

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96222

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2913

4 June 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

NGUYEN QUANG AN 63/6000231 CPT AIR FORCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Awarded: Distinguished Flying Cross

Date action: 17 January 1969

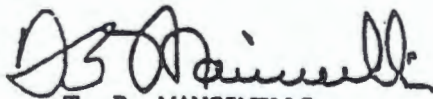
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight: Captain An distinguished himself by heroic action on 17 January 1969 while serving as Flight Leader and Aircraft Commander, 219th Squadron, 41st Wing, Vietnamese Air Force. On that date Captain An was called upon to lead his flight deep into enemy held territory to insert a platoon of Special Forces personnel into a bomb crater landing zone. His ship was taken under enemy automatic weapons fire on his approach but he steadfastly continued with his cargo of troops. While he was in a high orbit one of the United States Army helicopters in his flight was hit in the fuel cell by a heavy caliber round during a climb from the jungle clearing. Captain An sighted the burning helicopter and entered a high speed dive to overtake it. As he flew next to his American comrades he accurately vectored them toward what appeared to be a suitable forced landing area. When he saw that ground obstacles would preclude a safe landing, he deftly maneuvered his aircraft and the Army helicopter away from the landing zone and vectored them toward another jungle clearing. While the crippled ship was making its approach into the tall elephant grass, Captain An, with complete disregard for his own safety, landed a scant few feet away. Here he calmly awaited his beleaguered comrades and directed his crew chief to cut a path toward their ship. Captain An's heroic actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:


T. B. MANCINELLI
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

ELIAS C. TOWNSEND
Major General, USA
Chief of Staff

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..Special.