Beginning with Lt. Zebulon Pike’s Army expedition to map the area in 1806, Colorado and the Pikes Peak region have been tied to military matters. From the founding of Colorado Springs by Civil War veteran Gen. William Palmer to the attempted ascent of Pikes Peak by the World War I era tank Little Zeb, military influence expanded throughout the 20th Century. The growth of military installations supporting efforts during World War II, the Cold War, militarized space, and more has indelibly impacted the communities of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. Military Matters of the Pikes Peak Region: Defense, Development, & Dissent is a collection of essays exploring the multitude of ways in which the military has shaped, contributed to, and ultimately transformed the experiences of both individuals and communities alike in this region. Many of the chapters are based on presentations given at the 2015 Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium and reflect the diverse ways in which Coloradans have been impacted by the military, both at home and abroad.

From the Foreword