

THOMAS C. REED

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August 20, 2013

Hon. Eric Fanning
Acting Secretary of the Air Force
1670 AF Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

SUBJECT: Maj. Philip J. Conran

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I had the honor to serve in your office in the aftermath of the war in Vietnam. I found many heroes from that conflict were not adequately recognized because their acts of valor took place in places the US was not supposed to be.

Maj. Philip J. Conran was one such hero. He was awarded the USAF Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of the special operations activities that took place in Laos on 6 October, 1969. Most people agree, in retrospect, that the USAF Medal of Honor would have been appropriate.

Unfortunately, such an award in 1969 would have called attention to the unauthorized presence of US forces in Laos.

I urge you to look into this matter, to then upgrade Maj. Conran's award if you feel it is appropriate to do so.

Very truly yours,

Thomas C. Reed, SecAF, 1976-77