

**Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)
Richard John Metcalfe**

81177. Flight Lieutenant
Royal NZ Air Force
Att 11th Armd Cav Regiment (US)

NZ Gazette dated 31 July 1970

CITATION

Flight Lieutenant Metcalfe served with the Tactical Control Party for the 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment from **May 31, 1969 to November 6, 1969**. During his period of service with the 19 Tactical Air Support Squadron USAF in support of 11th Cavalry Regiment he flew 351 combat hours and controlled 101 tactical air strikes.

Throughout he displayed such a high order of competence, aerial skill and devotion to duty under enemy fire that he was considered by both 7th USAF and ground commanders to be an outstanding forward air controller.

His ability to quickly analyse and quickly respond to a tactical situation was highlighted by his performance near Loc Ninh on August 21, 1969. On visual reconnaissance supporting 1 Squadron, 11th Air Cavalry Regiment, he monitored a report that a helicopter had crashed about three miles away after receiving ground fire. In co-operation with the ground commander he controlled two air strikes against the machine-gun site which were placed only after an airlifted recovery team had extracted the deceased crew from the helicopter. He so accurately located, marked and continued to mark the machine-gun for the set of fighters (F100s) and second set (F4Cs) that the machine-gun crew and four bunkers were destroyed.

In this complicated situation requiring exact timing and precise control and direction of ordnance on to a pin point target, Flight Lieutenant Metcalfe again displayed those special qualities which have enhanced his professional reputation throughout his attachment to 11th Cavalry Regiment.

His determination, technical competence, performance under fire and continuing devotion to duty, reflected great credit upon himself and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Notes to Citation:

Born New Plymouth, 30 Oct 1944. Served with RNZAF from 9 July 1963 to 21 Aug 1973; then again from 6 March 1978 to 23 Jan 1996.
Honorary ADC to HE the Governor General 1 Nov 1986 to 31 Oct 1986.
Retired as Group Captain.