

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
23RD TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON (PACAF)  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96310

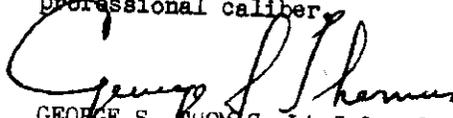
REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: C

5 December 1969

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: 21st SOS (C)

1. It is a privilege to commend Major Robert R. Arnau and crew of your organization, for their outstanding efforts and direct contribution to the successful rescue of a friendly guerrilla unit on 18 November 1969.
2. On that date, Lieutenant Robert H. Haden, NAIL FAC of our unit, worked with Major Arnau and his crew who were in the lead helicopter in a rescue attempt of a friendly guerrilla unit. The unit was located in hostile territory, very near a major route structure and surrounded by enemy defenses ranging from small arms to 23mm.
3. Major Arnau, after being advised by the FAC of the extremely marginal weather conditions, poor visibility and strong gusty winds, elected to proceed with the rescue effort. Due to the weather limitations, Major Arnau was forced to fly his helicopter directly over a known 23mm position into the rescue area, which was surrounded by the enemy. Fully aware of the close proximity of enemy fire and the extremely poor weather, Major Arnau hovered his helicopter over the friendlies while they loaded aboard their wounded, their dead and finally the remaining uninjured.
4. It is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to recognize the professional competence, outstanding devotion to duty and heroism exhibited by Major Arnau and his crew. The 21st SOS and the United States Air Force are indeed fortunate in having a man of Major Arnau's professional caliber.

  
GEORGE S. THOMAS, Lt Colonel, USAF  
Commander