

March 11, 1997

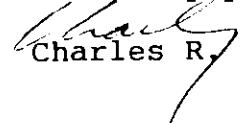
Mr. Greg Vandergrif
Chattanooga, TN 37412

Dear Greg:

I have read over the letters of recommendation you sent about the May 25, 1969 incident. The main factual difference that struck me was that three of your backers mentioned the pallet explosion but Bennett did not. That probably won't seem too important to people in the Awards Office. However, one thing they will notice is that all letters end with a reference to the Bronze Star. Awards people like to decide for themselves what someone deserves; from witnesses, they want details of the event and nothing more. Also, the fact that the Bronze Star reference appears in about the same place in the letters might make some readers in Headquarters suspect some coaching. A statement from one or more corpsmen, mentioned in all letters but never named, would strengthen your case. It's really hard to guess how they will read your file. As for my role in this, I have not yet heard from Mr. Smith at the Awards Branch.

Let me know what the Headquarters people decide. They usually take their time on awards recommendations, but you should have some kind of response by the summer.

Sincerely yours,


Charles R. Anderson