

SPECIALIST FIVE EDWARD W. MINNOCK US Army (Deceased)



Edward Minnock was born 4 May 1948 in Wareham, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Army in September 1966 and deployed to Vietnam as a member of the 404th Radio Research Detachment attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). As a Private, Minnock was the acting Operations Sergeant for the 404th, a position normally held by a Sergeant First Class.

On 27 March 1968, the 19-year-old Minnock began to notice incoming information pointing to an enemy attack on Tuy Hoa City within the next 10 days. He directed his personnel to concentrate their efforts on the forthcoming operation. Within five days, PVT Minnock had produced a comprehensive tactical analysis and prediction of how and when the enemy would attack. PVT Minnock briefed the brigade and subordinate commanders, as well as the commander of a Korean regiment and his

American advisor. In order to gain credibility with the Korean commander, PVT Minnock impersonated a captain, believing that the Korean officer would not listen to an enlisted man.

PVT Minnock accurately predicted which units comprised the enemy force, their size, time of the attack, routes of advance and withdrawal, and primary targets of the assault which included two key bridges, the city prison, the American airfield, and a South Vietnamese artillery battalion located in the city. PVT Minnock's information resulted in the postponement of an offensive operation by the Korean regiment, allowing them to act as a reserve during the enemy attack, and the repositioning of other key forces. In addition,



SP5 Minnock, left, with his father in Vietnam

Minnock accurately predicted the new location of the 5th North Vietnamese Army Division Headquarters. He then coordinated and directed its bombing with two 175mm artillery shells and eight 500-pound bombs, thus seriously degrading the enemy's command and control capability. Subsequent intelligence gathered during and after the battle confirmed the startling accuracy of PVT Minnock's predictions.

As a direct result of his efforts, the enemy was soundly defeated with minimal friendly casualties. His remarkable achievement is a textbook example of a deciding factor in combat, not to mention the difference that can be made by the initiative of one individual Soldier. PVT Minnock's contributions are doubly impressive given his relative young age and inexperience. For his actions, PVT Minnock was decorated with the Legion of Merit, the only Private to hold that honor.

Minnock was assigned to the 326th Army Security Agency [ASA] Company (later designated the 337th ASA Company) at Fort Riley in 1969. When he left active duty in 1970, he had also been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

SP5 Minnock's experiences in Vietnam were chronicled in Don Gordon's article, "Private Minnock's Private War," published in the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Volume 4, Issue 2, 1990.

SP5 Minnock was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990. He passed away on 2 August 2011.

