

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

☐ HEROISM ☐ MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE
(AR 672-5-1)

 PREPARE TO REACH APPROV-
ING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.

DATE

30 Jan 69

 THRU: Commanding General
1st Aviation Brigade
APO: 96318

TO:

 FROM: (Unit) Commanding Officer
52nd Combat Avn Bn
APO 96384

PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME Nguyen Quang An, NGUYEN QUANG QUY	2. SERVICE NO. 63-600231	3. GRADE CPT	4. BRANCH (Or MOS II WO) VNAF
5. ORGANIZATION 219th Sqdn, 41st Wing, Da Nang, RVN	6. RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State, including ZIP Code) 219th Sqdn, 41st Wing, Da Nang, RVN		
7. RECOMMENDED AWARD Silver Star	8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN NVAL	

PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE

10. SERVICE NUMBER 63-600231	11. GRADE CPT	12. BRANCH (Or MOS II WO) VNAF	13. ORGANIZATION 219th Sqdn, 41st Wing, Da Nang RVN
14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize on reverse side.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
15. IF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ACT OR SERVICE, INDICATE TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED, BY WHOM, WHEN, ACTION TAKEN, AND HEADQUARTERS None			
16. OTHER U. S. DECORATIONS RECEIVED (Include date and authority) (Do not list service medals; list foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.) NVAL			

 17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE ☒ YES ☐ NO

PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLOSED, GIVE REASONS Statements Enclosed
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20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD

a. FULL NAME	b. SERVICE NO.	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
Vu Tung Co. PILOT	NVAL	2LT	219th Sqdn, 41st Wing
Nguyen Quang Hien CREW CHIEF	NVAL	WO	219th Sqdn, 41st Wing
Liner, John D.	05333785	CPT	189th Aslt Hel Co
Stratiff, Robert R.	04030843	CPT	189th Aslt Hel Co

21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD

Vu Tung - DFC

Nguyen Quang Hien - DFC

Liner, John D. - DFC

Stratiff, Robert R. - DFC

 These 2 awards have
already been processed
through and out.

22. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

a. LOCATION West of Dak To, RVN (Coord. Class.)	b. INCLUSIVE DATES 17 Jan 69	c. TIME OF DAY 1600 hrs
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d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER

Weather: High overcast, rain showers, good visibility.

Terrain: High mountains, double and triple jungle canopy, thick undergrowth.

23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Proximity, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action; what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.)

NVA force of unknown size were using road network near LZ. Special Forces platoon inserted to interdict road. Enemy had snipers in treeline who fired upon all aircraft during the approach. Proximity of fire was 25-50 meters from LZ. American helicopter hit by 37mm round during climb-out. No American casualties. Gunships and Tac Air called in on enemy positions. Enemy casualties unknown. Enemy morale unknown.

24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT	
Mission was to insert a platoon of S. F. personnel into enemy held terrain to interdict road network. Unit morale was extremely high with numerous volunteer crews to accomplish mission. No allied forces casualties known at this time.	
25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT	
Vietnamese and American comrades were working as a team to air assault force deep into enemy held terrain. All aircraft were part of a flight. As 5 ships (3 VNAF, 2 U.S. Army) inserted force, the remainder flew chase and cover.	
PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE	
26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED	
27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED	29. NOW IN SAME OR RELATED ASSIGNMENT
28. SERVICE COMPLETED <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> TO BE REASSIGNED ON OR ABOUT
<input type="checkbox"/> TO BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT	<input type="checkbox"/> TO BE RETIRED ON OR ABOUT
	<input type="checkbox"/> TO BE RELIEVED FROM AD ON OR ABOUT
PART V - TO BE USED FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS	
30. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEED OR ACT <input type="checkbox"/> ACHIEVEMENT PERFORMED OR SERVICE RENDERED	
FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM: WAS ACT VOLUNTARY? DESCRIBE WHY ACT WAS OUTSTANDING AND IF IT WAS MORE THAN WAS NORMALLY EXPECTED. EXPLAIN HOW. IF IN AERIAL FLIGHT, DESCRIBE TYPE AND POSITION OF AIRPLANE, CHER POSITION OF INDIVIDUAL, AND ALL UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.	
FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE: TITLE AND DUTIES OF ASSIGNMENT, INCLUDING CHARACTER OF SERVICE DURING PERIOD FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED (Give complete description of technical or specialized positions, including dates of assignment and relief); WHAT DID THE INDIVIDUAL DO THAT MERITS THE AWARD? WHY WAS THIS OUTSTANDING WHEN COMPARED TO OTHERS OF LIKE RANK AND EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR POSITIONS?	
<p>On 17 Jan 69, CPT An was flying as "King Bee" lead out of Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. His mission was to fly lead helicopter during an insertion of a platoon of Special Forces personnel deep into enemy held territory. Throughout the operation CPT An had control of 3 VNAF helicopters, 2 unarmed US Army UH-1B's and 2 light fire teams of armed helicopters (Cobras and UH-1C's). During the late afternoon hours he and his flight proceeded to the area of operations and began the insertion. As he made his approach into the narrow confines of a bomb crater clearing, his helicopter came under enemy sniper fire from the high jungle canopy. Despite this, he continued his approach, informed his flight of weapons positions, and off-loaded his troops. While he was in a high orbit away from the landing zone, one of the US Army "slicks" came under heavy caliber weapons fire, believed to be 37mm, and was mortally hit in the fuel cell. CPT An, upon hearing this, scanned the helicopters below him and sighted one with smoke trailing behind. Without a second thought, and with complete disregard for his own safety, he nosed his helicopter over and entered a high-speed dive to overtake the burning ship. His only thought was to do what he could to save the lives of his American comrades.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued)</p>	
31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS	
Air strikes were called in on the known enemy strongholds. The entire crew of the burning helicopter was saved from certain capture or death.	
32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED	33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO
Commanding Officer of American support helicopters	Same as blocks 1 & 5.
34. INCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, sketches, and eye witness statements when required.)	35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION
Incl #1 Statement - Cranney Incl #2 Statement - Liner Incl #3 Statement - Stratiff Incl #4 Proposed Citation	Robert N. Morrison, Maj, AT, Commanding
	36. SIGNATURE
	<i>Robert N. Morrison</i>

REVERSE SIDE MAY BE USED FOR DRAFT OF PROPOSED CITATION, AND CONTINUANCE OF ABOVE ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.

Colonel Robert N. Morrison, USA(Ret)

Tel:

Block 50 Continued

PFC-100231

Block 30 Continued

As he caught up with the stricken helicopter, he pulled alongside and began to vector it into what appeared to be a suitable forced landing area. As CPT An approached the clearing he saw that the numerous stumps and occasional trees would not permit even a reasonably safe landing. He promptly radioed this information to the beleaguered pilots and in case they had not received his transmission, maneuvered his helicopter in such a manner as to prevent the slick from landing. CPT An then proceeded to vector the burning craft into a clearing further to the east. This LZ was covered with high elephant grass, and had to suffice due to the low fuel condition of the Army aircraft. As the US ship approached the LZ, CPT An flew his aircraft on a parallel course and touched down a few feet away. CPT An calmly waited in the hazardous forced landing zone while his American fellows-in-arms evacuated their crippled aircraft and secured the radios and crew-served weapons.

If it were not for CPT An's split-second reactions to this highly dangerous situation, 4 American lives would surely have been lost. CPT An repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire by flying at low-level and by guiding the crippled aircraft to a safe landing. CPT An distinguished himself on this date by exceptionally valorous actions above and beyond the call of duty, and in the face of a numerically superior force. By doing so, he reflected great credit not only upon himself, but upon his unit and the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.