

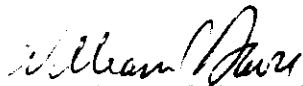
DCO

2 May 1970

Letter of Commendation

480th TFSq (C)

1. I forward these letter's with great pleasure. This mission really reflect great credit on these aircrews and on your squadron and our Wing as well. A good example of how COBRAS operate.
2. Please pass along my congratulations for a job of superior airmanship.



WILLIAM F. DAVIS, Lt Colonel, USAF 2 Atch
Deputy Commander for Operations n/c

29 April 1970

C

Letter of Commendation

Captain Edward L. Spicer
Captain James V. Sullivan
1st Lt Ronnie L. Houston
1st Lt David L. Wright

THRU: DCO
Commander, 480th TFS

1. It is with pleasure that I forward the correspondence from Hellx FAC for the support rendered to the 4th ARVN Regiment and the 2nd ARVN Division by these members of the 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron. This mission has added to the long list of "well done's" of this wing and will be long remembered by the allies supported on this day. Sincerely an outstanding display of airmanship.

2. I extend my personal congratulations to the crewmembers involved for their mission and their outstanding alert response time. Well done!



LARRY M. KILLPACK, Colonel, USAF 2 Atch
Commander

1. Ltr, Dpty Dir, I DASC,
23 Apr 70
2. Ltr, Hellx FAC, 10
Apr 70

Deputy Director, I DASS

25 April

Letter of Commendation

Commander, 37th TFW

1. It is with great pleasure that I forward the attached favorable correspondence describing the superb maneuvers performed by pilots of your command.
2. The extreme accuracy of their response was under highly precarious and difficult conditions which emphasizes the intrepid spirit of your air crew.
3. Please convey my best regards to all and commend exceptional performance.

Alonzo J. Walper, Jr.

ALONZO J. WALPER, JR.
Deputy Director, I Director, I DASS

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Americal Div ALO (Capt Moore)

10 April 1970

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Commander, 37th TFW

1. I would like to take this opportunity to bring attention to four pilots in your command, Capt Spicer, Capt Sullivan, Lt Houston and Lt Wright, for an outstanding demonstration of courage and superior airmanship on 1 April 1970.

2. The November Element of the 1st Battalion, 4th ARVN Regiment, and the 2nd ARVN Division Light C.F. was in heavy contact and pinned down in the vicinity of BS673769. Even though Helix FACs do not normally support ARVN units, their own FAC was engaged in directing a strike in support of another troops in contact situation about 8 kilometers south. At 1645, I requested an immediate airstrike for a troops in contact situation, and Cobra 09 flight responded. We rendezvoused at 1705. Weather conditions in the target area were only fair; even though there was a high ceiling, visibility was restricted to about 4 miles due to smoke, haze and the fact that it was late in the evening. In addition, there were friendly positions approximately 900 meters northeast, 1800 meters south and 200 meters east of the target. Consequently Cobra 09 flight was very restricted in attack heading and there was no margin for error in ordnance delivery. Capt Spicer and Capt Sullivan immediately grasped the tactical situation and after trying to suppress some of the ground fire with 2 strafing passes, elected to release their napalm canisters singly in order to get better target coverage and to allow me the opportunity to talk to the ground forces and adjust their ordnance. After Cobra 09 and his wingman made 4 napalm passes and two strafing passes, I was unable to fire any more marking rockets because of battle damage to the electrical system of my aircraft. Relying on Capt Spicer's and Capt Sullivan's demonstrated knowledge of the target area and what I can only describe as being extremely impressed with the ordnance delivery of other 37th TFW "Cobra" pilots on previous occasions, I decided to continue directing the strike using their napalm fires as points to adjust further ordnance drops. They did not betray my confidence. After repeatedly holding high and dry due to a clearance problem, Cobra 09 flight lead and his wingman continued the strike, gradually nullifying the ground fire, and putting all their ordnance exactly where I requested it, even though I was unable to provide them with marking rockets.

3. As a result of the strike, the enemy completely stopped firing at the ground forces, allowing them to regroup for a sweep through the area and remove their wounded. I personally counted five structures destroyed, and was informed this morning that 51 bodies were found in the target area. At present, I do not know how many of these will officially be credited to Cobra 09 flight, but I am sure they were responsible for a big percentage.

4. For flying in conditions of restricted visibility, for repeated passes in the face of heavy enemy ground fire, and for delivering their ordnance with pinpoint accuracy without the benefit of marking rockets, at the very minimum

weapons safe distance parameters, Capt Spicer, Capt Sullivan, Lt Houston and Lt Wright demonstrated the highest degree of skill, courage and superior airmanship. For this display of uncommon valor, they justly deserve an appropriate award.

5. To these men, I would like to offer my personal thanks and congratulations for an outstanding job, well done.

FOR THE COMMANDER

James B. Moore, Jr

JAMES B. MOORE JR, Captain, USAF
FAC, 11th Inf Bde

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
20TH TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON (TASAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96327

TO:
OF: DCOCO

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Commander
480th Tactical Fighter Squadron
APO San Francisco 96327

1. I take this opportunity to inform you of a particularly outstanding example of heroism by four of our aircrew members: Lt Col Bernard S. Harris, Capt Fernando D. Duellar, Capt Jerry W. Gray and Lt Robert L. Houston.
2. On 22 April 1970, Cobra 05 flight checked in with Cobra 27, Capt A.D. Jones, to participate in the SAR of two crew members downed in aircraft. Within 900 meters of the downed crew members were two 40mm gun positions, one 37mm gun position and numerous ZPU positions, all manned and active. Up to this time, three aircraft had been destroyed by these gun positions and other aircraft had received battle damage. Two rescue attempts had been made; however, due to the heavy and fire they were unsuccessful. All rescue attempts were at a standstill until all the active gun positions could be destroyed.
3. The flight was briefed that the weather in the target area was marginal with numerous rainshowers and cumulus buildups. To compound the problem, a restricted run-in heading was given with a restricted pull-off. This was necessary due to the numerous SAR aircraft in the target area and the position of the downed crew members. In spite of the restrictions and obvious hazards, as evidenced by aircraft already downed and damaged by the active guns, the targets were marked and the fighters made repeated, low-angle, highly accurate bomb passes. During these passes heavy ground fire was directed at the FAC and the fighters. All ordnance was delivered on target with outstanding results.
4. Although the fate of one downed crew member is unknown, the other was successfully recovered. It was only through the outstanding aircrew skills, professionalism and heroism of these pilots that all known threats in the area of the downed crew members was silenced or destroyed and the success of this SAR effort made possible. I commend these pilots for their outstanding selfless performance and recommend they be recognized by an award worthy of their heroic actions.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Walter A. Jones
WALTER A. JONES, Lt Colonel, USAF
Air Liaison Officer, Special Operations