

16 December 1966

Colonel B. A. McLeod
Hq Air Training Command (ATTCS-M)
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Colonel B. A. McLeod

In response to your 9 December letter, we have sent to your office a Confidential preliminary message report of the air police action during the latest VC attack on Tan Son Nhut. The complete report, including lessons learned, should be finished by 30 December, a copy of which will be forwarded to your office.

A memorial for the dogs is an excellent idea and we will obtain the necessary information for your use. It would be most appropriate if consideration could be given to renaming the Lackland Sentry Dog School in tribute to and memory of A2C George H. Bevich, Jr., the sentry dog handler who gave the initial alarm after his sentry dog had alerted him. Both he and his dog were killed. The Confidential message reports cover his act of heroism.

We received Hq, USAF's review of the official conference report. As pointed out in your letter, all our recommendations, except the deletion of the personal protection phase, were concurred in by Hq USAF. When you read the preliminary report of the TSN attack, the need for more night firing training -- both M-16 and M-60 -- will be most apparent. Now, we feel more strongly that the personal protection phase should be eliminated so that increased night firing and other related training can be accomplished during the 40-hours. The sand bag bunkers and fortifications George constructed is a step in the right direction in tailoring the course to fit the needs in RVN.

We agree with your position that special mission type airlift is required for the transportation of sentry dogs from Lackland to PACAF locations. In order to provide support, we are requesting that the PACAF Sentry Dog Training Center and 7AF provide us with their comments regarding any difficulties they have encountered as a result of special dogs which have experienced excessive enroute delays. Specifically, we are requesting information on any restraining which has been necessary, any physical deterioration noted, and the comments of individual handlers on the performance of these animals.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: IGSL

16 DEC 1966

SUBJECT: Sentry Dogs (Your Msg (U), 97442 Dec 66)

TO: CINCPACAF (IGSL)

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1. The following information is provided as requested in referenced message.

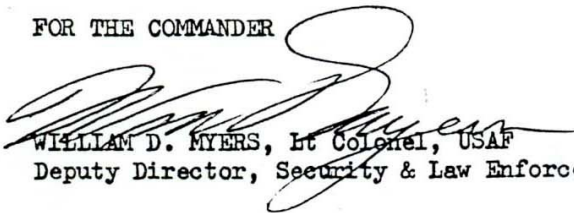
a. At approximately 0115 hours, 4 December 1966, sentry dog REBEL, SN-519X and handler, A2C LEROY E. MARSH, AF12681006, detected a group of approximately 20 VC emerging from a ditch 75 yards distant. Airman Marsh notified CSC, released REBEL, and opened fire. REBEL attacked VC and was in turn killed, being found a few hours later.

b. At approximately 0200 hours, 4 December 1966, sentry dog CUBBY, SN-612E and handler, A2C LARRY G. LAUDNER, AF17677090, detected an unknown number of unidentified personnel approaching his post. His challenge was disregarded, CSC was advised, and CUBBY was released. There was a burst of gunfire and a few hours later CUBBY was found dead. The unidentified personnel were alleged to be a portion of the sapper unit attempting to escape.

c. At approximately 0500 hours, 4 December 1966, sentry dog TOBY, SN-206F, and handler, A1C DALE E. SIDWELL, AF18601157, detected unidentified personnel entering a clump of bushes on his post. CSC was advised and instructed the team to investigate. When the team advanced, an individual ran from the bushes ^{and} failing to heed the challenge. TOBY was released, made contact with the VC, ^{and} subsequently killed. The VC then opened fire on Airman Sidwell, fire was returned and the VC was killed.

2. No awards have been ^{recommended} advanced for the above actions ^{to date}, pending full and complete documentation of respective actions!

FOR THE COMMANDER


WILLIAM D. MYERS, Lt Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, Security & Law Enforcement