

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION FOR VALOR OR MERIT
(GPO Directive 672-1)

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| THRU: Commanding Officer FANK TC AAG APO SF 96227 | | TO: Chief, AAG ATTN: AAG-AD APO SF 96222 | | FROM: Commanding Officer DETB, FANK TC AAG APO SF 96240 | |
| 1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL): CUNNINGHAM, MICHAEL A. | | 2. SSAN: S-38219 | | 3. GRADE: H. BRANCH/MOS: SGT RNZIR | |
| 5. MONTHS: 9 | | 6. HEROES: 30 Nov 72 | | 7. POSTHUMOUS AWARD: 8. DUTY POSITION TITLE: () YES (X) NO Instructor | |
| 9. ORGANIZATION AT THE TIME OF ACTION: FTC-AAG-DETB, APO SF 96240 | | | 10. DATE(S) OF SERVICE OR ACTION: 1 March 1972 - 30 November 1972 | | |
| 11. CURRENT UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: FTC-AAG-DETB, APO SF 96240 | | | 12. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS: NZATGV SAIGON, SOUTH VIETNAM | | |
| 13. AWARD RECOMMENDED: | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DSC <input type="checkbox"/> SM <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> SS <input type="checkbox"/> BS "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACM "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACHIEVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> IM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BSM <input type="checkbox"/> JSCOM <input type="checkbox"/> OAK LEAF CLUSTER <input type="checkbox"/> DFC <input type="checkbox"/> AM "V" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACM <input type="checkbox"/> AWARD OF AIR MEDAL <input type="checkbox"/> PH | | | | | |
| 14. PREVIOUS US AWARDS (Purple Heart and higher): | | | | | |
| DECORATION | | DATE(S) OF ACTION/SERVICE | | AUTHORITY | |
| NONE | | | | | |
| 15. OTHERS RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR THE SAME ACTION (NAME & AWARD): | | | | | |
| N/A | | | | | |
| 16. NAMES OF WITNESSES: | | | | | |
| N/A | | | | | |

RECEIVED
14 NOV 1972

17. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

SERGEANT MICHAEL A. CUNNINGHAM, S38219, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, attached to Forces Armees Nationales Khmère (FANK) Training Command, Army Advisory Group, Dong Ba Thin Training Battalion, distinguished himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force during the period March 1972 through November 1972, while serving as an instructor on the General Subjects Committee. In this position, he was responsible for the training a number of Cambodian battalions and specialist groups in subjects to include: mines and booby traps, demolitions, land navigation, rappelling, expedient river crossing, LZ/DZ procedures, and VC/NVA tactics. The diversity of his past experiences, and the obvious professionalism of his approach, ideally suited him for the task, and ensured a consistently high standard of instruction. SGT CUNNINGHAM also spent lengthy periods of his own time in the preparation of training aids and the maintenance of committee equipment to the betterment of the committee as a whole. His personal drive and enthusiasm not only earned the respect of his superiors and his working companions, but vastly improved the instructional standards of the team. No problem proved too difficult for SGT CUNNINGHAM, and his high personal standards always ensured the best results from the Cambodian trainees. SGT CUNNINGHAM's outstanding duty performance was in keeping with the highest traditions of the New Zealand Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

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| <p>18. INCLOSURES:</p> <p>1. Proposed Citation 2. BIO Sketch</p> | <p>19. NAME/RANK/POSITION OF ORIGINATOR:</p> <p>ROBERT E. DOWNEN LTC, Infantry Commanding</p> | <p>20. SIGNATURE AND DATE:</p> <p><i>Robert E Downen</i> 20 OCT 1972</p> |
| <p>21. RECOMMENDATION OF THIS COMMAND:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> | <p>22. NAME/RANK/POSITION:</p> <p>JOHN V. HEMLER JR. Colonel, FA Commanding</p> | <p>23. SIGNATURE AND DATE:</p> <p><i>John V. Hemler Jr</i> 5 Nov 72</p> |

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

1. PERSONAL DATA.

- a. CUNNINGHAM Michael A
- b. S 38219
- c. 19 Feb 39 United Kingdom
- d. Papakura New Zealand
- e. Single
- f. NA

2. MILITARY DATA.

- a. 8 Aug 66
- b. NA
- c. Cpl - 8 Aug 66, Sgt - 20 Jan 70
- d. SAS - 2 yrs 2 mths, 4 Tp 1 Ranger Sqn - 1 yr, 1 Ranger Sqn - 2 yrs, 4 Tp 1 Ranger Sqn - 4 mths, 2 NZATTV - 9 mths
- e. Cliff Climbing, SAS Sigs, Parachute, Small Boating, Jumpmaster, Basic Med, Demolitions, Jungle Warfare, Basic Dvrs, Shooting Coaching, Rock Climbing Instrs, Parachute Free Fall, BAA Instrs, Photography, Jnr NCO's Minor Tactics, Adv Med, Anti Tank
- f. Vietnam Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal
- g. NA

3.- CIVILIAN EDUCATION.

- a. Not known
- b. 12 yrs
- c. NA
- d. NA

SOURCE INFORMATION

Source: <https://www.fold3.com/image/268756772/1973-page-70-us-vietnam-service-awards-1965-1973>
Award Type: [Blank]
Unit Designation: Requests For Exception To MACV Dir 672-6 (C)
Date Year: 1973
Conflict Period: Vietnam War
Content Source: NARA
Content Partner: NARA
Language: English
Country: United States
Nara Catalog Id: Pending
Nara Catalog Title: Pending
Record Group: 472
Year Added: 2010