

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SUPPORT FACILITY NKP, (HEAVY HOOK)
APO San Francisco 96310

30 October 1969

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Commander
56th Special Operations Wing
APO 96310

TO: Commander
21st Special Operations Squadron
APO 96310

1. I wish to take this opportunity to commend Major Robert R. Arnau, (Pilot), (Aircraft Commander), Major Douglas W. Krueger, (Flight Engineer), and SSgt Thomas E. Stagers, (Flight Engineer), and SSgt Thomas E. Mason, (Flight Engineer) for their outstanding achievement while participating in a mission flown on 17 October 1969 in support of Heavy Hook operations.
2. Major Arnau's superior flying ability contributed significantly to the successful extraction of a friendly guerrilla team operating deep in hostile territory. The team on the ground had been under fire for several hours when the extraction was undertaken. Major Arnau and his crew elected to attempt the rescue of the friendly team although all hostile fire had not been suppressed. With disregard for their own personal safety, they extracted the entire team. This was additionally commendable as the aircraft (CH-3) utilized by Major Arnau during the extraction was operating at its maximum performance level due to the altitude and weight factors. Major Arnau's superior capabilities and confidence were the significant factors in the successful completion of the mission.
3. Without the outstanding contributions of Major Arnau and his crew, the extraction of this team would not have been possible. It is a personal pleasure to work with men of the caliber of Major Arnau and his crew.


WILLIAM L. SHELTON
Major, Infantry
Commanding