



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION TRAINING COMPANY
160TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION REGIMENT (AIRBORNE)
UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
7263 NIGHT STALKER WAY
FORT CAMPBELL KENTUCKY 42223-6012**

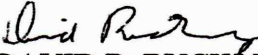
AOAV-ST

31 May 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter of Reference for Mr. John Renken

1. Mr. John Renken has assisted the 160th SOAR(A) Combat Skills department with the implementation of Modern Army Combatives training since December 2003. He has consistently performed in a highly professional manner and has been instrumental in training our instructors and soldiers.
2. The 160th SOAR(A) initiated contact with Mr. Renken based upon glowing references from the cadre of the Army Combatives School at Fort Benning. Mr. Renken quickly responded to our invitation and provided a detailed demonstration and training proposal. As a result, he was awarded a 5-week contract to train and certify 10 instructors in both Level 1 and Level II Combatives and a 6-month contract to run 6 highly-specialized "punch day" training events. This program provided our instructors with the knowledge and skill to train nearly 600 soldiers annually in Level I Army Combatives.
3. Mr. Renken has consistently demonstrated concern for our Combatives training program that far exceeds his contractual obligations. He personally contributed source material and assisted in writing the Combatives Program of Instruction that provides a base of reference and continuity for our instructors. He routinely visits our training events to offer his insight and to help train soldiers. In addition, he has repeatedly opened his gymnasium free-of-charge to allow the instructors he trained to further hone their skills.
4. POC for this memorandum is SFC Paul Hutchings at 956-2126.


DAVID B. BUCKLEY
CPT, MI
Combat Skills OIC