

# In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit

*Fast-paced New Novel Based on True Events of the Vietnam Helicopter War*

NORTH MIAMI, Fla. – Based on factual places and events, ***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit*** ([published by AuthorHouse](#)), the new novel by Michael D. Guard, discloses the tribulations of the Vietnam helicopter war and provides moving insight into the lives of the crewmen who routinely flew combat assault missions.

Written in the style of narrative non-fiction, ***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit*** provides a rare account of air to ground combat. The protagonist, Mitchell Collins, is a repairman for the helicopters of the 135th Assault Helicopter Unit, a fighting contingency made up of Royal Australian personnel and members of the U.S. Army. As the only multi-national experimental military unit in Vietnam, the unit maintained “the highest order of discipline” and “wrought devastation of the Viet Cong in South Vietnam’s delta region,” Guard writes.

When Mitchell decides that his true desire is to fly in the helicopters he was trained to repair, he is transformed into an aerial combatant on his unit’s elite Taipan platoon flying helicopter gunships. Their mission is to protect the troop transport choppers carrying ground forces into the fight, providing gun support and reconnaissance once the troops are in the landing zone.

***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit*** shows that Mitchell’s experiences were unlike those of combatants who fought on the ground. “The intensity and frequency of actions were multiplied by their mobility,” Guard explains. Mitchell contemplates his own mortality after facing carnage and losing comrades. As his year-long duty continues, his chances for survival dwindle. Learn more about this group of courageous fighters and discover Mitchell’s fate in the action-packed pages of ***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit***.

Praise for ***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit***:

*I thoroughly enjoyed In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit. Well researched, well written, humorous, sad and hard to put down. It puts one right back into the Nam era.*

-Colonel (Ret.) Fred Dunaway, Commanding Officer 135th AHC

*My man, you transport me back to the time and place and we, the readers, are right there with you. Keep up the good work!*

-(Fmr.) Sub-Lieutenant Andy Perry, Royal Australian Navy Pilot 135th AHC, U.S. Silver Star Recipient

Michael D. Guard is a Vietnam veteran and former member of the 135th Assault Helicopter Unit. He was a crewmember aboard the Huey UH-1C helicopter gunship. ***In the Sanctity of the Snake Pit*** is his first book.

For more information, visit [www.michaeldguard.com](http://www.michaeldguard.com)

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BY: MICHAEL D. GUARD