**DATE:   May 2011**

**NEWS**(Release Immediately)

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**A (Tragic) True Story about Vietnam**

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the year that President Kennedy first sent U.S. military advisors to South Vietnam to help its government deal with the mounting threat of the Viet Cong campaign. It was the start of America's involvement in a bitter war that would forever change the way we look at military intervention abroad. Thousands of miles away and half a century later, Vietnam still haunts us.

No one more so than the soldiers who lived it. *When Soldiers Cried,* written by David Shea and newly released by Brandylane Publishers, is one U.S. soldier's true account of the war in Vietnam. In it, Shea takes us from the days just before his draft to the depths of the jungle, revisiting the people, places and choices that shaped his life, then and after.

Based on actual events but told as a narrative history, this book provides a unique, behind-the-scenes account of the draft and how the Vietnam War was actually conducted and fought. Although many of the scenes are shockingly vivid and the language is often raw, they have been included to describe the real conditions the young draftees had to endure. Woven throughout the pages of this book are the tragedies of loss and the instinctive drive to survive and rebuild.

Sadly, many of the men depicted in the book are among the more than fifty-eight thousand fallen soldiers whose names are engraved on the hallowed, granite panels of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Countless more were wounded or suffered from haunting, psychological problems, withdrawal, depression and suicide. This story is a lasting tribute to those who answered the call and paid the ultimate sacrifice in the face of improbable odds.

A native of California, David Shea is the son of a decorated career Air Force officer who flew over Germany during World War II. While attending college in 1967, Mr. Shea was drafted, and after resisting an appointment to Officer Candidate School, was sent to Vietnam where he served a year with an Army infantry unit. In April 1969, he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Brandylane Publishers, Inc. is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia that has published fiction, non-fiction, and poetry since 1985.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*When Soldiers Cried* (hardcover with color jacket, 192 pages, $23.95 retail) is available from fine booksellers, [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com), amazon.com. A limited number of signed and numbered copies are available from the publisher at www.brandylanepublishers.com, by calling 804.644.3090, or by writing 5 South First Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

**Review copies are available.**

**To arrange an interview with the author, contact Will Metcalf at 804.644.3090 or at brandylanepr@gmail.com**