



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 2, 1926
HAS AWARDED

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

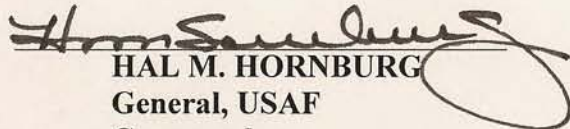
CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR
HEROISM
WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

20 MARCH 2003

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

6 NOVEMBER 2003


HAL M. HORNBURG
General, USAF
Commander

Air Combat Command



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

TO

RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FR [REDACTED]

Captain Richard L. Rynearson distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as AC-130U Copilot, Joint Special Operations Air Detachment West, Special Operations Command Central at a classified location on 20 March 2003. On that date, Captain Rynearson and his crew departed a forward operating base after an entire day of theater ballistic missile attacks from the Iraqi regime. Despite minimal crew rest from spending the day in chemical warfare ensemble, the crew departed on one of the top seven Presidential key objectives. Captain Rynearson and crew departed and were notified in the air that the Iraqi troops manning the objectives were extremely more significant than planned. He relayed vital threat information to delay the infiltrating helicopters to allow the crew time to eliminate the threats. On numerous occasions, Captain Rynearson, while flying on night vision goggles, scanning the right side of the aircraft and simultaneously working radios was able to defend the aircraft from numerous anti-aircraft artillery attacks. In the face of constant fire from enemy anti-aircraft artillery, Captain Rynearson and his crew continued overhead the outnumbered special operations ground teams for nine hours. The actions of Captain Rynearson contributed directly to the successful capture of the Al Faw petroleum pipeline intact, paved the way for the American-led ground war and ultimately saved thousands of coalition lives. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Captain Rynearson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE THE
AIR FORCE COMBAT ACTION MEDAL

IS PRESENTED
TO

MAJOR RICHARD L. RYNEARSON
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
FOR

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN COMBAT, HAVING BEEN UNDER DIRECT AND HOSTILE FIRE OR
PHYSICALLY ENGAGING HOSTILE FORCES WITH DIRECT AND LETHAL FIRE, IN
CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS ON

20 MARCH 2003

WHILE SERVING WITH

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND ON THIS
27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2007



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 16 JANUARY 1969 HAS
AWARDED

THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO

MAJOR RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

7 DECEMBER 2001 TO 20 DECEMBER 2006

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Richard L. Ryneerson distinguished himself in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as Chief of Squadron Computers and AC-130U Aircraft Commander, 4th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Major Ryneerson deftly led and mentored in the largest, most deployed flying squadron in Air Force Special Operations Command. In this critical period, the squadron was actively flying and prosecuting targets in both Afghanistan and Iraq. As the squadron's chief of computers, Major Ryneerson spearheaded the acquisition of over 350 computer components valued at over 770,000 dollars, installed over 30 computers, managed the daunting transition to Patriot Excalibur flight scheduling, and enhanced Oracle and Aviation Resource Management System database integration all the while ensuring a flawless "zero-discrepancy" inspection by the Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command Information Assurance Inspection Team. As a flight scheduler, Major Ryneerson ensured 56 pilots were effectively scheduled to complete the 5,500-hour flying program for fiscal year 2003 with 100 percent of training requirements met. As aircraft commander, Major Ryneerson was instrumental in the execution of combat taskings as both deployed chief planner and as a pilot. Additionally, he was the squadron's first choice for critical test and evaluation flights for both the tactical video downlink system and for improvements to the AC-130U attack radar's capability to prosecute moving targets; both capabilities greatly increased combat effectiveness. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Major Ryneerson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

12 MARCH 2007

NORMAN J. BROZENICK, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 1st Special Operations Wing





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Ryneanson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Gunship Co-Pilot, Joint Special Operations Air Detachment West and Air Force Special Operations Detachment South, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Special Operations Command Central, from 2 April 2003 until 25 October 2003. During this period, Captain Ryneanson provided critical interdiction, armed reconnaissance and close air support in support of special operations forces in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. On several missions, he engaged Ba'ath party headquarters buildings with precision firepower. These efforts supported key presidential objectives by weakening the Iraqi resolve to fight and eliminating key pockets of resistance. Working with Naval Special Warfare forces, he engaged and destroyed enemy fighting positions near Nasariyah and provided key air support for the take over of the enemy controlled Hadithah Dam by clearing landing zones and reporting enemy locations to the ground forces. Early in the campaign, he provided armed reconnaissance for Army forces crossing an enemy held bridge. These efforts led to the successful passage of the first coalition troops north of the Euphrates. His outstanding combat skill directly contributed to United States Central Command's objectives to provide security of coalition forces against Iraqi forces while destroying the enemy's ability to wage war. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Ryneanson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

3 MAY 2004

WALTER E. BUCHANAN III

Lieutenant General, USAF

Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL

(FIRST OAK LAF CLUSTER)

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Ryneanson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Co-Pilot, Air Force Special Operations Detachment Arabian Peninsula, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, from 15 October 2002 to 31 March 2003. During this period, Captain Ryneanson provided critical interdiction, close air support and armed reconnaissance in support of special operations ground forces during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. While flying an armed reconnaissance mission for a special operations ground team, he assisted in the capture of a high value target. These actions enabled the team to bypass enemy highway checkpoints and avoid detection. Captain Ryneanson was instrumental in locating a fragmented special operations ground team overrun by Iraqi troops. Captain Ryneanson's outstanding skill directly contributed to the United States Central Command's objective to provide security of Coalition forces against the Afghani Taliban and the Iraqi army. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Ryneanson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

5 OCTOBER 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Buchanan", written over a horizontal line.

WALTER E. BUCHANAN III

Lieutenant General, USAF

Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Ryneerson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Gunship Copilot and as AC-130U Gunship Aircraft Commander, 4th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Group, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Wing, Special Operations Command Central, from 18 November 2003 to 18 July 2005. During this period, Captain Ryneerson's superior employment of the AC-130U Gunship provided anti-mortar base security for conventional and special operations forces and led to the capture of four high value targets and two additional detainees with no losses to coalition forces. On one mission, Captain Ryneerson provided armed escort for a United States Special Forces ground assault team through hostile areas of Baghdad allowing the ground force to reach the objective without incident. As the team approached the target building, Captain Ryneerson's crew detected three individuals fleeing the area onto nearby rooftops. With textbook precision, the friendly forces were vectored onto the suspect personnel while the team's perimeter was monitored with onboard sensors. The fleeing personnel were identified as high value targets, apprehended, and the ground team and detainees were successfully escorted back to base without enemy interference. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Ryneerson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

11 DECEMBER 2006

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL
(THIRD OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Ryneerson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Aircraft Commander, 4th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Group, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Wing, Special Operations Command Central, from 19 July 2005 to 4 November 2005. During this period while supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Captain Ryneerson's superior employment of the AC-130U provided close air support for special operations forces, including two danger close engagements on two separate missions that led to the capture of 26 detainees. On one mission, Captain Ryneerson provided close air support for a special operations team under fire from insurgents hiding in a nearby building close to the Syrian border. With surgical precision, Captain Ryneerson and crew fired upon the enemy location within danger close distances, killing the enemy while avoiding Syrian airspace. He also destroyed an additional building, two enemy personnel, and two weapons caches packed with munitions. His superior knowledge of joint fire operations made possible the successful lazing of an additional building for four hellfire engagements from a special operations helicopter and the sparkling of a building for an F-16 deploying a precision guided bomb. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Ryneerson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

11 DECEMBER 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL
(FOURTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Rynearson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Aircraft Commander, 4th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Group, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Wing, Special Operations Command Central, from 1 July 2005 to 23 December 2005. During this period, Captain Rynearson's superior employment of the AC-130U gunship provided close air support and armed reconnaissance for special operations forces and led to the capture of 29 detainees. On one mission, Captain Rynearson provided armed watch for a special operations team hitting a target in a tightly packed urban environment in central Iraq. As the assault team approached the target building, he provided real time situational awareness on several potential hostiles lined up on rooftops looking down towards the approaching team. After the assault force stormed the target building, Captain Rynearson and crew vectored them onto several personnel fleeing from the roof of the target building in various directions. Despite the enemy's best attempt to hide in several locations, Captain Rynearson aided in methodically vectoring the team to each of the hiding enemy and subsequently resulted in their apprehension. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Rynearson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

11 DECEMBER 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL
(FIFTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

CAPTAIN RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Captain Richard L. Ryneerson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Aircraft Commander, 4th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Group, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Wing, Special Operations Command Central, from 26 December 2005 to 14 April 2006. During this period, Captain Ryneerson's superior employment of the AC-130U provided close air support and armed reconnaissance for special operations forces and led to the capture of 38 detainees. While supporting the ground forces and prosecuting high value targets, Captain Ryneerson continually displayed outstanding Airmanship and safety prowess. On one mission while shooting the 105 millimeter weapon, a complete loss of utility hydraulic pressure was experienced. Captain Ryneerson directed the accomplishment of the isolation emergency procedures and manual gear lowering and performed a textbook landing on runway centerline despite the loss of nosewheel steering and normal brakes, along with a non standard flap configuration. He then safely egressed his 13 man crew off the runway while under mortar attack, then helped expedite the towing of the aircraft and subsequent re-opening of the runway for continued combat operations. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Captain Ryneerson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

11 DECEMBER 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, MAY 11, 1942

HAS AWARDED

THE AIR MEDAL
(SIXTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

MAJOR RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

Major Richard L. Rynearson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as AC-130U Aircraft Commander, 4th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Group, Combined Special Operations Air Component, Special Operations Command Central, from 17 April 2006 to 18 September 2006. During this period, Major Rynearson's superior employment of the AC-130U provided close air support and armed reconnaissance for special operations forces and led to the capture of 34 detainees and one high value target. On one mission, he provided critical target situational awareness to a special operations team during a hostage rescue operation. Using onboard infrared and low light television sensors, target activity was relayed to the team and armed escort provided ensuring the element of surprise was maintained. After the assault on the target building, Major Rynearson provided critical perimeter over watch and continual situational updates to the team which directly led to the capture of a kidnapping cell ring leader and the successful rescue of the hostage. He then provided escort to the team back to their forward operating base providing updates on possible improvised explosive device locations and other ground threats. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Major Rynearson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

11 DECEMBER 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. North".

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, USCENTAF





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HAS AWARDED

THE JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TO
MAJOR RICHARD L. RYNEARSON
UNITED STATES NAVY

FOR
MERITORIOUS SERVICE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 20th DAY OF AUGUST 2009

OARDEC, WASHINGTON, DC
COMMAND OR OFFICE




FRANK SWEIGART, DIRECTOR, OARDEC
FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The Secretary of Defense takes pleasure in presenting the

**JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
TO
MAJOR RICHARD L. RYNEARSON**

Major Richard Ryneerson, United States Air Force, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement as Case Research Officer, Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants (OARDEC), Pentagon, Washington, D.C., from January 2009 to July 2009. Major Ryneerson's superlative management ability and exceptional attention to detail contributed to skillfully integrating data resources from 16 different intelligence agencies including the Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Criminal Investigation Task Force, Defense Intelligence Agency and U.S. Central Command. Additionally, he reviewed and provided critical input toward refining OARDEC's standard operating procedures. As Case Research Officer, Major Ryneerson reviewed 1,200 law enforcement and intelligence documents from the various government agencies to support his two classified and unclassified summary cases. His positive leadership and devotion to duty contributed immensely to the success of OARDEC's mission in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. Through his distinctive accomplishments Major Ryneerson reflected credit upon himself, the United States Air Force, and the Department of Defense.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

HAS AWARDED

THE AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TO

FIRST LIEUTENANT RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

SUSTAINED MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT

First Lieutenant Richard L. Rynearson distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight as C-130H Pilot, 40th Airlift Squadron (Deployed), at Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 6 June 2000 to 24 June 2000. While deployed in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the United Nations' mandated enforcement of the Iraqi no-fly zone, Lieutenant Rynearson flew 21 demanding sorties providing airlift for high-priority, time-sensitive cargo and personnel to austere locations throughout the Southwest Asia area of responsibility. The airmanship and courage he exhibited in the successful accomplishment of these important and highly-sensitive missions demonstrated his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty while contributing immeasurably to the overall Air Force mission. The professional ability and outstanding aerial accomplishments of Lieutenant Rynearson reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

19 January 2001

CHRISTOPHER A. KELLY

Brigadier General, USAF

Vice Commander, Fifteenth Air Force (AMC)





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
HAS BEEN AWARDED TO

SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD L. RYNEARSON

FOR

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE
1 OCTOBER 1996 TO 29 MAY 1997**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Second Lieutenant Richard L. Ryneanson distinguished himself by meritorious service as Special Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 145, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Lieutenant Ryneanson's outstanding initiative and attention to detail were instrumental in heading a research project that compared 32,000 Florida State University graduates against a database of 58,000 Vietnam casualties, resulting in a total of 90,000 records processed, 1.8 million comparisons and 26 verified matches. He also reviewed over 160 cadet personnel records for content and accuracy, literally thousands of forms, transcripts, and legal documents, directly impacting the unit's "Excellent" rating received during the March 1997 Air Education and Training Command Inspector General Quality Air Force Assessment. The distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Ryneanson reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 30th DAY OF April 19 97

RICHARD E. BUTLER, Colonel, USAF
Commander, AFROTC Southeast Region

