

1. Lt Col John Charles Nickerson, Jr., 021170, was on duty at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, from 10 October 1945 until 1 August 1947 when he departed in accordance with proper orders to report to Student Detachment, Command and Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, on or about 1 September 1947.

2. In addition to having known Colonel Nickerson when he was a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy, I had ample opportunity to know him very well and to have direct knowledge of his activities from intimate daily contact during his tour of duty at C.I.T. Colonel Nickerson was the Liaison Officer representing the new Development Branch of the Headquarters of what was then known as the Army Ground Forces. While I had no official jurisdiction over this officer there was a necessary close working relationship between all of the Liaison Officers at C.I.T., including the Navy and Air Forces as well as the Army.

3. Colonel Nickerson was the first Army Ground Force Officer to be assigned to Liaison duties at C.I.T. During the period of his services he demonstrated intelligence, and initiative in developing the functions appropriate to his assignment. He used every opportunity to improve his knowledge of jet propulsion and guided missiles. He selected with good judgment the items of information which he passed on to his superiors. I feel that the services of Lt Col John C. Nickerson, Jr., at C.I.T. were of great value, not only to the Army but to all of the Armed Services.

/s/ B. S. Mesick

B. S. MESICK
Colonel, Ord Dept

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Subject: Recommendation of John C. Nickerson Jr., 021170, Lieut. Col. F.A. for promotion.

To: The Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington, DC

1. Lieut. Col. Nickerson served in my command, 8th Inf. Div. Artillery, as commanding officer 56th F. A. Bn. during the time I was assigned to the 8th Inf Div., June 5, 1942 to Aug 16, 1945. During both training and combat phases he showed marked ability as a commander and leader. Based on observation and close contact over a period of more than three years, he would in my opinion make an equally outstanding staff officer. He has both ability and initiative and in combat I placed great reliance on him. I never had occasion to regret the confidence I placed in him.

2. Under the present system of promotion in the Army, I strongly recommend that Lieut. Col. Nickerson be favorably considered for promotion to the grade of Colonel.

/s/ J. A. Pickering

J. A. PICKERING
Brig Gen USA, Retired

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Extract from ltr, dated 6 Sept 1951, to The Adjutant General, US Army, Washington, D.C., from T.J. Cross, Brig Gen, USA, Hq, Field Training Command, Camp Jecelin, Korea. Subj: Recommendation for Promotion.

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2. My recommendation is based on the fact that Colonel Nickerson was commanding officer of the 56th Field Artillery Battalion, the field artillery component of the 121st Infantry Combat Team of which I was the commanding officer from November 1944 to April 1945, and as such his services during that period were of a superior nature and materially contributed to the success of my combat team in all our engagements. I am adding hereto a resume of his services not only with me and my combat team but with the 8th Division. In addition to the resume, attention is invited to the fact that the Presidential Unit Citation held by the 121st Infantry Combat Team, specifically included the 56th Field Artillery Battalion, commanded by Colonel Nickerson.

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Period covered: 27 Apr 53 to 31 May 54
SUBJECT: Commendation

Jan 11 1954

TO: Lt Col John C. Nickerson
Research & Development Division
Office of the Chief of Ordnance
Washington 25, D. C.

1. The Ordnance Corps has successfully accomplished the transfer of ordnance activities from the National Bureau of Standards to the Department of Defense, and has established and operated the Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories for over ninety days. The efficient manner in which the transition of these activities has been conducted has reflected credit upon the Ordnance Corps and elicited compliments from officers of Staff and Department of Defense.

2. I appreciate your efforts, and on behalf of the Ordnance Corps, commend you for the fine job you performed as Recorder and Secretary of the Task Force which accomplished this transition. The very able way in which you supervised the details of this job from its inception to the final report demonstrated superior ability and a fine performance of duty.

3. This letter will be filed in your permanent personnel record.

LESLIE E. SIMON
Major General, USA
Assistant Chief of Ordnance

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