

Dick Couch

A 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dick Couch served with the Navy Underwater Demolition and SEAL Teams. He led one of the only successful POW rescue operations of the Vietnam War, while a platoon leader with SEAL Team One in 1970.

On release from active duty in 1972, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, where he served as a Maritime Operations Officer, from 1972–1976. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1997 with the rank of captain. In addition to his military service, Dick spent 20 years as retail broker with Solomon Smith Barney. The focus of his business at SSB was the selection and ongoing monitoring of investment advisors for his client base.

Dick began his writing career in 1990 and has published six novels:

SEAL Team One
(Avon, 1990)

Rising Wind
(Naval Institute Press, 1997)

Pressure Point
(Putnam/Berkeley, 1992)

The Mercenary Option
(Pocket, 2003)

Silent Descent
(Putnam/Berkeley, 1994)

Covert Action
(Pocket, 2005)



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The Warrior Elite, his first nonfiction work, was published in 2001 by Crown Books. Subsequent non-fiction books include:

*The U.S. Armed Forces Nuclear, Chemical,
Biological Survival Manual*
(Basic Books, 2003, acting editor)

*The Finishing School
Earning the Navy SEAL Trident*
(Crown Books, 2004)

*Down Range
Navy SEAL Operations in the War on Terror*
(Crown, 2005)

*Chosen Soldier
The Making of a Special Forces Warrior*
(Crown, 2007)

*The Sheriff of Ramadi
Navy SEALs and the Winning of al Anbar*
(NIP, 2008)

*A Tactical Ethic
Moral Conditioning for the Modern Warrior*
(NIP, 2010)

Dick's work has been featured nationwide, in leading outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Variety* magazine, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal*. He has served as an analyst for FOX TV, MSNBC TV, and ABC radio during combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. He has also been featured on National Public Radio, "The O'Reilly Factor," "Hardball" with Chris Matthews, and the "NBC Nightly News" with Brian Williams. He often travels to the wartime theaters as an embed with American Special Operations Forces.

He has lectured at the Air Force Academy, the Naval Special Warfare Center, the JFK Special Forces Center and School, the FBI Academy, the Naval Postgraduate School, The Joint Special Operations University and The Academy Leadership Forum on issues of character development, the Warrior Ethic, and counterinsurgency. Dick recently completed an assignment as an adjunct professor of ethics at the US Naval Academy. He is currently serving as the ethics advisor to the Commander, US Special Operations Command.

Dick and his wife Julia live in Ketchum, Idaho.