

**FOR Official USE ONLY**

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD</b>		<small>PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.</small>	<small>DATE</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>HEROISM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE</b> <small>(AR 672-5-1)</small>			12 August 1969
<b>THRU:</b> Commanding General US Army Vietnam ATTN: AVHAG-PC APO 96375	<b>TO:</b> Department of the Army ATTN: AGPB-AC Washington, D. C.	<b>FROM: (Unit)</b> Commanding Officer Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav 1st Cav Div (AM) APO 96490	
<b>PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION</b>			
<b>1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME</b> EVANS, RODNEY J.		<b>2. SERVICE NO.</b>	<b>3. GRADE</b> SGT E-5
<b>5. ORGANIZATION</b> Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM)		<b>4. BRANCH (Or MOS if WO)</b> 11B4P	
<b>7. RECOMMENDED AWARD</b> Medal of Honor		<b>8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN</b> Mr. and Mrs. John C. Evans (Parents)			
<b>PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE</b>			
<b>10. SERVICE NUMBER</b>	<b>11. GRADE</b> SGT E-5	<b>12. BRANCH (Or MOS if WO)</b> 11B4P	<b>13. ORGANIZATION</b> Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div
<b>14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize on reverse side.)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
<b>15. IF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ACT OR SERVICE, INDICATE TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED, BY WHOM, WHEN, ACTION TAKEN, AND HEADQUARTERS</b>  NONE			
<b>16. OTHER U. S. DECORATIONS RECEIVED (Include date and authority) (Do not list service medals; list foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.)</b>  Army Commendation Medal w/V device - action of 6 June 1969 - Pending			
<b>17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
<b>PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM</b>			
<b>18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLOSED, GIVE REASONS</b>  Eye witness statements are inclosed.	
<b>20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD</b>			
<b>a. FULL NAME</b>	<b>b. SERVICE NO.</b>	<b>c. GRADE</b>	<b>d. UNIT</b>
Mitchell Hamabata		E-3	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
Guy L. Leluron		E-3	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
Paul E. Reaume		CPT	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
Roy C. Rutherford, Jr.		E-5	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
<b>21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD</b>  NONE			
<b>22. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED</b>			
<b>a. LOCATION</b> Coordinates XT435645, Tay Ninh Prov., RVN		<b>b. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 18 July 1969	<b>c. TIME OF DAY</b> 1030 HRS.
<b>d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER</b> The terrain was characterized by high bamboo and dense vegetation. The weather was clear with high temperatures.			
<b>23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Proximity, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action; what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.)</b> The enemy was firmly entrenched in bunkered positions with exceptional cover provided by thick vegetation. Their strength was estimated to be a security company. Morale was high due to nature of terrain. Enemy sustained negative killed or wounded.			
A TRUE COPY: <i>John W. Hawkins</i> JOHN W. HAWKINS, 1LT, Infantry			

DA FORM 638 1 MAY 60

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: *NNQ* 923 570

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

NAME: Rodney J. Evans

STATUS: Squad Leader, Sergeant, US Army

ORGANIZATION: Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Phuoc Vinh, RVN

NEXT OF KIN: Mr and Mrs John C. Evans (Parents)

PERSONS WHO ASSISTED: None

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT PERFORMED:

LOCATION: Coordinates XT435645, Tay Ninh Province, RVN

DATE: 1030 Hours, 18 July 1969

TERRAIN: Dense Vegetation with high bamboo

WEATHER: Clear with high temperatures

ENEMY CONDITION: The enemy was firmly entrenched in bunkered positions with exceptional cover provided by thick vegetation. Their strength was estimated to be a security company. Morale was high due to nature of terrain.

DEFENDER'S CONDITION: To make contact with and destroy an enemy force entrenched in a bunker complex. Unit morale was excellent.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF GALLANT CONDUCT:

On 18 July 1969 Sergeant Evans' unit was participating in a bomb damage assessment mission. Sergeant Evans' platoon was moving as the front element of the operation. About 150 meters from the company night ambush position, they heard movement to their front. Reconnaissance by fire was employed as the platoon continued to move forward. After proceeding about 25 meters forward, the point squad was hit by a command-detonated chicom claymore mine and suffered several casualties. As Sergeant Evans was directing his squad about ten meters to the left of the point element, he observed a second mine to his right. Crawling forward on the ground, he yelled, "Mine" to his comrades, leaped on the claymore, and covered it with his body. The muffled explosion lifted Sergeant Evans about a foot off the ground and despite emergency first aid treatment he succumbed to his critical wounds. On the order of the Company Commander contact was broken, the wounded were pulled back to the NAP in order that the target area could be raked with air strikes. Detailed questioning of all eye-witnesses to the incident (including the medic who treated Sergeant Evans) established to the satisfaction of all present that Sergeant Evans sighted the mine and jumped on it, thus sacrificing his life to protect his men.

INCL 4 8<sup>2</sup>

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**GPAG-PA Evans, Rodney J. 1st Ind  
(28 Jan 70)**

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor**

**HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 13 FEB 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 (Posthumous).**

**FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:**

**1 Incl  
ac**

**W. J. DURRENERGER  
Major General, GS  
Acting Chief of Staff**

**Copy furnished:  
COMUSMACV  
ATTN: MACAG-PD  
APO 96222**

**2**

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Authority 11N2 923 570

DATE 2/20/01

974

FEB 1970

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**SEVENH RECOMMENDATION ON GO GO B 1ST IN 12TH CIV 1ST CIV REV (AD) IN  
Form 638 of 12 JAN 1969**

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

**Subj: Medal of Honor recommendation for posthumous award of, in the  
case of Sergeant Rodney J. SMITH, USA,**

**1. Recommend and forwarded recommending approval of the award of  
the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to Sergeant SMITH.**

JOHN S. McCAIN, Jr.

Copy to:  
SECRETARY



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Authority: 11N2 923 570

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**MACAG-PD EVANS, Rodney J. 6th Ind**  
(28 Aug 69)

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumously)**

**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND,  
VIETNAM, APO 96223 28 JAN 1978**

**TO: Commander in Chief, Pacific, FPO 96610**

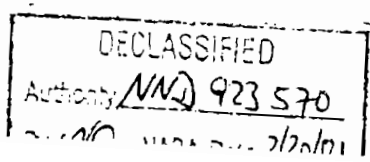
**Recommend approval.**

**8 Incl**  
**nc**

**CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS**  
**General, United States Army**  
**Commanding**

9

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8 JAN 1970

**MACAG-PD**

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor  
(Posthumously)**

**Commander in Chief  
United States Army, Pacific  
APO 96588**

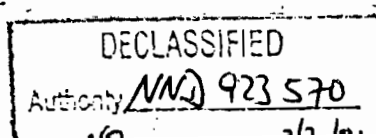
**Forwarded in accordance with Section II, para 24b(3), AR 672-5-1.**

**FOR THE COMMANDER:**

**1 Incl  
Recm for Awd  
(Evans, R.J.)**

**B. G. LEWIS  
Major, USA  
Asst AG**

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<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD</b>		<small>PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.</small>	<small>DATE</small> 12 August 1969
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEROISM <input type="checkbox"/> MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE <small>(AR 672-3-1)</small>			
<b>THRU:</b> Commanding General US Army Vietnam ATTN: AVHAG-PC APO 96375	<b>TO:</b> Department of the Army ATTN: AGPB-AC Washington, D. C.	<b>FROM: (Unit)</b> Commanding Officer Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav 1st Cav Div (AM) APO 96490	
<b>PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION</b>			
<b>1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME</b> EVANS, RODNEY J.		<b>2. SERVICE NO.</b>	<b>3. GRADE</b> SGT E-5
		<b>4. BRANCH (Or MOS if WO)</b> 11B4P	
<b>5. ORGANIZATION</b> Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM)		<b>6. RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State, including ZIP Code)</b>	
<b>7. RECOMMENDED AWARD</b> Medal of Honor	<b>8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<b>9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN</b> Mr. and Mrs. John C. Evans (Parents)	
<b>PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE</b>			
<b>10. SERVICE NUMBER</b>	<b>11. GRADE</b> SGT E-5	<b>12. BRANCH (Or MOS if WO)</b> 11B4P	<b>13. ORGANIZATION</b> Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div
<b>14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize on reverse side.)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
<b>15. IF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ACT OR SERVICE, INDICATE TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED, BY WHOM, WHEN, ACTION TAKEN, AND HEADQUARTERS</b>  NONE			
<b>16. OTHER U. S. DECORATIONS RECEIVED (include date and authority) (Do not list service medals; list foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.)</b>  Army Commendation Medal w/V device - action of 6 June 1969 - Pending			
<b>17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
<b>PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM</b>			
<b>18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLOSED, GIVE REASONS</b> Eye witness statements are inclosed.	
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<b>a. FULL NAME</b>	<b>b. SERVICE NO.</b>	<b>c. GRADE</b>	<b>d. UNIT</b>
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Guy L. Leluron		E-3	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
Paul E. Reaume		CPT	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
Roy C. Rutherford, Jr.		E-5	Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
<b>21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD</b>  NONE			
<b>22. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED</b>			
<b>a. LOCATION</b> Coordinates XT435645, Tay Ninh Prov., RVN		<b>b. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 18 July 1969	<b>c. TIME OF DAY</b> 1030 HRS.
<b>d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER</b> The terrain was characterized by high bamboo and dense vegetation. The weather was clear with high temperatures.			
<b>23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Proximity, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action; what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.)</b> The enemy was firmly entrenched in bunkered positions with exceptional cover provided by thick vegetation. Their strength was estimated to be a security company. Morale was high due to nature of terrain. Enemy sustained negative killed or wounded.			
A TRUE COPY: <i>John W. Hawkins</i> JOHN W. HAWKINS, 1LT, Infantry			

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1 MAY 60

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Authority: *NIA* 923 570

**RECOMMENDATION**

24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT  
The company's mission was to make contact with and destroy an enemy force entrenched in a bunker complex. Casualties of friendly forces included 1 KIA and 2 WIA's. Unit morale was excellent.

25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT  
Sgt Evans' squad was advancing to contact against enemy entrenched in bunker complex; assisted in extraction of wounded to night ambush position.

**PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE**

26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED  
N/A

27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED  
N/A

29. NOW IN SAME OR RELATED ASSIGNMENT  
 NO     TO BE REASSIGNED ON OR ABOUT  
 TO BE RETIRED ON OR ABOUT  
 TO BE RELIEVED FROM AD ON OR ABOUT

28. SERVICE COMPLETED     YES  
 TO BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT    N/A

**PART V - TO BE USED FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS**

30. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF  DEED OR ACT     ACHIEVEMENT PERFORMED OR SERVICE RENDERED

**FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM:** WAS ACT VOLUNTARY? DESCRIBE WHY ACT WAS OUTSTANDING AND IF IT WAS MORE THAN WAS NORMALLY EXPECTED, EXPLAIN HOW. IF IN AERIAL FLIGHT, DESCRIBE TYPE AND POSITION OF AIRPLANE, CREW POSITION OF INDIVIDUAL, AND ALL UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

**FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE:** TITLE AND DUTIES OF ASSIGNMENT, INCLUDING CHARACTER OF SERVICE DURING PERIOD FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED (Give complete description of technical or specialized positions, including dates of assignment and relief); WHAT DID THE INDIVIDUAL DO THAT MERITS THE AWARD? WHY WAS THIS OUTSTANDING WHEN COMPARED TO OTHERS OF LIKE RANK AND EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR POSITIONS?  
On 18 July 1969, Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was participating in offensive combat against an armed enemy in Tay Ninh Province (XT430649), III Corps, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, the Second and Third platoons were sent out of the company's night ambush position to assess bomb damage of an area where the previous day the company had encountered stiff NVA resistance. The Third platoon was deployed in three squad files with the Second platoon assuming a reinforcing position. The platoons moved from the NAP on an azimuth of 240 degrees for 150 meters, where the Third platoon came upon a trail heading north-east to west. At this time, a "Kit Carson" scout informed the platoon that the trail was booby-trapped; they therefore moved short of but parallel to the trail in a north-northeast direction. The Third platoon had just begun their move in the new direction when they heard movement to their front. Recon by fire was employed (M-79 and M-60 fire), and the platoon continued its move, aware of the likely presence of an insurgent force (Grid coordinates: XT435645). The platoon had moved about 25 meters when the point squad was hit by a command-detonated Chicom claymore mine which inflicted several casualties. Sergeant Rodney J. Evans, E417707176, was directing a squad about

Continued

31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS His actions probably saved the other members of his squad from possible death or serious injury and enabled the platoons to withdraw to a commanding position and call in supporting air strikes on the enemy positions.

32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED  
Company Commander

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO  
Department of the Army

34. INCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, sketches, and eye witness statements when required.)
1. Proposed Citation
  2. Area sketch
  3. Four witness statements
  4. Summary of recommendation
  5. Motivation statement

35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION  
t/PAUL E. REAUME  
CPT, Infantry, Commanding Officer

36. SIGNATURE  
s/Paul E. Reaume

REVERSE SIDE MAY BE USED FOR ~~PROF~~ OR ~~OFFICIAL~~ USE ONLY. CONTINUANCE OF ABOVE ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.

PFC-Japan

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Authority MMJ 923 570



Item 30 (Continued)

ten meters to the left of the point squad. On impact, Sergeant Evans observed a second Chicom claymore mine about five feet to his right. Crawling forward on the ground and yelling "mine!" to his comrades, Sergeant Evans leaped on the explosive device, and was jolted by a muffled explosion which lifted him a foot off the ground. Even with the administering of emergency first aid treatment, Sergeant Evans succumbed to his critical wounds. The company commander ordered the wounded pulled back to the NAP for Medevac; the Second and Third platoons were directed to break contact and return to the NAP, for the purpose of raking the target area with air strikes. Upon detailed questioning of all eyewitnesses to the incident (including the medical aidman who treated Sergeant Evans), it was established to the satisfaction of all present that Sergeant Evans had sighted a Chicom claymore mine and had jumped on it - sacrificing his life to protect his comrades.

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Authority VMJ 923 570

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD  
(12 Aug 69)  
SUBJECT: Recommendations for Award

FOR OFFICIAL  
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Headquarters, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry  
Division, APO 94498 23 August 1969

TO: Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO 94498

FM: Commanding General, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO 94498, AIRM: AIRM-4  
Desires approval.

8 Incl  
20

*George L. Storer*  
GEORGE L. STORER  
LTC, Infantry  
Commanding

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USE ONLY

4

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: 11N2 923 570  
DATE: 11/20/01

AVDABR-CO EVANS, Rodney J. 2d Ind  
(12 Aug 69)  
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

FOR Official  
USE ONLY

DA, HQ, 1st Bde, 1st Cav Div (AM), APO 96490

18 August 1969

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

Recommend approval.

8 Incl  
nc

*Joseph P. Kingston*  
JOSEPH P. KINGSTON  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

5

FOR Official  
USE ONLY

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *NAJ* 923 570  
*1/2/01*

**FOR Official  
USE ONLY**

**AVRAG-AD EVANS, Rodney J. 3d Incl  
(12 Aug 69)**

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award**

**DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), APO 96490 3140**

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

1. The recommendation for posthumous 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. Recommend approval of the award of the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Rodney J. Evans, , United States Army.
3. All essential items of personnel data have been verified. This recommendation is not in contravention with AR 600-31.

**5 Incl  
ns**

**E. R. ROBERTS  
Major General, USA  
Commanding**

6

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Authority *NAJ* 923 570  
7/20/01

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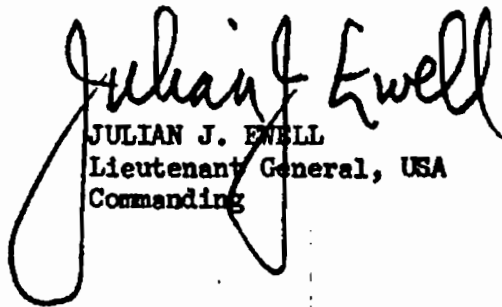
AVFB-AG Evans, Rodney J. 4th Ind  
(12 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award - Medal of Honor

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96266 15 NOV 1969

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

Recommend approval. Sergeant Evans' conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the sacrifice of his own life, merits award of the Medal of Honor.

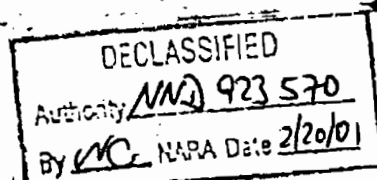
  
JULIAN J. EWELL  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

8 Incl

1. Stmt - CPT Resume
2. Stmt - SGT Rutherford
3. Stmt - PFC Hamabata
4. Stmt - PFC Leluron
5. Motivation Stmt
6. Sketch
7. Proposed Citation
8. Summary of Recommendation

7

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**AVHAG-PD EVANS, Rodney J. 5th Ind  
(12 August 1969)**

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award**

**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO 96375**

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

1. Recommend approval.
2. Sergeant Evans distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, at the cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty.

8 Incl  
nc

**FRANK T. MILDREN  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Deputy Commanding General**

**ONLY**

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Authority MMQ 923 570

WITNESS STATEMENT

~~FOR~~ Official  
USE ONLY

ON 18 JULY 1969, COMPANY D WAS GIVEN THE MISSION TO ASSESS BOMB DAMAGE OF AN AREA WHERE THE PREVIOUS DAY WE ENCOUNTERED A CHICOM CLAYMORE, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, AND SMALL-ARMS FIRE. THE 3RD PLATOON AND 2ND PLATOON WERE GIVEN THE MISSION TO SEARCH OUT AND CLEAR THE AREA WITH THE 3RD PLATOON DEPLOYED IN 3 SQUAD FILES LEADING, AND THE 2ND PLATOON FOLLOWING AND REINFORCING THE 3RD PLATOON. THE PLATOONS MOVED FROM THE NAP (XT-430649) ON AN AZIMUTH OF 240 DEGREES FOR 150 METERS, WHERE THE 3RD PLATOON CAME UPON A TRAIL HEADING NORTHEAST TO WEST. AT THIS TIME THE KIT CARSON SCOUT INFORMED THE PLATOON THAT THE TRAIL WAS BOOBY-TRAPPED, AND THEY BEGAN A MOVE SHORT OF BUT PARALLEL TO THE TRAIL IN A NORTH-NORTHEAST DIRECTION. THE 3RD PLATOON HAD JUST BEGUN THEIR MOVE IN THE NEW DIRECTION WHEN THEY HEARD HEAVY MOVEMENT TO THEIR FRONT. RECON BY FIRE WAS EMPLOYED WITH M-79 AND M-60 MACHINE GUN, AND THE PLATOON CONTINUED ITS MOVE, KNOWING THAT THEY WERE FACED WITH AN ENEMY THAT WAS BOTH CUNNING AND PROFESSIONAL IN THE DEFENSE OF THEIR (NVA) POSITIONS. THE PLATOON HAD MOVED ABOUT 25 METERS WHEN THE POINT SQUAD WAS HIT BY A COMMAND-DETONATED CHICOM CLAYMORE CAUSING CASUALTIES TO THE SQUAD (GRID COORDINATES: XT435645). SGT. EVANS MOVED HIS SQUAD FORWARD TO PROVIDE SECURITY FROM THE LEFT FLANK WHEN THE SECOND COMMAND-DETONATED CHICOM CLAYMORE WAS DETONATED AGAINST HIS SQUAD. AT THIS TIME FIRST AID WAS ADMINISTERED TO THE WOUNDED AND LIFE-SAVING STEPS TAKEN TO SAVE THE LIFE OF SGT. EVANS. I ORDERED THE WOUNDED PULLED BACK TO THE NAP FOR MEDEVAC, AND THE 2ND AND 3RD PLATOONS TO BREAK CONTACT AND PULL BACK TO THE NAP SO THAT I COULD PUT AN AIR STRIKE ON THE TARGET AREA.

*Paul E. Reaume*

PAUL E. REAUME  
CPT,  
CO D, 1ST BN, 12TH CAV  
1ST CAV DIV (AM)

Incl to 1<sup>2</sup>

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Authority *NNJ* 923 570

WITNESS STATEMENT

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ON THE MORNING OF THE 18TH OF JULY, OUR ELEMENT WAS MOVING IN THREE FILES ON A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION INTO THE BUNKER COMPLEX WHERE THE COMPANY, COMPANY D, 1ST BN, 12TH CAV, HAD MADE CONTACT THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE AREA THAT WE WERE MOVING THROUGH HAD NOT RECEIVED AN AIR STRIKE. I WAS WALKING POINT FOR THE CENTER SQUAD. SGT. EVANS' SQUAD WAS ON LINE WITH ME ABOUT TEN METERS TO MY LEFT. PFC HAMABATA AND SGT. DERIGNE WERE WALKING IN FRONT OF SGT. EVANS AND PFC BURNS, HIS RTO, WAS WALKING IN BACK OF SGT. EVANS. WE HAD PROGRESSED ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE WHEN I SPOTTED A BUNKER. I HALTED THE ENTIRE ELEMENT AND CALLED UP THE DOG HANDLER, WHO WAS IMMEDIATELY BEHIND ME, AND TOLD HIM TO CALL IN HIS DOG, WHO WAS WORKING TO MY FRONT. I ALSO CALLED UP SP/4 ROGGE TO TELL HIM TO HAVE THE M-60 BROUGHT UP FOR A RECON BY FIRE. WHEN SP/4 ROGGE GOT TO MY POSITION THE FIRST EXPLOSION OCCURRED, ABOUT 5 OR 10 FEET TO MY RIGHT. I WAS KNOCKED TO THE GROUND AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN CRAWLING TO MY LEFT. IT WAS THEN THAT I NOTICED SGT. EVANS ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES. HE CRAWLED ABOUT FIVE FEET TO HIS RIGHT, THEN HE YELLED "MINE" AND JUMPED TO THE GROUND. AS SOON AS HE DROPPED THERE WAS A SECOND MUFFLED EXPLOSION THAT LIFTED SGT. EVANS ABOUT A FOOT OFF THE GROUND. IT IS MY OPINION THAT SGT. EVANS' ACTION SAVED THE LIVES OF THE REST OF HIS SQUAD BY JUMPING ON THE MINE AND GIVING HIS OWN LIFE.

*Roy C. Rutherford, Jr.*  
ROY C. RUTHERFORD, JR.  
SGT.  
CO D, 1ST BN, 12TH CAV  
1ST CAV DIV (AM)

Incl 76.2<sup>2</sup>

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WITNESS STATEMENT

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Sgt Rodney Evans was back up man (2nd man) for our squad on 18 July 1969. I was walking point about 3 feet in front of Sgt Evans, when I heard a claymore go off to my right and looked in that direction. We were moving in the left file to provide security for the point squad which was hit by the first blast when Sgt Evans yelled "claymore." I hit the ground just as I heard the blast and turned to see Sgt Evans jump on the ground. He had jumped on the claymore to save my life and the lives of the rest of the squad.

*Mitchell Hamabata*

MITCHELL HAMABATA  
PFC,  
Co D, 1st Bn 12th Cav  
1st Cav Div (AM)

Incl 4-3<sup>2</sup>

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WITNESS STATEMENT

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USE ONLY

I, PFC Leluron was the machine gunner for Sgt Evans. At the time, I was the 2nd man in back of Sgt Evans, when I heard his familiar voice scream "mine". I hit the ground and heard a muffled explosion. I moved up to put security in front of us. After security was put out, the point man and the RTO both went over to the wounded man to see what they could do. I was looking to see how badly Sgt Evans had been wounded and saw that right under him was the place where the mine was. It was noticeable by the way the ground was torn up.

There is no doubt in my mind that Sgt Evans did jump on the mine in order to save his comrades from being hurt.

*Guy L. Leluron*

GUY L. LELURON

PFC,

Co D, 1st Bn 12th Cav

1st Cav Div (AM)

INCL ~~4~~ 4<sup>2</sup>

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MOTIVATION STATEMENT

THE UNIT'S MORALE WAS HIGH BECAUSE OF EXTRA SODA RATIONS AND ONE HOT MEAL THROUGH THE DAILY LOG. CASUALTIES HAD BEEN LIGHT.

SERGEANT EVANS WAS AN INSPIRATION TO HIS SQUAD THROUGH HIS EXAMPLE OF DETERMINATION AND CONSCIENTIOUS DEVOTION TO DUTY. PERSONALLY HE WAS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS, BEING DUE FOR A SCHEDULED 7 DAYS LEAVE ON 25 JULY 69.

IN MY OPINION, AND THAT OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF MY COMPANY, ESPECIALLY SGT EVANS' SQUAD, BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT THE EXPLOSION SITE, CONDITION OF THE BODY AND PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF SGT EVANS' CHARACTER, SGT EVANS SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS MEN, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST PRICE A MAN CAN PAY FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS COMRADES.

/s/ Paul E. Reaume  
/t/ PAUL E. REAUME  
CPT, INF  
Commanding

\*\*\*\*\*

A TRUE COPY

*James L. Jester*

JAMES L. JESTER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

Incl 5<sup>2</sup>

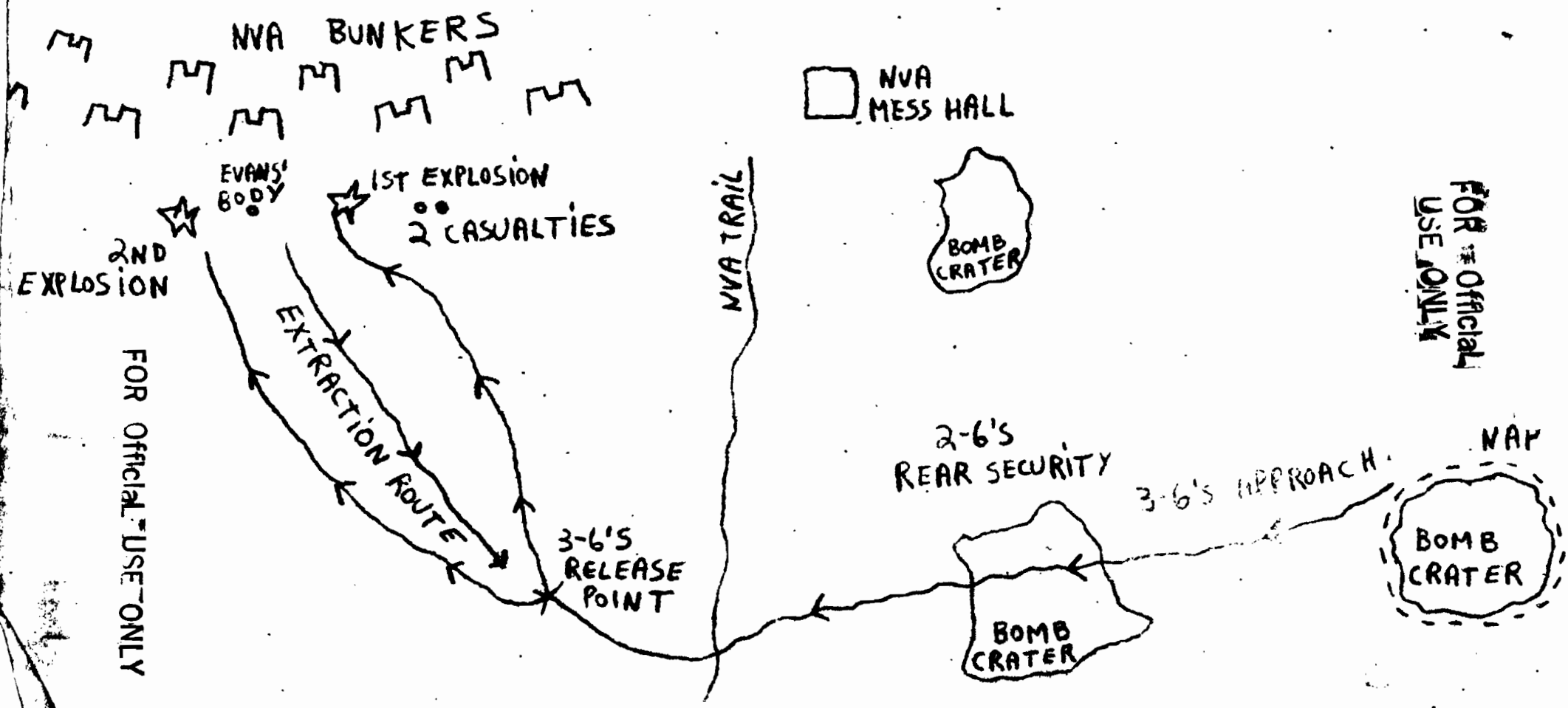
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INCL 5 6 2

NORTH ↑

FICTION INVOLVING  
D CO, 1ST BN, 12TH CAV  
18 JULY 1969  
2 INCHES = 50 METERS



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## PROPOSED CITATION

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 POSTHUMOUSLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY IN THE NAME OF CONGRESS TO SERGEANT RODNEY J. EVANS, UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONAL HEROISM ON 18 JULY 1969 WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THIS DATE TWO OF THE COMPANY'S PLATOONS LEFT THEIR NIGHT AMBUSH POSITIONS TO SWEEP AN AREA OF SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE BUNKER EMPLACEMENTS. ONE OF THE PLATOONS HAD MOVED A SHORT DISTANCE UP A TRAIL WHEN A COMMAND-DETONATED MINE EXPLODED, INFLECTING THE POINT SQUAD WITH SEVERAL CASUALTIES. SERGEANT EVANS, LEADING AN ADJOINING SQUAD, SPOTTED A SECOND MINE NEAR HIS POSITION. SHOUTING A WARNING TO HIS COMRADES, HE DIVED TO THE GROUND, CRAWLED TO THE MINE AND COVERED IT WITH HIS BODY AS IT EXPLODED. ALTHOUGH MORTALLY WOUNDED BY THE BLAST, SERGEANT DAVIS ALLOWED HIS MEN TO TAKE COVER, BREAK CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AND RECOVER CASUALTIES. SERGEANT DAVIS' ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

*Incl 7<sup>2</sup>*  
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# DISPOSITION FORM

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Page of this form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

MEMAG-PD

SUBJECT

Recommendation for Award

TO *AG*

FROM *AG*

DATE 6 JAN 1970

MAJ Lewis

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

2. DISCUSSION.

- a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to Sergeant Rodney J. Evans, United States Army.
- b. The recommendation has been reviewed by the Awards and Decorations Board, this headquarters, and the proposed indorsement is in accord with the recommendation of the board.
- c. Recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

CO, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div	MH
CO, 1st Bde, 1st Cav Div (Airmobile)	MH
CG, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)	MH
CG, II Field Force Vietnam	MH
Deputy CG, USARV	MH

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

2 Incl  
RS

*[Signature]*  
 LOUIS J. PROST  
 Colonel, USA  
 Adjutant General

Signed by COMUSMACV  
 27 JAN 1970 *[Signature]*

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DA FORM 2496 1 FEB 62

REPLACES DD FORM 96, EXISTING SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE ISSUED AND USED UNTIL 1 FEB 62 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED.

GPO: 1969

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 Authority *[Signature]* 923 570

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

NAME: Rodney J. Evans

STATUS: Squad Leader, Sergeant, US Army

ORGANIZATION: Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Phuoc Vinh, RVN

NEXT OF KIN: Mr and Mrs John C. Evans (Parents)

PERSONS WHO ASSISTED: None

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT PERFORMED:

LOCATION: Coordinates XT435645, Tay Ninh Province, RVN

DATE: 1030 Hours, 18 July 1969

TERRAIN: Dense Vegetation with high bamboo

WEATHER: Clear with high temperatures

ENEMY CONDITION: The enemy was firmly entrenched in bunkered positions with exceptional cover provided by thick vegetation. Their strength was estimated to be a security company. Morale was high due to nature of terrain.

DEFENDER'S CONDITION: To make contact with and destroy an enemy force entrenched in a bunker complex. Unit morale was excellent.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF GALLANT CONDUCT:

On 18 July 1969 Sergeant Evans' unit was participating in a bomb damage assessment mission. Sergeant Evans' platoon was moving as the front element of the operation. About 150 meters from the company night ambush position, they heard movement to their front. Reconnaissance by fire was employed as the platoon continued to move forward. After proceeding about 25 meters forward, the point squad was hit by a command-detonated chicom claymore mine and suffered several casualties. As Sergeant Evans was directing his squad about ten meters to the left of the point element, he observed a second mine to his right. Crawling forward on the ground, he yelled, "Mine" to his comrades, leaped on the claymore, and covered it with his body. The muffled explosion lifted Sergeant Evans about a foot off the ground and despite emergency first aid treatment he succumbed to his critical wounds. On the order of the Company Commander contact was broken, the wounded were pulled back to the NAP in order that the target area could be raked with air strikes. Detailed questioning of all eye-witnesses to the incident (including the medic who treated Sergeant Evans) established to the satisfaction of all present that Sergeant Evans sighted the mine and jumped on it, thus sacrificing his life to protect his men.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF GALLANT CONDUCT (CONT'D):

During the encounter in Tay Ninh Province, Sergeant Evans:

1. Saved the members of both platoons from serious harm by leaping upon the explosive device.
2. Indirectly allowed the several other casualties to be extracted promptly, and made air strikes possible against the insurgents' stronghold.

Sergeant Rodney J. Evans was killed in action on 18 July 1969. The facts as contained in the proposed citation and this narrative account have been substantiated by the statements of eyewitnesses.

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