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

Office of the
Commander

9 July 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Chester S. Sanders
2 Club Drive
Massapequa, New York

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sanders

It is with deep sorrow that I extend my condolence to you on the death of your son, First Lieutenant Thomas A. Sanders, United States Air Force. Tom had been assigned to Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam, for only a short time, but his enthusiasm for his work and the outstanding manner in which he performed his duties had already earned him the respect of not only the members of his squadron, but all others with whom he came in contact.

I am sure you will want to know the circumstances which led to the death of your son. On the afternoon of 7 July 1965, Tom was sche to fly a familiarization flight near Pleiku, as he was new to this a Upon take-off in an O-1F aircraft from Camp Holloway, 9 miles north of Pleiku, the aircraft suddenly crashed. Tom was unconsc when taken from the wreckage and died while enroute to the 8th Fi Hospital, Nha Trang, Vietnam, without regaining consciousness.

Perhaps some consolation may be drawn from the fact that your s gave his life for his country in its hour of need. His actions were the highest traditions of his country and the United States Air For

If I can be of any service to you at any time, please do not hesitat contact me.

GEORGE BUDWAY
Colonel, USAF
Commander