



***Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael F. Anderson  
19 September 1954 - 21 February 1991***

CW3 Michael Anderson was born in Bloomington, Minnesota on 19 September 1954. Graduating from Peoria High School in Peoria, Illinois in 1972, he attended Purdue University and later received his Associates Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Embry-Riddle University in 1988.

His first assignment as a pilot was with Delta Company, 158th Aviation Battalion at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in June 1980. In October 1981, he was assigned to Charlie Company, 101st Aviation Battalion, as it was designated one of the first Night Stalker companies.

CW3 Anderson became one of the youngest Flight Leads in the history of the Task Force. While he served as one of the Task Force's Air Movement Control Officers, he introduced numerous aircraft modifications and load out techniques that has given this unit its unprecedented deployment capabilities. He was competent, aggressive, confident, loyal, and original.

On 21 February 1991, responding to a request for an urgent medical evacuation deep in enemy territory under zero illumination, he flew his aircraft at an extremely low altitude to evade the air defense artillery threat. In spite of dense fog, which he could not increase altitude to avoid and against which his night vision equipment was useless, he continued his mission by relying on his experience using navigational instruments and extracted a badly wounded soldier. While returning to the medical facility, he encountered a sandstorm and lost visual reference with the ground. His aircraft, #251, crashed and he selflessly gave his life for his country. For his extraordinary heroism he was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife, Anne; sons, Eric and Kyle; his daughter, Megan; his mother Elizabeth; his sisters, Nancy and Jeannette; and brothers, Edwin and Andrew.