Headquarters
33D TACTICAL GROUP
2d Air Division
United States Air Force
APO San Francisco 96307

09 July 1965

Mrs. Karen D. Sanders
2 Club Drive
Massapequa, New York

Dear Mrs. Sanders

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the untimely death of your husband, First Lieutenant Thomas A. Sanders, United States Air Force. Although Tom was a newcomer to Vietnam, he was admire and respected by those who worked with him. His death is a great loss to all of us and to his country.

The circumstances which led to his death are: On the afternoon of 7 July 1965, Tom was scheduled to fly a familiarization flight near Pleiku, as he was new to the area. Upon take-off in an O-1F aircraft from Camp Holloway, 9 miles north of Pleiku in the Republic of Vietnam, the aircraft suddenly crashed. Lt Sanders was unconscious when taken from the wreckage and died while enroute to the 8th Field Hospital, Nha Trang, Vietnam, without regaining consciousness.

Although your husband had been assigned to Pleiku for only a short time, his enthusiasm for his work and the outstanding manner in w he performed his duties marked him as a valuable member of the A Force team. His efforts were greatly appreciated by the Vietnam Commanders as well as everyone with whom he worked.

Perhaps some consolation may be gained from the fact that your hu was serving his country and the cause of Democracy in its hour of All his actions were of the highest order and in keeping with the hi traditions of his country and the United States Air Force.

A representative from a nearby Air Force Base will call on you t assist in applying for survivor benefits which may be due. I will insure that Tom's personal effects are sent to you at the earliest possible date.

If there is any way I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUDWAY
Colonel, USAF
Commander