

OUTLINE OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FRIENDLY FIRE ACTIONS LEADING TO THE AWARDING OF THE PURPLE HEART

Specific documentation will be required to provide the necessary data for Service Boards that review and grant the Purple Heart Award to those service members who were either killed or wounded by a "friendly fire" incident. These specific requirements must be met: First: The action must involve an enemy of the U.S.; Second: The action must have involved an authorized mission; Third: The "friendly fire" must have been directed at the enemy in support of friendly forces; Fourth: It must not be due to misdeeds of the service member or members; Fifth: It is retro active to April 1962.

The following are, if available, necessary enclosures to the document package:

Written notarized statements of survivors who are seeking or entitled to the Purple Heart Award.

Written notarized statements from service members who either participated in or personally witnessed the action.

Copies of the Command Chronologies of the U.S. military units involved in the incident. These Command Chronologies must cover the time period of the incident. All Command Chronologies of U.S. units of the Vietnam War era have been declassified.

An enclosure referring to the Amendments to Public Law 99-145 dated 13 June 1985, authorizing the issuance of the Purple Heart Award to military personnel who were either killed or wounded in incidents involving "friendly fire". Further, reference Public Law 104-106 that expanded the eligibility date of the Purple Heart Award to "friendly fire" incidents to "before April 1962". It further clarified the afore mentioned specific requirements. (see the first paragraph above).

Include all prior correspondence with and answers provided by the Service of the person or persons seeking the award. Additionally, include all correspondence and answers provided by the service members legislators (representative or senator).

This will become an official document; it will be adjudicated by an Awards Board from the service member's branch of service. Ensure the document has a cover page stating the objective of the document, a table of content showing all enclosures and a synopsis or executive summary of the document.

The document package is sent to the Personnel Department at the headquarters of the appropriate service. In the Marine Corps that is: Commanding General, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, HQMC, Washington D.C., 20350-3000.

Constant follow through will be necessary; establish contact with an individual in the appropriate office who will be accessible for your inquiries. **BE PATIENT.**

Each of these cases are unique. The Awards Board will review the packet, there may be a requirement for additional information. All the information that is provided will be reviewed and all existing military records of the service membes will be checked by an investigative service. Once approved the Casual Assistance Branch will have to verify and contact the next of kin of those killed in action and or the living recipient. Based on the next of kins or recipients desires an awards ceremony will take place. The Marine Corps utilizes the local Inspector & Instructor Unit to coordinate with the next of kin or the living recipient and will provide the necessary assistance as well as conduct the ceremony.

George A. Ross
LtCol. USMC (RET)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Since the "friendly fire" shoot down of YT-23 on 11 June 1968 in Vietnam, which resulted in severe injuries suffered by 1/Lt. Dan Jones and the deaths of 1/Lt. Glenn Zamorski, Sgt. Ray Templeton and Cpl. Conrad Lerman, there have been a number of individuals who have contributed to the awarding of the Purple Heart that will be presented to Dan and the next of kin of Glenn, Ray and Conrad. It is only fitting that they be recognized for their efforts, some over the past 46 years, which is resulting in the successful recognition of the crew members of YT-23.

Dan Jones, while convalescing from his injuries and assigned to MCAS Yuma in 1969, contacted HQMC and asked about the awarding of the Purple Heart for the deceased crew members. He was advised not to pursue this matter by a Sergeant or Sergeant Major at HQMC. Dan complied but felt more needed to be done. In 1981, Dan wrote Senator Barry Goldwater and explained the situation. The Senator immediately sent a request to HQMC; the answer he received stated that at that time, and throughout the prior history of the Purple Heart, the Purple Heart was not awarded to injuries or deaths that were a result of "friendly fire". HQMC recognized the sacrifices made by the crew and agreed that it was caused by "friendly fire" but, because of the regulations, could not award the Purple Heart to these men. Dan continued his efforts to have these men honored and has seen it through to a successful conclusion.

Chuck Nowotny, a former crew chief in HMM-164 who was in touch with Dan, started collecting information and data about the incident. He was able to get the unclassified versions of the Command Chronologies of the Squadron and the Artillery Battalion. These documents provided accurate information about the location of the aircraft and the battery which fired the round that brought down YT-23. This information proved vital in presenting the case to HQMC. He stayed in contact with many of the next of kin and other members of the squadron, garnering more pertinent information on the incident.

Woody Colvin, a former Navy Corpsman, was assigned to the artillery battalion which fired the round that downed YT-23. After hearing the report from the artillery piece, he witnessed YT-23 spiraling out of control. Woody and another Corpsman ran to the crash site and rescued Dan, who had been thrown clear of the aircraft, still strapped in his armor plated seat, and was face down in the sandy soil. After rescuing Dan, Woody crawled into the burning wreckage and pulled Ray out. Unfortunately, Ray expired from his injuries at the scene. Woody received the Bronze Star for his actions. Years later, while working for Arizona DPS, he met Dan, who was also working for Arizona DPS; they realized they had met before on 11 June 1968. HM-1 Colvin made his citation for the Bronze Star available to Dan, which helped Dan in his pursuit of the Purple Heart for Glenn, Ray and Conrad.

James Butler was the Safety Officer of HMM-164; he investigated the YT-23 shoot down. Jim, who was a one man accident board due to the tempo of combat operations in the squadron, visited Dan aboard the hospital ship and was the on site squadron representative at the incident site. It was Jim who determined that YT-23 was hit by the

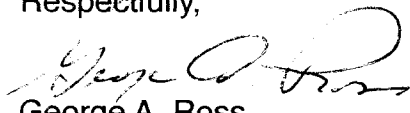
exploding artillery round; he thoroughly examined the crash site and interviewed eye witnesses, both U.S. military and Vietnamese civilians. When asked by HQMC to provide a notarized letter attesting to what he reported to the squadron in 1968, Jim readily provided that data. He confirmed that the artillery battery was engaged with the enemy at that time; this piece of evidence was vital to achieving success in garnering the Purple Heart Award for the crew members of YT-23.

LtGen. George J. Trautman USMC (RET), a personal friend who I served with at MAG 39 in the early 1980's, provided guidance and advice when he was asked to review the documents we were providing to HQMC. Not only did General Trautman provide us with excellent advice and make sage recommendations, he personally hand carried the packet to LtGen. Robert E. Milstead, the Deputy Commandant Manpower & Reserve Affairs at HQMC. General Trautman continually followed up on the process that is required for the Award to be issued and, when further information was required, he provided us with guidance on what was essential information. He was very positive that we would be successful, which was a great morale boost.

As the Deputy Commandant Manpower & Reserve Affairs at HQMC, LtGen. Robert E. Milstead USMC, whom I also served with at MAG 39, assured us that we would get a fair hearing from the board that would be reviewing our request and, when necessary, advised us on the progress and any additional information that would be required. General Milstead also believed we had an excellent chance for success, another morale boost.

The initial packet was delivered to General Milstead in March of 2014 and the positive response was received in July of 2014. All the crew members will receive the Purple Heart Award; three will be presented posthumously to the next of kin of Glenn, Ray and Conrad.

Respectfully,



George A. Ross
LtCol. USMC (RET)

ORIGINS & BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PURPLE HEART AWARD

Originally, the Purple Heart was designated as the Badge of Military Merit by George Washington as Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army on August 7, 1782. It was awarded to only three Revolutionary War Soldiers. Its legend grew in time, as did its appearance. Although never abolished, it was proposed again in 1927 and redesigned in 1931 into its current format. In 1932, by a directive from the War Department, it became known as the Purple Heart. It was awarded to those soldiers in WWI who had been awarded the Army Wound Ribbon, Wound Chevron, or the Meritorious Service Citation. The Purple Heart was authorized by the War Department Secretary, then the Secretary of Defense, and, finally in 1952, by the various Service Secretaries. During WWII, it was awarded to all service members and civilians who had been wounded by direct enemy action. In a legislative action in 1997, civilians were no longer eligible to receive the award. In 1962, provisions were made to receive the Purple Heart as a posthumous award. Those wounded by terrorist actions became eligible for the Purple Heart in 1964. Finally, in 1985, it was authorized for those wounded or killed by "friendly fire". Also in 1985, the eligibility date was expanded to wounds received from 1962. All changes were made by legislative action and signed into law by the sitting President.

This Document is a request for a review of the 11 June 1968 incident of a “friendly fire” downing of a USMC HMM-164 CH-46A YT-23 Buno. 150960. Which caused the subsequent death (KIA) of Pilot First Lieutenant Glenn J. Zamorski 0101586, Crew Chief Sargent Raymond W. Templeton 1953521, Gunner Corporal Conrad Lerman 2238378 and the severe wounding (WIA) of Co-Pilot First Lieutenant Dan T. Jones 0102686.

It is requested that all crew members of YT-23 be considered for the Purple Heart award.

Table of Contents

	Pages
Synopsis	2-3
Enclosure (1) Dan T. Jones Narrative of YT-23 Incident 11 Jun 68	4-8
Enclosure (2) HMM-164 Command Chronology 1-15 June 1968	9-17
Enclosure (3) Battery H 3/11 Location 11 Jun 68	18-19
Enclosure (4) HM1 Colvin Bronze Star Award	20-22
Enclosure (5) YT-23 Crash Photo's	23-26
Enclosure (6) Capt. James T. Butler Letter	27
Enclosure (7) Mr. & Mrs. John Zamorski Letter	28-29
Enclosure (8) Dan T. Jones Injury List	30-36
Enclosure (9) Dan T. Jones 1969 HQMC Inquiry & AZ. DPS History	37-40
Enclosure (10) Dan T. Jones MCAS Yuma Base Ops Fitness Rpt.	41
Enclosure (11) Dan T. Jones 1981 Correspondence with Senator Goldwater & HQMC Response	42-49
Enclosure (12) Amendments to Public Law 99-145 13 June 1985	50
Enclosure (13) 3/11 Command Chronology	51-73
Enclosure (14) Notarized Letter From James T. Butler	74-77

Synopsis

On the afternoon of 11 June 1968, YT-23, a CH-46 A and its crew, from HMM-164 was in a flight of 6 helicopters flying a combat support mission for Lima and Mike Companies of 3/9, an element of the SLF aboard the USS Valley Forge LPH-8. The infantry had been inserted into LZ Raven (AT 803848) in Elephant Valley RVN earlier in the day. In the afternoon of 11 June 1968, external loads were picked up at a local LSA and delivered to the infantry companies in LZ Raven. Simultaneously, Battery H 3/11 an 8" Howitzer Battery (Self-Propelled) located at AT 922795, was firing support missions for Marines engaged with the enemy in that area. See Enclosures (1, 2 & 3)

YT-23 and its crew members were either struck or, more probably, felt the explosive force of a VT fused 8" round at an altitude of 1200'. The aircraft was rolled to a near inverted position and became uncontrollable; it impacted the ground in a 10 degree nose low attitude while spinning to the left. See Enclosures (1&3)

HM1 Lloyd Colvin, a corpsman attached to the battery, was in the battery mess tent, heard the explosion, rushed outside, saw the helicopter out of control, descending rapidly and when it was at approximately 500' AGL, he saw a crew member ejected from the aircraft (Cpl. Lerman). The aircraft impacted about 150 meters from Colvin. Immediately, he and a fellow corpsman began running for the crash site. They cleared 2 barbwire obstacles before arriving at the crash site which was now scattered burning wreckage. At the site, Colvin noticed an armored seat which had been thrown clear of the wreckage; he turned the seat up right and began administering aid to a badly injured 1st Lt. Jones. When he heard screams coming from the wreckage, he ran to assist and found a way into the wreckage through a crawl space. He managed to reach the crew chief Sgt. Templeton and dragged him from the burning wreckage which now, also, had exploding ammunition. Sgt. Templeton succumbed to his injuries within a short time. Colvin and his fellow corpsman were unable to get to 1st Lt. Zamorski who appeared to have been killed by the impact. HM1 Lloyd E. Colvin was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions. See Enclosures (1, 3, 4 & 5)

1st Lt. Jones was evacuated to the hospital ship USS Sanctuary. He was visited by the squadron Safety Officer, Capt. Butler. From the Sanctuary, 1st Lt. Jones was evacuated to the Naval Medical Facility in Da Nang, then on to the military hospital in Tachikawa, Japan, finally wending his way, via San Francisco and Tucson, to the U.S. Army's General William Beaumont Hospital in El Paso, TX. While at the hospital in El Paso, he was visited by his parents and 1st Lt. Zamorski's father. See Enclosures (1, 2, 6, 7 & 8)

While still attached to the hospital 1st Lt. Jones was placed on light duty, to a Marine Reserve 105 Howitzer Battery. Then he was assigned to MCAS Yuma Base Operations and got his required flight time at NAS El Centro with the Naval Helicopter Detachment. He contacted HQMC through appropriate channels to inquire about the Purple Heart award for the crew members that were killed. He was advised by a Sergeant at HQMC

to drop his inquiries. He complied. While at Yuma, he was excluded from the general officer population and received no supervisory guidance for two years. He received an unsatisfactory fitness report stating that he "lacked the self-confidence to be a Marine officer." Clearly 1st Lt. Jones needed help and was suffering from PTSD. This assistance was rarely given to returning Vietnam Combat Veterans. See Enclosures (1,9 & 10)

After 1st Lt. Dan Jones was released from the Marine Corps, he was hired by the Arizona Department of Public Safety . Dan served a full and successful career with DPS. He became the personal pilot for the following Arizona Governors' Raul H. Castro, Wesley Bolin, Bruce E. Babbitt and Rose Mofford. He capped his career with DPS as the Chief Pilot for Fixed Wing Operations. Retiring from DPS, Dan was hired by a corporate flight department becoming a Captain in a Citation X executive jet aircraft. He is now retired. See Enclosures (1 & 11)

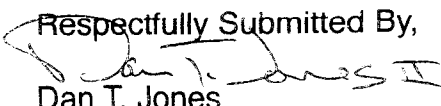
In 1981, while working for DPS, Dan wrote to Senator Barry Goldwater explaining the incident involving YT-23 and the flight crew. In this letter, Dan requested guidance in his effort to secure the presentation of the Purple Heart to the families of the crew members who were killed in the incident. Senator Goldwater wrote to HQMC inquiring into the 11 June 1968 incident. The response from HQMC explained that the Purple Heart was not awarded for injury or death caused by "friendly fire". This information was conveyed to Dan by Senator Goldwater. See Enclosure (11)

In 1985, the Senate approved amendments to the Defense Authorization Bill, Public Law 99-145 that changed the precedence of the Purple Heart award; they authorized the awarding of the Purple Heart for wounds received as a result of "friendly fire" and subsequently under Public Law 104-106, expanded the eligibility date, authorizing the award of the Purple Heart to a former prisoner of war who was wounded before April 25, 1962. Enemy related injuries included those injuries caused by vehicle and aircraft accidents. See Enclosure (12)

Based on the causation of the crash of YT-23, "friendly fire", so attested to in the HQMC response to Senator Goldwater's letter and the change of policy based on the 1985 amendments to Public Law 99-145 and Public Law 104-106, former Marine 1st Lt Dan T. Jones 0102686 is requesting a review by the Board for the awarding of the Purple Heart for 1st Lt. Glenn J. Zamorski 0101586, Sgt. Raymond W. Templeton 1953521, Cpl. Conrad Lerman 2238378.

I, George A. Ross LtCol. USMC (RET), am requesting that , along with the awarding of the Purple Heart to the families of the crew members killed, the Purple Heart should be awarded to former Marine 1st Lt. Dan T. Jones for the wounds received as a result of "friendly fire".

Respectfully Submitted By,


Dan T. Jones


George A. Ross LtCol. USMC (RET)

2 March 2014