

25TH AVIATION BATTALION (INF DIV)
APO US Forces 96225

AVDCAVB-AM

6 February 1968

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THRU: Commanding Officer
25th Aviation Battalion (Inf Div)
APO US Forces 96225

TO: Commanding Officer
269th Combat Aviation Battalion
APO US Forces 96353

1. It has been brought to my attention that a member of your command, Major Jack O. Johnson, Commanding Officer of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company demonstrated a selfless devotion to duty during the early morning hours of 31 January 1968. At approximately 0430 hours that date Dan Tien came under a heavy mortar attack necessitating a rapid departure of Little Bear aircraft 611 the assigned counter mortar aircraft. Shortly after take-off it became obvious to the crew and certain personnel on the ground including Major Johnson that the aircraft was not developing full power and that a crash landing was imminent. Disregarding his own safety Major Johnson exposed himself to the continuing mortar attack, placed a call for medical assistance and escorted the emergency vehicle to the scene of the wreckage. He immediately evaluated the disposition of the injured and took command of the rescue operation instantly organizing the personnel who were rendering assistance. He personally assisted in extracting one crew member from the twisted wreckage moments before the helicopter burst into flames. Major Johnson's courageous action and cool, decisive leadership were directly responsible for the rescue of the stunned and injured crew members.

2. Although I am unable to document Major Johnson's actions with eyewitness statements from my crew (they were dazed and semi-conscious during the rescue effort) I feel certain that some of those involved in the rescue would substantiate the facts as they have been described to me in order to recommend Major Johnson for an appropriate award.

3. I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the members of my command who owe their life to the devoted effort of Major Johnson.

DUNCAN S COOK
Major, Inf
Commanding