

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96222
JOINT PERSONNEL CENTER (JPRC)



13 December 1968

MACV-JPRC

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THRU: Commanding General
I FFORCEV
APO 96350

TO: Commanding Officer
281st Assault Helicopter Company
APO 96240

1. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude for the superb performance of duty rendered by the members of your unit, during operation RAYBURN CANE III (16-21 Nov 68). Operation RAYBURN CANE III was a PW recovery mission conducted in Dar Lac Province. The concept of operation was to insert a fifteen man Recon Team, deep into a known enemy dominated area, at last light.
2. It was apparent from the beginning of the operation that the pilots and crew members were highly experienced in LRRP missions. The initial VR was flown by the C & C pilot and the insert pilot, who selected a primary and alternate LZ with a minimum of overflight of the area. The infiltration was accomplished without incident and the swiftness of the insertion resulted in the team being placed on the primary LZ undetected by the enemy. After successfully infiltrating the team, the crew members were on continuous alert in the event an emergency situation developed with the team that would require an extraction. This entailed long hours of waiting and continuous monitoring of the team's movement.
3. Especially noteworthy was the leadership and sincere attitude of Lt Sorem. He monitored each radio contact from the team and was a tremendous assistance in operating the JPRC, FOB. He offered several suggestions that aided greatly in the accomplishment of the mission.
4. Attached as inclosure #1 is a roster of the personnel that participated in the operation.

1 Incl
as

J. T. McDonald
IRVING T. MCDONALD
LTC, USAF
Chief, JPRC

PARTICIPANTS OF OPERATION RAYLURN CANE III (20-21 November 1968)

✓ JOHNS, "BUCK" Robert M	1LT,	05341167
✓ HARRIS, Fred D	CW2	W3157680
✓ HILF, Joseph M	WO1	W3158745
✓ CARY, James E	WO1	W3160148
✓ COKER, Michael R.	WO1	W3159872
✓ FERGUSON, Joel	WO1	W3160185
✓ GLAZE, Kenneth W.	WO1	W3160764
✓ LOHMANN, Ronald D.	WO1	W3159153
✓ SMITH, Kenneth	WO1	W3158940
✓ YANCEY, Leon H.	WO1	W3161975

AVFA-AV (13 Dec 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

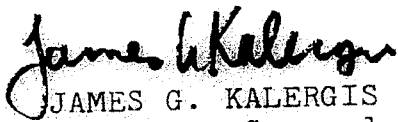
DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 23 DEC 1968

THRU: Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO
96240

TO: Commanding Officer, 281st Assault Helicopter Company,
APO 96240

1. It gives me great pleasure to forward this letter of appreciation to you from the Joint Personnel Recovery Center (JPRC) of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.
2. Please accept my appreciation in addition to that expressed in the basic letter for the enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication to duty displayed by the aviators and crew members of your unit who supported Operation RAYBURN CANE III.
3. The crews who took part in the operation have reflected credit upon themselves and their unit and have further enhanced the outstanding reputation enjoyed by Army aviation within the Republic of Vietnam.

1 Incl
nc


JAMES G. KALERGIS
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

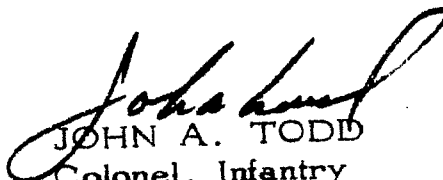
AVGD-CO (13 Dec 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

DA, Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96240 314

THRU: Commanding Officer, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion,
APO 96377

TC: Commanding Officer, 281st Assault Helicopter Company,
APO 96240

1. It gives me great pride and pleasure to forward this letter of appreciation along with the laudatory comments of the Chief of Staff, IFFV.
2. I congratulate you on the outstanding competence and professionalism displayed by your crews. Their dedication to duty has not only enhanced the image of Army Aviation but has greatly increased the harmonious relationship between the U.S. Army and the Vietnamese people.
3. Please accept my sincere appreciation and best wishes for continued success in your future endeavors.


JOHN A. TODD
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

AVOD-1A (13 Dec 68) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

FM, HEADQUARTERS, 10TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION, APO 96377 5 Jan 69

TO: Commanding Officer, 281st Assault Helicopter Company, APO 96240

1. It is with great pleasure that I forward this letter of appreciation for a job well done.

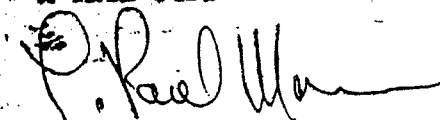
2. The performance of your crews in such a demanding mission reflects great credit, not only on their judgment and competence as officers and aviators, but speaks highly of the evident desire of your personnel to participate to the fullest and best manner possible in operations to which they are assigned.

3. I commend you on the fine devotion to duty and professionalism you have instilled in every level of your command.

s/ James N. Burress

JAMES N. BURRESS
ITC, CE
Commanding

A TRUE COPY



L. PAUL MORSEN
WOL, AWW
Admin Officer

(15 Dec 68) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

DA, 281st Assault Helicopter Company, APO 96240

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. I would like to extend my congratulations to the members of the "Bandits" who participated in Operation RAYBURN GANE III. Your professionalism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions and standards of the military service and reflect great credit on the "Bandits", the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, and the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion.

2. A copy of the letter will be placed in your military 201 file.



ANDREW J. MILLER, JR.
Major, Infantry
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

1Lt Robert M. Soren, 05341167

CW2 Fred D. Swarrill, W3157680

WO1 Joseph M. Bilitske, W3158745

WO1 James E. Cery, W3160148

WO1 Michael E. Coker, W3159872

WO1 Joel Ferguson, W3160185

WO1 Kenneth W. Glaze, W3160764

WO1 Ronald D. Lohmann, W3159153

WO1 Kenneth Smith, W3158940

WO1 Leon H. Yancey, W3161975