

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SUPPORT FACILITY BKP, (HEAVY BOOK)
APO San Francisco 96310

22 November 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Summary

THRU: Commander
56th Special Operations Wing
APO 96310

TO: Commander
21st Special Operations Squadron
APO 96310

1. This activity wishes to take this opportunity to commend Major Robert R. Arnan, Aircraft Commander, Captain Jerrald L. Kibby, Co-Pilot, SSgt James W. Burns, Flight Engineer, and SSgt Charles F. Hill, Flight Engineer for their significant contributions to the successful extraction of a friendly guerrilla unit from hostile territory while under fire. Without Major Arnan's and his crew's gallant efforts and superior flying skill, this exfiltration mission in all probability would not have been successfully terminated.

2. Under the most hazardous weather conditions, extremely poor visibility and strong wind gusts, Major Arnan, after having been advised of the imminent risks involved in this rescue effort by the Forward Air Controller, elected to proceed with the mission. He brought his helicopter in on an exposed landing zone, under fire, and touched down while the friendly guerrilla unit loaded aboard their wounded, their dead, and finally the remaining uninjured members of the unit scrambled aboard themselves. This was accomplished in the face of an extremely aggressive enemy unit and with but limited air support attempting to suppress the hostile fire.

3. The exfiltration under normal conditions would have been extremely hazardous, but in the face of hostile fire their most significant contributions to the successful termination of this mission assumes a greater magnitude.

4. It is my recommendation that Major Arnan and his crew be submitted for appropriate awards in keeping with the standards of their service. This deed is certainly in keeping with the highest traditions of the 21st Special Operations Squadron and the United States Air Force.


WILLIAM L. SHELTON
Major, Infantry
Commanding