



Mr. Eric Fanning  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force  
Pentagon  
Washington 25 DC

23 July 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary,

There is attached a copy AF FORM 442 - RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION recommending MEDAL OF HONOR (AIR FORCE) for Philip J. Conran, Major USAF 21<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron, for an action which took place in a location sited as "classified in Southeast Asia". Subsequently, because of a desire of the authorities to divert attention from the geographic location in Laos where American forces were not known to be operating, the publicity inherent in the award of the highest decoration for combat in the Defense Department would attract unusual scrutiny. This resulted in the down-grading of the award to the Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force).

My interest in this stems from reception as a career officer of a number of combat decorations. The level of the decoration was determined by the actions of the recipient. If, as is alleged in this case, political considerations influenced the award I think you will agree the case should be reevaluated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Michael Rogers".

F. Michael Rogers  
General, U.S.A.F. Ret.