

6 April 1970

From: HAL 3 DET FIRE TEAM LEADER 29 March 1970

To: Officer in Charge IRBM 16

Officer in Charge IRBM 20

Via: Officer in Charge HAL 3 DET 3

Subj: Fire team support on 29 March 1970; commendation for

1. On the early morning of 29 March 1970 the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army in the Seven Mountains Region of Chau Doc Province, RVN, launched a well coordinated multi-prong mortar, rocket, and sniper attack against the Special Forces camps at Chi Lang and Ba Xoni and against numerous Vietnamese outposts and towns about the Seven Mountains. I was Fire Team Leader of the Det 5 Seawolves scrambled to assist the Chi Lang camp where the enemy had successfully penetrated the perimeter defenses before being stopped. Placing countless rocket and machine gun strikes against the communist positions along the east, west, and north walls of the compound and in the tree lines surrounding it, the Seawolves received a heavy volume of return ground fire. In more than three hours of flying and placing strikes against the enemy, the Seawolves of both Det 5 and Det 3, as well as an Army fire team refueled and rearmed several times on the IRBM 16 and IRBM 20, the number of hot replenishments totalling eleven. The only replenishment facility nearly ashore was located at Chi Lang and was under heavy attack preventing its use; therefore without the essential support of the IRBM afloat bases in the Bassac River, the helicopter fire teams would have been unable to fly cover or place the massive volume of fire against the enemy assaulting the Special Forces camps that was done during that time.

2. It is with a deep feeling of pride in the outstanding teamwork and the high degree of professionalism displayed by the flight deck crews, the refueling teams, the rearming details, and the other personnel responsible on IRBM 16 and IRBM 20 for the successful and highly efficient replenishment operations during the hours of morning darkness on 29 March 1970, that I extend on behalf of all the pilots and aircrews involved a heart well done and thanks.


Henry E. Fries
LT USN

Copies to:

FFC 124.3

Commanding Officer HAL 3