

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) HARKER, Neal R. SSAN [REDACTED]		2. SN: RA11464712		3. GRADE ST4/24	
				4. BRANCH: (MOS-WC & EM) 67420	
5. AGE: (Nearest Year) 21 Years	6. CATEGORY 1-Y PERSONNEL ☐ YES ☒ NO	7. MONTHS IN RVN: (Nearest Month) 8 Months	8. POSTHUMOS AWARD ☐ YES ☒ NO		
9. ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF ACTION: 188th Aslt Hel Co APO 96383 CODE:			10. ACTION OF FINAL APPROVING AUTH: ☐ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL ☐ UPGRADE ☐ DOWNGRADE		
11. AWARD INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDED FOR:					
☐ DSC ☐ BS "V" ☐ BS ☐ SERVICE ☐ SS ☒ AM "V" ☐ BAM ☐ ACHIEVEMENT ☐ DFC ☐ ACM "V" ☐ ACM ☐ OAK LEAF CLUSTER ☐ SM ☐ LM ☐ PH					FOREIGN / OTHER AWARD 1/1
12. DATES OF SERVICE-MERIT: DATE(S) OF ACTION-VALOR: 22 September 1967		13. DEROS: 12 June 68		14. CURRENT ORGANIZATION: 188th Aslt Hel Co APO 96383	
15. PREVIOUS AWARDS (PH & HIGHER)					
DECORATION	DATE OF ACTION OR SERVICE				AUTHORITY
BAM BS"V"	19 September-23 September 1967 31 January 1968				GO#5612 1st Avn Bde Hqs Pending
16. OTHERS RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD OF THE SAME ACTION: (State Name & Award)					
arrant Officer Robert W. Setzer DFC					
17. NAME OF EYEWITNESSES:					
LTC James H. Mc-horter Jr.					

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 16 April 1968, the orderly room of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company was notified that a vehicle had received a direct hit from an artillery round and was burning out of control. Fire fighting equipment was needed to try and put out the fire. The vehicle, a water purification van and trailer, was stationed on the bank of the Song Bo River, some seven miles northwest of Hue. A barrage of artillery rounds hit in the vicinity of the vehicle and one was a direct hit on the vehicle's trailer. The trailer contained several twenty-five gallon containers of chlorine, a ten kilowatt generator, several five gallon cans of gasoline and several other containers filled with chemicals. When the call was received, a request was made for a fire fighting vehicle. Not having such a vehicle, Major Jack O. Johnson, Captain John W. Schaibly, Specialist Fifth Class John W. Mann and Specialist Fourth Class Neal R. Haber voluntarily responded to the emergency call by gathering the company's portable aircraft fire fighting equipment and attaching it to two jeeps. With the equipment attached, Specialist Haber and the others proceeded to the scene of the fire. Arriving at the burning vehicle, Specialist Haber went into action, unhooked the fire fighting equipment and proceeded to attack the blaze. By this time, the fire was completely out of control and threatening to start the purification vehicle afire. The chlorine was burning and emitting deadly fumes and the gasoline cans were in danger of exploding at any moment. Specialist Haber, disregarding the personal danger involved, moved extremely close to the burning trailer and attempted to smother the blaze. He spent many long minutes completely engulfed within the billowing smoke and poisonous fumes created by the chemical fire. The fire fighting equipment expended its contents but the fire, although greatly stifled, was not yet extinguished. A water pump was started in an attempt to put out the fire, using water. After thirty minutes the fire finally died out but the danger of the chlorine emitting poisonous gas still remained. Water was sprayed on the chlorine until it was completely diluted and rendered harmless. Specialist Haber's quick thinking and unhesitating reactions were undoubtedly responsible for saving the water purification vehicle. The chlorine fumes might have proved deadly to the Vietnamese personnel in the surrounding area, but this threat never materialized because of Specialist Haber's quick thinking. The courage and complete disregard for personal safety displayed by Specialist Haber reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

19. INCLOSURES:

Proposed Citation
Statement

20. INDIVIDUAL INITIATING RECOMMENDATION:

NAME, GRADE & POSITION

SIGNATURE & DATE

JACK O. JOHNSON
Major, Artillery
Commanding

14 May 1968

RECOMMENDATION OF THRU COMMAND:

RECOMMENDED ☐ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL ☐ OTHER

NAME, GRADE & POSITION:

SIGNATURE AND DATE: