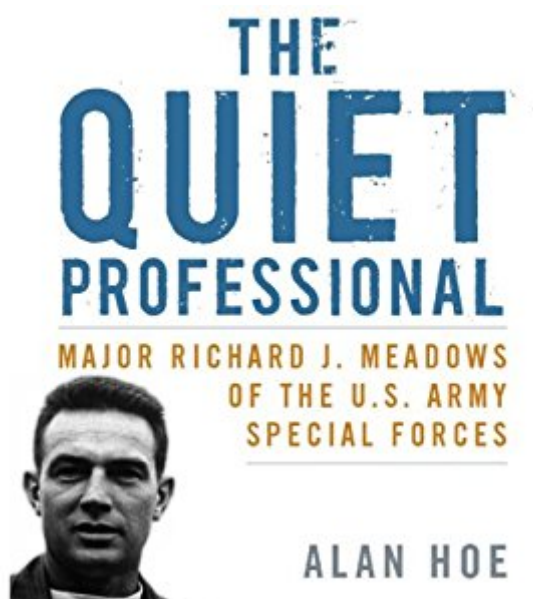


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# The Quiet Professional: Major Richard J. Meadows Of The U.S. Army Special Forces: American Warriors



## Synopsis

Major Richard J. "Dick" Meadows is renowned in military circles as a key figure in the development of the U.S. Army Special Operations. A highly decorated war veteran of the engagements in Korea and Vietnam, Meadows was instrumental in the founding of the U.S. Delta Force and hostage rescue force. Although he officially retired in 1977, Meadows could never leave the army behind, and he went undercover in the clandestine operations to free American hostages from Iran in 1980. *The Quiet Professional: Major Richard J. Meadows of the U.S. Army Special Forces* is the only biography of this exemplary soldier's life. Military historian Alan Hoe offers unique insight into Meadows, having served alongside him in 1960. *The Quiet Professional* is an insider's account that gives a human face to U.S. military strategy during the cold war. Major Meadows often claimed that he never achieved anything significant; *The Quiet Professional* proves otherwise, showcasing one of the great military minds of 20th-century America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alan "Spike" Hoe has written an enjoyable and enlightening work about a very uncommon common man. A veteran of Britain's 22 Special Air Service (SAS), Hoe first met then-MSG Richard J. Meadows when he was one of the first two Special Forces officers on exchange with the SAS. Hoe obviously became enthralled with Dick Meadows during that assignment and became a close, personal friend. After Hoe wrote the authorized biography of Sir David Sterling, the founder of the SAS, Dick Meadows asked that he write his biography, if one were to be written. Consequently,

Hoe's work has the benefit on both official and family archives for source documentation. I have often wondered why some men, in particular, seem destined for greatness. There are men who strike their superiors, peers, and subordinates alike as one set apart. They are not always the best at what they do; it is difficult to be best at everything. But, as they go through life, they truly are among the best; yet they are still sufficiently common that each of us can relate to them. Such a man was Dick Meadows. Dick Meadows' story is quintessentially American. Born and raised in the hills of West Virginia, he was shuttled between living with his father, his mother, and his grandparents. He was the product of poverty when real poverty still existed in this country. With the connivance of his mother, he enlisted in the Army in 1947 at the age of fifteen. Following a friend's lead, he volunteered for parachute duty and was assigned to the field artillery in the 82nd Airborne Division. When the Korean War broke out, he was able to wangle an assignment to the 187th Regimental Combat Team where, at the age of twenty, he became the youngest Master Sergeant of the Korean War.

If you ever served in the military you saw two types of leaders. Far too many led by fear or intimidation. If you were lucky you met at least one individual who led from the front, by example. Someone whose professionalism and personality made you willing to follow them anywhere at anytime. Dick Meadows was one of those few. He was a master sergeant in the Korean War at the age of twenty. After Korea he joined Special Forces and trained with the British SAS, spending time with them in Oman. The SAS do not accept outsiders easily, yet Meadows ended up marrying the daughter of an SAS sergeant major. In the early sixties he spent time in Laos with the White Star program training guerrillas and then served two tours in Vietnam. While running small reconnaissance teams across the border Meadows was credited with capturing either thirteen or fifteen prisoners, depending on the source. At one point his team was asked to go into North Vietnam in a rescue attempt for a downed pilot. His leadership in that action, and his success on previous missions in Laos, earned Meadows the first battlefield commission of the war. Less than a year after the POW mission he was back in Vietnam, this time to oversee the insertion of indigenous teams across the border. In the summer of 1970 he was hand-picked to participate in the planning and execution of the raid on the Son Tay POW camp, just twenty to thirty miles west of Hanoi (see *The Raid: The Son Tay Prison Rescue Mission*). Shortly after his retirement in 1977 Meadows was asked to be part of the newly formed Delta Force.

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