

Counterparts/THDNA

Comments Related to the Article

(MAAGV (1954-1963): The Battle of Ap Bac,

By Major Kevin R Kilbride, 136 pages.)

This Article contains the evaluation by Advisors, that were directly and indirectly involved during the January 2, 1963 Battle of Ap Bac, of the combat effectiveness the 7th ARVN Infantry Division, other ARVN Units and their officers. This evaluation "...established a narrative that ARVN were unwilling to fight or lacked aggressiveness." which is still heard today. However, as the Author questions in his ABSTRACT, is the evaluation still valid when considering the cultural, social, and political context that existed at the formation of ARVN?

"US advisory effort in South Vietnam indeed helped the RVNAF [Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces] attain remarkable achievements in terms of combat effectiveness and technical and managerial skills. However, there was one thing that this effort seemed never able to achieve: the inculcation of motivation and effective leadership. This was, after all, neither the fault of US advisers nor a shortcoming of the advisory effort, but a basic weakness of our political regime."

—General Cao Van Vien, *Indochina Monographs: The U.S. Adviser*

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