

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52ND COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION  
APO San Francisco 96318  
"FLYING DRAGONS"

AVGD-CP

5 December 1968

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation


Commanding Officer  
361st Aviation Company (Escort)  
APO 96318

1. With the abatement of the recent intense operation of 18-19 November 1968 involving FOB II, I have had an opportunity to examine the sequence of the action and to develop a full appreciation for the courageous and dedicated participation by members of your command. In this regard, it is obvious that had it not been for the magnificent effort rendered by the 361st Aviation Company (Escort) that besieged unit would have been annihilated. Accordingly, I extend my personal appreciation, and respect to the officers and men of the 361st EHC for their professional, dedicated and valorous contributions in the face of a large and determined enemy force and under conditions of intense ground and anti-aircraft fires.

2. The size and quality of the opposition encountered is recorded in the soars on the helicopters which were hit by hostile fire including 37 mm anti-aircraft fire. The Cobra gunships of your unit, braving and surpressing the intense anti-aircraft fire, protected the troop carriers in the accomplishment of their missions. On several occasions they voluntarily exposed themselves to draw enemy fire away from the slicks. This is indeed worthy of the highest praise. The willing dedication of your officers and men to meet this opposition is witnessed by the loss of three aircraft. Their unflinching willingness to penetrate the hottest areas with their gunships is a tribute to their spirit, courage and training.

3. The bravery and leadership displayed by many of your personnel involved in this operation will be the subject of appropriate individual decorations. To them as well as to all those who stood behind them, I again extend my appreciation. They will stand as an inspiration to fighting men everywhere.

A "TRUE COPY"

  
ROBERT J. RODGERS  
MAJ, ARTY

/s/ William C. Chamberlain  
/t/ WILLIAM C. CHAMBERLAIN  
LTC AT  
Commanding