Carn 62 -

HEADQUARTERS
6250TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP
United States Air Force
APO San Francisco 96307

31 August 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Carn Jr
718 Glenwood Avenue
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carn,

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the untimely death of your son, First Lieutenant Robert R. Carn Jr., United States Air Force. I always have a feeling of close personal loss when informed that one of the members of my command has lost his life while serving our country here in South Vietnam. I know it must be especially difficult for you because of the fact that your son was serving so far from home and family.

I am sure you will want to know the circumstances which led to your son's death. Bob, as he was known among his Vietnamese and American friends, was a Forward Air Controller with the Airborne Brigade, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The Airborne Brigade is considered the elite arm of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces. At approximately ten minutes to five in the evening of 29 August 1965, while on an aerial reconnaissance mission over dense Viet Cong jungle, Bob's aircraft collided with another reconnaissance aircraft. A pilot flying nearby observed Bob's aircraft go into an uncontrollable maneuver and make contact with the ground. Immediate rescue operations were directed and shortly thereafter the search party found that Bob had been fatally wounded. Death came quickly and I can assure you that your son experienced no physical or mental pain.

Your son made the supreme sacrifice in the service of his country for the cause of freedom. Please accept the heartfelt condolences of all personnel of this command which I hope will be of some consolation at this time of personal sorrow and bereavement. Your son's actions at the time of his country's need were of the highest order and in keeping with the highest traditions of his country and the United States Air Force.

PERMANENT RECORD

A representative from a nearby Air Force base will call on you to assist in applying for survivor benefits which may be due. I will insure that your son's personal effects will be 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,

WILLIAM B HAWKINS JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander