

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS DEPUTY COMMANDER
SEVENTH AIR FORCE/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE, THAILAND (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96237



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD

22 Jan 1972

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Mr. John Ford
Chief Pilot Helicopter
Air America

1. I wish to convey my personal appreciation and commendation to two of your helicopter crews for their exceptional aerial skill in the rescue of the crew members of an RF-4C, Bullwhip 26, on 20 January 1972.
2. The efforts of Messrs Lee Andrews, Nicki Fillipi and Ron Anderson in AA Helicopter XWFPH, and John Fonberg, William Phillips and Bob Noble in AA Helicopter 8513F, were truly outstanding. In spite of a known 37MM high threat area and small arms fire, these crew members disregarded their own personal safety to perform a heroic recovery. The quick response to the distress call and actual recovery in near record time were unquestionably instrumental in saving the lives of the USAF RF-4C crew members.
3. The professional aerial skill and performance of an act beyond their call of duty most favorably reflect great credit on the dedication and high experience of your personnel.


DeWITT R. SEARLES, Major General
Deputy Commander

Copy to: Mr. C. J. Abadie, Jr.
Base Manager
Air America

4 - 2/7/72

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 13-Mar-2009