

United States Distinguished Flying Cross

Michael Reginald Callanan

82805. Flying Officer
Royal NZ Air Force
Att 19 Tactical Air Support
Squadron, USAF

Date of Award: 22 Mar 1970

CITATION

Flying Officer Michael R. Callanan distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Forward Air Controller near Cu Chi, Republic of Vietnam on 3 October 1969. On that date, in spite of extremely heavy ground fire and marginal weather conditions which forced him to fly well within range of all hostile weapons, Flying Officer Callanan remained over the target area and provided armed air cover for two medical evacuation helicopters. In addition he skilfully coordinated two tactical air strikes with artillery fire and made repeated rocket passes down to minimum altitude exposing himself to intense fire to ensure accuracy of his marking rockets close to the friendly positions. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Flying Officer Callanan reflect great credit upon himself and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.