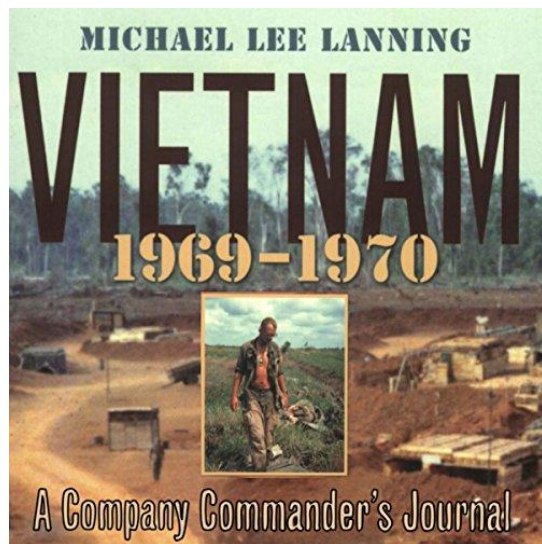
Speaks about day-to-day operations of a Platoon Leader in Vietnam. Useful for understanding duties and responsibilities of a very successful PL.

Note: Follow-on book “A Company Commander’s Journal” is Lanning’s account of leadership during the same tour of Vietnam discussed in this book.

https://www.amazon.com/The-Only-War-We-Had-audiobook/dp/B00EYVYP6Q/ref=sr_1_1?crid=4U7492A6N8GE&keywords=The+only+war+we+had+a+platoon+leaders+journal+of+vietnam&qid=1680793165&s=digital-text&srefix=the+only+war+we+had+a+platoon+leaders+journal+of+vietnam%2Cdigital-text%2C104&sr=1-1

<https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Only-War-We-Had-Audiobook/B00EYIOSDY>

A Company Commanders Journal by Michael Lee Lanning

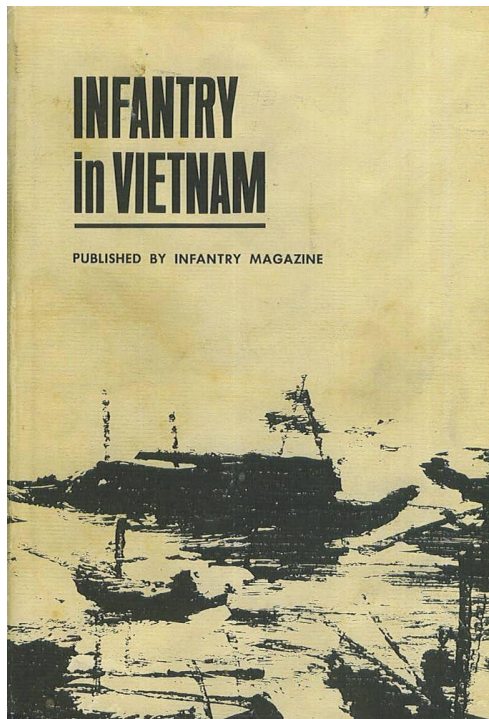


Focuses on successfully leading an Infantry company in Vietnam as a 1LT.

<https://www.amazon.com/Vietnam-1969-1970-Commanders-Williams-Ford-University-ebook/dp/B005HMRQNA>

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Vietnam-1969-1970-A-Company-Commanders-Journal-No1-Audiobook/B00VXQO4PC>

Infantry in Vietnam by Albert Garland



Compilation of the best Infantry Captains Career Course papers written by combat veterans.

Provides lessons learned from those who learned the hard way.

<https://www.amazon.com/Infantry-Vietnam-Ablert-N-Garland/dp/0898390656>

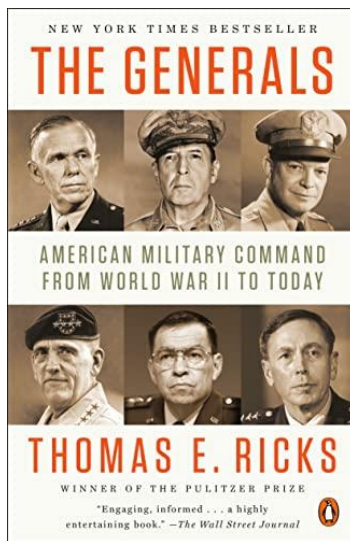
The First 100 Days of Platoon Leadership



United States Army guide to taking leadership of a Platoon, for Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Leaders.

<https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/publications/18-24.pdf>

The Generals by Thomas Ricks

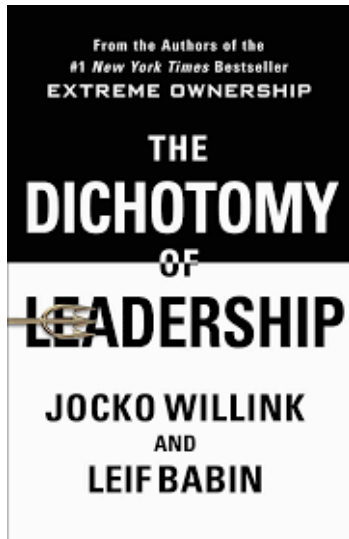


Provides analysis and history of leadership and important events in the Army's History. Contains many useful lessons on leadership and leadership characteristics that can be utilized by any and all ranks. Can be used as a brief analysis of operations that worked and did not work in combat.

<https://www.amazon.com/Generals-American-Military-Command-World-ebook/dp/B007V65TAM>

<https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Generals-American-Military-Command-from-World-War-II-to-Today-Audiobook/B009R6QZPW>

Dichotomy of leadership by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin.

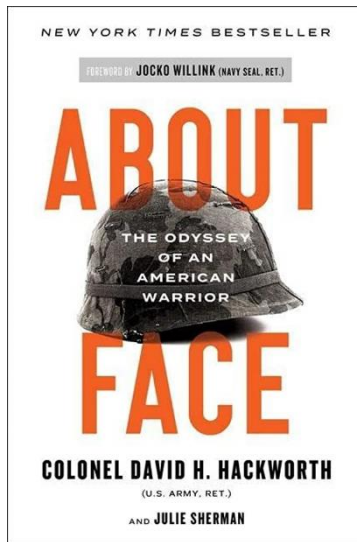


Explains the challenges of leadership and how to overcome them, using real examples of good and bad leadership.

<https://www.amazon.com/Dichotomy-Leadership-Balancing-Challenges-Ownership/dp/1250195772>

https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Dichotomy-of-Leadership-Audiobook/B07HHDCR95?qid=1686590986&sr=1-2&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_2&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=RWJA2EB7DMZZYZATRZF&pageLoadId=d5tqDeJ4DM7FuMCO&creativeId=0d6f6720-f41c-457e-a42b-8c8dceb62f2c

About Face by David Hackworth

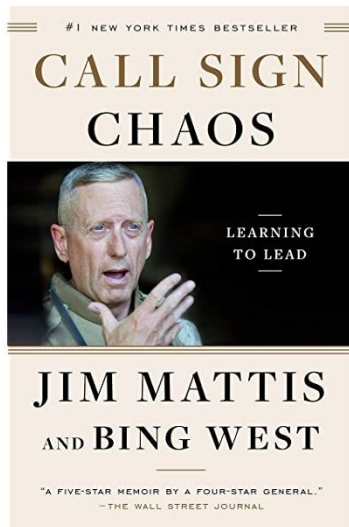


Though considered a controversial commander, a must read for all leaders.

<https://www.amazon.com/About-Face-Odyssey-American-Warrior/dp/0671695347>

https://www.audible.com/pd/About-Face-Audiobook/1982587172?qid=1686591011&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=ZCF1MPCN2JC4JGB0TWST&pageLoadId=Xnijqoz6f0tOlAD&creativeId=0d6f6720-f41c-457e-a42b-8c8dceb62f2c

Call Sign Chaos by Jim Mattis

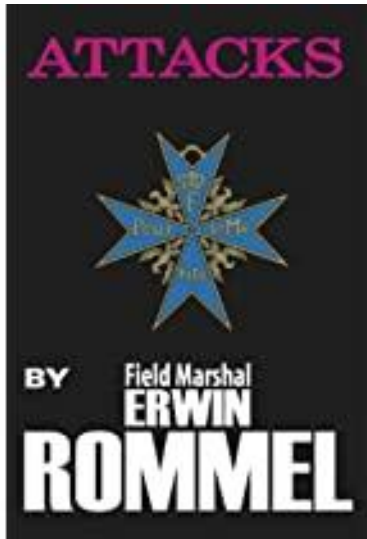


Provides examples of effective leadership at all levels of a commissioned officer. Gives great examples and stories of how to become a leader and inspire your soldiers.

https://www.amazon.com/Call-Sign-Chaos-audiobook/dp/B07SHVNJWQ/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2E31GDH3ARSA8&keywords=call+sign+chaos&qid=1684947497&s=books&srefix=call+sign+chaos%2Cstripbooks%2C113&sr=1-1

https://www.audible.com/pd/Call-Sign-Chaos-Audiobook/0735288496?qid=1686591038&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=C9EKXR6W1NBWNY86AYD5&pageLoadId=CsARTSxvl3lkjKyE&creativeId=0d6f6720-f41c-457e-a42b-8c8dceb62f2c

Attacks! By Erwin Rommel

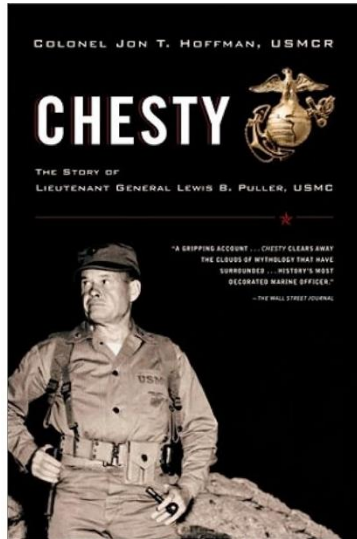


First-hand account of a Junior Officer in World War 1 effectively leading troops in combat.
Provides tactics and leadership principles.

https://www.amazon.com/Attacks-Erwin-Rommel/dp/0960273603/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2AI2RGG1IVKB0&keywords=attacks+erwin+rommel&qid=1684947520&s=audible&sprefix=attacks+%2Caudible%2C103&sr=1-1-catcorr

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Infantry-Attacks-Audiobook/B0BQKDGSQZ>

Chesty by John Hoffman

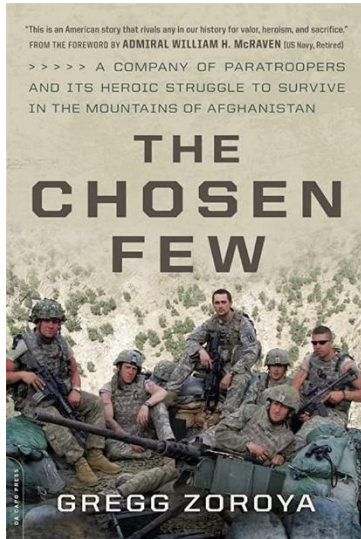


Illustrates the art of leading from the front and winning. Highlights historical events that many have forgotten.

<https://www.amazon.com/Chesty-Story-Lieutenant-General-Puller/dp/037576044X>

https://www.audible.com/pd/Chesty-Audiobook/B07D7YG12C?qid=1686591093&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=NSM0Y56Q3E25NAEK4TRH&pageLoadId=oypxMxv0dVQzvEfg&creativeId=0d6f6720-f41c-457e-a42b-8c8dceb62f2c

The Chosen Few by Gregg Zoroya

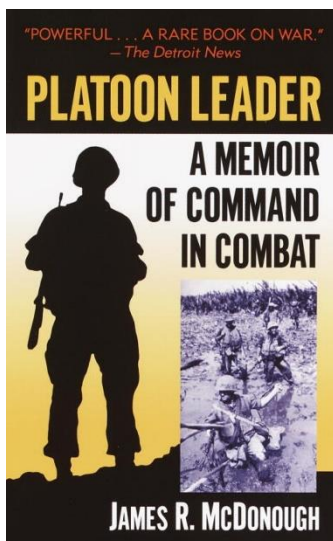


First-hand account of fighting and leading in Afghanistan and overcoming adversity.

<https://www.amazon.com/Chosen-Few-Paratroopers-Mountains-Afghanistan/dp/0306824833>

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/MR-Book-Reviews/April-2017/Book-Review-024/>

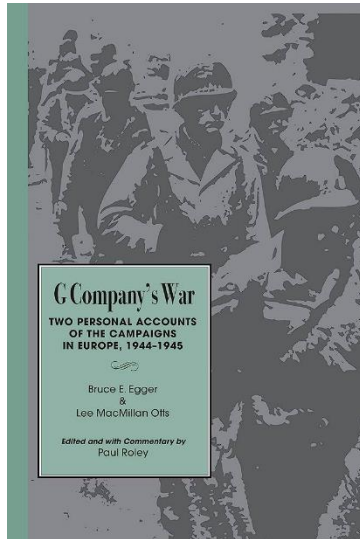
Platoon leader by James R. McDonough



Small unit leadership in combat during Vietnam War.

<https://www.amazon.com/Platoon-Leader-Memoir-Command-Combat/dp/0891418008>

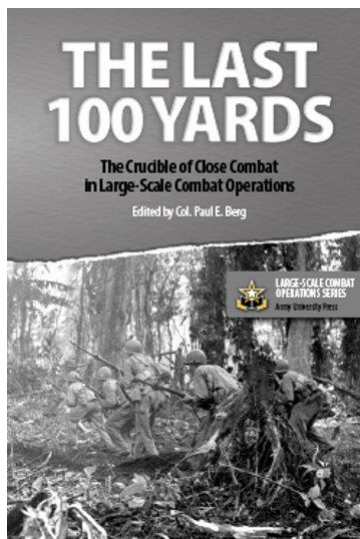
G Company's War by Bruce Egger



Personal accounts written by a platoon sergeant and platoon leader in the same infantry company fighting in World War 2. Illustrating the thoughts and experiences of fighting the same battles from two different perspectives.

<https://www.amazon.com/Companys-War-Personal-Campaigns-1944-1945/dp/0817309780>

The Last 100 Yards



Discusses and illustrates what close combat looks like in a LSCO environment, through small unit engagements of the 20th century.

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/the-last-100-yards-lsco-volume-9.pdf>

The Maneuver Force in Battle

THE
MANEUVER FORCE
IN BATTLE
2005-2012

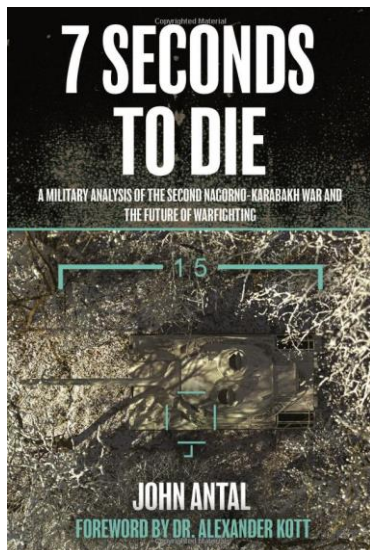


MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 2015

Explains basic concepts of fighting a maneuver force in combat.

<https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/AD1138267.pdf>

7 Seconds to Die



Discusses the usage of drones and the changing battlefield. Current combat operations with modern technology.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/7_Seconds_to_Die/NNBkEAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

<https://www.amazon.com/Seconds-Die-Military-Nagorno-Karabakh-Warfighting/dp/1636241239>

Library Resources

<https://www.benning.army.mil/Library/Databases.html>

Developing as a Platoon Leader

“The First 100 Days of Platoon Leadership”

https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/publications/18-24_.pdf

“Leader Development in Contact”

<https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/publications/21-04-public.pdf>

The Center for Junior Officers

<https://juniorofficer.army.mil/articles/>

Center for Leadership

<https://www.ausa.org/center-for-leadership/essays>

Schirmer, Peter, Crowley, James C, Blacker, Nancy E, Brennan, Richard R, Leonard, Henry A, Polich, Michael, Sollinger, Jerry M, and Varda, Danielle M. *“Lessons Learned by Junior Officers from Good and Bad Examples of Army Leadership.”*, 2008.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/mg648a.18>.

“Advice for New Lieutenants”, July 2012.

[https://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/199th/2-16/ABOLC/content/pdf/CC-ARMY%20\(July2012\)%20Advice for new 2LTs.pdf](https://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/199th/2-16/ABOLC/content/pdf/CC-ARMY%20(July2012)%20Advice%20for%20new%202LTs.pdf)

Wesson, Cameron. *“NCOs: Training Lieutenants One at a Time”*, November 2013.

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/NCO-Journal/Archives/2013/November/11-26-ncos-training-lieutenants/>

Lanzo, Lauren A, Coats, Meredith R, and Walker, Melvin. “*A Guide for Effective Platoon Leader – Platoon Sergeant Co-Leadership*”, July 2018.

<https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/AD1059295.pdf>

Norwood and Chung. “*Lessons Learned from NTC – From a Platoon Leader and a Staff Officer*”
<https://juniorofficer.army.mil/lessons-learned-from-ntc-from-a-platoon-leader-and-a-staff-officer/>

Morton, Gary. “*Training for The Win: Dynamic Leadership Led to NTC Success*”, January 17, 2018.

<https://www.ausa.org/articles/training-win-dynamic-leadership-led-ntc-success>

Sladek, Jesse. “*69 TTPS for Successful Infantry Platoon Leaders*”, January 2014.

<https://mwi.usma.edu/201411869-ttps-for-successful-infantry-platoon-leaders-by-captain-jesse-sladek/>