

**STATEMENT OF KENNETH N. DICUS
REGARDING ACTIONS THAT TRANSPIRED
ON NOVEMBER 14, 1965**

Then Lt. Col Moore, Commander of the 1st of the 7th Cav, closed LZ-RAY to helicopter landings in the Ia Drang Valley due to extremely heavy enemy fire. Most all of the helicopters used in the assault at LZ-RAY returned to the Lagaar area to stand by for continuous action as soon as LZ-RAY was re-opened.

CWO-2 Leland Komich was dispatched to Camp Holloway, leading a flight of two helicopters to obtain more ammunition for the infantry soldiers in LZ-RAY. CWO-2 Leland Komich returned to the Lagaar area, with his flight of two helicopters, at which time then Capt. Paul Winkel took the place of the co-pilot in CWO-2 Komich's helicopter. At this time, the A Company flight leader, then Major Bruce Crandall, was on the ground with his aircraft shut down, waiting for LZ-RAY to re-open. CWO-2 Komich, with his flight of two helicopters, departed the Lagaar area and proceeded directly to LZ-RAY, and delivered the two helicopter loads of ammunition. He then loaded on board wounded soldiers before departing LZ-RAY. During this time, A Company flight leader, then Major Bruce Crandall, was still on the ground at the Lagaar area..

When CWO-2 Komich departed LZ-RAY, his second helicopter in the flight of two, piloted by then CW-2 Dallas Harper, took many hits from enemy fire and was forced to land just beyond the landing zone at LZ-RAY. CWO-2 Komich immediately circled back, landed next to CWO-2 Harper's helicopter, and took on board all the crew and wounded soldiers from CWO-2 Harper's helicopter. All this took place under heavy enemy fire. Although heavily loaded, CWO-2 Komich departed LZ-RAY and flew to the medical hospital at Camp Holloway.

During all of this action, then Major Bruce Crandall was still on the ground at the Lagaar area. Approximately 20 minutes after CWO-2 Komich's departure from LZ-RAY, Major Bruce Crandall, leading a flight of two helicopters, departed the Lagaar area for LZ-RAY. Major Crandall and his flight of two helicopters were not the first ones to return to LZ-RAY. Approximately 5-10 minutes later, the remaining helicopters at the Lagaar area departed for LZ XRAY and continued for the rest of the day taking ammunition and supplies into LZ-RAY and removing the dead and wounded soldiers.

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT IS TRUE.

KENNETH N. DICUS

March 4, 2003