



U.S. Army Center of Military History

Forging the Shield: The U.S. Army in Europe, 1951–1962

By Donald A. Carter

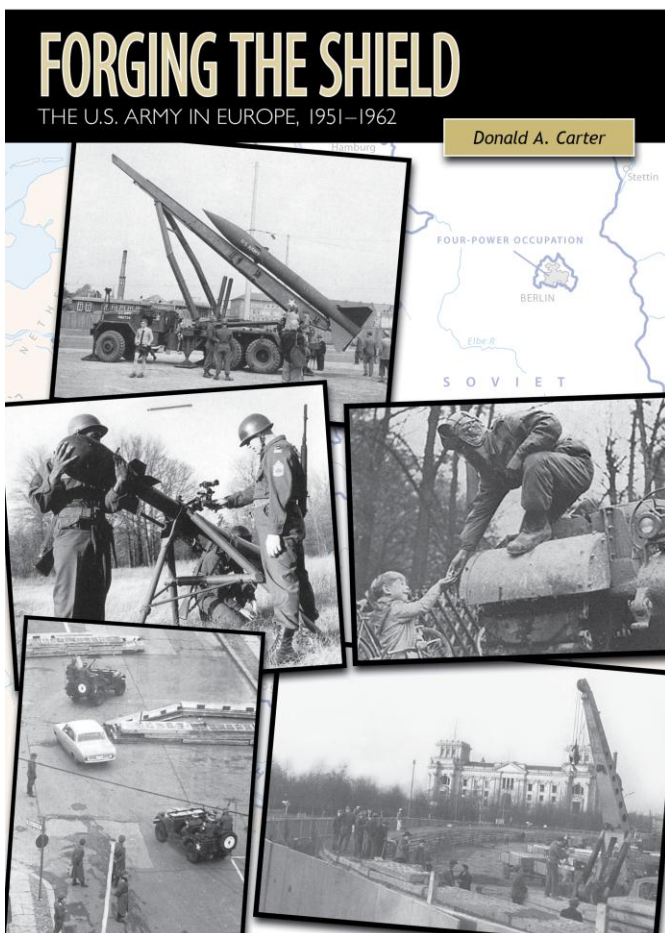
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Forging the Shield by author Donald A. Carter, tells the story of U.S. Army forces in Europe during the 1950s and early 1960s. It spans the period between the return of major U.S. combat forces to Germany in 1951 and the aftermath of the Berlin crisis in 1961–1962. During that time, the troops in Europe became the public face of the Army to Americans as well as to the rest of the world. The service directed almost all of its training, equipment and force development toward that potential day when its troops would face Soviet divisions streaming through the Fulda Gap and into Germany. The establishment of a credible conventional deterrent in Germany, backed up with nuclear forces, was one of the central linchpins of the U.S. strategy of

containment of Soviet power. This important volume tells the story of the U.S. Army in the early days of the Cold War as our commitment evolved into the multigenerational defense of Europe and the values of freedom.

Donald A. Carter was born in Albany, New York, and grew up in Oneida, New York. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1977 and served as a Field Artillery Officer until 1992. During that time, he received a Ph.D. in history from the Ohio State University in 1985 and served as a military history instructor, both at West Point and at the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After leaving the Army he joined the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) as an archivist. In 1995 he left CMH to serve with the Gulf War Declassification Project and the U.S. Army Declassification Activity. He returned to CMH in 2003 as a historian. His publications include “Eisenhower Versus The Generals,” in *Journal of Military History* (October 2007); “The U.S. Military Response to the 1960–1962 Berlin Crisis,” for a National Archives pamphlet commemorating the release of Cold War records; and “Wargames in Europe: The U.S. Army Experiments with Atomic Doctrine,” in *Blueprints for Battle* (University Press of Kentucky, 2012). He is married with two children and lives in Dale City, Virginia.

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