

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD		PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.		DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> HEROISM	<input type="checkbox"/> MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE (AR 672-5-1)			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 Anh, <u>NGUYEN QUANG</u>	2. SERVICE NO. 63-600231	3. GRADE CPT	4. BRANCH (O/R/MOS /I 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 (O/R/MOS /I 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> 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			
20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD				
a. FULL NAME Vu Tung Co-Pilot Nguyen Quang Hien Crew Chief Liner, John D. Stratiff, Robert R.	b. SERVICE NO. NVAL NVAL 05333785 04030843	c. GRADE 2LT WO CPT CPT	d. UNIT 219th Sqdn, 41st Wing 219th Sqdn, 41st Wing 189th Aslt Hel Co 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				
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		
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 YES
 TO BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT

NO TO BE REASSIGNED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RETIRED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RELIEVED FROM AD ON OR ABOUT

PART V - TO BE USED FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS

30. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF DEED OR ACT ACHIEVEMENT, PERFORMED OR SERVICE RENDERED

FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM: HAS ACT VOLUNTARY? DESCRIBE WHY ACT WAS OUTSTANDING AND IF IT WAS MORE THAN 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?

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-1E'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.

(continued)

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 Commanding Officer of American support helicopters

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO

Same as blocks 1 & 5.

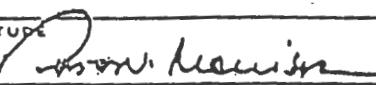
34. INCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, sketches, and any witness statements when required.)

Incl #1 Statement - Cranney
 Incl #2 Statement - Liner
 Incl #3 Statement - Stratiff
 Incl #4 Proposed Citation

35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION

Robert N. Morrison, Maj, AT, Commanding

36. SIGNATURE



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

Colonel Robert N. Morrison, USA (Ret)

Tel: [REDACTED]

MPC-Japan

Block 30 continued

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.