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Surging South of Baghdad: The 3D Infantry Division and Task Force Marne in Iraq, 2007-2008

By Dale Andrade

Military Bookshop. Paperback. Book Condition: New.

Paperback. 452 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 5.9in. x 1.2in.CMH

Publication 59-2-1. Global War on Terrorism Series. From the

foreword: By late 2006, 3 years after the dramatic capture of

Baghdad by U. S. and coalition forces, the war in Iraq was

going badly. Sectarian tensions had erupted into violence and

American public support for the war was at an all-time low.

For better or worse, the George W. Bush administration

decided to gamble on a troop increase, sending thirty

thousand additional U. S. troops to Iraq in order to stop the

bloodshed and bring stability to Baghdad and the surrounding

area. By June 2007, they were all in place, and the so-called

surge began. Surging South of Baghdad covers this crucial

period in the Iraq war from the perspective of a single division

operating in the region south of the Iraqi capital. Before the

surge, this slice of territory between the Tigris and Euphrates

Rivers had become an insurgent safe haven where the enemy

cached weapons and built bombs that fueled sectarian

violence in Baghdad. Placing the 3d Infantry Division there

bolstered a flagging coalition presence in the area and began

the process of...



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