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SAC 025-16

JUL 22 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Central Intelligence Agency

VIA: Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Executive Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Agency
General Counsel
Deputy Director of CIA for Operations
Associate Deputy Director of CIA for Operations
Chief, Global Deployment Center
Chief, Human Resources Staff

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

FROM:
Director, Special Activities Center

SUBJECT: (S) Request for Commemoration of David W. Bevan-Y-, Darrell A. Eubanks-Y-, and John S. Lewis-Y- on the Agency Memorial Wall and Awards of the Exceptional Service Medal

1. (S) Action Requested: Recognition and commemoration of deceased CIA employees David W. Bevan , Darrell A. Eubanks , and John S. Lewis , all CIA Developmental Projects Division (DPD) Para Dispatch Officers (PDO), who died in the line of duty on 13 August 1961 during the crash of an Air America aircraft in Laos while conducting aerial delivery of ammunition to Hmong tribesmen.

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2. (S) Background: On 13 August 1961, Messrs. Bevan, Eubanks, and Lewis were all killed in the crash of an Air America C-46/C-47 flying an aerial delivery ammunition resupply mission to Hmong tribesmen in Laos under the auspices of CYHOPE, a CIA Covert Action (CA) program in Laos. The three officers served in CIA DPD Air Support Branch, the forerunner of Special

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Activities Center Air Department (SAC/AD), as PDO contract employees. On this particular deployment, all three were CIA/DPD [] contract employees working [] as employees of Air America. An internal CIA memorandum dated 31 August 1961 clearly established the officers were engaged in official duties on behalf of the CIA. The memorandum also notes eyewitness accounts could not determine if the crash was due to enemy fire or engine malfunction, and that remains of the officers, along with those of an Air America pilot and copilot, were recovered and repatriated to the United States for burial.

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3. (S) Messrs. Bevan, Eubanks, and Lewis served with distinction as CIA contract employees in support of CYHOPE. As well, Mr. Bevan originally came to the CIA as a contract employee for air support to Cuba operations. Messrs. Eubanks and Lewis served as CIA contract employees for the aerial delivery missions over Chinese-occupied Tibet.

4. (S) Recommendation: For the reasons cited above, SAC requests favorable consideration in issuing Stars on the Agency Memorial Wall and Exceptional Service Medals for Messrs. Bevan,

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Eubanks, and Lewis. The [] concerns for Air America paramount in 1961 no longer apply; therefore, it is recommended their true names be inscribed in the memorial book and the awards given to the closest living respective relatives. Per AR 5-41 (U) Honor, Merit, and Service Awards, inclusion on the Memorial Wall is awarded posthumously to staff or contract employees who lost their lives while serving their country in intelligence activities, under any of four criteria. One of the four criteria is met here—specifically, "Service in areas of hostility or exceptionally hazardous conditions where the death is the result of such hostilities or hazards." Further, per AR 5-41, the Exceptional Service Medal is awarded for "injury or death of an Agency employee resulting from hazardous service in the foreign field..." SAC assesses the situation described above for all three officers meets criteria for both honors since the trio were CIA contract employees engaged in a covert action mission in a combat zone killed during a specific aerial resupply mission in a remote and hazardous area. Please contact SAC if additional information is required.

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CONCUR:



Chief, Human Resources Staff

4/27/2016
Date

(b)(3)
(b)(6)



Chief, Global Deployment Center


7 Aug 2016
Date

(b)(3)
(b)(6)



Associate Deputy Director of CIA for Operations


22 July 2016
Date



Deputy Director of CIA for Operations

JUL 22 2016
Date

(b)(3)
(b)(6)



Office of General Counsel

3 Aug 2016
Date

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

Executive Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Date

Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Date

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APPROVE:

Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Date

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DO/SAC/ [] (18 Apr 16)

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Distribution:

Orig - Return to SAC

- 1 - DCIA
- 1 - DDCIA
- 1 - EXDIR
- 1 - OGC
- 1 - DDO
- 1 - ADDO
- 1 - GDC
- 1 - HRS

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