

## Biography

William S. Reeder Jr., Ph.D.

Colonel, U.S. Army (retired)

Dr. William Reeder is a training and leader development consultant living in the Pacific Northwest. He spends parts of each year in the education of NATO Special Operations Forces at the NATO SOF School at Chievres Air Base Belgium and the training of counterterrorism forces in Saudi Arabia. He was formerly an Associate Professor of Social Sciences and Deputy Director of the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He retired from the United States Army in 1995 as a colonel, and subsequently earned a Ph.D. in history and anthropology from Kansas State University. His military service included assignments in cavalry, aviation, and special operations, and he has extensive combat experience.

William Reeder is a thirty year Army veteran with two tours of duty in Vietnam, flying armed OV-1 Mohawk reconnaissance airplanes and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters. He participated in deep reconnaissance and surveillance operations throughout Southeast Asia and was involved in special operations with MACV-SOG (Studies and Observations Group). He has in excess of 3,000 hours of flight time including over 1,000 hours in combat. During his second combat tour, he was shot down and captured by the communist North Vietnamese, spending nearly a year as a Prisoner of War.

Subsequent military assignments included various Army command and staff positions, and a stint at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He commanded at all levels, platoon through brigade (including command of an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter squadron). His last assignment before retirement in 1995 was as the Deputy Chief of Staff, de facto Chief of Staff, for the United States Southern Command in Panama.

His military awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Valorous Unit Award, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and three Bronze Star Medals, three Purple Hearts for wounds received in action, the POW Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, and numerous Air Medals (one with "V" device). In 1977 he was named Army Aviator of the Year and he was inducted into the U.S. Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 2014. He was featured in the PBS documentary, "The Helicopter Pilots of Vietnam," and the "Attack Helicopters" episode of Deadliest Tech on the Military Channel. He has provided military commentary on CNN and the Discovery Channel.