Army G-1 Book Club
“Difficult Choices”
An exploration of character using memoirs

Hosted Monthly
2nd Thurs 1200-1300
By MG Tammy Smith

Open to all! Join anytime!
For location and additional information contact:
LTC Tyler or MAJ Pierce 703-692-3568
The Army G-1 Book Club will nest in the Army's framework for character development, using memoirs to explore difficult choices and decision making. The changing conditions of war frequently present harsh ethical challenges, demanding that Army professionals make decisions and exercise disciplined initiative in the chaos and uncertainty of planned combat operations as well as acts of terrorism and humanitarian crisis. Readers will consider questions such as “Would I have made the same choice in his or her situation?” and “How can I strengthen my character to endure uncertainty and hardship?”

Join the club anytime-- the 12-month book list includes:

9 August 2018: The Road to Character by David Brooks. This book provides a common language to discuss character and character development throughout the “Difficult Choices” series.

13 September 2018: The Unforgiving Minute by Craig Mullaney. This book is Captain Mullaney's attempt to reconcile the precombat lessons that seemed so clear to him with the exigencies of battlefield experience in Afghanistan.

11 October 2018: With the Old Breed by E.B. Sledge. One of the themes of "With the Old Breed" is the near impossibility of communicating the experience of combat to those who have not experienced it. He states "combat leaves an indelible mark on those who are forced to endure it."

8 November 2018: Five Days at Memorial by Sheri Fink. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Floodwaters rose in the Uptown streets surrounding Memorial Medical Center, where hundreds of people slowly realized that they were stranded. Dr. Sheri Fink explores the excruciating struggle of medical professionals deciding to give fatal injections to those at the brink of death.

13 December 2018: The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom. Tells the dramatic real-life story of a Christian family living in Holland during the Nazi invasion in World War II and how three of those family members, along with a network of others, helped hide Jews from the grasp of the Nazis. It also tells the consequences of their actions.

10 January 2019: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba. The author was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. William had read about windmills in a book called Using Energy, and he dreamed of building a windmill that would bring electricity and water to his village and change his life and the lives of those around him.

14 February 2019: Ashley's War by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. Ashley's War documents the creation of Cultural Support Teams by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, a pilot program to put women on the battlefield to “enable” Green Berets and Army Rangers on sensitive missions in Afghanistan.
14 March 2019: Defiant by Alvin Townley. A gripping account of the “Alcatraz Eleven,” a group of American prisoners of war in North Vietnam who formed a tough core of heroic resisters despite brutal and relentless efforts to break them.

11 April 2019: The Lightless Sky by Gulwali Passarlay. The Lightless Sky describes the plight of unaccompanied minors forced to leave their homes and loved ones. Having been suspected of hiding weapons for the Taliban, the author's father and grandfather were killed in a shoot-out with US troops. The author and his brother were then hounded by the Taliban who wanted them to become freedom fighters and the Americans who wanted them as spies. The book sheds light on the world of human smugglers who treat their human cargo with very little compassion.

9 May 2019: The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee. An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world’s most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman’s terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom from North Korea.

13 June 2019: A Long Way Gone, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. Beah was 12 years old when the civil war in Sierra Leone entered his life, in 1993. Given rudimentary training, an AK-47 and as many drugs as he could consume (amphetamines, marijuana and a toxic mix of cocaine and gunpowder called “brown brown”), Beah seems then to have gone on a two-year mind-bending killing spree, until he was rescued by some Unicef fieldworkers and sent to a rehabilitation center in Freetown.

11 July 2019: Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. In late May 1943 a B-24 carrying 26-year-old Louis Zamperini went down over the Pacific. For nearly seven weeks Zamperini and his pilot managed to survive on a fragile lifeboat. They drifted 2,000 miles, only to by “rescued” by the Japanese and land in a series of prison camps for the next two years.