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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

NAME: John P. BACA
 STATUS: Assistant Gunner, Specialist Four, US Army
 ORGANIZATION: Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry
 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
 APO San Francisco 96490

NEXT OF KIN:

PERSONS WHO ASSISTED: None; eyewitnesses were:
 1LT William L. Lawco
 SGT Ronald E. Burkle
 SGT Gerald W. Martin
 SP4 Arthur V.L. James
 SP4 Steven R. Jordan
 SP4 Thomas Mayo,
 PFC Peter J. Elliott
 SP4 Donald G. Voigt,

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

LOCATION: YU 583180, Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam
 DATE: Approximately 1900 hours, 10 February 1970.
 TERRAIN: The area was flat with high elephant grass and scrub brush.
 WEATHER: The weather was clear and mild.
 ENEMY CONDITION: The enemy strength was a squad en route to Cambodia requesting supplies for troops further in-country. They had just been decimated by an automatic ambush, and consequently their morale was low. The survivors attacked the patrol with automatic weapons and hand grenades. As a result of the entire contact, four enemy were killed and several others wounded.
 COMPANY D'S CONDITION: The platoon's mission was a night ambush at the junction of two well-used trails near Highway QL 14. The unit's morale was high. Friendly casualties were six wounded, none killed.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF GALLANT CONDUCT

On 10 February 1970 the third platoon of Company D was set up in their

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By JW NARA Date 8-3

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night ambush position, consisting of three automatic ambushes detonated by trip wire along a well-used trail and the platoon perimeter seventy-five meters to the East. Near sunset the platoon heard one of the automatic ambushes detonate. A squad size patrol was sent to investigate. As the patrol neared the major trail, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from the brush along the trail. They immediately returned fire.

Specialist Four John P. Baca, the assistant gunner for the 90mm. recoilless rifle, realized that the additional firepower which could be provided by the recoilless rifle would be a great asset to the patrol. He organized his fire team and maneuvered the seventy-five meters through the withering enemy fire to the pinned down patrol, and began to set up the rifle to fire. As Specialist Baca was preparing to load the rifle, he saw a fragmentation grenade land in the midst of the patrol. With an exclamation he removed his steel pot, covered the grenade, and fell forward onto it as the grenade went off. His body and steel pot absorbed all the shrapnel from the grenade.

Specialist Baca's action saved at least eight men who were within the kill radius of the grenade from serious injury or death. The patrol was able to continue its mission and kill four enemy soldiers and wound several others before contact was broken.

The facts contained in the proposed citation and this narrative account have been substantiated by the statements of eye-witnesses.

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To NDP
→

JORDAN

ELLIOTT

MARTIN

VOIGT

BACA

MAYO

15m

FRAG

SPENCER

JAMES

BURKLE

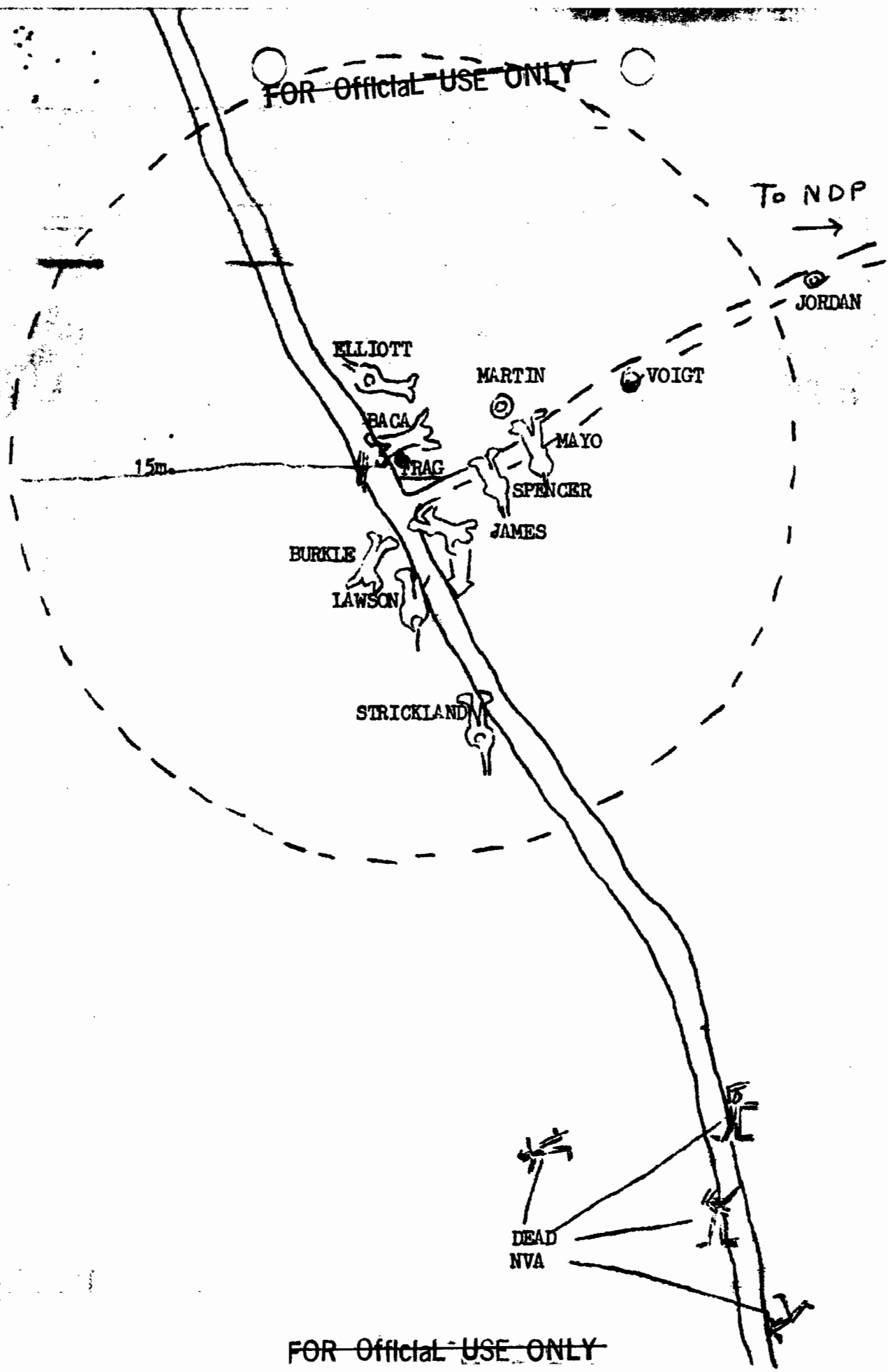
LAWSON

STRICKLAND

DEAD
NVA

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area



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By JW NARA Date 8-3

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

For use of this form, see AR 672-1; the procedure for preparing this form is given in AR 672-1. HEROISM MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

TO: (Include ZIP Code) Department of the Army ATTN: AGPB-AB Washington, D.C. 20314	FROM: (Include ZIP Code) Commanding Officer Co D, 1st Bn (AM), 12th Cav 1st Cav Div (AM), APO San Francisco 96490
---	--

PART I - PERSONAL DATA

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME BACA, John P.	2. SSAN	3. GRADE SP4 E-4	4. BRANCH 11B20
5. ORGANIZATION Co D, 1st Bn (AM), 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), APO San Francisco 96490			
6. RECOMMENDED AWARD Medal of Honor	7. POSTHUMOUS AWARD: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
8. DESIRED DATE OF PRESENTATION	a. DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH		
9. WAS INTERIM AWARD MADE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AWARD: Silver Star	b. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NOK		

PART II - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

10. INFORMATION ABOUT EYEWITNESS

a. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MI	b. SSAN	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
LAWSON, William L.		1LT O-2	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
BURKLE, Ronald E.		SGT E-5	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
MARTIN, Gerald W.		SGT E-5	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
JAMES, Arthur V.L.		SP4 E-4	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
JORDAN, Steven R.		SP4 E-4	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
MAYO, Thomas		SP4 E-4	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
ELLIOTT, Peter J.		PFC E-3	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
VOIGT, Donald G.		SP4 E-4	HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Cav

11. IF STATEMENT OF WITNESS IS NOT ATTACHED, GIVE REASON
SGT Burkle and SP4 James were med-evaced out of country and have since been returned to CONUS.

11. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

a. LOCATION YU 583180, Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam	b. TIME 1900 hrs.	c. DATE 10 Feb 70
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d. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES, AND MISSION DURING TIME AND DATE(S) OF ACT
The unit morale was high. Friendly casualties were six wounded, none killed. The platoon's mission was a night ambush at the junction of two well-used trails near Highway QL 14.

PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

12. INCLUSIVE DATE FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED	13. INCLUSIVE DATES OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNIT SHOWN IN ITEM 5. STATE REASON FOR END DATE (Retire, REFRAD, etc.) Med-evaced out of country - 15 Feb 70
14. OTHER AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL DURING TIME FRAME SHOWN IN ITEM 12 (Does not include interim award)	

PART IV - OTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND AUTHENTICATION

15. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPENDICES: See Appendix VII, AR 672-5-1 for instructions on completing and attaching necessary narrative data, such as description of the act, sketches, maps and statements of witnesses.	16. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED Commanding Officer
18. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD TO: The Adjutant General, DA ATTN: AGPB-AB Washington, D. C. 20314	17. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION WILLIAM K. WHITE, CPT, Infantry Commanding
	19. SIGNATURE <i>William K. White</i>
	20. DATE 2 May 70

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By JW NARA Date 8-3

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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On 10 February 1970 the third platoon of Company D, 1st Battalion (Air-mobile), 12th Cavalry, was set up in a night ambush position among the high elephant grass and scrub brush near Highway QL 14 in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. The ambush consisted of three automatic ambushes along a well-used trail, designed to be detonated by trip wire, and the platoon perimeter approximately seventy-five meters to the East. At approximately 1845 hours, about half an hour before sunset, the platoon heard one of the automatic ambushes detonate. The platoon leader, First Lieutenant William L. Lawson, organized a squad size element to go out and investigate. As the patrol neared the major trail, the point man saw one enemy soldier lying on the trail. The point man prepared to throw a hand grenade when the patrol came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from the brush on the far side of the trail. In the initial burst the patrol took one casualty. The patrol returned fire and called for the medic to advance from the perimeter.

Specialist Four John P. Baca, the assistant gunner for the 90mm. recoilless rifle, realized that the additional firepower which could be provided by the recoilless rifle would be a great asset to the patrol. He organized his fire team and maneuvered the distance through the withering enemy fire to the pinned down patrol. They unhesitatingly moved to the middle of the patrol and set up the rifle to fire. As Specialist Baca was preparing to load the rifle with a flechette round, he saw a fragmentation grenade land in the midst of the patrol. With an exclamation he dropped the recoilless round, removed his steel pot, covered the grenade, and fell forward onto it as the grenade went off. Specialist Baca's body and steel pot absorbed the shrapnel from the grenade, but the explosion set off the charge in the recoilless rifle round lying at his side and it exploded simultaneously. Pieces of the shell casing wounded three others in the patrol.

Specialist Baca's action saved at least eight men who were within the kill radius of the grenade from serious injury or death. The patrol was able to continue its mission and kill four enemy soldiers before contact was broken. A search the following morning revealed several more blood trails, indicating a number of other casualties.

The facts contained in the proposed citation and this narrative account have been substantiated by the statements of eye-witnesses.

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GO 37

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 37

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC., 16 July 1971

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Specialist Four *John P. Baca*, 562-78-6132, United States Army, who distinguished himself on 10 February 1970 while serving on a recoilless rifle team with Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division during a night ambush mission in Phuoc Long Province in the Republic of Vietnam. A platoon from his company was sent to investigate the detonation of an automatic ambush device forward of his unit's main position and soon came under intense enemy fire from concealed positions along the trail. Hearing the heavy firing from the platoon position and realizing that his recoilless rifle team could assist the members of the besieged patrol, Specialist *Baca* led his team through the hail of enemy fire to a firing position within the patrol's defensive perimeter. As they prepared to engage the enemy, a fragmentation grenade was thrown into the midst of the patrol. Fully aware of the danger to his comrades, Specialist *Baca* unhesitatingly, and with complete disregard for his own safety, covered the grenade with his steel helmet and fell on it as the grenade exploded, thereby absorbing the lethal fragments and concussion with his body. His gallant action and total disregard for his own personal well-being directly saved eight men from certain serious injury or death. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Specialist *Baca*, at the risk of his life, are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. This award supersedes the Silver Star awarded to Specialist Four *Baca* for gallantry in action on 10 February 1970, as announced in United States Army Vietnam General Orders Number 7011, 1970.



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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

GO 37

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.

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Authority NND 923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

STATEMENT OF MOTIVATION

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I was John Baca's platoon leader for three months before his transfer to third platoon in February. During this time I got to know John very well. He was a deeply religious person, concerned only with helping other people. He was one of the ablest men in the company and his dedication to his comrades had been shown many times in his willingness to risk his life for them.

From talking with his comrades I am convinced that John saw the grenade and with full knowledge of his actions and the inevitable consequences he jumped on it to save the patrol. Only two weeks before the 10th of February I was a participant in a discussion of what people would do if a grenade landed in our midst. Where others said they would run or fall to the ground, John said with deep conviction that he would jump on it. He had made the decision far in advance and when the event happened, he did as he said so that others might live.

Lafe Z. Smith
LAFE Z. SMITH
1LT, Infantry
Platoon Leader
Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav

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Authority AVND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

~~STATEMENT OF EYE-WITNESS~~ ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

I was the aid man who treated John Baca. From his wounds I could see it evident that he had made an attempt to smother the blast with his body, preventing many pieces of shrapnel from reaching his fellow soldiers.

John Baca's wounds included a large open stomach wound, a large piece of shrapnel in his left upper leg, also many small pieces of shrapnel in both legs and parts of his arms. He suffered much pain and was treated for periods of shock. In my opinion, John Baca's body absorbed much of the shrapnel which prevented other members of his squad from being injured.

Donald G Voigt
DONALD G. VOIGT
SP4, E-4,
Medic

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Incl B

Authority NND 923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

~~STATEMENT OF HIS WITNESS~~ ~~FOR~~ ~~Official~~ ~~USE~~ ~~ONLY~~

During a firefight, John Baca came to the aid of a patrol pinned down, loading his 90mm. recoilless rifle. An enemy grenade landed in the center of eight men. Without hesitation he dove on the grenade, saving the other men. He was willing to give the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of his fellow-men.

Gerald Martin

GERALD W. MARTIN
SGT E-5,
Ammunition Bearer

~~FOR~~ ~~Official~~ ~~USE~~ ~~ONLY~~

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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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STATEMENT OF EYE-WITNESS

While a patrol was engaged with five or more enemy, John Baca maneuvered his 90mm. recoilless rifle team from the platoon ambush position to the patrol 75 meters away, pinned down by heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Upon his arrival I heard someone exclaim, "Oh, my God!" As I turned to look behind me, I saw someone going down on his knees, then I was pushed away. I heard the explosion as I fell forward. Once again I turned back to see what had happened. At this time SP4 Arthur James crawled up to me saying, "I am bleeding to death." As I worked on his wounded legs he told me John Baca had tried to cover a fragmentation grenade with his body to save the lives of the men around him.

On further investigation the following morning, we found pieces of the casing from a 90mm. recoilless round. I am convinced that the 90 round exploded sympathetically with the grenade and what few casualties we had were caused by pieces of that casing. John's action had completely muffled the grenade. There were eight men including myself who would definitely have been much more seriously wounded than they were had not the force of the grenade been muffled by Baca.


WILLIAM L. LAWSON
1LT, Infantry
Platoon Leader

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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date B-3

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STATEMENT OF EYE-WITNESS ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

During a firefight, the 90mm recoilless rifle team came forward and was beside me setting up to fire. Suddenly I heard someone say, "Oh, God!" and someone else said, "Frag!" When I heard this I saw John Dacia raising his hands to his steel pot and leaning forward. I hit the ground, falling away from John. A few seconds later I felt a blast of air and then heard people say there were casualties. I realized that John had tried to smother the grenade with his steel pot and his body. Since I was about ten feet from him, but uninjured, his actions had definitely saved my life.

Peter J. Elliott

PETER J: ELLIOTT
PFC E-3,
Rifleman

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Authority NIND 923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

STATEMENT OF EYE WITNESS ~~Official USE ONLY~~

During a firefight with five enemy we were pinned down on the trail. We called out the 90mm. recoilless rifle team. As the team reached our position John Baca saw a fragmentation grenade come into the middle of the patrol from the enemy. John jumped on the grenade to try to smother it out, saving the rest of his buddies lives.

Thomas Mayo

THOMAS MAYO
SP4 E-4,
Asst. Machine Gunner

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2nd 6

Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

STATEMENT OF EYE-WITNESS

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As we were engaging the enemy on a trail, John Baca and his 90mm recoilless rifle team came to help out the patrol which was pinned down by enemy fire. The team was just setting up when I heard someone say "Oh, my God!" I looked back and saw everyone scattering so I fell into the brush. There was an explosion. John had had jumped on a grenade to save the lives of his buddies.

Steven R. Jordan
STEVEN R. JORDAN
SP4 E-4,
Radio Telephone Operator

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doc 5

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C I T A T I O N

FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT THE RISK OF LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST FOUR JOHN P. BACA, , DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF WHILE SERVING AS ASSISTANT GUNNER FOR THE RECOILLESS RIFLE TEAM OF THE THIRD PLATOON, DELTA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), NEAR HIGHWAY QL14, PHUOC LONG PROVINCE ON 10 FEBRUARY 1970. THE THIRD PLATOON OF DELTA COMPANY ESTABLISHED A NIGHT AMBUSH POSITION NEAR A WELL-TRAVELED TRAIL. SHORTLY BEFORE SUNSET, A PATROL WAS SENT TO RECONNOITER AFTER ONE OF THE THREE AUTOMATIC AMBUSHES DETONATED. AS THE PATROL NEARED THE TRAIL THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY PINNED-DOWN BY THE INTENSE ENEMY SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. HEARING THE ENCOUNTER, SPECIALIST FOUR BACA ASSESSED THE SITUATION AND DECIDED TO LEAD HIS FIRE TEAM TO THE PATROL'S CONTACT POSITION. AFTER CAREFULLY MANEUVERING HIS SQUAD INTO POSITION, SPECIALIST FOUR BACA, WHILE PREPARING TO LOAD THE RECOILLESS RIFLE, SAW AN ENEMY FRAGMENTATION GRENADE LAND WITHIN THE FRIENDLY POSITIONS. INSTANTLY REALIZING THE DANGER, SPECIALIST FOUR BACA UNHESITATINGLY COVERED THE ENEMY GRENADE WITH HIS STEEL HELMET AND FELL FORWARD ONTO THE GRENADE AS IT EXPLODED - ABSORBING THE SHRAPNEL AND CONCUSSION. SPECIALIST FOUR BACA'S INTREPID ACTION AND TOTAL DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY DIRECTLY SAVED EIGHT MEN FROM CERTAIN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. SPECIALIST FOUR BACA'S CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM, AT THE COST OF SERIOUS INJURY TO HIMSELF, ARE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AND REFLECT THE UTMOST CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

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John

Authority AVND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

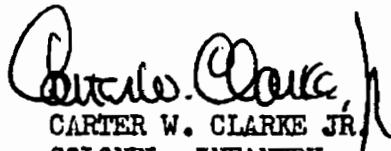
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AVDABB-CO BACA. John P. 1st Ind
SP4 (17 May 70)
SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Medal of Honor

DA, HQ, 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), APO 96490
27 May 1970

TO: Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), ATTN: AVDAAG-AD
APO 96490

Recommend approval.


CARTER W. CLARKE JR.
COLONEL, INFANTRY
Commanding

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Authority AIND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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AVDAAG-AD BACA, John P. 2nd Ind
(17 May 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), APO 96490 22 JUL 1970

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFB-AGD,
APO 96266

1. The recommendation for the award of the Medal of Honor has been reviewed by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) Awards and Decorations Board, which recommended approval of the award.
2. Strongly recommend approval of the award of the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four John P. Baca, , United States Army.
3. Personnel data have been verified. This recommendation is not in contravention with AR 600-31.

13 Incl

1. DA Form 638
2. Narrative Description
3. Stmt by 1LT Lawson
4. Stmt by PFC Elliott
5. Stmt by SP4 Jordan
6. Stmt by SP4 Mayo
7. Stmt by SGT Martin
8. Stmt by SP4 Voigt
9. Diagram
10. Motivation Stmt by 1LT Smith
11. Proposed Citation
12. Summary
13. Interim Silver Star, GO #7011

Jonathan R. Burton
JONATHAN R. BURTON
Brigadier General, USA
Acting Commanding General

This protective marking is cancelled
upon completion of final action.

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Authority NIND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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AVFB-AG BACA, John P. 3d Ind
(17 May 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award - Medal of Honor

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96266 11 AUG 1970

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHAG-PD,
APO 96375

Recommend approval. Specialist Four Baca's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity merits award of the Medal of Honor.

13 Incl
nc

MICHAEL S. DAVISON
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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AVHAG-PD BACA, John P. 4th Ind
(17 May 78)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO 96375

TO: Commander, United States Military Assistance Command,
Vietnam, APO 96222

1. Recommend the Distinguished Service Cross be approved
as the final award.

2. The recommendation for the Medal of Honor does not
appear to meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 24a, AR
672-5-1. Specialist Four Baca displayed extraordinary
heroism; however, the degree of heroism is not considered
sufficient to merit award of the Medal of Honor.

SIGNED

13 Incl
nc

W. J. McCaffrey
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General

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By JW NARA Date 8.3

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GPAG-PA Baca, John P. 1st Ind
(undated)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 NOV 70

TO: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGPB-AB, Department of the Army,
Washington, D. C. 20314

Recommend approval of award of the Medal of Honor.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

1 Incl
nc

WILLIAM P. YARBOROUGH
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commander in Chief

Copy furnished:
COMUSMACV
ATTN: MACAG-PD
APO 96222

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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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10 OCT 1970

SIXTH ENDORSEMENT on HQ 1ST BN (AM) 12TH CAV 1ST CAV DIV (AM) ltr AVDAIB-I
of 17 MAY 1970

From: Commander in Chief Pacific
To: Secretary of the Army
Via: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Subj: Medal of Honor; recommendation for award of, case of Specialist
Four John P. BACA, USA,

1. Readdressed and forwarded recommending approval of the award of the
Medal of Honor to Specialist Four BACA.

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (MACAG-PD) ←


JOHN S. MCCAIN, Sr.

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Authority NND 923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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27 SEP 1970

MACAG-PD

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor

Commander in Chief
United States Army, Pacific
APO 96558

Forwarded in accordance with Section II, para 24b(3), AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
Recm for Awd
(BACA, John P.)

SIGNED

DONALD J. MORGAN
Major, USA
Asst AG

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Authority NND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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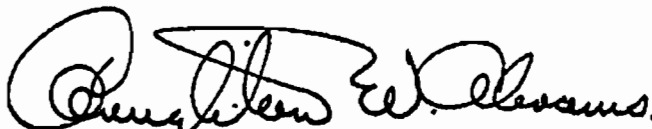
MACAG-PD BACA, John P. 5th Ind
(2 May 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND,
VIETNAM, APO 96222 27 SEP 1970

TO: Commander In Chief, Pacific; FPO 96610

1. Recommend approval of the Medal of Honor.
2. Request this headquarters (ATTN: MACAG-PD) be advised when final action has been taken.



CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Commanding

13 Incl
nc

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Authority AWND923570

By JW NARA Date 8-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION (AIRMOBILE) 12TH CAVALRY
1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION
APO 96490

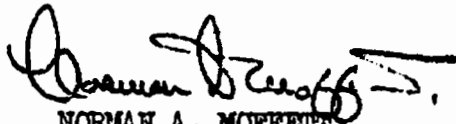
AVDAIB-I

17 May 1970

SUBJECT: Recommendation for The Medal of Honor

Commanding General
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO 96490
ATTN: AVDAAG-A&D

1. Contained herewith is recommendation for the Medal of Honor for Specialist Four John P. Baca,
2. Recommend approval.


NORMAN A. MOFFETT
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

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26SEP70 1545 8583

DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

MACAG-PD

Recommendation for Award

THRU ACOM, J. P. Hume FROM AG
TO Cufs

DATE 25 SEP 70 CMT 1
MAJ Morgan/rlj/2274

1. PURPOSE. To obtain signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A to the recommendation for award at Tab B.


2. DISCUSSION.

- a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four John P. Baca, United States Army.
- b. The recommendation was reviewed by a board of three general officers, each of whom has had experience as an Assistant Division Commander in Vietnam. These officers recommended award of the Medal of Honor by a majority vote.
- c. Recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

Acting CG, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)	MH (Tab C)
CG, II FFV	MH (Tab D)
DCG, USARV	DSC (Tab E)

3. RECOMMENDATION. Signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A and return of correspondence to this office for dispatch.

5 Incl
as


W. A. RUTLEDGE
Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

APPROVED/SIGNED	
COMUS	<u>X</u>
DEPCOMUS	_____
COFS	_____
D/COFS	_____
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco 96490

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 7011

2 May 1970

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 439. The following AWARD is announced,

BACA, JOHN P. SPECIALIST FOUR United States Army
Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry

Awarded: Silver Star

Date of action: 10 February 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Baca distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 10 February 1970, while serving as gunner in Phouc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. When a small patrol that had been sent to reconnoiter an area came under intense small arms and rocket fire from a determined enemy force located in concealed positions, Specialist Four Baca organized, and led his gun team to support the beleaguered force. As the team maneuvered into the contact area, an aggressor threw a grenade into the midst of the friendly element. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he courageously covered the grenade with his body, thus protecting and saving at least seven others from serious injury and possible death. His gallant action is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

Bruce B Bingham

BRUCE B. BINGHAM
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

E.C. MEYER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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