

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3604**

March 2, 2009

Mr. Jack Johnson
6606 NW Creekside Court
Lawton, OK 73505

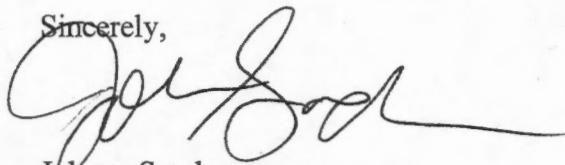
Dear Mr. Johnson:

It was good visiting with you today and I hope that all is well in Lawton. This letter is to confirm that I have forwarded the additional information provided by LtCol Jim Behnke dated January 12, 2009 to the Army.

Furthermore, enclosed you will find the response letter from the Department of the Army in regards to the Presidential Unit Citation award for the 188th Assault Helicopter Company.

It is our hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Johnny Sandmann
Military/Veterans Caseworker

Enclosure



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

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 further response to your recent inquiry, 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.

As we previously stated in our letter of September 11, 2008, 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. In this regard, we note that Lieutenant Colonel Johnson recommended this award for the period of 1967 to 1968. Additionally, we note that the heroic actions described by Lieutenant Colonel Johnson took place primarily in the latter part of this period, from December 1967 to June 1968.

We reviewed the entire recommendation packet forwarded by your office; unfortunately, there is still 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, a proposed citation, and other supporting documentation and information. The supporting documentation includes a unit after-action report, staff journal, and maps/diagrams pertaining to a

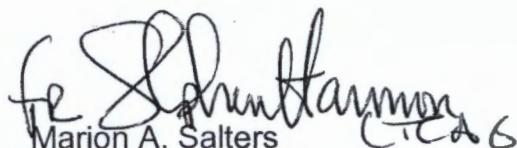
single specific action in which the 188th Assault Helicopter Company participated. Please note that the letter from Lieutenant General John Cushman, USA, Retired, as well as the selections from Lieutenant General Cushman's book, do not constitute official, military documentation.

In order to consider this recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation, we still require additional substantive evidence including: endorsements from the former chain-of-command, operational orders and reports for all actions under consideration, maps showing terrain and disposition and actions of the opposing force for each action being considered, and casualties sustained on both sides for each individual action. 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. Again, such information must be included for each action being considered over the entire period of the award recommendation.

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. The cost and burden for assembling the required materials rests with the requester. Once we receive the required documentation, we will be pleased to submit the recommendation into the appropriate channels for consideration.

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,


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