

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION FOR VALOR OR MERIT (MACV Directive 672-1)			
THRU: Commanding Officer FANK TC AAG DEBTS APO SF 96227		TO: Chief, AAG ATTN: AAG-AD APO SF 96222	
FROM: Commanding Officer FANK TC AAG DEBTS APO SF 96240			
1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL): McCONNELL, TERENCE A.	2. SSAN: M726627	3. GRADE: 2LT	4. BRANCH/MOS: RNZIR
5. MONTH: 9	6. YEAR: 30 Nov 72	7. POSTHUMOUS AWARD: ( ) YES (X) NO	8. DUTY POSITION TITLE: COMPANY EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ BATTALION SECURITY OFFICER
9. ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF ACTION: FANK TC AAG DEBTS, APO SF 96240		10. DATE(S) OF SERVICE OR ACTION: 1 March 1972 - 30 November 1972	
11. CURRENT UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: FANK TC AAG DEBTS, 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"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> BS "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACM "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACHIEVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HSM <input type="checkbox"/> JSOM <input type="checkbox"/> OAK LEAF CLUSTER <input type="checkbox"/> IFG <input type="checkbox"/> AM "V" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACM <input type="checkbox"/> AWARD OF AIR MEDAL <input type="checkbox"/> FH			
14. PREVIOUS US AWARDS (Purple Heart and higher): DECORATION: N/A DATE(S) OF ACTION/SERVICE: N/A AUTHORITY: N/A			
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:

SECOND LIEUTENANT TERENCE A. McCONNELL, M726627, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, attached to the Forces Armee' Nationale Khmere (FANK) Training Command, Army Advisory Group, Dong Ba Thin, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period March 1972 through November 1972. Serving with the officers and men of the United States Army Advisory Group, 2LT McCONNELL performed in various capacities within the battalion with each position requiring decisive personal leadership of United States and Khmere forces, and a considerable knowledge of military subjects. Initially during the period 1 March until 23 June 1972, LT McCONNELL was the Officer-In-Charge of the General Subjects Committee, a committee responsible for instruction in such vitally important subject areas as land navigation and communications, plus a wide range of subjects from command and leadership to VC/NVA tactics. In addition to scheduling instructors and interpreters for classes, LT McCONNELL closely supervised the preparation of his instructors and periodically monitored their instruction to evaluate their performance. His most capable and experienced NCO's, he developed into highly qualified instructors for reconnaissance patrolling, for the training of reconnaissance platoons of the Khmere battalions. LT McCONNELL himself, expanded and elaborated on the existing program of instruction. He developed several map exercises and practical exercises, which led the Khmere students to the successful understanding of the complex principles and techniques of land navigation. LT McCONNELL demonstrated his own proficiency in many vital infantry subjects by personally instructing leaders of Khmere battalions in military leadership, land navigation, battalion staff training, and reconnaissance patrolling. His NCO instructors, both United States and New Zealand, admired his aggressive professionalism and responded to his imaginative direction of the General Subjects Committee. His tremendous success as an instructor, organizer, and leader led to his appointment as the Training Company Executive Officer of Detachment 511, having overall responsibility for the training of a Khmere battalion at the Dong Ba Thin Training Center. LT McCONNELL's maturity and wide range of knowledge allowed him to overcome the great barriers of language and civilization to establish a firm understanding of the problems and conditions peculiar to the Cambodian in his efforts to develop a large and effective fighting force. LT McCONNELL's patience and great empathy for the Cambodian students enabled him to gradually impress the leaders of the Khmere battalions with the methods for achieving aggressive and effective control over their troops. No longer primarily concerned with the formal instruction, LT McCONNELL devoted himself to the personal development of the leaders at all levels, infusing each

## 18. ENCLOSURES:

1. Proposed Citation
2. BIO Sketch

19. NAME/RANK/POSITION  
OF CHIEF/MANOR:

ROBERT E. DOWNEN  
LTC, Infantry  
Commanding

## 20. SIGNATURE AND DATE:

*Robert E. Downen*  
20 OCT 1972

21. RECOMMENDATION OF  
THEO COMMAND:

☒ APPROVAL  
( ) DISAPPROVAL  
( ) OTHER

## 22. NAME/RANK/POSITION:

JOHN V. HEMLER JR.  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

## 23. SIGNATURE AND DATE:

*John V. Hemler Jr.*  
5 NOV 72

17. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

with a sense of responsibility to their troops and their superiors, and gradually building confidence in their nascent abilities as combat leaders. As deeply involved as he was in the development of the battalion, and as personally concerned as he became in their overall effectiveness, LT McCONNELL found it extremely difficult to leave a position of such great responsibility and personal satisfaction. Yet, this he was required to do. The rotation of several key individuals in the command, left the battalion without experienced personnel sensitive to the peculiar problems encountered at Dong Ba Thin and developments in the training of Cambodians in the staff positions. Commencing on the 14th of September and through to the completion of his tour at Dong Ba Thin, he performed as the Assistant Operations and Training Officer with staff responsibility for all reports and correspondence referring to training or in coordination with the activities of Allied Forces in the area. In addition, LT McCONNELL served simultaneously as the Officer-in-Charge of Camp Security. In this capacity, LT McCONNELL supervised the construction and maintenance of perimeter defenses, and protective shelters, as well as training and disciplining and indigenous security force, responsible for securing the camp and the training areas around Dong Ba Thin. Throughout his tour, LT McCONNELL conducted his activities in a professional manner, mindful of their importance to the mission of the Forces Armee' Nationale Khmere Training Command. As an instructor and advisor, as a supervisor and leader of United States and New Zealand Noncommissioned Officers, as a diligent and energetic staff officer, LT McCONNELL has demonstrated the very highest qualities and sense of duty to his subordinates and superiors alike. LT McCONNELL's performance of duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the New Zealand Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Source:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/268756729/1973-page-27-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

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