

# Dr. Brooks E. Kleber Memorial Lecture Series

## Hue, 1968

A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam

### Dr. Mark Bowden

Author

On the morning of January 31, 1968, the North Vietnamese launched an ambitious series of attacks across South Vietnam in what would become known as the infamous Tet Offensive. One crucial goal of the attack was to capture the ancient city of Hue, resulting in one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the war. As the battle approached conclusion, the American goal shifted from victory to an evacuation policy. On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at 7:15 PM, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA will host best-selling author Dr. Mark Bowden as he speaks about his latest book, *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam*. Dr. Bowden will discuss what he so vividly describes as the all-encompassing “storm of war” and the brutal reality that doing everything right was no guarantee of survival.

Although initial attacks of the Tet Offensive stunned both U.S. and South Vietnamese forces, causing them to temporarily lose control over several cities, they quickly regrouped to beat back the North Vietnamese. In contrast to most of the fighting during the Tet Offensive, the struggle for Hue lasted well over a month. The gruesome urban combat was captured by American media outlets, detailing the extraordinary acts of American Soldiers helping liberate the city. With an unparalleled access to the war archives in the United States and Vietnam, as well as interviews with individuals on both sides of the conflict, Bowden recreates the battle through a wide array of unique viewpoints. These eyewitness accounts provide realistic portrayals of the grisly urban fighting within the city.

Dr. Mark Bowden is a best-selling author and journalist. Dr. Bowden was The University of Delaware's Distinguished Writer in Residence from 2011 until 2017 after teaching for ten years at Loyola University in Baltimore. He is now a national correspondent for The Atlantic and contributes occasionally to newspapers and other magazines. A reporter and columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer for more than 30 years, he is the author of *Black Hawk Down*, now an Academy Award winning motion picture and the finalist for the National Book Award in 2000. He has written thirteen books in all, the most recent of which, *Hue, 1968*, was published in June, 2017, and spent eight weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list. The book was awarded the USMC's General Wallace Greene Award for the best nonfiction book of the year, and is being adapted into a TV miniseries for FX by director Michael Mann.

**DATE: Wednesday, November 28, 2018**

**TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM**

**PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Room**

**For updates and any last-minute changes in “Perspectives” meeting times and places, Please check: [www.USAHEC.org](http://www.USAHEC.org) or call the Information Desk: 717-245-3972.**