

VAL-4

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR
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Binh Thuy, Republic of Vietnam - One of the Navy's highest combat awards was presented to Commander R. W. PORTER, Commanding Officer of the "Black Ponies" of Light Attack Squadron FOUR in ceremonies on 31 September 1971. Receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross from Captain J. S. MOORE, Commander Delta Naval Forces, Vietnam/Commander Task Force 116. Commander PORTER was cited for heroism in aerial flight on 12 May 1971.

Commander PORTER piloted the lead aircraft in an armed OV-10A Light Attack Fire Team to assist Republic of Vietnam ground troops pinned down by heavy fire from two companies of Viet Cong. He immediately began rocket and machine gun attacks on the enemy, although forced to make his delivery runs below recommended minimum altitudes because of severe monsoon weather. The ground battle lasted five hours, but after Commander PORTER completed his fourth mission that day, the enemy fled in defeat.

Commander PORTER has served as Commanding Officer of Light Attack Squadron FOUR since 3 March 1971, and has become an acknowledged expert in the counter-insurgency employment of the OV-10A. His squadron, the only one of it's kind in Vietnam and the United States Navy, has consistently played a vital role in the Delta interdiction.

Commander PORTER is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. PORTER of 5 South Cove Road, Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Commander PORTER is married to the former Janis Lynn FRADY of Essex, Connecticut.