



## Sheriff of Ramadi

*Dick Couch*

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## **Sheriff of Ramadi** Dick Couch

Bestselling author and former U.S. Navy SEAL Dick Couch follows the SEAL Task Unit in Iraq's Anbar Province between 2005 and 2007, chronicling the unit's deployment and detailing the importance of the SEALs in winning the fight to control Ramadi.

## **Sheriff of Ramadi Details**

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# From Reader Review Sheriff of Ramadi for online ebook

## Dio Aufa Handoyo says

What makes this book different is its focus on SOF-conventional units cooperation (especially the SEAL - Army dynamics covered), which places the scope of this book somewhere in the middle of those platoon-level stories and those Iraq-wide analysis. However, while the story is quite easy to follow, it's not as powerful and compelling as Mr. Couch's other books on SEAL training.

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## Mathias Seiwert says

I wish I could be a SEAL. Seriously...

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## Lisa says

It's a pretty decent book. The author is a former Navy SEAL and Vietnam Vet, and as such I have great respect for his talents and service to our country. However, he can be insufferably boring at times (first 2 chapters especially) as he relives his past glory of being a Navy SEAL vicariously through the modern Navy SEALs assigned to the province. He is frequently too gratuitous in his incessant praise for the SEALs and quite redundant (The SEALs are wonderful, highly skilled and professional elite warriors of extremely high moral character and we're all very proud to know that they are out there protecting us...OK, now get on with the story already.) Also included is the history of the Navy SEALs, which I can only imagine is better and more accurately outlined in some other book. Chapters 3-5 are really quite good. Lots of stuff about being a sniper (which enhanced what I had previously read about Delta snipers in Eric Haney's book "Inside Delta Force.") Several very tragic and heroic deaths (SEALs Marc Lee, and Mike Monsour as well as Army Captain Travis Patriquin, and others.) were well documented and honorably memorialized. My friend from my high school youth group, Jim Lechner, is quoted in chapter 6 as he tours the now peaceful city one year after they liberated it from the enemy. Having heard Jim's interview with Neil Cavuto (which in 7 minutes says almost everything it took Dick 237 pages to explain), and having read several other news articles about this, I feel Jim's presence in a lot of places where he isn't specifically mentioned. I wish I could give him a copy of the book, and have him write himself into chapters 4 and 5 where he belongs. ...And, elaborate a little more on what the Army was doing, as Dick is clearly more concerned with the SEALs. I wish Travis Patriquin's story could have been told as thoroughly as the fallen SEAL's stories. His stick figure presentation really makes this book. Maybe someone will write, or has written this story from the Army perspective. (Watch the interview, it's on Utube.)

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## Mark Sequeira says

Okay, I really wanted to like this book. Even love it.

I read it straight through putting aside a number of other books to get through it in less than a week.

The story is a good one...All I can say is that the writing isn't very good or compelling. This is not *Black Hawk Down*. About half of the book is background information..."But before we get into that I should first explain..." So we discuss the origins of the Seals, the origins of Iraq and the Middle East, etc. it all takes a ton of time. And even the parts about the Teams in Anbar alone weren't really that interesting. The role players brief bios are presented and then what they did, then another brief intro then what he did.

There are plenty of good books on the Seal teams and their roles in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is not one of them.

Good for anyone like me that has to read everything on a topic, or interested in counter-insurgency work (in fact that might be it's most valuable contribution honestly) in Iraq, but for pure adventure story look elsewhere.

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### **Patrick says**

I went in expecting a tense, vivid read and I came out feeling something was lacking in this book. Especially given that Dick Couch is a former SEAL. The narrative was a bit dry and never seemed to really settle on one view point. You also never really get to "meet" the men involved, or care about them. In a book like this, that's bad. The narrative also never pulls you in, it's rather dry and overly long.

All in all, skip this one and go read *The Red Circle* by Brandon Webb or *The Heart and the Fist* by Eric Greitens instead.

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### **Greg says**

This is a really good book on the battle for Ramadi during the Surge in Iraq. It paints a vivid picture of the action at a tactical level. That author was embedded with the units involved and covers about 2.5 tours by SEALs in Ramadi. It presupposes knowledge of the background, which can be gleaned from the first chapter of *The Marines Take Anbar*.

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### **Joshua says**

A welcome perspective. Thanks DC.

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### **Erin says**

The book has a very ambitious scope in places - summarizing the relevant pieces of the history of Iraq from the dawn of civilization to the present in a few pages, or quickly familiarizing the reader with the history and culture of the Navy Seals - and Couch only gets to skim the surfaces of some of the broad topics he addresses. But once the book moves to specific operations in Anbar province, it is remarkably detailed and gives the reader a very clear picture of conditions on the ground and the role of the Seals in what is arguable

one of the biggest triumphs of the war in Iraq.

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### **Tressa says**

It was a struggle to read this book as it felt rather pedantic. There was a lot of information conveyed, but it felt superficial. Also, the lack of dates was confusing as I didn't know when an event was taking place. This book, unfortunately, wasn't as engaging as Warrior Elite.

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### **George says**

This book wasn't what I wanted it to be, but even judging it on its own merits, it is a 2 star book. The book does not really give a good sense of the battle of Ramadi / the pacification of Anbar, but I think the author thought it did. It is a great look --excellent look-- at how SEALs integrated with conventional Army to conduct operations together, but that's it. If you really wanted to learn about Anbar, the battles there, etc., this isn't your book. One note -- the epilogue is excellent and insightful.

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### **Dave Beeman says**

Heavy on SEAL team/TU glorification; light on the actual battle for Ramadi. Even the title is misleading. The author states that the "Sheriff" is the USA brigade commander.

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### **Nick Christopher says**

Overall, I did get a lot out of this book. Since I do plan on joining the Military and being a part of a Special Operation Unit, it was good insight on what to expect and see how they operate. My only disappointment in this is that it's about SEALs (minor complaint). Before it gets into the mission of the SEALs, it does go through a history of the SEALs and also the organization of the SEALs. I did find this part of the book really slow and hard to get through, but beyond that it was a good read. Four stars for a good read about SEALs in Iraq with the exception of the first two chapters.

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### **Kevin Cordell says**

The book was kind of slow, but it was a good story about how the US Military started to work with the Iraqi people instead of against them and to help the local populations get control of their territories from the insurgents and AQI.

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### **Mark says**

Good book

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