



Philip J. Conran
Date of birth: 13-Apr-37
Place of Birth: Hartford, Connecticut
Home of record: Avon, Connecticut

Phil Conran served in the Connecticut Air National Guard before receiving his ROTC commission at Fordham University, New York. Serving with the 55th Air Rescue Squadron out of Kindley AFB, Bermuda, from 1962 - 65, he deployed in support of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. He received the Air Force Cross on October 6, 1969, for a mission on the ground in Laos, one of the few ground actions to merit the award. Captain Jackson Hudson, an A-1E Skyraider pilot, also received the Air Force Cross for the same mission. Colonel Conran retired from the Air Force on December 31, 1988.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS



Air Force Cross

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Title 10, Section 8742, United States Code, takes pleasure in presenting the Air Force Cross to Major Philip J. Conran, United States Air Force, for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force as Aircraft Commander of a CH-3E helicopter of the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 56th Special Operations Wing, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, in action at a classified location in Southeast Asia on 6 October 1969. On that date, while attempting to rescue the crew of a downed helicopter, Major Conran's aircraft was hit by intense hostile ground fire and he was forced to make a crash landing in the vicinity of the other aircraft. Once on the ground, he successfully evacuated his aircraft and assumed a major role in defending the crash site against an overwhelming hostile force until rescue was possible six hours later. Through his extraordinary heroism, superb airmanship, and aggressiveness in the face of hostile fire, Major Conran reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Action Date: 6-Oct-69

Service: Air Force

Rank: Major

Company: 21st Special Operations Squadron

Regiment: 56th Special Operations Wing **Division:** Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand