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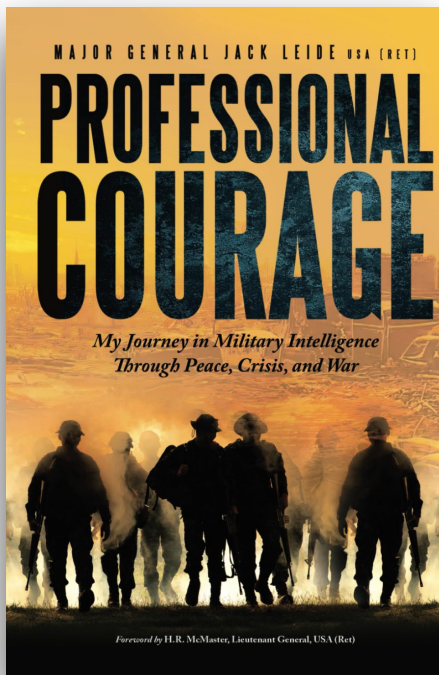
Professional Courage: My Journey in Military Intelligence Through Peace, Crisis, and War

by Maj. Gen. Jack Leide (ret.)
Independent Publishing
25 October 2023

Review by **Dr. Giangiuseppe Pili**,
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P*rofessional Courage* is an autobiography written by Major General Jack Leide (ret.), who tells his remarkable journey in the army and in military intelligence, where he ended his career as J2 of US Central Command. The book starts from the very beginning in Auburn, New York, where Leide was raised up by his family of Italian origins. He enlisted in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and discovered a passion for military history. He then studied at Georgetown, when he was still unsure about what type of career he should pursue. In the end, he followed his true driving interest and began his career in the military at

Fort Benning, Georgia, in July 1958. He was part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and his first deployment was in the Dominican Republic, where he landed in Santo Domingo in 1965 as part of the forces involved in the protection of American citizens during the turmoil that affected the country at the time. It was then that Leide understood the importance of languages and direct connections with locals: "I became convinced that language capabilities and training should be one of our highest priorities." (p. 23) In April 1966, Leiden was deployed in the Republic of Vietnam as part of multiple deployments in East Asia. Later on, Leide started studying military strategies and the classics of the art of war, such as Sun Tzu and Clausewitz, applying their lessons to the ongoing Vietnam War. During these crucial years, Leide discovered the world of military intelligence and multiple intelligence disciplines, such as SIGINT and HUMINT. "I quickly became enamored with the army's covert and clandestine HUMINT units..." A recurrent theme of the book is the appreciation for the human side of



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the military and intelligence worlds, where machines and tools are never totally able to replace the “human capital” and discussions with people of very diverse cultures and perspectives. This proved invaluable during the time he studied Mandarin and China’s history and strategic culture in the USA and then Taiwan. In 1975 he was sent to Hong Kong as US Defense Liaison Officer under the Defense Intelligence Agency. Remarkably, after another round of assignments, Leide was directed to Beijing starting in March 1988 and soon he was involved in the major turmoil that culminated in the Tiananmen square in 1989, when he was faced with a dire situation, including his son arriving in China on the worst day possible. At the time, there were a few thousand US citizens in China, and they were urged to be evacuated. A good portion of the second half of the book is dedicated to the preparation of Desert Storm, where Leide was appointed as J2 of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) in 1990. He served as Director for Intelligence during Desert Shield and Desert Storm under General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. The book offers an invaluable self-analysis and a series of lessons learned for the US military and the NATO intelligence professionals.

Dr. Giangiuseppe Pili is an Assistant Professor at James Madison University, where he teaches in the Intelligence Analysis Program. He is an Associate Fellow with the Proliferation and Nuclear Policy Center at the Royal United Services Institute in London and Senior Associate Fellow with the NATO Defence College in Rome. He is also part of the scientific board of the Italian Society of Intelligence and an external member of Intelligence Lab at Calabria University.