



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-0471

September 11, 2008

Military Awards Branch

The Honorable Tom Cole
Representative in Congress
ATTN: Johnny Sandmann
104 East 12th Street
Ada, Oklahoma 74820

Dear Representative Cole:

This is in response to your letter of August 28, 2008, on behalf of Lieutenant Colonel Jack Johnson, USA, Retired, concerning his desire to have the 188th Assault Helicopter Company awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions while serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and cobelligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy occurring on or after December 7, 1941. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual. Please note that extended periods of combat duty or participation in a large number of operational missions, either ground or air, is not sufficient. This award will normally be earned by units that have participated in single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans, as it is not reasonable to presume that entire units can sustain the level of heroism of the Distinguished Service Cross for extended periods of time. Only on rare occasions will a unit larger than a battalion qualify for award of this decoration.

Unfortunately, there is insufficient documentation in support of this request. In this case, we acknowledge receipt of DA Form 7594 (Unit Award Recommendation) signed by Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, an accompanying narrative, and a proposed citation. To be considered for an award of the Presidential Unit Citation requires additional substantive evidence including: former chain-of-command endorsements, operational orders and reports, maps showing terrain and disposition and actions of the opposing force, and casualties sustained on both sides. It is also recommended that other pertinent documentation is submitted such as: extracts from unit records, sketches, maps, diagrams, and photographs that specifically pertain to the unit and act(s) to be recognized. Please note that the cost and burden for assembling the required materials rests with the requester.

Completed award recommendation packets may be submitted through a Congressional Member in accordance with Section 1130, Title 10, United States Code to: U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22332. Once we receive the required documentation, we will be pleased to submit the recommendation into the appropriate channels for consideration.

We also note that Lieutenant Colonel Johnson included a table of contents with the request; however, it does not appear that the documents cited were included. Accordingly, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson may forward this documentation to this office for review.

Thank you for your interest in the Army's Awards Program. We appreciate your support of our Veterans, and the men and women serving in America's Army today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. A. Salters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marion A. Salters
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch