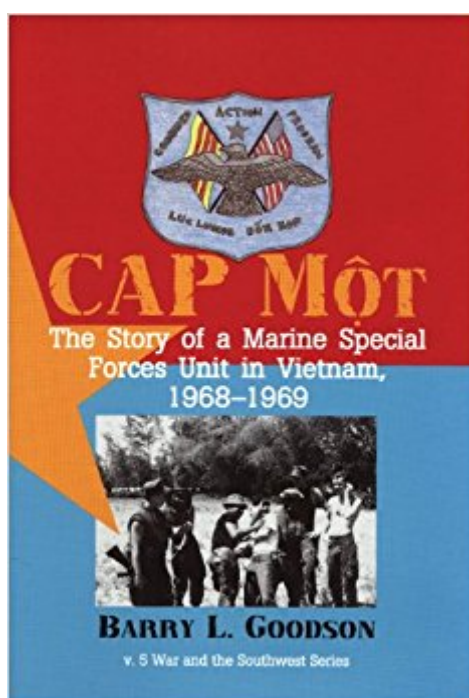


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# CAP Môt: The Story Of A Marine Special Forces Unit In Vietnam, 1968-1969 (War And The Southwest, Vol.5)



## Synopsis

The Marinesâ™ Combined Action Platoon program&#151;CAP&#151;was one of the most innovative approaches to pacification used in Vietnam. From experience in other civil wars in Haiti, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, the Marine Corps believed that firepower alone would not subdue the enemy, that the people had to be won over. Consisting of a volunteer rifle squad, a Navy medical corpsman and a locally recruited platoon of Popular Forces (PF), the CAP lived among the villagers 24 hours a day for the express purpose of protecting and helping them to survive the dangers of their enemies. They also were to help them improve their health and their daily lives. Unlike other forces in Vietnam, the CAP forces did not arrive by helicopter in the morning and leave at night. The only time a CAP marine left the jungle was when he was rotating home, wounded or killed. They became part of village life and aided the local residents in many ways. The marines became familiar with the local terrain, could bring in heavy fire power when necessary, instilled discipline and confidence in the PF forces, and won the loyalty of many Vietnamese villagers. This book tells the story of Goodson's personal experiences as a CAP Marine in the jungles of Vietnam.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barry Goodson served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1968&#150;1969 near ChuLai, Vietnam. His primary service was as an Assistant Squad Leader in his CAP unit. Other duties included machine gunner and squad leader of Alpha guns/Alpha Company. He received a Naval Achievement Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart. Goodson currently serves as a sheriff's deputy in

Parker County, Texas, where he has patrolled 1,000 square miles investigating criminal cases, apprehending criminals, serving as community relations and media relations officer, and crime watch coordinator, among other services. Goodson was named Patrol Officer of the year in 1994. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University.

I served in a CAP unit in Vietnam. We were not "special forces" . We were marines assigned to work with popular forces to train and provide security for their villages. Some of these incidents in this book are pretty far fetched. I saw nothing like this when I was there. the author seems to like the word "I" a lot and apparently was a one man force?

This is an incredible book recommended to me by one of my teachers who is a character in the book. Had we employed CAP Mot more extensively, instead of the insidious manner in which we conducted our body count oriented strategy, we might have actually won "the hearts and the minds" of the people, rather than their alienation. Hat's off to the warriors of CAP Mot! If you read this book you will see why I said that. You will be on the edge of your seat and will find it hard to put this book down.

I had to read CAP Mot as another war book. Although I served in a mobile CAP and we operated differently I could still see the sights, hear the sounds, and feel the danger that was involved. I too was critical of some of what I read but I was close enough to understand and disagree. Accept the book as a book, not all history and not all fiction. I would characterize a combat unit as an unconventional force. It turned out to be a good read.

Anyone interested in the Marines' theory of war in Vietnam, vs. the Army's, which prevailed, should read this book.

This is an excellent book for a number of reasons. First, it is a poignant and heart-wrenching memoir of a young Marine in Vietnam. The lucid voice of a sensitive and thoughtful warrior reverberates throughout the text. Secondly, this book covers a little known aspect of the war: The Marine Corps Combined Action Platoons (CAP). Goodson gives an excellent account of his unit's objectives and operations. It is one of the few books that gives a sense of what the war was like where it was really fought - at the village level. Moreover, this book shows what could have been if only the high command had fought a true counter-insurgency campaign. One cannot help but feel

that Goodson's small squad achieved more than whole battallions of regular troops. This book is a must for those who truly wish to understand the war. And for any military history buff, it is a war memoir of an exceptional caliber.

I read this book for an English project just a few weeks ago. We were required to read a non-fiction book and write a review on it. I chose CAP Mot after it was recommended to me by several people. After reading I was sincerely impressed. I would copy and paste my book review on here for all to read, but that would take up a lot of space so I'm just going to sum it up real fast. I'm not really one that is interested in war books, but this book really caught my attention. To begin, Goodson tells facts in the way of a story and makes it interesting. It isn't like reading a history book. He uses outstanding imagery, to the point of you feeling as if you are seeing a movie play before you. Although he does use a little of military jargon, all is explained and defined in the footnotes at the end of each chapter. Also, his detail is truly magnificent. As I read the book, I felt like I was in Vietnam right along with the characters. There is so much more I could say, but I have already written a lot, so I'm just going to say that this book is the best non-fiction book I have ever read. I definitely recommend this book to all who are interested in war, history, Vietnam, or anyone who is interested in a good read. This is not a joke!!! I seriously enjoyed this book, and that's a lot for me to say because I'm a girl, 15, and seriously not interested in war books of any kind. Mr. Goodson you did a GREAT job!

Barry Goodson does a superb job documenting his experiences and challenges in CAP MOT. I can confirm his description of the CAP MOT environment, because I was there in the same area at the same time serving in a US Army unit and indirectly involved in some of the dangerous events that Barry experienced. The CAP teams were elite and effective organizations. This is one of only two books ( "What a soldier Gives" is the second) that I consider accurate descriptions of the basic warrior in the Vietnam war. Barry "tells it like it was"! Military historians should use it as a reference, future leaders should use it as a guide to leadership under stress(both do's and don't's), and American citizens and politicians should use it as a reminder of the sacrifice that military people experience when committed to war. The reader will understand how elite and brave Barry and his CAP MOT truly was. CAP MOT is not only a historical record but it is also entertaining reading as a result of Barry's superb writing techniques. I recommend it for all readers. I salute Barry for a job well done. Larry Beale Colonel(RET) USA

I can only attempt to tell the public of the book Cap Mot as being without a doubt the most accurate as well as the most outstanding account of the Cap Marines that served in these units. As an assistant squad leader in Cap 1-2-3, I was positioned in an AO that was connecting to Cap Mot. As anyone who reads this book will soon find out, you will be spell bound upon opening the cover, until it is literally consumed. You will step into this book and into the sand and scents of the villages and hamlets. You will also find that you will read again and again every page. It is a very captivating book that will show what it was like being in a Marine special forces unit. You will find yourself lying in the sand and rain during a typical night ambush. An outstanding book that should be read by all who wishes to get a true account of life in a SAT-CAP (Special Ambush Team, Combined Action Platoon).

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