



Tip of the Spear: U.S. Marine Light Armor in the Gulf War

By G. J. Michaels

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Selected for the Marine Commandant's Reading List when first published in hardcover, this book offers a vivid, firsthand account of Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War. A U.S. Marine sergeant in Alpha Company of the 1st Light Armored Vehicle Battalion (LAV), Michaels provides a revealing look at what it was like to endure and prevail in ground combat at the platoon and company level. Readers are given an opportunity to look inside the battalion as it battles a savage environment and a host of tactical snafus while pushing forward at the tip of the spear to help liberate Kuwait City from the Iraqis.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Images of U.S. Marines assaulting Pacific beaches in World War II have stereotyped the service's roles and personnel for more than fifty years. This frank firsthand account of Marines sweeping over sands of a different sort in fast armored vehicles retires that popular legend and recasts the Corps as the modern, professional fighting force it was in Desert Storm. Battling a savage environment, an unknown enemy brandishing threats of nuclear, gas, and biological attacks, and a host of technological and tactical snafus, Alpha Company of the 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion pushed forward at the "tip of the spear" past burning oil fields, hundreds of Iraqi tanks and vehicles, and heartrending friendly casualties to help liberate Kuwait City and drive the Iraqis back to Baghdad. Here G. J. Michaels, a section leader and vehicle commander, provides a vivid, personal chronicle of events as they unfolded. Michaels further draws on his thirteen years of LAV experience to examine lessons learned from the war as well as its controversies, including the confusion over use of the LAV as both recon scout and infantry support and the lack of effective identification/friend-or-foe systems.

About the Author

Gregory J. Michaels enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1984. After serving in the Gulf War, he became an instructor in the LAV Leaders course at Camp Pendleton. He is now a master sergeant with the Recruiting Command in Indiana. The hardcover of *Tip of the Spear* (978-155750-599-6) was published by the Naval Institute Press in 1998.

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