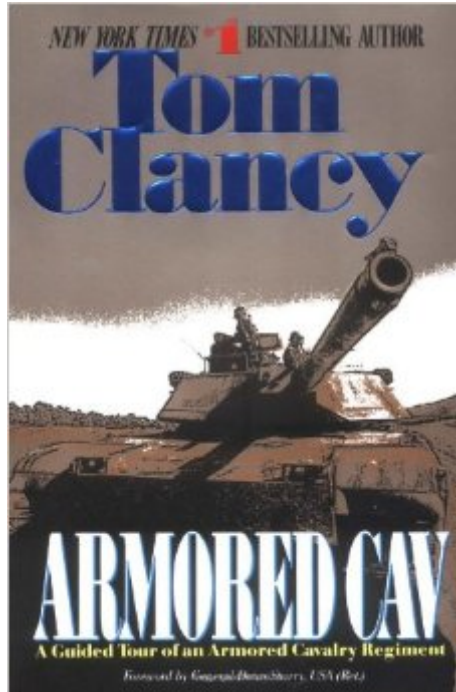


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# Armored Cav (Tom Clancy's Military Reference)



## Synopsis

A penetrating look inside an armored cavalry regiment -- the technology, the strategies, and the people . . . profiled by Tom Clancy. His first non-fiction book, *Submarine*, captured the reality of life aboard a nuclear warship. Now, the #1 bestselling author of *Clear and Present Danger* and *Without Remorse* portrays today's military as only army personnel can know it. With the same compelling, you-are-there immediacy of his acclaimed fiction, Tom Clancy provides detailed descriptions of tanks, helicopters, artillery, and more -- the brilliant technology behind the U. S. Army. He captures military life -- from the drama of combat to the daily routine -- with total accuracy, and reveals the roles and missions that have in recent years distinguished our fighting forces. *Armored Cav* includes: Descriptions of the M1A2 Main Battle Tank, the AH-64A Apache Attack Helicopter, and more. An interview with General Frederick Franks. Strategies behind the Desert Storm account. Exclusive photograph, illustrations and diagrams. PLUS: From West Point cadet to Desert Storm commander . . . an interview with a combat cavalry officer on the rise.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Clancy's in-depth interviews and analysis of the organization of an Armored Cavalry Regiment is a great piece of Military History. While the Organization and structure of the units have changed over the years the mission remains the same. Clancy's report shares the feelings of the troops from the driver of a Bradley to the CG of an Armored Division in what is now "Today's Army".

As a former "Brave Rifle" who served with this unit in the late '60s and early '70s, Clancy accurately

portrays life in the 3d Armored Cav unit. I found his style brought back to me ALL the thoughts, feelings and memories of those days. I felt I was still leading my platoon thru the land of Ft. Lewis, WA. Mr. Clancy painted a picture that was precise, truthful, and described the experience of Troopers who worked hard at what they did to serve our country

Having been around in and on Tanks 45 years ago I found this book very informative on the newer M1A1 tanks. Written well and is a non-fiction story. Some things just blew my mind about the sights and ammo.

It's hard to compress more information in one small book than Clancy has done in Armored Cav, if you want to quibble with details write your own book and do better! Clancy has to take what he's been given and make an educated opinion of things to say what he has to say. He is wrong about the M551 Sheridan and the BFV for example, but that's ok, he has no direct personal experience. This is a good REFERENCE book to quickly educate whoever it is you are teaching, which includes America's Soldiers who are still taught by rote memorization their specific tools and not the context of the modern battlefield--Clancy expresses the heavy fight here better than anyone so far. This is a fight with an armor versus firepower versus mobility struggle at its core, and it's equipment driven. His biggest failing is not starting with the tracked tank in WWI and progressing through to Vietnam and giving us the historical context of Cavalry and how light tanks and tracked APCs in the jungles of Southeast Asia rumbled all over the countryside and trounced the enemy with light casualties. He avoids this controversy seeking instead to "plant the seeds" of a lighter, more rapidly deployable air-cavalry by describing the M8 "Buford" Armored Gun System as a replacement for the M551 Sheridan light tank, and conveniently not mentioning the latter was parachute airdropped into combat by the 3/73d Armor BN attached to the 82d Airborne Division for Panama. He then doesn't even mention the M8 in Airborne!, his other non-fiction U.S. Army book. This is a serious oversight. Clearly, Clancy knows the Armored Cav he is writing about is too heavy to rapidly deploy and he is trying to "nudge" it in the right direction without the 2-D tanker-mentality realizing it will have to fly in aircraft and parachute jump and have a negative knee-jerk reaction. But by not describing how U.S. armored vehicles were inferior in some ways to German tanks in WWII, Clancy fails to explain why we went overboard with the M1/M2-M3 families, creating the not-enough armor inferiority complex which drives many in the Armor branch which has made the force too heavy to move and irrelevant in a world that moves by air. However the "silver lining" in this "cloud", is that Clancy explains how the Armored Cav is a mini-combined arms team; with almost all the elements

of combat power and if he had the history covered up front (easy to do---get Iron Chariots author Ralph Zumbro and add to the beginning) he could have shown that this combined-arms organization came out of WWII mechanized cavalry experiences when we had to fight for our reconnaissance. Clancy needs to mention briefly how the 1st Cavalry Division was once a helicopter Air Cavalry Division and what went wrong in Vietnam and why it reverted back to a heavy formation. If you pay attention you will see that Major MacGregor was the S-3 for the Desert Storm armored fight described--he is now Colonel Douglas MacGregor whose book, "Breaking the Phalanx" enlightened the entire Army to the benefits of combining arms on a permanent basis--its his Cavalry mentality that is the inspiration behind the Army's current Brigade Combat Team "transformation" effort. Of course, it cost Colonel MacGregor his career for writing the book because he had a few ideas that were best not presented. This book is a best-seller; I see no reason why it couldn't be updated with a history of mechanized cavalry to the present (pay attention to what the 11th ACR in Vietnam did), the portions on the M551 Sheridan/M8 AGS corrected and it taking on some new ideas and present the need for a lighter tracked AFV equipped "Global Cavalry" (not on road bound armored car wheels) that would be air-transportable in BOTH USAF fixed-wing aircraft and Army helicopters to effect decisive, 3-Dimensional maneuver capabilities. Such a 3-D force would be the ideal compliment to a heavier, 2-D force (not all of the force to conserve weight for strategic lift) composed of M1/M2s. The 3-D/2-D combination would make this force the force of choice for the 21st century. Update this, book Mr. Clancy!!! Airborne!

If the folks in Washington who set the defense budget and determine how much money is to be allocated for army ordnance and materiel were to read this book, I think it would help clarify for them why exactly we need to maintain a strong armored cavalry to support our U.S. ground forces. We have grown too complacent if we believe that all security threats can be resolved by simply launching missiles from the sea or dropping bombs from the air, hoping to cow the enemy into submission by sustained and heavy bombardment. There comes a time when the surgical excision of a belligerent element or hostile force is more necessary and, in the long run, more effective and beneficial, both economically and politically. But such action requires a powerful wall of mobile armor to ensure that the men and women participating in any such operation are defended by the best MBT's and IFV's that money can buy. Tom Clancy describes in magnificent detail some of these vehicles, and gives examples of the hardware in action against Soviet-made tanks during Operation Desert Storm. The book also includes informative interviews with some of the outstanding individuals who've helped raise the army to the standard it is today, and who hope to keep those

forces strong through the next millenium. It is a sobering book and especially relevant at this time.

This is one of the best written books by a non member of the Blackhorse to capture the heart and mind of the Cavalry Soldiers in action and our leaders like Col. George Patton, Col. Jimmy Leach, Col. Don Starry all of them were promoted to General after leaving the Blackhorse. The reason I know about the Cav is because I served with 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry in 1969 and 1970. Sp/5 David Ekholm (retired thanks to agent orange ) bear3/11@ Comcast.net

Since military hardware is in a constant state of enhancement, this non-fiction volume is a bit outdated, but it still contains a great deal of good information. One of the most readable of Clancy's nonfiction volumes, it still has a historical value. The longterm interview with a mid-level officer is one of the book's strong points. Know what your getting, but if you want a look at yesteryear's armored cav, this book can be valuable. If you're looking for more of the current state of affairs, find another source.

This is not one Clancy's best works. Unfortunately his research was done poorly. I served in an armored cav. sqd. and his idea of how a sqd. is set up is way off from the organizational table we operated under. Also his idea of the uses of armor in places such as Southeast Asia are off the mark. Armor was fully utilized with good results in terrain which armor supposedly can not fight. This could have been a really good book if only Clancy had done more research and not taken the prejudices from some militaty officials (who obviously never personally experienced what they say of armor tactics).

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