

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

TO: Chief, AAG ATTN: AAG-AD APO SF 96222		FROM: Commanding Officer FANK TC AAG DBTIB APO SF 96240	
1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL): SMITH, VINCENT TC.		2. SSAN: W337062	3. GRADE & BRANCH/POS: SOT RNZIR
5. REPORTS 9	6. DEDOS: 30 Nov 72	7. POSTHUMOUS AWARD: ( ) YES (X) NO	8. DUTY POSITION/TITLE: COMPANY ADVISOR
9. ORGANIZATION AT THE TIME OF ACTION: FANK TC AAG DBTIB, APO SF 96240		10. DATE(S) OF SERVICE OR ACTION: 1 March 1972 - 30 November 1972	
11. CURRENT UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: FANK TC AAG DBTIB, 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"/> NS <input type="checkbox"/> BS "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACM "V" <input type="checkbox"/> ACHIEVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> IN <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 type="checkbox"/> ACM <input type="checkbox"/> AWARD OF AIR MEDAL <input type="checkbox"/> FH			
14. PREVIOUS US AWARDS (Purple Heart and higher):			
DECORATION	DATE(S) OF ACTION/SERVICE	AUTHORITY	
N/A			
15. OTHERS RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR THE SAME ACTION (NAME & AWARD):			
N/A			
16. NAMES OF WITNESSES:			
N/A			

REC'D  
14 NOV 1972

17. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

SERGEANT VINCENT T.C. SMITH, W337062, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, attached to the Forces Armee Nationale Khmere (FANK) Training Command, Army Advisory Group, Dong Ba Thin Training Battalion, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service against a hostile force from March 1972 through November 1972 while serving with the General Subjects Committee, and later Training Company A-514. As an instructor with the General Subjects Committee, SGT SMITH was primarily involved in navigation, mines and boobytraps, and VC/NVA tactics instruction to groups of Cambodian leaders and Cambodian battalions. By his vigorous and inventive approach to training, he was able to draw the maximum participation from his students and thus, outstanding results. He personally revised, updated or rewrote many hours of instruction in order to improve the quality of instruction. In his free time, SGT SMITH assisted with an extensive program of training area improvement, designed to upgrade the physical training facilities of Dong Ba Thin. In particular, a new river crossing site was developed; confidence course obstacles improved, and the infiltration range reconstructed. SGT SMITH also spent numerous hours repairing and developing training aids to supplement classroom instruction. An ability to utilize minimal resources and to manufacture workable models and equipment from surplus or damaged materials made him an asset to the General Subjects Committee and contributed significantly to the increased high standards of instruction. His constant personal enthusiasm and "can do" attitude came to typify the General Subjects Committee. SGT SMITH injected the same enthusiasm into his role as a company advisor for Training Company 514. By his force of personality and example, he rapidly established excellent rapport with his company, revitalizing their morale and rapidly moulding them into an organized and effective unit. He willingly spent additional time, devising and conducting remedial training so as to raise the overall standard of his company. As an advisor, no task assigned him was accomplished in other than an exemplary manner. His personal concern for his troops was demonstrated by the keen interest he took in their health and welfare and the renovations and improvements he instigated for their billets and living area. At all times his personal attitude and efforts were directed towards the achievement of the FANK Training Command's mission and exemplified the spirit of a professional force of soldiers. SGT SMITH'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.

<p>18. ENCLOSURES:</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. SMITH Vincent T.C.
- b. W 337062
- c. 22 Nov 34 New Zealand
- d. Manurewa New Zealand
- e. Married
- f. Mrs J.E. SMITH, 3

2. MILITARY DATA.

- a. 28 May 65
- b. NA
- c. Tpr 28 May 65, Lcpl - 12 Dec 65, Cpl - 15 Nov 67, Sgt - 9 Dec 70
- d. 1 Ranger Sqn - 3 yrs 11 mths, 4 Tp 1 Ranger Sqn - 3 mths, 1 Ranger Sqn - 2 yrs 9 mths, 2 NZATTV - 9 mths
- e. Parachute, Cliff Climbing Instrs, SAS Sigs, Jumpmaster, Basic Dems, NCO's Minor Tactics, GPMG, Naval Navigation, Adv Dems, Jungle Warfare, Small Boating, Dvrs, Plant Operators, Airphotos, Anti Tank
- f. GSM Borneo, 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/268756769/1973-page-67-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  
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