

HEADQUARTERS
ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AND GUIDED MISSILE CENTER
FORT BLISS, TEXAS

GNKBI-E

13 July 1948

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THRU: Chief
Army Field Forces
Fort Monroe, Virginia

TO: Lieutenant Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr.
PO Box 503
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

1. I wish to personally express my appreciation of the excellent manner in which you integrated and coordinated the courses of guided missiles instruction presented in the Los Angeles area during the spring and early summer of 1947, to the student officers of Guided Missile Class No. 2, of the Antiaircraft and Guided Missiles Branch, The Artillery School, Fort Bliss, Texas.

2. The successful arrangement of a nine weeks course involving six groups of student officers visiting seven organizations which included university, Army, Navy and commercial installations is evidence of your conscientious, thorough, and diplomatic approach to the matter at hand. Preliminary contact with the several companies in arranging contract agreements, maintaining of the interest of these companies during the long period before the contracts could be completed and the personal supervision given during the nine weeks of actual instruction is an accomplishment which is a credit to the service and yourself.

/s/ J. L. Homer

J. L. HOMER
Major General, USA
Commanding

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Ordnance
Research & Development Service Sub-Office (Rocket)
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena 4, California

29 June 1948

Subject: Services of Lt Col John Charles Nickerson, Jr., 021170

To: Adjutant General
Department of Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Colonel Nickerson has exactly the right type of mind for the program described. He works very hard and has a keen, active mind and a great hunger for knowledge. I observed that he carried physics text throughout four European campaigns. In many conversations he has shown a deep interest in developments of new scientific military equipment and he once said that he hoped he could devote his full time to this work. He demonstrated at Brest, Hurtgen Forest, Duren and Siegen that he understands the aggressive, tactical application of weapons.

If Colonel Nickerson should be assigned to this duty, I am certain that the results would be more than satisfactory to the Army. I know of no officer who is better qualified or more anxious to apply himself to the research and development of military weapons.

Yours truly,

/s/ Julian Robertson

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MEMO FOR RECORD: Certificate of Achievement

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN C. NICKERSON, JR., 021170
Field Artillery, United States Army

Loyal and efficient service as Liaison Officer to California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, California, for Development Section, Headquarters Army Ground Forces, from 20 October 1945 to 22 August 1947. Through his initiative, inquisitiveness and interest in his work, Lieutenant Colonel Nickerson was instrumental in obtaining valuable and timely information which contributed materially to the successful operation of his section.

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ATADM-AG-P 201 Nickerson, John C, Jr. (Off) 1st Ind
(13 Jul 46)
Subj: Ltr of Appreciation

Office, Chief, Army Field Forces, Ft Monroe, Va. 31 Jul 1948

THRU: Commanding General, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project,
Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico

TO: Lieutenant Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr., Armed Forces Special
Weapons Project, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Chief, Army Field Forces, has noted with pleasure the commendatory remarks of the Commanding General, Antiaircraft Artillery and Guided Missile Center, and desires to add his own expression of appreciation for the fine spirit of cooperation exemplified by you during the visit of students from the Antiaircraft Artillery and Guided Missiles Branch, The Artillery School, to the Los Angeles area.

FOR THE CHIEF, ARMY FIELD FORCES:

John M. Devine, MajGen, GSC, Deputy Chief

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Period covered: 267 days, from 1 Jul 54 to 31 May 55

Name of reporting officer: Charles W. Eifler, Col, Ord C

This officer acts quickly and willingly to perform all assigned tasks. On tasks in which he has an active interest, he can be depended upon to display great initiative, original thought, sound technical judgment, and decisive action to produce superior results. His project work has been of great value to the service. He is intelligent, aggressive, and tactful.

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Period covered: 46 days, from 1 Jun 55 to 17 Jul 55

Name of Reporting Officer: Charles W. Eifler, Col, OrdC

This officer is capable of great initiative, original thinking, sound technical judgment and decisive action. He is intelligent, aggressive and tactful, He willingly and cheerfully undertakes all assigned tasks.

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Period covered: 134 days, from 18 Jul 55 to 28 Nov 55

Name of Reporting Officer: John G. Shinkle, Col, Ord C (Rater)
John H. Hinrichs, Maj Gen, USA (Indorser)

This officer is an intelligent and energetic officer characterized by great initiative. He works amicably with others, both civilian and military, but tends to work as an individual rather than directing teamwork from his organization. (Rater)

This officer has an excellent background, both educational and practical, in the field of guided missiles and related subjects. He is smart and has considerable drive. He is a free-wheeler and an operator rather than a team player. Because of his "wheeling and dealing" he sometimes gives the impression of questionable loyalty which is unfortunate, because in my opinion the man is very loyal. (Indorser)

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Period covered: 49 days, from 29 Nov 55 to 16 Jan 56

Name of Reporting Officer: J. G. Shinkle, Col, OrdC (Rater)
J. B. Medaris, Maj Gen, USA (Indorser)

Although this officer was assigned to this Division during the rating period, he performed specifically under the indorsing officer. This report is primarily based upon observations during a long period of service under the rater. This officer is admirably suited to the duties he is now performing. He has great energy, initiative, and technical competence. His initiative needs control, but he is loyal so that, with adequate control, he will do a superior job. (Rater)

Col Nickerson is an enthusiastic, energetic and highly intelligent officer. He responds readily to guidance and leadership. He is outstandingly competent in technical fields and needs an opportunity to exercise direction and control of others in order to realize his full overall capabilities as an officer. (Indorser)

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Period covered: 84 days, 17 Jan 56 to 25 Apr 56

Name of Reporting Officer: Frederick G. Crabb, Jr., Col, Ord (Rater)
J. B. Medaris, Maj Gen, USA (Indorser)

Col Nickerson is a hard driving imaginative individual, with an abundance of nervous energy and a broad knowledge of missile development. He has a quick grasp of technical problems and the ability to reason and expound upon them in a fashion that approaches brilliance. His considerable technical qualifications and quick mind lead him at times towards impulsiveness and impatience, these tendencies are superficial and do not seriously affect Col Nickerson's effectiveness. (Rater)

Col Nickerson is intellectual, technically well qualified, and devotes himself with great energy and enthusiasm to the achievement of assigned missions. Under careful guidance his impulsiveness and tendency toward intuitive action can be tempered and molded to the requirements of major responsibility. (Indorser)

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Citation - Award of Bronze Star Medal - 6 October 1944

For distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement as Battalion Commander in connection with military operations in France during the period 6 July 1944 to 10 September 1944 against an enemy of the United States. Lt Col Nickerson's outstanding accomplishments and performance of duties are in the highest traditions of the military service.

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Award of Silver Star - 30 Dec 44

For gallantry in action on 19 November 1944 in the vicinity of *****, ***. Exposing himself to enemy artillery and mortar fire, Lieutenant Colonel Nickerson personally made reconnaissances in a thickly wooded and enemy mined area. Personally directing the clearing of the minefield and the emplacement of his battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Nickerson provided timely support to an attacking infantry regiment. His judgement and leadership merit the highest of military praise.

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Award of Air Medal - 6 Mar 45

For distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Air Observer in connection with military operations against the enemy.

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Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - 6 May 45

For gallantry in action from 1 April 1945 to 17 April 1945 in the vicinity of ***, ***, and ***, Germany. Repeatedly displaying personal courage and leadership with the leading infantry troops, Lieutenant Colonel NICKERSON at all times maneuvered his battalion within effective range of the rapidly advancing infantry. On 9 April, Lieutenant Colonel NICKERSON led a reconnaissance party into an area immediately behind tanks and cleared the area of the enemy capturing 40 prisoners. On 12 April, he entered a town and noticing enemy positions threatening the advance of infantry troops, Lieutenant Colonel NICKERSON directed artillery fire on them enabling the infantry troops to continue their advance. On 14 April, while under heavy enemy shelling from both indirect and direct fire from self-propelled guns, he conducted a reconnaissance making possible for the battalion to move in and take over its new mission. Lieutenant Colonel NICKERSON'S gallant leadership and devotion to duty enabled his battalion to deliver fires needed to support the advancing infantrymen.

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NORTH CAROLINA FINISHING COMPANY
Salisbury, N.C.

September 18, 1945

The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is to recommend Lt Col John C. Nickerson, Commanding 56th Field Artillery, 8th Infantry Division, for civil schooling for regular army officers as described in letter Hq. AGF, Subject: Civil Schooling for Regular Army Officers dated 1 September 1945, Reference AG210.66/584 (1 Sep. 45)

This recommendation is in the public interest and I trust will not be considered presumptuous. The writer served as Ordnance Officer with the 8th Infantry Division in its operations in Europe in 1944 and 1945 and came to know Colonel Nickerson's work and his capabilities.

Period covered: 34 days, from 16 Mar 53 to 26 Apr 53

Name of Reporting Officer: Willice E. Groves, Col, GS (Rater)
John F. Smoller, Col, GS (Indorser)

Rated officer is intelligent, well qualified technically, hard working, enthusiastic, aggressive, and cooperative. He possesses no apparent mental, physical or moral qualities which adversely affect his ability to perform his duties effectively. (Rater)

A physically and morally strong officer; intelligent and possesses his full measure of initiative; seeks responsibility; inclined to be curt and impatient with those less quick to understand than he; sometimes makes decisions without fully considering all factors; hard working and extremely interested in his job. (Indorser)

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Period covered: 349 days, from 27 Apr 53 to 31 May 54

Name of Reporting Officer: Edwin H. Harrison, Col, OrdC (Rater)
John A. Barclay, Col, OrdC (Indorser)

Energetic, active, aggressive, direct in approach to persons and problems. Possessed of lively and restless intelligence which requires to be kept occupied. Seeks work and responsibility. This officer's value increases with the responsibilities he is given. (Rater)

I concur in the comments of the rating officer. Lt Col Nickerson has a great deal of initiative, is well grounded technically and intensely interested in his work. Independent in action, and chafes a bit under administrative discipline. With more experience, he will be outstanding. (Indorser)

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Period covered: 30 days, from 1 Jun 54 to 30 Jun 54

Name of Reporting Officer: Edwin H. Harrison, Col, OrdC (Rater)
John J. Shinkle, Col, OrdC (Indorser)

Energetic, active, aggressive, direct in approach to persons and problems. Possessed of lively and restless intelligence which requires to be kept occupied. Seeks work and responsibility. This officer's value increases with the responsibilities he is given. (Rater)

This officer is energetic and intelligent. He is willing to take responsibility and does well those jobs he is given.

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