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**From:** "Mike Vickroy" [redacted] | [Block address](#)

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**To:** "Dick Detra" [redacted]

**CC:** "Richard Green" [redacted]

**Subject:** Lt Flack

**Date:** Wed, 19 Jan 2000 19:38:38 -0600

Dick,

After I arrived in August, 1967 there was a time when the Top (First Sergeant DePalm) was the only administrative support besides the CO and XO for the 188th. The TOE may or may not have called for an Administration Officer, but at some point Lt Flack, who I believe was infantry, became the AO, or acting AO. On November 9th, 1967, those of us who were still not initiated learned the difference between "incoming" and "outgoing". I myself had been asking the same question. I had taken off early, shortly after dusk, and was just getting out of my boots when I felt "incoming" (Major Graham and ?? Snodgrass really felt it; there was a group of officers standing in front of the Orderly Room when "incoming" announced itself. Those two, I believe, were slightly wounded). I never flinched and found myself in a bunker just down the row from my "hootch" ("incoming" was a knowledge that separates me from the boys ever since: you know what I mean). After the initial mortar barrage we were ordered to report from the bunker to the berm line. When I arrived and had jumped over the last ditch "ditch" I realized that we were under fire (my first encounter with that feeling also). From behind a rubber tree I gingerly "popped" my little .38 (I still to this day declare that it was a Smith & Wesson, Blue, Air Force Special .38 revolver; but everyone tells me that no such weapon ever existed. They had never cleaned mine and I was fully aware of what was engraved on the barrel) in the direction of the "front". After awhile Lt Flack appeared on the berm line in shorts, a helmet and a flak jacket and commenced to direct fire, walking up and down the line shouting orders of some kind to urge us on I suppose. At some point the order to cease fire came down the line. Lt. Flack ignored the order (I didn't know where the order came from but I heard it being conveyed to Lt Flack by someone who had run down the line). Later, upon Major Johnson's questioning, I re-iterated the evenings events and Lt. Flack got on Major Johnson's shit list. It seems that the infantry had sent out troops for a pincer movement across the line and as they closed across our position they realized that they were receiving fire from our line. After requesting a cease fire they had advanced but our continued fire apparently hit some of their (our) folks (oops, friendly fire). Of course we were reprimanded and, of course, Major Johnson wasn't happy. Later, and I think this was after we moved to LZ Sally, it came time for Flack to go home. He did, but in the process had lifted a revolver from Ordinance and had taken it with him as a souvenir. When Major Johnson found out about it he had me call battalion and chase Flack down with orders to arrest him. The MP's got to Flack just as he was boarding the plane - he came back a miserable wreck and faced the wrath of an irate Major Johnson. I believe he was busted to something less than a civilian. I understand that he had pulled some other "childish" stunts and this had apparently been the last of the last straws. Well, Dick. That's what I remember on that subject. More Later. Mike

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**RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION FOR VALOR OR MERIT**  
(Submit in three copies)

THRU: Commanding Officer 269th Cbt Avn Bn APO 96353		TO: Commanding General 1st Avn Bde APO 96307		FROM: Commanding Officer 188th Aslt Hel Co APO 96268	
1. NAME: (Last, First, MI)  <b>Flack, Ronald C.</b> <b>SSN: 524-56-0731</b>		2. BN:  <b>05331284</b>		3. Grade  <b>1LT</b>	
4. BRANCH: (MOS-WO & EM)  <b>Inf</b>		5. AGE: (Nearest Year)  <b>22 Years</b>		6. CATEGORY 1-Y PERSONNEL  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
7. MONTHS IN RVN: (Nearest Month)  <b>11 Months</b>		8. POSTHUMOS AWARD  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF ACTION:  <b>188th Aslt Hel Co</b>  CODE:	
10. ACTION OF FINAL APPROVING AUTH:  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>___ APPROVAL</span> <span>___ DISAPPROVAL</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>___ UPGRADE</span> <span>___ DOWNGRADE</span> </div>					
11. AWARD INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDED FOR:					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>             ___ DSC    BS "V"              ___ SS    <b>XXX</b> AM "V"              ___ DFC    ___ ACM "V"              ___ SM    ___ PH           </div> <div>             ___ BS    ___ SERVICE              ___ BAm    ___ ACHIEVEMENT              ___ ACM    ___ OAK LEAF CLUSTER              ___ PH           </div> </div>				FOREIGN / OTHER AWARD  <b>N/A</b>	
12. DATES OF SERVICE-MERIT: DATE(S) OF ACTION-VALOR:  <b>9 November 1967</b>		13. DEMOS  <b>14 Jan 69</b>		14. CURRENT ORGANIZATION:  <b>188th Aslt Hel Co</b>	
15. PREVIOUS AWARDS (PH & HIGHER)					
DECORATION		DATE OF ACTION OR SERVICE		AUTHORITY	
<b>NONE</b>					
16. OTHERS RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD OF THE SAME ACTION: (State Name & Award)  <b>NONE</b>					
17. NAME OF EYEWITNESSES:  <b>LTC Mc Whorter</b>					

18. **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:** (For all awards describe in detail what individual did to warrant decoration. For valor award describe in detail the mission, terrain and weather, enemy conditions and friendly casualties. (Use plain bond paper for continuation sheet if necessary.)

On 9 November 1967, First Lieutenant Ronald C. Flack, United States Army, distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as an advisor to the 188th Assault Helicopter Company's perimeter of defense during a Viet Cong mortar attack. Just prior to 2100 hours, Camp Ranier, Dau Tiang came under a mortar and ground attack. Not being in contact with the company command element, First Lieutenant Flack quickly analyzed the situation. Although enemy mortars were landing in a close proximity to his position, he burst out of his shelter without regard to personal safety and began assisting with the arduous task of holding the company's line of defense into a succinct fighting force. First Lieutenant Flack repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire, but relentlessly continued the mission at hand. He directed personnel into secure positions, controlled weapons fire, and adjusted ammunition to assure a balanced distribution, prolonging the defense until ammunition could be resupplied. The small number of casualties inflicted during the fight, by the insurgents upon this unit is vivid evidence of the astute thinking and able leadership displayed. First Lieutenant Flack's spontaneous actions, exemplary courage and outstanding leadership in the time of confusion contributed immeasurably to the success of the defense. First Lieutenant Flack's bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

19. **INCLOSURES:**

20. **INDIVIDUAL INITIATING RECOMMENDATION:**

NAME, GRADE & POSITION

SIGNATURE & DATE

**JAMES H. MC WHORTER JR**  
**LTC, Inf**  
**Commanding**

**4 December 1967**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THRU-COMMAND:**

RECOMMENDED ☐

APPROVAL

☐

DISAPPROVAL

☐

OTHER

NAME, GRADE & POSITION:

SIGNATURE AND DATE:



HEADQUARTERS  
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE  
APO San Francisco 96384

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 441

"NGUY HIEM"

30 January 1968

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SITES, JOSEPH A. 04004905 SSAN: 279-28-4238 MAJOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
United States Army, 188th Avn Co, APO 96268

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date action: 9 November 1967

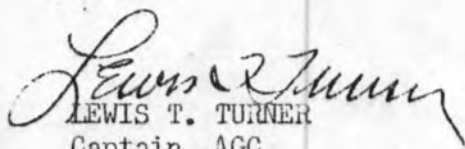
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Major Sites distinguished himself while serving as an advisor to his company's perimeter of defense during a Viet Cong attack. He quickly analyzed the situation and took steps to organize the defense of the unit. He worked his way to the perimeter of the compound and proceeded to direct and control his units fire at enemy positions. The small number of casualties this unit received during the attack is evidence of the astute thinking and able leadership displayed by this man. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962 and United States Army Vietnam Message 16695 dated 1 July 1966.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

  
LEWIS T. TURNER  
Captain, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

JAMES D. KIDDER  
COL, INF  
Chief of Staff

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