



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

FACT SHEET

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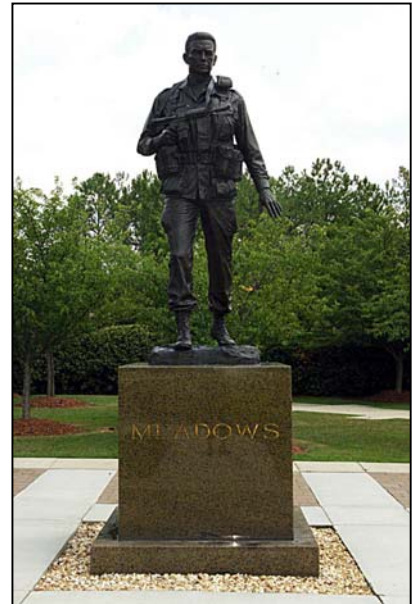
THE MEADOWS STATUE

INTRODUCTION

The Meadows Statue stands in honor of legendary special operations Soldier Maj. Richard “Dick” Meadows at the leading edge of the Meadows Memorial Parade Field, just outside the U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C. The lifelike bronze statue was sculpted by Mr. Larry Ludtke in Texas and donated to USASOC in 1997 by Mr. H. Ross Perot.

SYMBOLISM

The statue depicts Meadows in a classic pose — advancing as if into a clearing, somewhere behind enemy lines, with his CAR-15 carbine at the ready and his left hand pushing backwards as if to say silently to his patrol members behind him, “Stay where you are...I’ll check it out.” Replicas of the statue are presented each year to an outstanding special operations Soldier as the Dick Meadows Award.



MAJ. DICK MEADOWS

Dick Meadows grew up in poverty and joined the Army in 1947 at the age of 16. By the time he was 20, he was a master sergeant assigned to the 187th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) and volunteering for service in the Korean War.

Meadows joined the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1953. He trained with the British Special Air Service and was the first of only two foreigners at the time to be awarded SAS Wings. He went on to serve as a highly respected team leader of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam - Studies and Observation Group commando teams operating behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

He received a direct appointment to the rank of captain in 1967. In 1970, he was a key planner of the Son Tay Raid in an attempt to rescue American prisoners of war held in a camp within 65 miles of Hanoi. He was the assault team leader as his team crashed into the center of the camp in an HH-3 Air Force helicopter in order to achieve total surprise, only to discover that the camp no longer held U.S. prisoners.

Meadows retired from the military in 1977, but remained a valued special operations advisor and leader for the rest of his life, most notably as a clandestine operative in Tehran, Iran, during the Iran Hostage rescue attempt in 1980. In addition, he helped organize special mission units and was a consultant in efforts to thwart criminal drug trafficking. For his selfless service as a private citizen, he was awarded the Presidential Citizen’s Medal for Distinguished Service. His military awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star Medal with Valor device. He died in 1995.