



1980 PROFILE

DESERT ONE MISSION, IRAN

Sergeant First Class

After years of preparation, Sergeant First Class Alberto Enriquez was ready and willing when his Delta unit was called to Iran to rescue 53 hostages in the American Embassy.

Life at Home

- Alberto Enriquez was a professional and proud of it.
- While many of his friends were scheming to avoid the draft, Alberto volunteered to serve his country.
- He enjoyed his time in the 101st Airborne Division, and when the opportunity presented itself, was quick to join the 75th Ranger Regiment—the men called upon for the really tough jobs.
- When he heard a new unit called Delta was being formed to specialize in counter-terrorism, he knew where he belonged.
- He especially loved the challenge of the new unit: The physical requirements were rigorous, only men of sergeant rank and above were eligible, and excellent performance reviews were needed.
- Alberto had grown up in the Mexican section of Denver; his grandparents had been illegal immigrants from Mexico.
- His father served in the Second World War, earning a bronze star for bravery.
- A small pair of American flags and a picture of the current American president—Democrat or Republican—always hung in his house.
- In school, Alberto earned better-than-average grades, played some football and ran track.
- After school and most Saturdays he worked in his father's suburban landscaping business, the success of which paralleled the growth of rapidly expanding Denver.
- When Alberto joined the army following graduation, he realized almost immediately that he had found his place, and after a few years set sights on being the best sergeant in the army.



Sergeant First Class Alberto Enriquez is a professional soldier.