

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON-13  
Marine Aircraft Group-13  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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1650

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-13  
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Subj: Recommendation for Bronze Star Medal; case of Major  
Ray Bickmore STICE 062183/7530 USMC  
Ref: (a) FMFPacO P1650.1A  
(b) WgO 1650.5B  
Encl: (1) Proposed Citation

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), it is recommended that Major Ray Bickmore STICE 062183/7530 USMC attached to and serving with Marine Air Base Squadron-13 be awarded a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

2. During the period 15 October 1966 to 3 November 1967, Major STICE distinguished himself while serving as the Executive Officer of Marine Air Base Squadron-13, based at Chu Lai Airfield, Republic of Vietnam. Acting in a supervisory capacity for the many various functions of a Marine Air Base Squadron, Major STICE was responsible not only for the original idea, the planning, and the implementation of numerous projects, procedures and organizational changes, but also provided the continuity and a focal point whereby projects were completed, procedures carried out, and the continuity of command was carried through five different Commanding Officers. Without the hard work, tremendous memory, tenacity, calm efficiency, and leadership exhibited by Major STICE, it would have been impossible for Marine Air Base Squadron-13 to accomplish its vital combat support mission to the extent that it has been required by constant combat operations. When assuming the responsibilities of Executive Officer, Major STICE took upon himself to perform various tasks outside the purview of his official position due to the lack of qualified personnel and the heavy work load involved. These tasks included the planning, coordination, and supervision of the construction of over 100 tropical huts, showers,



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heads, mess hall, office buildings and work spaces; the establishment of Post Exchange, Laundry, Special Services Section, Medical complex, and a complete network of clubs; the installation of a Liquid Oxygen Plant, Ordnance Dump, TAFDS, Air to Air Alert Pads, Group Motor Pool, MOREST, Crash Crew, and Airfield Operations Center. These herculean tasks were made even more difficult by heavy monsoon rains, a shortage of personnel, a critical lack of materials and equipment, and four enemy attacks. In addition, Major STICE personally supervised the upgrading and refinement of many of the above facilities as Chu Lai West Airfield grew to its present size. He planned and supervised the re-installation of the MOREST Gear, Fresnel Lens, POMOLA visual landing aid, airfield lighting and high intensity approach lights. He personally wrote the TAFDS SOP and increased the original TAFDS farm from 60,000 gallons capacity to 280,000 gallons capacity. In addition, he coordinated and supervised the construction of an 80,000 gallon well point that has provided water for not only Marine Air Group-13, but for several other Chu Lai based units. He also guided the installation of the 700 KW generator ~~and the accompanying living area ~~and~~ electrical~~ *electrical* power distribution system. When Task Force X-Ray was replaced by the Army unit of Task Force Oregon, Major STICE again was in part responsible for the efficient and effective switch of these major units by his coordination of the Chu Lai VAL functions. Not only exposed to the constant threat of enemy attack on the ground, his boundless energy enabled him to fly 163 hazardous combat missions and over 20 combat support missions. His timely foresight, skillful planning, untiring supervision, and faultless execution have contributed, and continue to contribute, immeasurably to the highly successful combat operations of Marine Aircraft Group-13. By his dedicated and inspiring leadership, Major STICE has upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

3. The facts contained in the proposed citation are personally known to me.

4. The award is for direct participation in combat operations and the Combat Distinguished Device is recommended.



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5. Major STICE has been awarded the following personal decorations and/or awards: Air Medal (1st through 9th Award), RVN Cross of Gallantry w/Silver Star and Good Conduct Medal.
6. Major STICE has been recommended for but has not as yet been awarded the following decoration: Air Medal (10th through 12th Award) and Distinguished Flying Cross and CO, H&MS-13 ltr 3:JEM:rhp 1650 Sep undated.
7. The date of detachment from present assignment to MAG-32, 2nd MAW was 3 November 1967.
8. No foreign decorations have been recommended/awarded to Major STICE for the same action.

L. A. MADERA



In the name of the President of the United States, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

MAJOR RAY BICKMORE STICE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for services as set forth in the following

PROPOSED CITATION:

"For meritorious service in connection with operating against the enemy while serving with Marine Air Base Squadron-13 based at Chu Lai Airfield, Republic of Vietnam from 15 October 1966 to 3 November 1967. Assigned as the Executive Officer, Major STICE distinguished himself through his outstanding performance of duty. Faced with extreme adverse climatic conditions, continuous around-the-clock operations and constant threat of enemy attack, Major STICE's personal leadership, untiring efforts, and devotion to duty was instrumental in enabling Marine Air Base Squadron-13 to accomplish its vital combat support mission. He instituted procedures and organizational changes which have vastly improved the efficiency of operations, morale, and spirit within the squadron. Through his foresight and drive, Major STICE originated, planned, and instituted numerous projects designed to directly enhance the combat capabilities of Marine Aircraft Group-13. These projects included the construction of over 100 tropical huts, showers, heads, a mess hall, office buildings and work spaces. In addition, he was responsible for coordinating, establishing and installing a Post Exchange, a Laundry, a Special Service Section, a complete network of clubs, a Liquid Oxygen Plant, TAFDS, Group Motor Pool, MOREST, Crash Crew, and Airfield Operations Center. After the installation of these numerous facilities, Major STICE took upon himself the continuous upgrading and improvement so as to provide the best possible semi-permanent structures and services. One of the most important contributions Major STICE has provided Marine Air Base Squadron-13 is the continuity and the focal point whereas the squadron has continued to function smoothly



without interruption through five different Commanding Officers. His timely foresight, skillful planning, untiring supervision and faultless execution have contributed, and continue to contribute, immeasurably to the highly successful combat operations of Marine Aircraft Group-13. By his dedicated and inspiring leadership, Major STICE has upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Major STICE is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

FOR THE PRESIDENT

V. H. KRULAK  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ENCLOSURE (1)