

Biography
William S. Reeder, Jr., Ph.D.
Colonel, U.S. Army (retired)

Dr. William Reeder develops and implements leadership training initiatives for the United States Army as a defense contractor, and is the former Deputy Director and Professor at 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 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 Army assignments included various command and staff positions, and a stint at the U.S. Air Force Academy as Air Officer Commanding of the 21st Cadet Squadron. 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 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. He was featured in the PBS documentary, "The Helicopter Pilots of Vietnam," and has provided military commentary on CNN and the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Reeder is married to the former Melanie Lineker of Westminster, Maryland, who is also a retired Army colonel and works as the Director of Training (N-7) for the U.S. Navy Northwest Region, headquartered at Bangor Submarine Base, Washington. They have four children.