



# INDOMITABLE VALOR

U.S. Army Special Operations Recipients of the Medal of Honor

Indomitable Valor: U.S. Army Special Operations Recipients of the Medal of Honor

Edited by:  
Charles H. Briscoe  
Michael E. Krivdo  
Jared M. Tracy  
Troy J. Sacquety  
Joshua D. Esposito  
Robert D. Seals



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# USASOC HISTORY OFFICE

## Command Historian & Editor

### **Charles H. Briscoe, PhD**

910-432-3732 / [charles.briscoe@socom.mil](mailto:charles.briscoe@socom.mil)

## Deputy Command Historian & Associate Editor

### **Michael E. Krivdo, PhD**

910-908-0939 / [michael.krivdo@socom.mil](mailto:michael.krivdo@socom.mil)

## Associate Editors

### **Jared M. Tracy, PhD**

910-396-5906 / [jared.tracy@socom.mil](mailto:jared.tracy@socom.mil)

### **Troy J. Sacquety, PhD**

910-432-9324 / [sacquett@socom.mil](mailto:sacquett@socom.mil)

### **Joshua D. Esposito, PhD**

910-432-5349 / [joshua.esposito@socom.mil](mailto:joshua.esposito@socom.mil)

### **Robert D. Seals**

910-432-9780 / [robert.seals@socom.mil](mailto:robert.seals@socom.mil)

## Design

### **Daniel W. Telles**

Art Director / [tellesd@socom.mil](mailto:tellesd@socom.mil)

### **Laura Goddard**

Designer / [laura.goddard@socom.mil](mailto:laura.goddard@socom.mil)

### **Mariano Santillan**

Illustrator / [mariano@santillan.cc](mailto:mariano@santillan.cc)

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*\* Posthumous*





The legacy of Army Special Operations has been forged across many battlefields and conflict zones by the deeds of courageous warriors. The actions of the thirty Army Special Operations Medal of Honor recipients described in this book represent the strength and fierce resolve that are central elements of our legacy. These Soldiers and their actions must be remembered and memorialized; they are exemplars for today's ARSOF Soldier.

The pages of this book reveal the courage demonstrated by each of our Medal of Honor recipients and the overwhelming challenges they faced. This is our tribute to the Soldiers that helped forge the legacy we honor, preserve, and build upon today.

*Sine Pari – Without Equal.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken E. Tovo', is positioned above the printed name and title.

KENNETH E. TOVO  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General

# The Medal of Honor



Original Army  
Medal of Honor  
**1862**



Revised Army  
Medal of Honor  
**1896**



MG George L. Gillespie  
Army Medal of Honor  
**1904**

## Medal of Honor History

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military award for valor. The fierce fighting and deeds of valor that occurred during the American Civil War brought home the realization that such acts should be officially recognized. Taking the example of General George Washington's earlier experiences of honoring such deeds with the Badge of Military Merit, Congress first authorized the Medal of Honor as a Navy award in 1861 to recognize the valorous acts performed by that Department's non-commissioned officers and enlisted men. In 1862, Congress authorized a similar award for members of the U.S. Army, and in 1863 extended eligibility to include commissioned officers. In 1963, the law was amended by Congress to allow for the U.S. Air Force to award its own version of the medal. Before that time, Air Force personnel were awarded the Army version of the Medal of Honor.

The original Army version of the medal began as a bronze five-pointed star with one point facing down. The central medallion bears the likeness of Minerva, who personifies the United States. She stands with a left hand resting on fasces (symbolizing authority) and her right hand holding a shield emblazoned with the United States coat of arms. She repulses Discord, represented by snakes. Minerva is encircled by a band of thirty-four stars representing the number of states in the Union at that time. The pendant is suspended by a trophy of crossed cannon, cannon balls, sword, and an American eagle. The clasp that fastened the medal to a uniform consisted of two cornucopias and the arms of the United States.

Congress revised the Army Medal of Honor in 1896 due to widespread misuse and copying of the design by nonmilitary organizations. In addition to writing into law some protections for the medal, the suspension ribbon was changed and a bowknot (Rosette) authorized that could be worn in place of the medal.

On 23 April 1904, Congress authorized a new medal design that had been redrawn by Major General George L. Gillespie. In his version the bronze five-pointed star is superimposed on a green-enameled laurel wreath, with trefoils seen on the rays of the star. The central medallion features the head of Minerva in relief, encircled by the inscription "United States of America." The pendant hangs from a bar bearing the word "Valor," and the whole is surmounted by a spread eagle.

The 1904 design remains in use today except for one change. In 1944, the medal was revised from a suspension-type medal to one designed to be worn around the neck. The pendant and bar attach to an octagonal pad of light blue, bearing thirteen stars in the shape of three chevrons, hung on a light blue ribbon that encircles the wearer's neck. The Medal of Honor is worn outside the shirt collar and inside the coat, hanging above all other decorations. A standard size ribbon bar is included with the medal set. The service ribbon is the same light blue with five stars arranged in the shape of an 'M.'

# Army Special Operations

## Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF)

Although selected individuals throughout Army history have executed special missions or tasks, it was not until World War II that the first units were deliberately organized, formed, and trained for special operations. Modern Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF) trace their lineage to such World War II units as the First Special Service Force, the 475th Infantry Regiment, and the original Ranger Battalions. Additional ARSOF legacy units can also be found in elements of the Philippine Guerrillas, Alamo Scouts, Merrill's Marauders, and the MARS Task Force. ARSOF personnel also served in joint special operations units like the original Observer Group, Amphibious Scouts and Raiders, and select elements of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). This memorial book includes the achievements of ARSOF Soldiers from World War II through the present day.

To date, thirty ARSOF Soldiers have earned our nation's highest award for valor. Each is included in this memorial book chronologically in the order of the combat action for which the award was earned. One action occurred during World War II, twenty-five in Vietnam, two during Operation GOTHIC SERPENT in Somalia, and two during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. Of these thirty ARSOF Medal of Honor awards, fifteen were presented posthumously to surviving family members. This book is dedicated to the preservation of the memory of their valorous actions.

## Medal of Honor Entitlements

- Each Medal of Honor recipient may have his name entered on the Medal of Honor Roll (38 USC 560). Each person whose name is placed on the Medal of Honor Roll is certified to the Department of Veterans Affairs as being entitled to receive the special pension of \$1,329.58 per month as of 1 December 2017. This amount is adjusted annually based on the Cost of Living Index.
- Enlisted recipients of the Medal of Honor are entitled to a supplemental uniform allowance.
- Special entitlements to air transportation under the provisions of DOD Regulation 4515.13-R.
- Identification card, commissary, and exchange privileges for Medal of Honor recipients and their eligible dependents.
- Children of recipients are eligible for admission to the U.S. Service Academies without regard to the quota requirements.
- Ten percent increase in retired pay under Title 10, USC 3991, subject to the 75% limit on total retired pay.

**Current**  
Medal of Honor  
(Actual Size)



**1944**

Neck Worn Design



MOH Ribbon Bar



MOH Lapel Rosette



# Medal of Honor Dates & Locations

RECIPIENT	DATE OF ACTION	LOCATION	CONFLICT/OPERATION	MAP LOCATION
<b>1LT Jack L. Knight *</b>	2 February 1945	Loi Kang, Burma	World War II	1
<b>CPT Roger H. C. Donlon</b>	6 July 1964	Nam Dong, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	2
<b>1LT Charles Q. Williams</b>	9–10 June 1965	Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	3
<b>SFC Bennie G. Adkins</b>	9–12 March 1966	Camp A Shau, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	4
<b>1LT George K. Sisler *</b>	7 February 1967	Near FOB, Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	5
<b>MSG Charles E. Hosking, Jr. *</b>	21 March 1967	Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	6
<b>SGT Gordon D. Yntema *</b>	16–18 January 1968	Thong Binh, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	7
<b>SSG Drew D. Dix</b>	31 January–1 February 1968	Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	8
<b>SFC Eugene Ashley, Jr. *</b>	6–7 February 1968	Lang Vei, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	9
<b>SFC Fred W. Zabitosky</b>	19 February 1968	East of Attopeu, Laos	Vietnam War	10
<b>SSG Roy P. Benavidez</b>	2 May 1968	Loc Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	11
<b>SP5 John J. Kedenburg *</b>	13 June 1968	Republic of Vietnam-Laos Border	Vietnam War	12
<b>SSG Laszlo Rabel *</b>	13 November 1968	Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	13
<b>1LT Robert L. Howard</b>	30 December 1968	Quang Nam, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	14
<b>SP4 Robert D. Law *</b>	22 February 1969	Tinh Phuoc Thanh Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	15
<b>SFC William M. Bryant *</b>	24 March 1969	Long Khanh Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	16
<b>SFC Jose Rodela</b>	1 September 1969	Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	17
<b>SSG Melvin Morris</b>	17 September 1969	Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	18
<b>SSG Robert J. Pruden *</b>	20 November 1969	Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	19
<b>SSG Franklin D. Miller</b>	5 January 1970	Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	20
<b>SGT Gary B. Beikirch</b>	1 April 1970	Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	21
<b>SGT Brian L. Buker *</b>	5 April 1970	Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	22
<b>SFC Gary L. Littrell</b>	4-8 April 1970	Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	23
<b>SGT Gary M. Rose</b>	11–14 September 1970	Laos	Vietnam War	24
<b>SSG Jon R. Cavaiani</b>	4-5 June 1971	Hill 950, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	25
<b>1LT Loren D. Hagen *</b>	7 August 1971	A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam	Vietnam War	26
<b>MSG Gary I. Gordon *</b>	3 October 1993	Mogadishu, Somalia	Operation GOTHIC SERPENT	27
<b>SFC Randall D. Shughart *</b>	3 October 1993	Mogadishu, Somalia	Operation GOTHIC SERPENT	28
<b>SSG Robert J. Miller *</b>	25 January 2008	Konar Province, Afghanistan	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-Afghanistan	29
<b>SSG Leroy A. Petry</b>	26 May 2008	Paktya Province, Afghanistan	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-Afghanistan	30





TURKEY

TURKMENISTAN

IRAQ

IRAN

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

INDIA

CHINA

SAUDI ARABIA

OMAN

YEMEN

BURMA

LAOS

THAILAND

VIETNAM

MALAYSIA

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

KENYA

29  
30

1

10, 12

24

13

2, 4, 5, 9, 14,  
19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26

3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15,  
16, 17, 18, 22

27, 28



## Appreciation is given to the following contributors:

### Congressional Medal of Honor Society

40 Patriots Point Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC

### National Infantry Museum, Ranger Hall of Fame

1775 Legacy Way, Columbus, GA

### Eric Kilgore, National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO

## Criteria for Inclusion in this book:

Medal of Honor recipients included in this publication were members of the Army Special Operations community and served in SOF units at the time of the action for which they received the award. Biographies were compiled from historical documents and official personnel service records. Despite efforts to develop standardized, comprehensive biographies of each recipient, missing information in individual service records resulted in some gaps. Terminology is consistent with what was in use during soldiers' careers. Citations are published verbatim from the official General Orders that promulgated the award.

## U.S. Army Ranks (in Order by Rank):

### ENLISTED

PVT/PV1	Private
PV2	Private Second Class
PFC	Private First Class
SPC/SP4	Specialist/Specialist Four
CPL	Corporal
SP5	Specialist Five
SGT	Sergeant
SSG	Staff Sergeant
SFC	Sergeant First Class
MSG	Master Sergeant
1SG	First Sergeant
SGM	Sergeant Major
CSM	Command Sergeant Major

### OFFICER

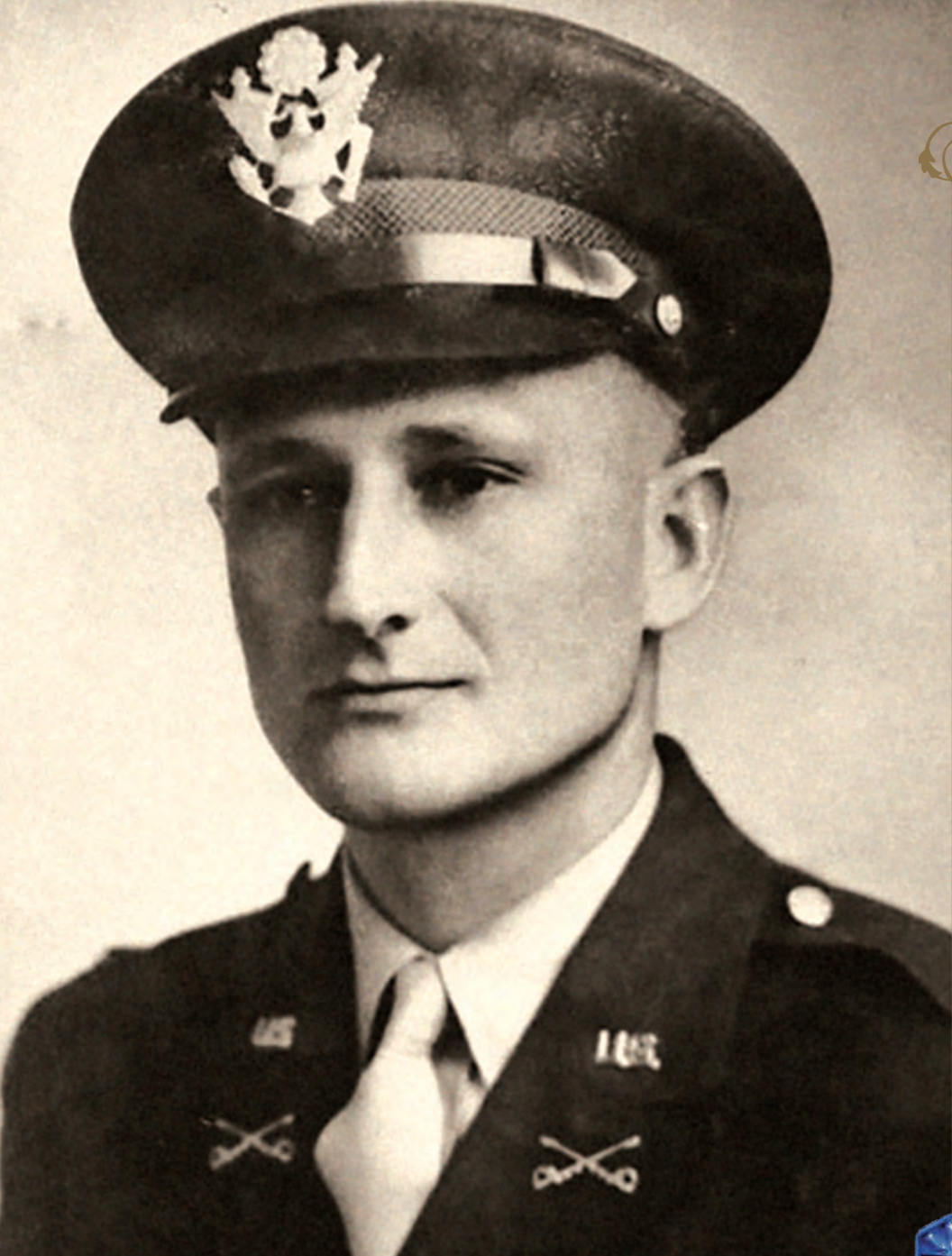
2LT	Second Lieutenant
1LT	First Lieutenant
CPT	Captain
MAJ	Major
LTC	Lieutenant Colonel
COL	Colonel
BG	Brigadier General
MG	Major General
LTG	Lieutenant General
GEN	General

## Glossary:

Abn	Airborne
ADA	Air Defense Artillery
AFB	Air Force Base
AIT	Advanced Individual Training
ARMISH-MAAG	U.S. Army Mission-Military Assistance Advisory Group
Bde	Brigade
BCT	Basic Combat Training
Btry	Battery
CGSC	Command and General Staff College
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group
CZ	Canal Zone
DIV	Division
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
ETO	European Theater of Operations
FA	Field Artillery
FAO	Foreign Area Officer
FORSCOM	Forces Command
HHC	Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Inf	Infantry
IOAC	Infantry Officer Advanced Course
MAAG	Military Assistance Advisory Group
MACV	Military Assistance Command-Vietnam
MI	Military Intelligence
MP	Military Police
NG	National Guard
OAC	Officer Advanced Course
OCS	Officer Candidate School
PEBD	Pay Entry Base Date
Plat	Platoon
PWR	Power
REDCOM	Readiness Command
Rgt	Regiment
RVN	Republic of Vietnam
S&T	Supply and Transportation
SFG	Special Forces Group
SOG	Studies and Observations Group
SQDN	Squadron
SWTG	Special Warfare Training Group
TAG	Training Advisory Group
Tr	Troop
Trans	Transportation
Trng	Training
TSB	The School Brigade
USAJFKIMA	U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Institute for Military Assistance
USAJFKSWCS	U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School
USASMA	U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy
USARAL	U.S. Army Alaska
USARR	U.S. Army Reserve Readiness
USARV	U.S. Army, Vietnam



# ARSOF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

First Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, Cavalry, Army of the United States, near Loi Kang, Burma, on 2 February 1945, led his cavalry troop against a heavy concentration of enemy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire. After taking the troop's objective and while making preparations for a defense, he discovered a nest of Jap pillboxes and foxholes to the right front. Preceding his men by at least 10 feet, Lieutenant Knight immediately led an attack. Single-handed he knocked out two enemy pillboxes and killed the occupants of several foxholes. While attempting to knock out a third pillbox he was struck and blinded by an enemy grenade. Although unable to see, he rallied his platoon and continued forward in the assault on the remaining pillboxes. Before the task was completed, he fell mortally wounded. Lieutenant Knight's gallantry and intrepidity were responsible for the successful elimination of most of the Jap position and served as an inspiration to the officers and men of his troop.



# 1LT Jack L. Knight





## 1LT Jack L. Knight

**Born:** 1917, Garner, TX

**Entered Service:** Weatherford, TX

**Unit:** 124th Cavalry Regiment (Special),  
MARS Task Force

### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 2 February 1945

**Date of Issue:** 25 June 1945

**WD GO 1945-44:** 6 June 1945

**Conflict:** World War II

**Location:** Loikang, Burma

### Military Service

- » PEBD Texas NG: October 1940
- » F Tr, 124th Cav Rgt, 56th Cav Bde, BCT and AIT, several forts along US-Mexico border, **PV1 to SGT**, 1940–1942
- » B Tr, Class 25, Cav OCS, Ft Riley, KS, **SGT to 2LT**, 1942–1943
- » C Tr, 124th Cav Rgt, 56th Cav Bde, Ft Brown, TX, **2LT**, 1943
- » HQ Tr, 124th Cav Rgt, several forts in TX and KS, **2LT to 1LT**, 1943
- » Officer Adv Course, Ft Riley, KS, **1LT**, 1943–1944
- » HQ Tr, 124th Cav Rgt, Ft Brown, TX and Ft Riley, KS, **1LT**, 1944
- » Cdr, F Tr, 2nd Sqdn, 124th Cav Rgt (Special), 5332nd Bde (Provisional), [MARS Task Force], Burma, **1LT**, 1944
- » **KIA, Loi Kang, Burma, 2 February 1945**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Captain Roger H.C. Donlon, Infantry, United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while defending a United States military installation against a fierce attack by hostile forces on 6 July 1964, near Nam Dong, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Donlon was serving as the Commanding Officer of the United States Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a reinforced Viet Cong battalion suddenly launched a full-scale, predawn attack on the Camp. During the violent battle that ensued, lasting 5 hours and resulting in heavy casualties on both sides, Captain Donlon directed the defense operations in the midst of an enemy barrage of mortar shells, falling grenades, and extremely heavy gunfire. Upon the initial onslaught, he swiftly marshaled his forces and ordered the removal of the needed ammunition from a blazing building. He then dashed through a hail of small arms and exploding hand grenades to abort a breach of the main gate. En route to this position he detected an enemy demolition team of three in the proximity of the main gate and quickly annihilated them. Although exposed to the intense grenade attack, he then succeeded in reaching a 60mm mortar position despite sustaining a severe stomach wound as he was within 5 yards of the gunpit. When he discovered that most of the men in this gunpit were also wounded, he completely disregarded his own injury, directed their withdrawal to a location 30 meters away, and again risked his own life by remaining behind and covering the movement with the utmost effectiveness. Noticing that his team sergeant was unable to evacuate the gunpit, he crawled toward him and, while dragging the fallen soldier out of the gunpit, an enemy mortar exploded and inflicted a wound in Captain Donlon's left shoulder. Although suffering from multiple wounds, he carried the abandoned 60mm mortar weapon to a new location 30 meters away where he found three wounded defenders. After administering first aid and encouragement to these men,



# CPT Roger H. C. Donlon



he left the weapon with them, headed toward another position, and retrieved a 57mm recoilless rifle. Then with great courage and coolness under fire, he returned to the abandoned gunpit, evacuated ammunition for the two weapons and, while crawling and dragging the urgently needed ammunition, received a third wound on his leg by an enemy hand grenade. Despite his critical physical condition, he again crawled 175 meters to an 81mm mortar position and directed firing operations which protected the seriously threatened east sector of the Camp. He then moved to an eastern 60mm mortar position and upon determining that the vicious enemy assault had weakened, crawled back to the gunpit with the 60mm mortar, set it up for defensive operations, and turned it over to two defenders with minor wounds. Without hesitation, he left this sheltered position and moved from position to position around the beleaguered perimeter while hurling hand grenades at the enemy and inspiring his men to superhuman effort. As he bravely continued to move around the perimeter, a mortar shell exploded, wounding him in the face and body. As the long awaited daylight brought defeat to the enemy forces and their retreat back to the jungle leaving behind fifty-four of their dead, many weapons, and grenades, Captain Donlon immediately reorganized his defenses and administered first aid to the wounded. His dynamic leadership, fortitude, and valiant efforts inspired not only the American personnel but the friendly Vietnamese defenders as well and resulted in the successful defense of the Camp. Captain Donlon's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.



## CPT Roger H. C. Donlon

**Born:** 1934, Saugerties, NY

**Entered Service:** Fort Chaffee, AR

**Unit:** 7th SFG, Detachment A-726

### MOH Event

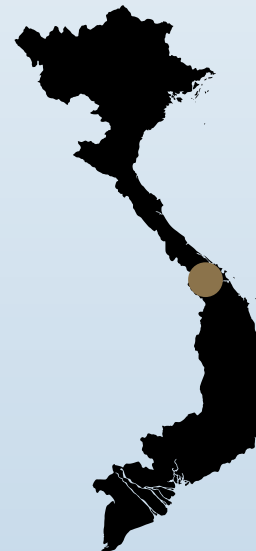
**Date of Action:** 6 July 1964

**Date of Issue:** 5 December 1964

**DA GO 1964-41:** 17 December 1964

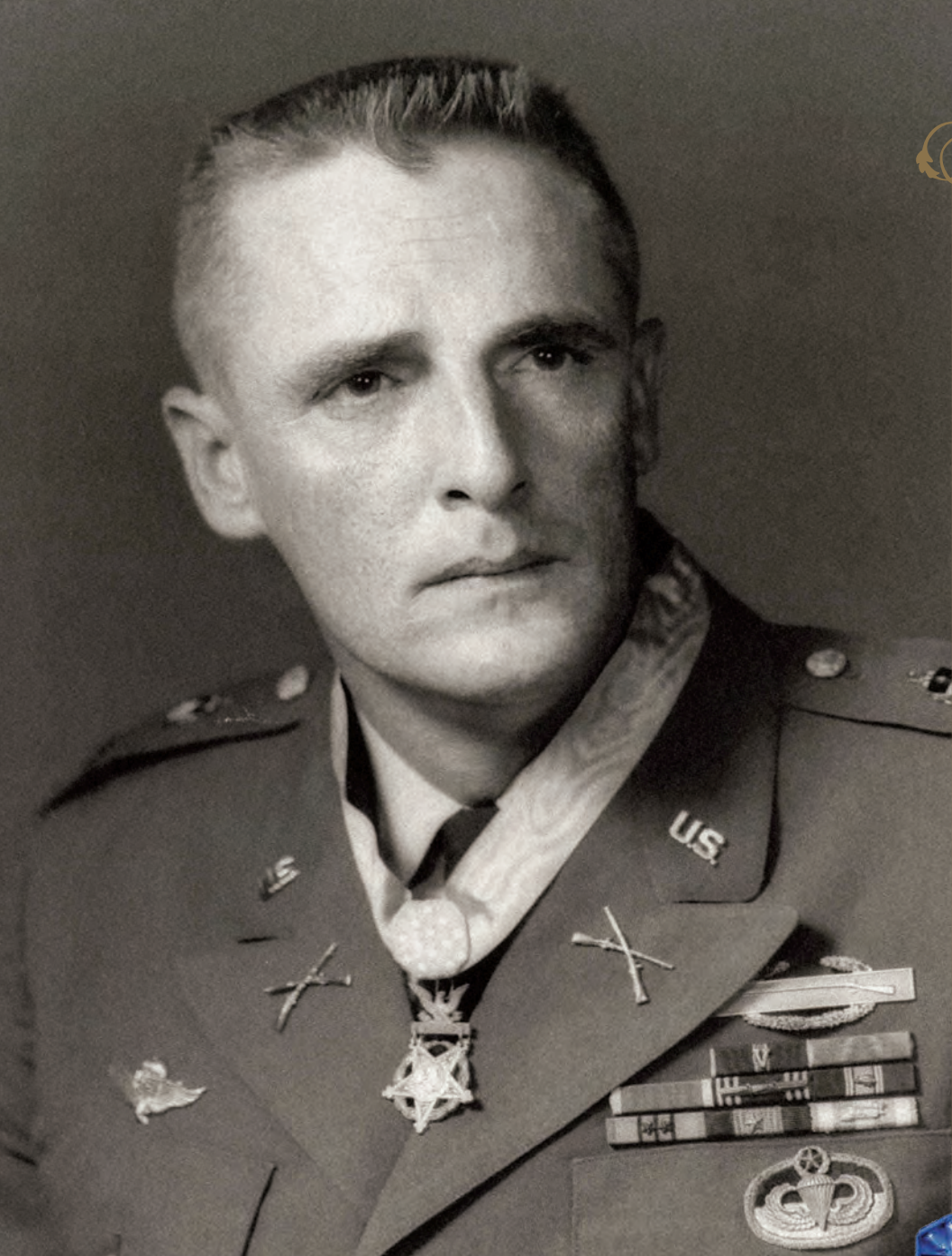
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Nam Dong, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » Served USAF, December 1953–July 1955
- » PEBD Army: 16 July 1956
- » BCT and AIT, Ft Benning, GA, **SP5**, 1958–1959; Abn School, Ft Jackson, SC, **SP5**, 1959
- » Inf Off OCS, Ft Benning, GA, Commissioned as **2LT**, 24 June 1959
- » Instr, XO, CO, Various Companies, 18th Bn, Trng Rgt Inf, Ft Jackson, SC, **2LT** to **1LT**, 1959–1961
- » Plat Ldr, E Co, 1st Bde, 9th Inf, USARAL, Fairbanks, AK, **1LT**, 1961–1962; Aide-de-Camp, HHC Yukon, USARAL, Fairbanks, AK, **1LT** to **CPT**, 1962–1963
- » A Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **CPT**, 1963–1964; **C Co, 7th SFG, RVN, CPT, 1964–1965**
- » USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **CPT**, 1965; Stu Off, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1965–1966; Stu Off, Univ of Omaha, Omaha, NE, **CPT** to **MAJ**, 1966–1967
- » G-2 Air, Cmbt Adv Trng Academy, 2nd Bn, 9th Inf, 2nd Inf Div, DMZ, Korea, **MAJ**, 1967–1968
- » Asst G3, HHC 5th Inf Div, Ft Carson, CO, **MAJ**, 1968–1972
- » Sr Adv, MACV-IV Corps, RVN, **MAJ**, 1972
- » Trng Adv, USMACT-JUSMAGT, Bangkok, Thailand, **MAJ** to **LTC**, 1972–1974
- » Service Test Project Officer, USA Inf Board, Ft Benning, GA, **LTC**, 1974–1976; Chief Mortar Comm, USAIS, Ft Benning, GA, **LTC**, 1976–1977
- » Bn Cdr, 3rd Bn, 7th SFG, Ft Gulick, CZ, Panama, **LTC**, 1977–1978
- » Instr, Dir of Allied Pers, USA CGSC, Ft Leavenworth, KS, **LTC** to **COL**, 1978–1982
- » Stu, FAO Crs, and Stu Campbell, Univ, Ft Bragg, NC, **COL**, 1982–1983
- » Cdr, HQ UNC Rear, Camp Zama, Japan, **COL**, 1983–1987
- » Pres, USA Phys Eval Board, San Francisco, CA, **COL**, 1987–1988
- » Retirement, March 1988



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

First Lieutenant Charles Q. Williams (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while defending the Special Forces Camp at Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam, against a violent attack by hostile forces that lasted for fourteen hours, June 9 to 10, 1965. Lieutenant Williams was serving as Executive Officer of a Special Forces Detachment when an estimated Vietcong reinforced regiment struck the Camp and threatened to overrun it and the adjacent District Headquarters. He awoke personnel, organized them, determined the source of the insurgents' main effort and led the troops to their defensive positions on the south and west walls. Then, after running to the District Headquarters to establish communications, he found that there was no radio operational with which to communicate with his commanding officer in another compound. To reach the other compound, he traveled through darkness but was halted in this effort by a combination of shrapnel in his right leg and the increase of the Vietcong gunfire. Ignoring his wound, he returned to the District Headquarters and directed the defense against the first assault. As the insurgents attempted to scale the walls and as some of the Vietnamese defenders began to retreat, he dashed through a barrage of gunfire, succeeded in rallying these defenders, and led them back to their positions. Although wounded in the thigh and left leg during this gallant action, he returned to his position and, upon being told that communications were reestablished and that his commanding officer was seriously wounded, Lieutenant Williams took charge of actions in both compounds. Then, in an attempt to reach the communications bunker, he sustained wounds in the stomach and right arm from grenade fragments. As the defensive positions on the walls had been held for hours and casualties were mounting, he ordered the consolidation of the American personnel from both compounds to



# 1LT Charles Q. Williams

establish a defense in the District building. After radio contact was made with a friendly air controller, he disregarded his wounds and directed the defense from the District building, using descending flares as reference points to adjust air strikes. By his courage, he inspired his team to hold out against the insurgent force that was closing in on them and throwing grenades into the windows of the building. As daylight arrived and the Vietcong continued to besiege the stronghold, firing a machine gun directly south of the District building, he was determined to eliminate this menace that threatened the lives of his men. Taking a 3.5 rocket launcher and a volunteer to load it, he worked his way across open terrain, reached the berm south of the District Headquarters, and took aim at the Vietcong machine gun one hundred and fifty meters away. Although the sight was faulty, he succeeded in hitting the machine gun. While he and the loader were trying to return to the District Headquarters, they were both wounded. With a fourth wound, this time in the right arm and leg, and realizing he was unable to carry his wounded comrade back to the District building, Lieutenant Williams pulled him to a covered position and then made his way back to the District building, where he sought the help of others who went out and evacuated the injured soldier. Although seriously wounded and tired, he continued to direct the air strikes closer to the defensive position. As morning turned to afternoon and the Vietcong pressed their effort with direct recoilless rifle fire into the building, he ordered the evacuation of the seriously wounded to the safety of the communications bunker. When informed that helicopters would attempt to land as the hostile gunfire had abated, he led his team from the building to the artillery position, making certain of the timely evacuation of the wounded from the communications area, and then on to the pickup point. Despite resurgent Vietcong gunfire, he directed the rapid evacuation of all personnel. Throughout the, long battle, he was undaunted by the vicious Vietcong assault and inspired the defenders in decimating the determined insurgents. Lieutenant Williams' conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.



## 1LT Charles Q. Williams

**Born:** 1933, Charleston, SC

**Entered Service:** Vance, SC

**Unit:** 5th SFG

### MOH Event:

**Date of Action:** 9-10 June 1965

**Date of Issue:** 9 June 1966

**DA GO 1966-30:** 5 July 1966

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 3 February 1953
- » BCT, Inf AIT, and Abn school, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1953
- » M Co, 504th Inf Rgt, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC** to **SFC**, 1953–1956
- » Plat Sgt, M Co, 32nd Inf; Squad Ldr, D Co, 2nd Btl Grp, 34th, Inf, 7th Inf Div, Korea, **SFC**, 1956–1958
- » Hvy Wpns Infantryman, Plat Sgt, HHC 2nd Abn Btl Grp, 503rd Inf, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1958–1959; 1st Sgt, HHC 2nd ABG, 503rd Inf, Okinawa, Japan, **SFC**, 1960–1963
- » Inf Off OCS, Ft Benning, GA, Commissioned as **2LT** 14 May 1964
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **2LT**, 1964
- » XO ODA, A Co, 3rd SFG; D Co, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **2LT** to **1LT**, 1964–1965
- » **XO, ODA, and Asst S-1, A Co, 5th SFG, RVN, 1LT, 1965–1966**
- » Recruiting Officer, HQ USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **1LT** to **CPT**, 1966–1967
- » IOAC, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1967–1968
- » Co Cdr, C Co; Bn XO, 2nd Bn, 509th Inf, 8th Inf Div, Mainz-Gonsenheim, Germany, **CPT** to **MAJ**, 1968–1970
- » BS Business Admin, Campbell College, Dunn, NC, **MAJ**, 1970–1972
- » Abn Bde and Inf Sch Adv, Field Advisory Team 3, ARMISH MAAG, Iran, **MAJ**, 1972–1973
- » Chief, Trng Div, G3, USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **MAJ**, 1973–1974
- » HHD, 1st Bn, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **MAJ**, 1974
- » Retirement, 30 June 1974
- » Deceased, 15 October 1982





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Bennie G. Adkins Distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Camp A Shau, Republic of Vietnam from March 9 to 12, 1966. When the camp was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position continually adjusting fire for the camp, despite incurring wounds as the mortar pit received several direct hits from enemy mortars. Upon learning that several soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Sergeant First Class Adkins exposed himself to sporadic sniper fire while carrying his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary. When Sergeant First Class Adkins and his group of defenders came under heavy small arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group that had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese, he maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a seriously wounded American and draw fire all the while successfully covering the rescue. When a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Sergeant First Class Adkins, again, moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much needed supplies. During the early morning hours of March 10, 1966, enemy forces launched their main attack and within two hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins was the only man firing a mortar weapon. When all mortar rounds were expended, Sergeant First Class Adkins began placing effective recoilless rifle fire upon enemy positions. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Sergeant First Class Adkins fought off intense waves of attacking Viet Cong. Sergeant First Class Adkins eliminated



# SFC Bennie G. Adkins

numerous insurgents with small arms fire after withdrawing to a communications bunker with several soldiers. Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and ran through intense fire back to the bunker. After being ordered to evacuate the camp, Sergeant First Class Adkins and a small group of soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker and fought their way out of the camp. While carrying a wounded soldier to the extraction point he learned that the last helicopter had already departed. Sergeant First Class Adkins led the group while evading the enemy until they were rescued by helicopter on March 12, 1966. During the thirty-eight hour battle and forty-eight hours of escape and evasion, fighting with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms, and hand grenades, it was estimated that Sergeant First Class Adkins killed between one hundred thirty five and one hundred seventy-five of the enemy while sustaining eighteen different wounds to his body. Sergeant First Class Adkins' extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces and the United States Army.



## SFC Bennie G. Adkins

**Born:** 1934, Waurika, OK

**Entered Service:** Waurika, OK

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment A-102

### MOH Event

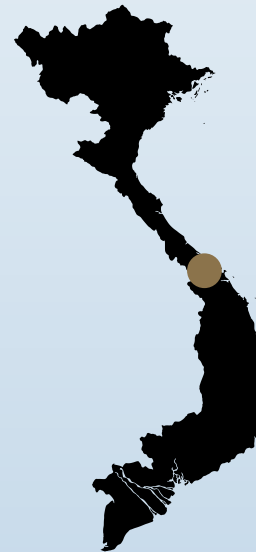
**Date of Action:** 9-12 March 1966

**Date of Issue:** 15 September 2014

**DA GO 2014-70:** 3 October 2014

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Camp A Shau, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 5 December 1956
- » BCT and Inf AIT, Ft Bliss, TX, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1956–1957
- » Asst Intel Sgt, USAG, Giessen, Germany, **PV2** to **SGT**, 1957–1959
- » Asst Intel Sgt and Sq Ldr, HHC, 2nd Btl Grp, 9th Inf, 2nd Inf Div, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT**, 1959–1962
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1962
- » Radio Opr, D Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1962; Hvy Wpns Ldr, A Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1962; Intel Sgt, C Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1962–1963
- » Intel Sgt, A Co, 7th SFG, RVN, **SFC**, 1963
- » Intel Sgt, A Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1963–1965
- » Intel Sgt, HHC, 5th SFG, RVN, **SFC**, 1965–1966; **Intel Sgt, C Co, 5th SFG, RVN, 1966**
- » Intel Sgt, B Co, 3rd SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1966–1969
- » Intel Sgt and Ops Sgt, D Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC** to **MSG**, 1969–1970
- » Ops Sgt, 5th SFG, RVN, **MSG**, 1971; Ops Sgt, MACV (SOG), RVN, **MSG**, 1971; Intel Adv, USARV SMAG, RVN, **MSG**, 1971
- » Ops Sgt and 1st Sgt, C Co, HQ, Ft Huachuca, AZ, **MSG**, 1972–1973
- » Student, USASMA, Ft Bliss, TX, **MSG**, 1973–1974
- » Ops and Intel Sgt, C Co, 3rd Bn, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **MSG**, 1974–1975; Ops Sgt and SGM, B Co, 3rd Bn, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **MSG** to **SGM**, 1975–1976
- » Comdt, USA NCO Academy, CZ, Panama, **SGM**, 1976–1978
- » Retirement, 31 May 1978





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

**F**irst Lieutenant George K. Sisler, Army Intelligence and Security, United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 7 February 1967. Lieutenant Sisler was the platoon leader/advisor to a special United States/Vietnam exploitation force. While on patrol deep within enemy dominated territory, Lieutenant Sisler's platoon was attacked from three sides by a company-sized enemy force. Lieutenant Sisler quickly rallied his men, deployed them to a better defensive position, called for air strikes, and moved among his men to encourage and direct their efforts. Learning that two men had been wounded and were unable to pull back to the perimeter, Lieutenant Sisler charged from the position through intense enemy fire to assist them. He reached the men and began carrying one of them back to the perimeter, when he was taken under more intensive automatic weapons fire by the enemy. Laying down his wounded comrade, he killed three onrushing enemy soldiers by firing his rifle and silenced the enemy machinegun with a grenade. As he returned the wounded man to the perimeter, the left flank of the position came under extremely heavy attack by the superior enemy force and several additional men of his platoon were quickly wounded. Realizing the need for instant action to prevent his position from being overrun, Lieutenant Sisler picked up some grenades and charged single-handedly into the enemy onslaught, firing his weapon and throwing grenades. This singularly heroic action broke up the vicious assault and forced the enemy to begin withdrawing. Despite the continuing enemy fire, Lieutenant Sisler was moving about the battlefield directing air strikes upon the fleeing force when he fell mortally wounded. His extraordinary leadership, infinite



# 1LT George K. Sisler



courage, and selfless concern for his men saved the lives of a number of his comrades. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and uphold the highest traditions of the military service.



## 1LT George K. Sisler

**Born:** 1934, Dexter, MO

**Entered Service:** Dexter, MO

**Unit:** 5th SFG, MACV (SOG)

### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 7 February 1967

**Date of Issue:** 6 July 1968

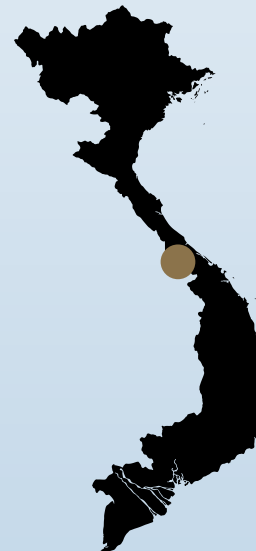
**DA GO 1968-35:** 16 July 1968

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Near Khe Sanh,  
Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD: Arkansas NG, 13 September 1956
- » A Btry, 327th AAA Bn, Jonesboro, AK, **PV1**, 1956–1957
- » Transferred to Army Reserves, **PV1**, 2 July 1957
- » PEBD USAF, 7 January 1958
- » Served USAF, 1958–1962
- » Enlisted in USA, 21 August 1964
- » BCT and Inf AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, **PV2**, 1964
- » Inf OCS, Ft Gordon, GA, Commissioned as **2LT**, 1965; Abn School, and Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **2LT**, 1965
- » MI Off, 101st MI Det, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, **2LT**, 1965–1966
- » Asst Intel Off, MACV (SOG), RVN, **2LT** to **1LT**, 1966–1967
- » **KIA, Near Khe Sanh, RVN, 7 February 1967**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

**M**aster Sergeant Charles E. Hosking, Jr. (then Sergeant First Class), United States Army, Detachment A-302, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, greatly distinguished himself on 21 March 1967 while serving as Company Advisor in the III Corps Civilian Irregular Defense Group Reaction Battalion during combat operations in Don Luan District, Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. A Viet Cong suspect was apprehended and subsequently identified as a Viet Cong sniper. While Sergeant Hosking was preparing the enemy for movement back to the base camp, the prisoner suddenly grabbed a hand grenade from Sergeant Hosking's belt, armed the grenade, and started running towards the Company Command Group, which consisted of two Americans and two Vietnamese who were standing a few feet away. Instantly realizing that the enemy intended to kill the other men, Sergeant Hosking immediately leaped upon the Viet Cong's back. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, he grasped the Viet Cong in a "Bear Hug," forcing the grenade against the enemy soldier's chest. He then wrestled the Viet Cong to the ground and covered the enemy's body with his own until the grenade detonated. The blast instantly killed both Sergeant Hosking and the Viet Cong. By absorbing the full force of the exploding grenade with his own body and that of the enemy, he saved the other members of his command group from death or serious injury. Sergeant Hosking's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of his country.



# MSG Charles E. Hosking, Jr.





## MSG Charles E. Hosking, Jr

**Born:** 1924, Ramsey, NJ

**Entered Service:** Fort Dix, NJ

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment A-302, CIDG

### MOH Event

## Posthumous

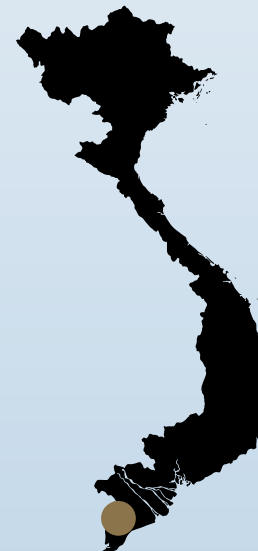
**Date of Action:** 21 March 1967

**Date of Issue:** 23 May 1969

**DA GO 1969-39:** 13 June 1969

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Phuoc Long Province,  
Republic of Vietnam.



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: June 1943
- » BCT and Inf AIT, Camp Shelby, MS; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC**, 1943
- » I Co, Provisional Trng Bn, Airborne Training Center, Italy; B Co, 509th Parachute Inf Bn, ETO, **PFC**, 1944
- » Detachment of Patients, USA Hospital Plant, #4147, Italy, and several hospitals in US, **PFC**, 1944–1945
- » 2nd HQ Co, The Parachute School, Ft Benning, GA; 1225th Service Complement Unit Reception Center, Ft Hancock, NJ, **PFC**, 1945–1946
- » 106th Army Air Force Base Unit, Greensboro, NC, **PFC**, 1946
- » A Co, 501st Parachute Inf Bn; A Co, HQ and Service Co School Troops, The Infantry School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC** to **CPL**, 1946–1949
- » E Co, 187th Abn Inf; Replacement Co, 11th Abn Div; F Co, 503rd Abn Inf; Medical Holding Det, Ft Campbell, KY, **CPL** to **SGT**, 1949–1951
- » 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, 19th SF Det, 18th SF Op Det B, HHC, 10th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT** to **SFC**, 1952–1953
- » 7th Provisional Co, 10th SFG, Germany, **SFC**, 1953–1955
- » 77th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC** to **SGT**, 1956–1957
- » A Co, 10th SFG, Germany, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1957–1963
- » D Co, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1963
- » 5th SFG, RVN, **SSG**, 1963–1964
- » D Co, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1964
- » A Co, 5th SFG, **SFC**, RVN, 1965–1967
- » **KIA, Phuoc Long Province, RVN, 21 March 1967 (Posthumous promotion to MSG)**



SGT Gordon D. Yntema



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant Gordon D. Yntema, United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity on 16-18 January 1968 while assigned to Detachment A-431, Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, in the Republic of Vietnam. As part of a larger force of civilian irregulars from Camp Cai Cai, he accompanied two platoons to a blocking position east of the village of Thong Binh, where they became heavily engaged in a small arms firefight with the Viet Cong. Assuming control of the force when the Vietnamese commander was seriously wounded, he advanced his troops to within fifty meters of the enemy bunkers. After a fierce thirty-minute firefight, the enemy forced Sergeant Yntema to withdraw his men to a trench in order to afford them protection and still perform their assigned blocking mission. Under cover of machinegun fire, approximately one company of Viet Cong maneuvered into a position which pinned down the friendly platoons from three sides. A dwindling ammunition supply, coupled with a Viet Cong mortar barrage which inflicted heavy losses on the exposed friendly troops, caused many of the irregulars to withdraw. Seriously wounded and ordered to withdraw himself, Sergeant Yntema refused to leave his fallen comrades. Under withering small arms and machinegun fire, he carried the wounded Vietnamese commander and a mortally wounded American Special Forces advisor to a small gully fifty meters away in order to shield them from the enemy fire. Sergeant Yntema then continued to repulse the attacking Viet Cong attempting to overrun his position until, out of ammunition and surrounded, he was offered the opportunity to surrender. Refusing, Sergeant Yntema stood his ground, using his rifle as a club to fight the approximately fifteen Viet Cong attempting his capture. His resistance was so fierce that the Viet Cong were forced to shoot in order to overcome him. Sergeant Yntema's personal bravery in the face of insurmountable odds and supreme self-sacrifice were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself, the 1st Special Forces, and the United States Army.



### SGT Gordon D. Yntema

**Born:** 1945, Bethesda, MD

**Entered Service:** Detroit, MI

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment A-431

#### MOH Event

### Posthumous

**Date of Action:** 16-18 January 1968

**Date of Issue:** 2 December 1969

**DA GO 1969-76:** 3 December 1969

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Thong Binh, Republic of Vietnam



#### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 10 July 1963
- » BCT, Ft Knox, KY, **PV1**, 1963; Inf AIT, Ft Sill, OK, **PV1 to PV2**, 1963; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1963-1964
- » Helo Repmn Helper, 102nd Tran Co, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2 to PFC**, 1964; Hel Repmn Helper, D Co, 782nd Main Bn, Spt Cmd, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC**, 1964
- » Stu, Ft Eustis, VA, **PFC**, 1964; Single Eng Helo Repairman, D Co & B Co, 782nd Maint Bn, Spt Cmd, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC to SP4**, 1964-1966
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SP4**, 1966
- » Sr Helo Repmn, B Co, 782nd Main Bn, Spt Cmd, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4 to SGT**, 1966
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1966-1967
- » Ops and Intel Sgt, D Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SGT**, 1967-1968
- » **KIA, Thong Binh, Kien Phong Province, RVN, 18 January 1968**



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Drew D. Dix, United States Army, distinguished himself by exceptional heroism on 31 January and 1 February 1968 while serving as a unit advisor in Chau Phu, Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam. Two heavily armed Viet Cong battalions attacked the province capital city of Chau Phu on 31 January 1968, resulting in the complete breakdown and fragmentation of the defenses of the city. Sergeant Dix, with a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers, was recalled to assist in the defense of Chau Phu. Learning that a nurse was trapped in a house near the center of the city, Sergeant Dix organized a relief force, successfully rescued the nurse, and returned her to the safety of the Tactical Operations Center. Being informed of other trapped civilians within the city, Sergeant Dix voluntarily led another force to rescue eight civilian employees located in a building which was under heavy mortar and small arms fire. Sergeant Dix then returned to the center of the city. Upon approaching a building, he was subjected to intense automatic rifle and machinegun fire from an unknown number of Viet Cong. He personally assaulted the building, killing six Viet Cong and rescuing two Filipinos. The following day Sergeant Dix, still of his own volition, assembled a 20-man force and though under intense enemy fire cleared the Viet Cong out of the hotel, theater, and other adjacent buildings within the city. During this portion of the attack, Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers, inspired by the heroism and success of Sergeant Dix, rallied and commenced firing upon the Viet Cong. Sergeant Dix captured 20 prisoners, including a high-ranking Viet Cong official. He then attacked enemy troops who had entered the residence of the Deputy Province Chief and was successful in rescuing that official's wife and children. Sergeant Dix's personal heroic actions resulted in 14 confirmed Viet Cong killed in action and possibly 25 more, the capture of 20 prisoners and 15 weapons, and the rescue of 14 United States and free world civilians. The heroism of Sergeant Dix is in the highest tradition and reflects great credit upon the United States Army.



SSG Drew D. Dix





## SSG Drew D. Dix

**Born:** 1944, West Point, NY

**Entered Service:** Denver, CO

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Combined Study Group, MACV

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 31 January–1 February 1968

**Date of Issue:** 16 January 1969

**DA GO 1969-10:** 6 February 1969

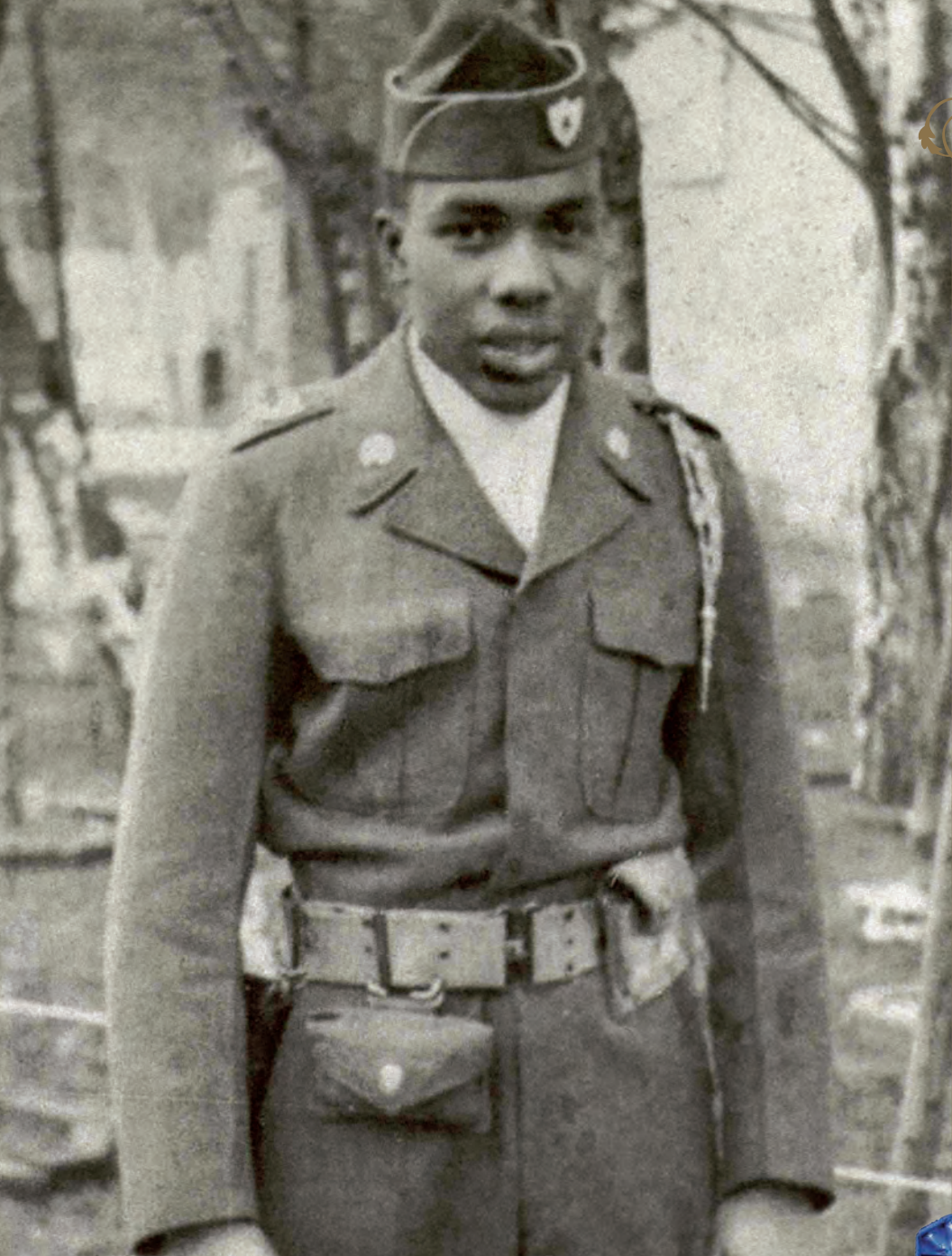
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: July 1962
- » BCT and MP AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV1 to PFC**, 1962–1963
- » 19th MP Co, Ft Carson, CO, **PFC to SGT**, 1964
- » 82nd MP Co, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg and Dominican Republic, **SGT**, 1964–1967
- » A Co, SWTG, SF Commo NCO Course, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1967
- » **Combined Study Group, RVN, SSG, 1967–1968**
- » B Co, 6th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, Direct Commission to **1LT**, 1968–1970
- » IOAC, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1970; Co Cdr, A/2/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY and RVN, **CPT**, 1971–1972
- » G-3 Ops, and Aide de Camp, CG, USAJFKIMA and USMC Amphib Warfare School, **CPT**, 1973
- » Student Off, Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC, **CPT**, 1973–1975; Senior ADC, DCG, XVIII Abn Corps, **CPT**, 1973-1975
- » J-3 Plans, US REDCOM, MacDill AFB, FL, **CPT to MAJ**, 1975–1980
- » Bn XO, 4/9th Inf Bn, 172nd Inf Bde (Sep), Ft Wainwright, AK, **MAJ**, 1980–1982
- » Retired 1982





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Eugene Ashley, Jr., United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Detachment A-101, Company C, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, near Lang Vei Special Forces Camp in the Republic of Vietnam. On 6 and 7 February 1968, Sergeant Ashley was the Senior Special Forces Advisor of a hastily organized assault force whose mission was to rescue entrapped United States Special Forces Advisors at Camp Lang Vei. During the initial attack on the Special Forces camp by North Vietnamese Army forces, Sergeant Ashley supported the camp with high explosive and illumination mortar rounds. When communications were lost with the main camp, he assumed the additional responsibility of directing airstrikes and artillery support. Sergeant Ashley organized and equipped a small assault force composed of local friendly personnel. During the ensuing battle, Sergeant Ashley led a total of five vigorous assaults against the enemy, continuously exposing himself to a voluminous hail of enemy grenades, machinegun and automatic weapons fire. Throughout these assaults, he was plagued by numerous boobytrapped satchel charges in all bunkers on his avenue of approach. During his fifth and final assault, he adjusted airstrikes nearly on top of his assault element, forcing the enemy to withdraw and resulting in friendly control of the summit of the hill. While exposing himself to intense enemy fire, he was seriously wounded by machinegun fire but continued his mission without regard for his personal safety. After the fifth assault he lost consciousness and was carried from the summit by his comrades only to suffer a fatal wound when an enemy artillery round landed in his area. Sergeant Ashley displayed extraordinary heroism in risking his life in an attempt to save the lives of his entrapped comrades and commanding



SFC Eugene Ashley, Jr.



officer. His total disregard for his own personal safety while exposed to enemy observation and automatic weapons fire was an inspiration to all men committed to the assault. The resolute valor with which he led five gallant charges placed critical diversionary pressure on the attacking enemy and his valiant efforts carved a channel in the overpowering enemy forces and weapons positions through which the survivors of Camp Lang Vei eventually escaped to freedom. Sergeant Ashley's conspicuous gallantry at the cost of his own life was in the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



## SFC Eugene Ashley, Jr

**Born:** 1931, Wilmington, NC

**Entered Service:** New York, NY

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment A-101

### MOH Event

## Posthumous

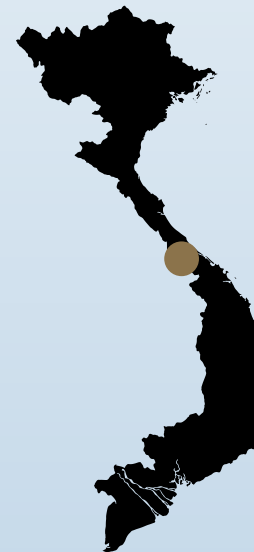
**Date of Action:** 6-7 February 1968

**Date of Issue:** 18 November 1969

**DA GO 1969-84:** 12 December 1969

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Lang Vei, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 7 December 1951
- » BCT and Inf AIT, Ft Jackson, SC, **PV1**, 1951–1952
- » Asst Amb Driver, 5380th Medical Amb Co, Germany, 1952; Ammunition Bearer, D Co, 26th Inf Rgt, 1st Inf Div, Germany, **PV2**, 1953
- » Wheel Mechanic, HHC, 88th Inf Bn, 8th Army, Korea, **PV2**, 1953–1954
- » Ammunition Handler, A Battery, 749th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, New York, NY, **PV2**, 1954
- » Inactive Reserve, December 1954–June 1955
- » Re-Enlisted, Hvy Wpns Inf, D Co, 504th Airborne, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2**, 1955
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1956; Parachute Repairman and Lt Vehicle Driver, C Co, 82nd Airborne Quartermaster Co, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC** 1956–1958
- » Pole Line Helper, 999th Sig Co, Ft Dix, NJ, **SP4**, 1958–1959; Pole Line Helper, HHC 2nd Inf Bde, Ft Devins, MA, **SP4**, 1959; Pole Line Helper, A Co, 1st ABG, 501st Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SP4**, 1959–1961
- » Sqd Ldr, A Co, 1st Bde, 8th Cav, Okinawa, **SGT**, 1961–1962; Sqd Ldr, D Co, 2nd ABG, 503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde, Okinawa, **SGT**, 1962–1963; Ch Fire Dir Comp, HHC 2nd Bn, 503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde, Okinawa, **SSG**, 1963–1964
- » Sqd Ldr and Plat Sgt, B Co, 1st Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1964–1965; Plat Sgt, B Co, 1st Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Dominican Republic, **SSG**, 1965; Plat Sgt, B Co, 1st Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1965–1966
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1966–1967
- » Ops Sgt, D Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1967
- » Ops Sgt, A Co, 3rd SFG, attached to HQ USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1967
- » Ops Sgt, C Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SFC**, 1968
- » **KIA, Lang Vei, RVN, 6-7 February 1968**



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Fred W. Zabitosky (then Staff Sergeant), United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty within enemy controlled territory in Laos, on 19 February 1968, while serving as an assistant team leader of a nine-man Special Forces long-range reconnaissance patrol. Sergeant Zabitosky's patrol was operating deep within enemy controlled territory when they were attacked by a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army Unit. Sergeant Zabitosky rallied his team members, deployed them into defensive positions, and, exposing himself to concentrated enemy automatic weapons fire, directed their return fire. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Sergeant Zabitosky ordered his patrol to move to a landing zone for helicopter extraction while he covered their withdrawal with rifle fire and grenades. Rejoining the patrol under increasing enemy pressure, he positioned each man in a tight perimeter defense and continually moved from man to man, encouraging them and controlling their defensive fire. Mainly due to his example, the outnumbered patrol maintained its precarious position until the arrival of tactical air support and a helicopter extraction team. As the rescue helicopters arrived, the determined North Vietnamese pressed their attack. Sergeant Zabitosky repeatedly exposed himself to their fire to adjust suppressive helicopter gunship fire around the landing zone. After boarding one of the rescue helicopters, he positioned himself in the door delivering fire on the enemy as the ship took off. The helicopter was engulfed in a hail of bullets and Sergeant Zabitosky was thrown from the craft as it spun out of control and crashed. Recovering consciousness, he ignored his extremely painful injuries and moved to the flaming wreckage. Heedless of the danger of exploding ordnance and



# SFC Fred W. Zabitosky



fuel, he pulled the severely wounded pilot from the searing blaze and made repeated attempts to rescue his patrol members, but was driven back by the intense heat. Despite his own serious burns and crushed ribs, he carried and dragged the unconscious pilot through a curtain of enemy fire to within ten feet of a hovering rescue helicopter before collapsing. Sergeant Zabitosky's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

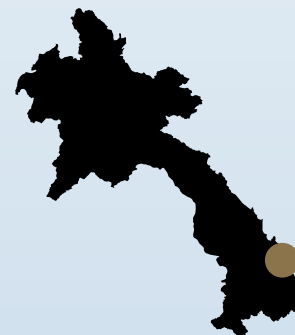


## SFC Fred W. Zabitosky

**Born:** 1942, Trenton, NJ  
**Entered Service:** Trenton, NJ  
**Unit:** 5th SFG, RT Maine, MACV (SOG)

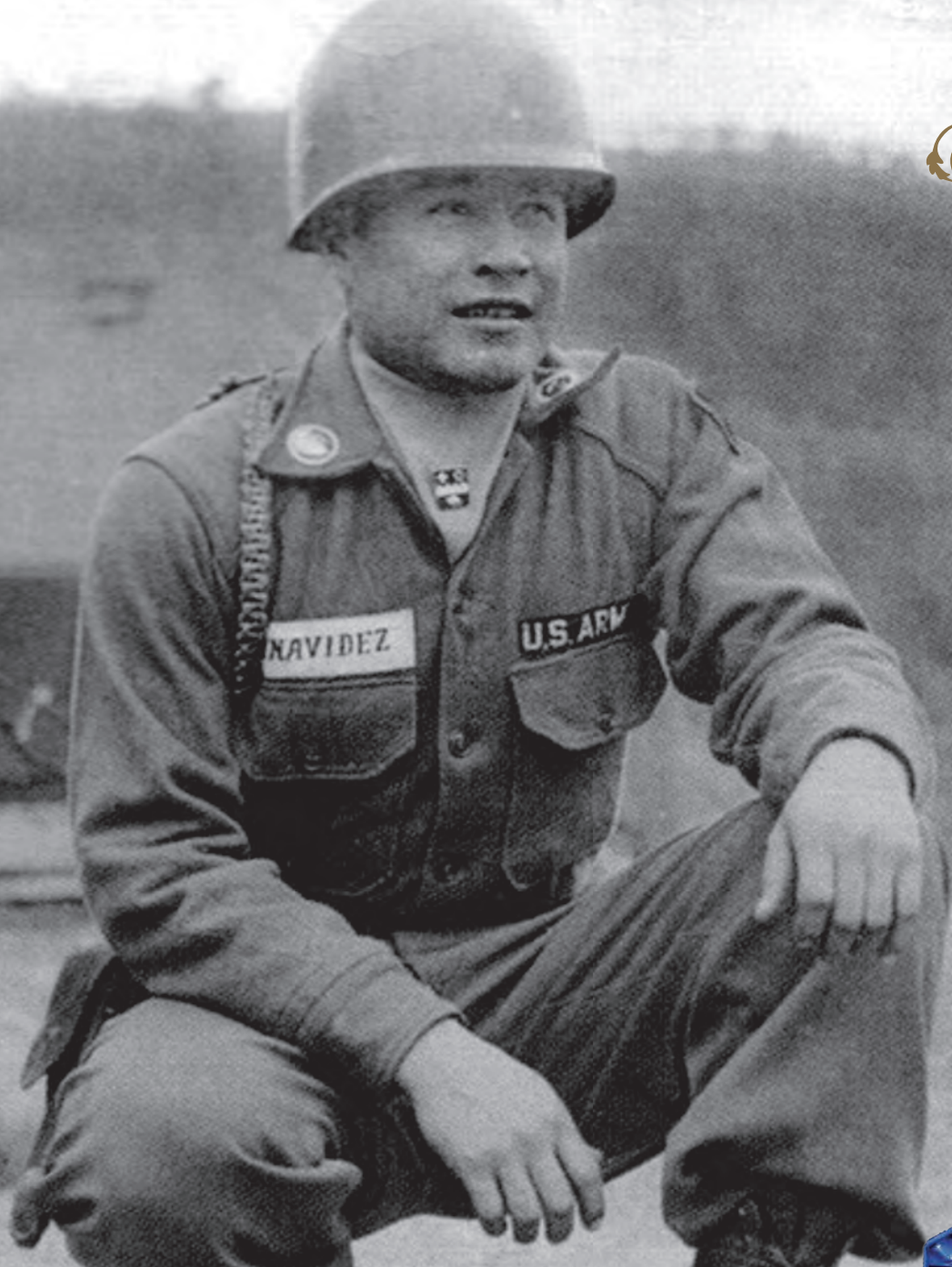
### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 19 February 1968  
**Date of Issue:** 7 March 1969  
**DA GO 1991-23:** 20 September 1991  
**Conflict:** Vietnam War  
**Location:** East of Attopeu, Laos



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: November 1959
- » BCT, Ft Benning, GA; FA AIT, Fort Sill, OK, **PFC**, 1959–1960
- » Battery B, 1st Rocket Howitzer Bn, 34th Artillery, Germany, **PFC to SP4**, 1960–1962
- » Inactive Reserve, November 1962–February 1963
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **SP4**, 1963
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1963
- » 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1963–1964
- » B Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SGT**, 1964–1965
- » A Co, 7th SFG, Fort Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1965–1966
- » 5th SFG, RVN, **SGT to SSG**, 1966–1967
- » D Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1967
- » **5th SFG, RT Maine, MACV (SOG), RVN, SSG, 1967–1968**
- » HQ Staff and Faculty Co, USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG to SFC**, 1968–1969
- » C Co, 1st SFG, Okinawa, **SFC**, 1969–1971
- » L Co, 75th Ranger, 101st Abn Div, RVN, **SFC**, 1971–1972
- » HQ USA Advisor Grp, Fort Lauderdale, FL, **SFC**, 1972–1973
- » B Co, 50th Sig Bn, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1973–1975
- » 416th Sig Co, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC to MSG**, 1975–1976
- » HQ Commandant, 1st Corps Support Command, Ft Bragg, **MSG**, 1976
- » 416th Sig Co, Ft Bragg, NC, **MSG**, 1976–1977
- » Communications Chief, HHD, 3rd Bn (HAWK), 68th ADA, Homestead AFB, FL, **MSG**, 1977
- » Retirement, 16 November 1977
- » Deceased, 18 January 1996



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

**M**aster Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions on 2 May 1968 while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head. Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and classified documents on



# SSG Roy P. Benavidez



the dead team leader. When he reached the team leader's body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the over-turned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, re-instilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a buildup of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gunships to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed [producing] additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to insure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

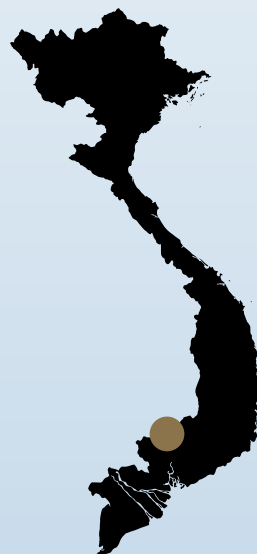


## SSG Roy P. Benavidez

**Born:** 1935, Cuero, TX  
**Entered Service:** Houston, TX  
**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment B-56

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 2 May 1968  
**Date of Issue:** 24 February 1981  
**DA GO 1981-08:** 16 March 1981  
**Conflict:** Vietnam War  
**Location:** Loc Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD TX Army NG, 27 June 1952
- » HQs Co, 136th Tk Bn, TX ANG, 1952-1955
- » PEBD Army: 17 May 1955
- » BCT, Ft Ord, CA, Inf AIT, Ft Carson, CO, **PV1**, 1955
- » A Co, 28th Inf Rgt, 8th Inf Div, Ft Riley, KS, **PV2**, 1955
- » Fld Cadre, E Co, 17th Inf Rgt, 7th Inf Div, South Korea, **PV2**, 1955-1957
- » Auto Rifleman, A Co, 6th Inf Rgt, Berlin, Germany, **PV2** to **PFC**, 1957-1958
- » MP AIT, HHC PMGS, Ft Gordon, GA, **PFC** to **SP5**, 1958-1961
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **SP5**, 1961
- » Sqd Ldr, 9th Trans Co (Abn), XVIII Abn Corps, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP5**, 1961
- » FD Computer, A Co, 1st Btn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP5**, 1962
- » Enlisted Aide, HHC 2nd Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP5** to **SSG**, 1962-1964
- » Sr Chem NCO, HHC 2nd Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1964-1965
- » Lt Wpns, Inf Adv, US MACV, RVN, **SSG**, 1965-1966
- » Chem NCO, HHC 1st Bn, 325th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, **SSG**, 1966
- » Grad SFQC, SF Wpns NCO, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1966-1967
- » Ops and Intel Sgt, E Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1967-1968
- » **Lt Wpns Inf Ldr, Project SIGMA, B-56, 5th SFG, RVN, SSG, 1968**
- » Patient, Brooke Gen Hos, San Antonio, TX, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1968-1969
- » Driver, HHC 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **SFC**, 1969
- » Opn Sgt, HHC 1st Inf Div, Ft Riley, KS, **SFC**, 1969-1971
- » Sr Enl Adv, USARR VII, FORSCOM, Ft Sam Houston, TX, **SFC** to **MSG**, 1972-1976
- » Retirement, 10 September 1976
- » Deceased, 29 November 1998



SP5 John J. Kedenburg



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Specialist Five John J. Kedenburg, United States Army, Command and Control Detachment North, Forward Operating Base 2, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 June 1968, while serving as advisor to a long-range reconnaissance team of South Vietnamese irregular troops. The team's mission was to conduct counterinsurgent operations deep within enemy-held territory. Prior to reaching the day's objective, the team was attacked and encircled by a battalion-size North Vietnamese Army force. Specialist Kedenburg assumed immediate command of the team which succeeded, after a fierce fight, in breaking out of the encirclement. As the team moved through thick jungle to a position from which it could be extracted by helicopter, Specialist Kedenburg conducted a gallant rear guard fight against the pursuing enemy and called for tactical air support and rescue helicopters. His withering fire against the enemy permitted the team to reach a preselected landing zone with the loss of only one man who was unaccounted for. Once in the landing zone, Specialist Kedenburg deployed the team into a perimeter defense against the numerically superior enemy force. When tactical air support arrived, he skillfully directed air strikes against the enemy, suppressing their fire so that helicopters could hover over the area, and drop slings to be used in the extraction of the team. After half of the team was extracted by helicopter, Specialist Kedenburg and the remaining three members of the team harnessed themselves to the sling on a second hovering helicopter. Just as the helicopter was to lift them out of the area, the South Vietnamese team member who had been unaccounted for after the initial encounter with the enemy appeared in the landing zone. Specialist Kedenburg unhesitatingly gave up his place in the sling to the man and directed the helicopter pilot to leave the area. He then continued to engage the enemy who were swarming into the landing zone, killing six enemy soldiers before he was overpowered. Specialist Kedenburg's inspiring leadership, consummate courage and willing self-sacrifice permitted his small team in to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy and escape almost certain annihilation. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



## SP5 John J. Kedenburg

**Born:** 1946, Brooklyn, NY

**Entered Service:** Brooklyn, NY

**Unit:** 5th SFG, MACV (SOG)

### MOH Event

## Posthumous

**Date of Action:** 13 June 1968

**Date of Issue:** 7 April 1969

**DA GO 1970-17:** 23 April 1970

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** RVN-Laos border region

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 25 January 1966
- » BCT and Cmbt Eng and Lt Wpns Inf AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1966; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1966
- » Grad SFQC, Cmbt Eng Specialty, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2** to **SP4**, 1966; SF Eng Trng Crs, Ft Belvoir, VA, **SP4**, 1967
- » Cmbt Eng, E Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4** to **SP5**, 1967
- » Cmbt Eng, B Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SP5**, 1967–1968; Lt Wpns Ldr, 5th SFG, MACV (SOG), Kontum, RVN, **SP5**, 1968
- » **KIA, RVN-Laos border region, 14 June 1968**





# SSG Laszlo Rabel



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Lazlo Rabel, United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as leader of Team Delta, 74th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol), 173d Airborne Brigade, in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam on 13 November 1968. At 1000 hours on this date, Team Delta was in a defensive perimeter conducting reconnaissance of enemy trail networks when a member of the team detected enemy movement to the front. As Sergeant Rabel and a comrade prepared to clear the area, he heard an incoming grenade as it landed in the midst of the team's perimeter. With complete disregard for his own life, Sergeant Rabel threw himself on the grenade and, covering it with his body, received the complete impact of the immediate explosion. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his own safety and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, Sergeant Rabel averted the loss of life and injury to the other members of Team Delta. By his conspicuous gallantry at the cost of his own life in the highest traditions of the military service, Staff Sergeant Rabel has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



## SSG Laszlo Rabel

**Born:** 1939, Budapest, Hungary

**Entered Service:** Minneapolis, MN

**Unit:** 74th Inf Detachment (LRP), N Co (Ranger),  
75th Inf, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)

### MOH Event

## Posthumous

**Date of Action:** 13 November 1968

**Date of Issue:** 7 April 1970

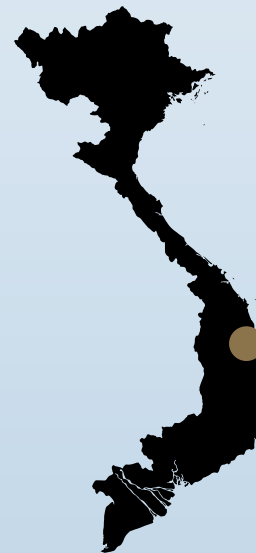
**DA GO 1970-06:** 23 April 1970

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Binh Dinh Province,  
Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 16 November 1965;
- » BCT, Ft Leonard Wood, MO, **PV1**, 1965–1966; Inf AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1966; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1966
- » Rifleman, A Co, 2nd Bn, 501st Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **PV2**, 1966; A Co, 4th Bn, 503rd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **PV2**, 1966
- » Rifleman and Ammo Bearer, A Co, 4th Bn, 503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde, RVN, **PV2** to **SP4**, 1966–1967
- » Gunner, E Trp, 17th Cav, 173rd Abn, RVN, **SP4** to **SGT**, 1967
- » Patrol Ldr, 74th Inf Det (LRP), N Co (Ranger), 75th Inf (Airborne), 173rd Abn Bde, RVN, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1967–1968
- » **KIA Binh Dinh Province, RVN, 13 November 1968**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

First Lieutenant (then Sergeant First Class) Robert L. Howard, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, distinguished himself on 30 December 1968 while serving as platoon sergeant of an American-Vietnamese platoon which was on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in enemy-controlled territory in the Republic of Vietnam. The platoon had left its helicopter landing zone and was moving out on its mission when it was attacked by an estimated two-company force. During the initial engagement, Lieutenant Howard was wounded and his weapon destroyed by a grenade explosion. Lieutenant Howard saw that his platoon leader had been wounded seriously and was exposed to enemy fire. Although unable to walk and weaponless, Lieutenant Howard unhesitatingly crawled through a hail of fire to retrieve his wounded leader. As Lieutenant Howard was administering first aid and removing the officer's equipment, an enemy bullet struck one of the ammunition pouches on the lieutenant's belt, detonating several magazines of ammunition. Lieutenant Howard momentarily sought cover and then realizing that he must rejoin the platoon which had been disorganized by the enemy attack, he again began dragging the seriously wounded officer toward the platoon area. Through his outstanding example of indomitable courage and bravery, Lieutenant Howard was able to rally the platoon into an organized defense force. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Howard crawled from position to position, administering first aid to the wounded, giving encouragement to the defenders and directing their fires on the encircling enemy. For three and one-half hours Lieutenant Howard's small force and supporting aircraft successfully repulsed enemy attacks and finally were in sufficient control to permit the landing of rescue helicopters. Lieutenant Howard personally supervised



# 1LT Robert L. Howard



the loading of his men and did not leave the bullet-swept landing zone until all were aboard safely. Lieutenant Howard's conspicuous gallantry in action, his complete devotion to the welfare of his men and his intrepidity at the risk of his own life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



## 1LT Robert L. Howard

**Born:** 1939, Opelika, AL

**Entered Service:** Montgomery, AL

**Unit:** 5th SFG, MACV (SOG)

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 30 December 1968

**Date of Issue:** 2 March 1971

**DA GO 1971-16:** 24 March 1971

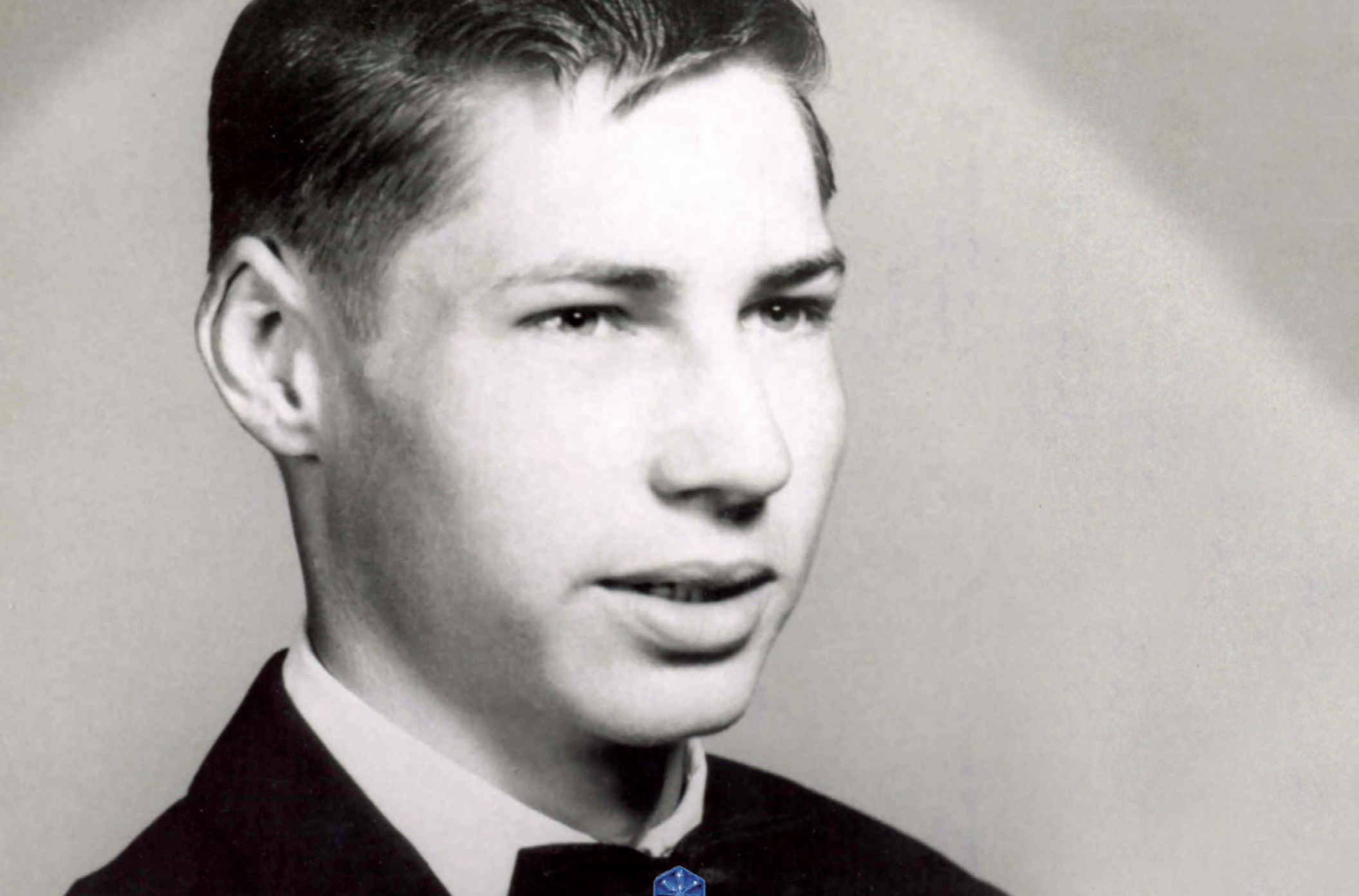
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Quang Nam, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 20 July 1956
- » BCT, Ft Jackson, SC, **PV1**, 1956; Signal AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1956-1957
- » Powerman, 53rd Signal Bn, Ft Hood, TX, **PV2** to **PFC**, 1957-1958; Pwr Gen Opr, 54th Sig Co, Ft Hood, TX, **PFC** to **SP4**, 1958-1959
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **SP4**, 1959
- » Prcht Rigger, 612th Qmstr Co, Fort Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1959-1961; Prcht Rigger, 557th Qmstr Co, ASA, France, **SP4**, 1961-1963; A Co, 5th S&T Bn, 5th Inf Div, Ft Carson, CO, **SP4** to **SGT**, 1963-1964
- » Sr Prcht Packer, B Co, 426th S&T Bn, Ft Campbell, KY, **SGT**, 1964-1965; Sr Prcht Packer, 104th Qmstr Co, AES, Plat Support Bn, 101st Abn Div, 5th SFG, RVN, **SGT**, 1965-1966
- » Sr Prcht Packer, Supp Sgt, HHC, 6th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1966-1967
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1967
- » Recon Tm Ldr, HHC, 5th SFG, RVN, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1967-1968; **Recon Tm Ldr, MACV (SOG), SFC, 1968-69**
- » IOBC, Ft Benning, GA, Direct Commission to **1LT**, 1969-1970
- » Recon Plat Ldr, MACV (SOG), RVN, **1LT** to **CPT**, 1970-1971
- » Instr, Ch Grd Tng, Abn Dept, 11th Co, 1st Bn, TSB, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1971-1973
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1973
- » CO, C Co, Abn Ranger, 1/29 Inf, Ft Benning, GA, **CPT**, 1974; CO, A Co, 2nd Ranger Bn, 75th Inf, Ft Lewis, WA, **CPT**, 1974-1975; Cadre, 2nd Ranger Bn, 75th Inf, Ft Lewis, WA, **CPT**, 1975-1976
- » Ranger Inst, Branch Chief, and XO Mtn Ranger Div, 2nd Ranger Co, TSB, Dahlonge, GA, **CPT** to **MAJ**, 1976-1978
- » Stu Off, USACGSC, Ft Leavenworth, KS, **MAJ**, 1978-1980; Cmbt Arms Inst, Ft Leavenworth, KS, **MAJ**, 1980-1981
- » Grad SF Officers Qualification Course, Ft Bragg, NC, **MAJ**, 1981
- » Chief, HHC USAIMA, Ft Bragg, NC, **MAJ**, 1981-1983; Chief, 1st Spec War Tng Bn, USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **MAJ** to **LTC**, 1983
- » Chief, Spec Warfare Comd, US Element, HQ UN Comd, Korea, **LTC**, 1983-1984
- » Cdr, Staff Bn, VII Corps, Germany, **LTC**, 1984-1988
- » Commander, Spec Ops Command, Korea, **LTC** to **COL**, 1988-1990
- » Spec Asst to CoS, 5th US Army HQ, Ft Sam Houston, TX, **COL**, 1990-1991
- » Retirement, 30 September 1991
- » Deceased, 23 December 2009



SP4 Robert D. Law



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Specialist Four Robert D. Law, United States Army, distinguished himself at the cost of his own life above and beyond the call of duty on 22 February 1969 while serving with I Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry, in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a long-range reconnaissance patrol in Tinh Phuoc Thanh Province, Specialist Law and five comrades made contact with a small enemy patrol. As the opposing elements exchanged intense fire, he maneuvered to a perilously exposed position flanking his comrades and began placing suppressive fire on the hostile troops. Although his team was hindered by a low supply of ammunition and suffered from an unidentified irritating gas in the air, Specialist Law's spirited defense and challenging counterassault rallied his fellow soldiers against the well-equipped hostile troops. When an enemy grenade landed in his team's position, Specialist Law, instead of diving into the safety of a stream behind him, threw himself on the grenade to save the lives of his comrades. Specialist Four Law's extraordinary courage and profound concern for his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army.



### SP4 Robert D. Law

**Born:** 1944, Forth Worth, TX

**Entered Service:** Dallas, TX

**Unit:** I Co (Ranger), 75th Inf, 1st Inf Div

#### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 22 February 1969

**Date of Issue:** 6 August 1970

**DA GO 1970-45:** 28 August 1970

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

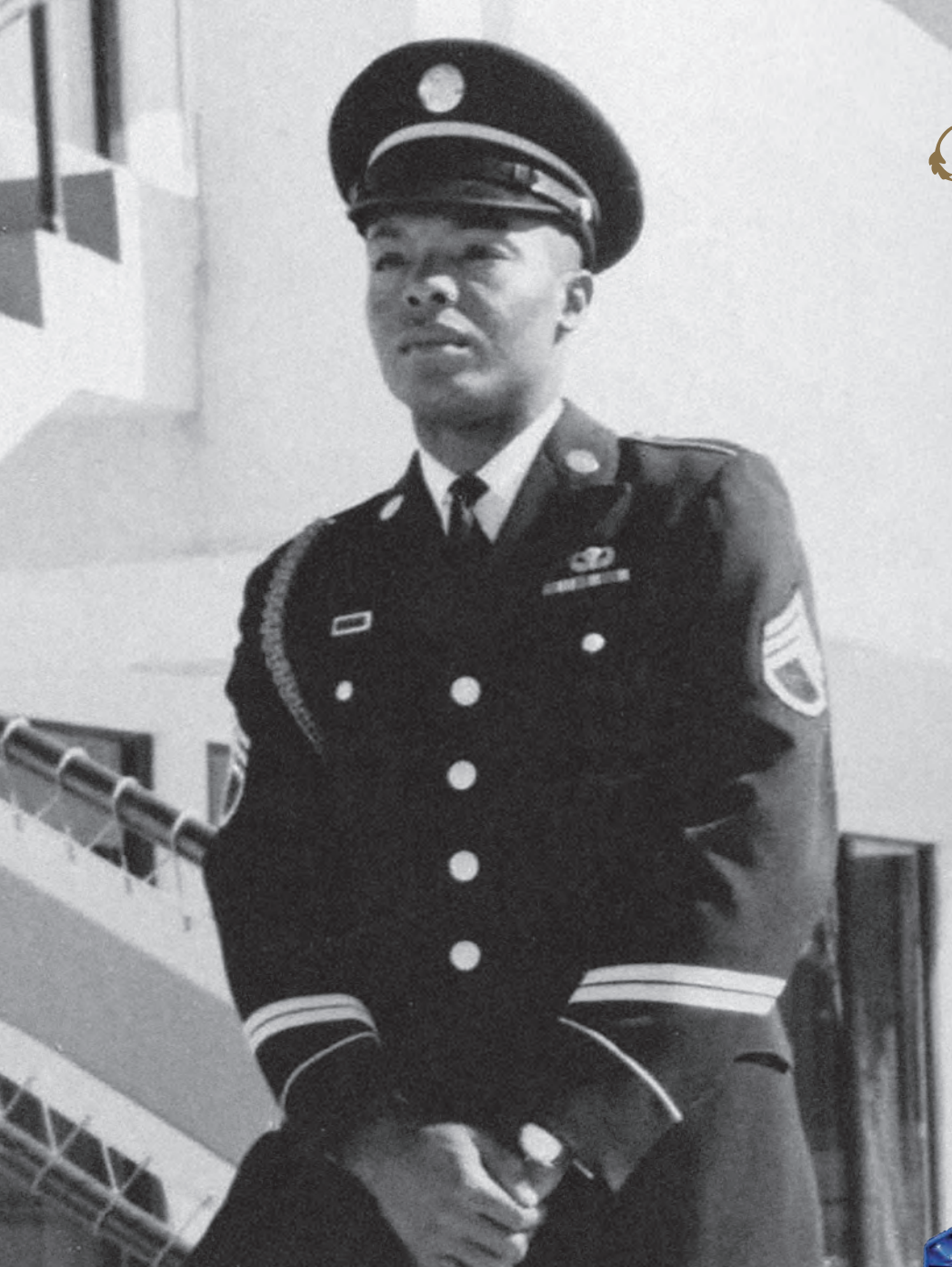
**Location:** Tinh Phuoc Thanh Province,  
Republic of Vietnam



#### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 17 October 1967
- » BCT and Inf AIT, Ft Polk, LA, **PV1** to **PFC**, 1967–1968
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC**, 1968
- » Scout Observer, F Co, 52nd Inf (Ranger), 1st Inf Div, RVN, **PFC** to **SP4**, 1968–1969
- » **KIA, serving with I Co (Ranger), 75th Inf, 1st Inf Div, Tinh Phuoc Thanh, RVN, 22 February 1969**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class William M. Bryant, assigned to Company A, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, distinguished himself on 24 March 1969 while serving as Commanding Officer of Civilian Irregular Defense Group Company 321, 2d Battalion, 3rd Mobile Strike Force Command, during combat operations in Long Khanh Province, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion came under heavy fire and became surrounded by the elements of three enemy regiments. Sergeant Bryant displayed extraordinary heroism throughout the succeeding 3 hours of incessant attack as he moved throughout the company position heedless of the intense hostile fire while establishing and improving the defensive perimeter, directing fire during critical phases of the battle, distributing ammunition, assisting the wounded, and providing the leadership and inspirational example of courage to his men. When a helicopter drop of ammunition was made to resupply the beleaguered force, Sergeant Bryant with complete disregard for his own safety ran through the heavy enemy fire to retrieve the scattered ammunition boxes and distributed needed ammunition to his men. During a lull in the intense fighting, Sergeant Bryant led a patrol outside the perimeter to obtain information of the enemy. The patrol came under intense automatic weapons fire and was pinned down. Sergeant Bryant single-handedly repulsed one enemy attack on his small force and by his heroic action inspired his men to fight off other assaults. Seeing a wounded enemy soldier some distance from the patrol location, Sergeant Bryant crawled forward alone under heavy fire to retrieve the soldier for intelligence purposes. Finding that the enemy soldier had expired, Sergeant Bryant crawled back to his



SFC William M. Bryant



patrol and led his men back to the company position where he again took command of the defense. As the siege continued, Sergeant Bryant organized and led a patrol in a daring attempt to break through the enemy encirclement. The patrol had advanced some two hundred meters by heavy fighting when it was pinned down by the intense automatic weapons fire from heavily fortified bunkers and Sergeant Bryant was severely wounded. Despite his wounds he rallied his men, called for helicopter gunship support, and directed heavy suppressive fire upon the enemy positions. Following the last gunship attack, Sergeant Bryant fearlessly charged an enemy automatic weapons position, overrunning it and single-handedly destroying its three defenders. Inspired by his heroic example, his men renewed their attack on the entrenched enemy. While regrouping his small force for the final assault against the enemy, Sergeant Bryant fell mortally wounded by an enemy rocket. Sergeant Bryant's conspicuous gallantry, selfless concern for his comrades, and intrepidity at the cost of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



## SFC William M. Bryant

**Born:** 1933, Cochran, GA

**Entered Service:** Detroit, MI

**Unit:** 5th SFG, CIDG

### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 24 March 1969

**Date of Issue:** 16 February 1971

**DA GO 1971-08:** 9 March 1971

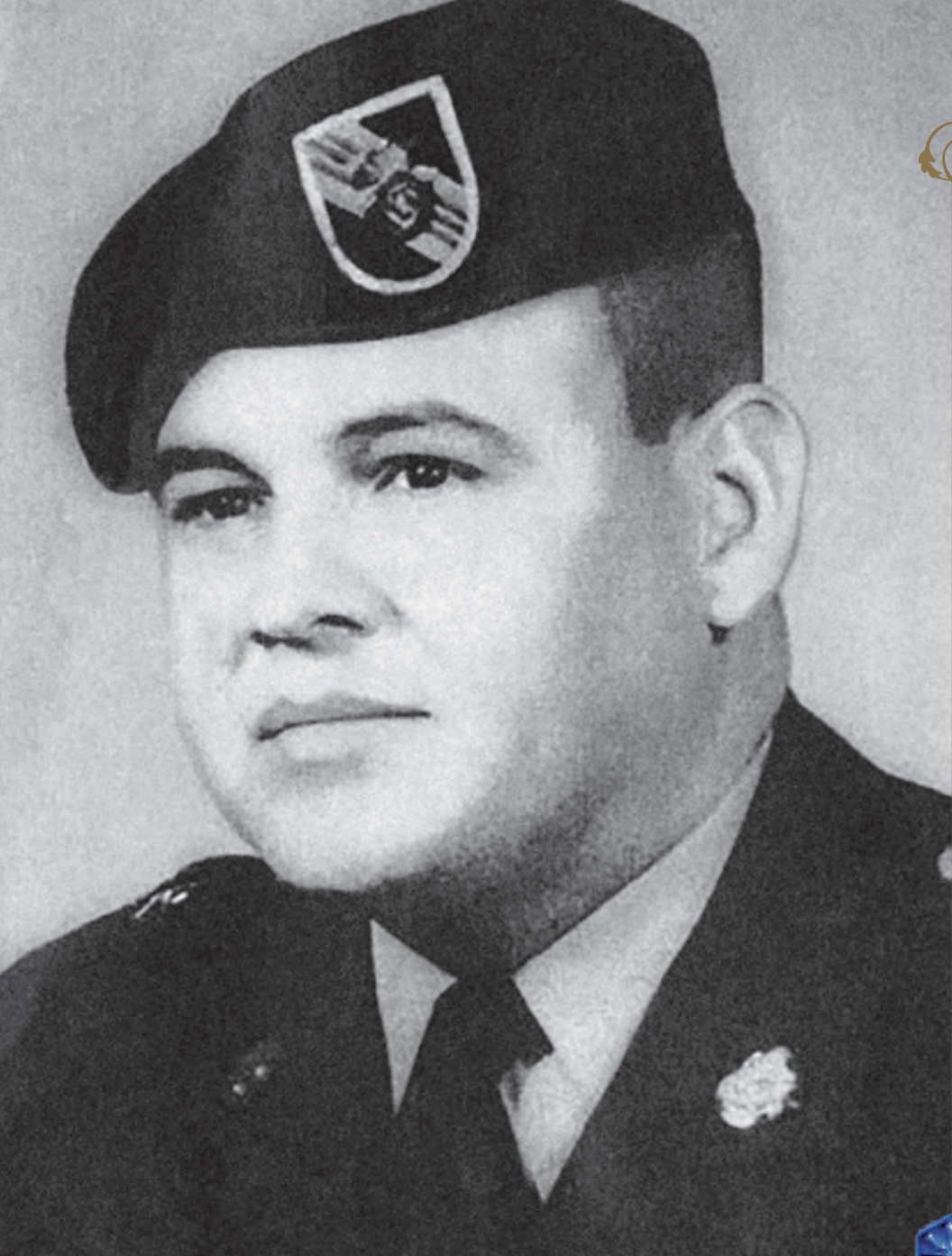
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Long Khanh Province,  
Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: June 1953
- » BCT, Fort Campbell, KY; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1953
- » Support Co, 505th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC** to **SGT**, 1953–1956
- » Inactive Reserve, March 1956–June 1956;
- » Enlisted for Active Duty, June 1956
- » Support Co, 505th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1956
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT**, 1957
- » A Co, 1st Abn Btl Grp, 505th Abn Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1957
- » Sqd Ldr, Fire Team Ldr, D Co (later C Co), 1st Btl Grp, 503rd Inf (later 19th Inf), Munich, Germany, **SGT**, 1957–1960
- » Sqd Ldr, Plat Sgt, A Co, 1st Abn Btl Grp, 325th Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, and Dominican Republic, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1960–1966
- » Grad SFQC, **SSG**, 1966
- » C Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1967–1968
- » Intel Sgt, A Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SFC**, 1968–1969
- » **KIA, Long Khanh, RVN, 24 March 1969**



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Jose Rodela distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the company commander, Detachment B-36, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam on September 1, 1969. That afternoon, Sergeant First Class Rodela's battalion came under an intense barrage of mortar, rocket and machine gun fire. Ignoring the withering enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Rodela immediately began placing his men into defensive positions to prevent the enemy from overrunning the entire battalion. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Rodela moved from position to position, providing suppressing fire and assisting wounded, and was himself wounded in the back and head by a B-40 rocket while recovering a wounded comrade. Alone, Sergeant First Class Rodela assaulted and knocked out the B-40 rocket position before successfully returning to the battalion's perimeter. Sergeant First Class Rodela's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



# SFC Jose Rodela



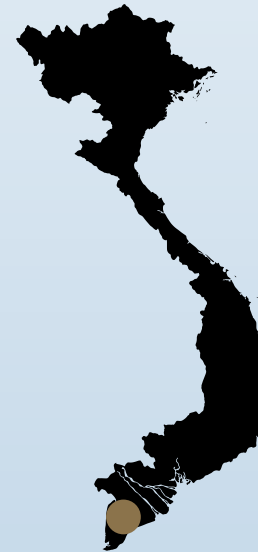


## SFC Jose Rodela

**Born:** 1937, Corpus Christi, TX  
**Entered Service:** Corpus Christi, TX  
**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment B-36

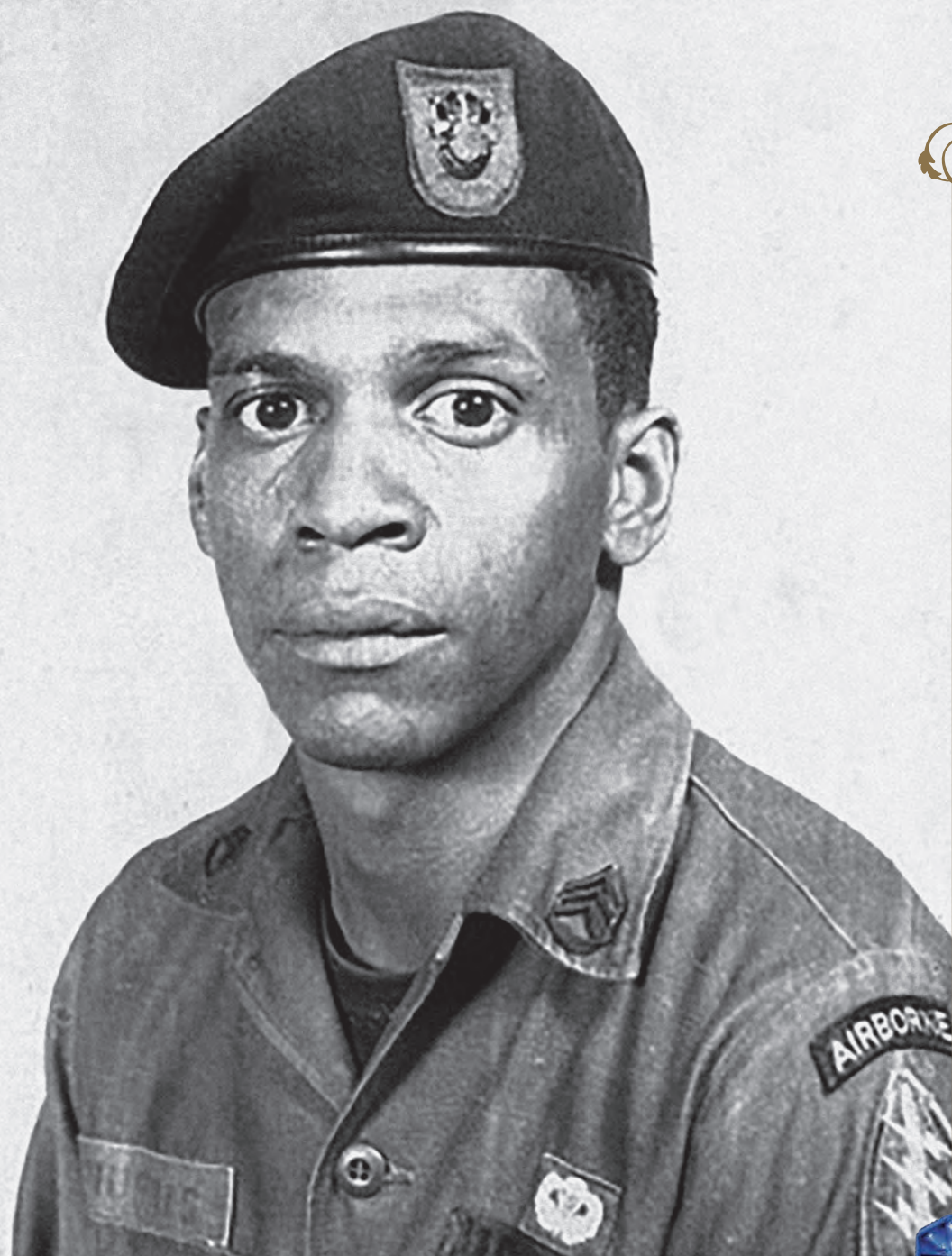
### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 1 September 1969  
**Date of Issue:** 18 March 2014  
**DA GO 2014-41:** 16 June 2014  
**Conflict:** Vietnam War  
**Location:** Phuoc Long Province,  
 Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 14 September 1955
- » BCT, Ft Ord, CA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1955; Eng AIT, Ft Leonard Wood, MO, **PV2** to **PFC**, 1955–1956
- » Const Helper, C Co, 27th Engr Bn, Ft Campbell, KY, **PFC**, 1956–1957
- » Cmbt Const Spec and Sqd Ldr, B Co, 11th Engr Bn, Army Forces Far East, Japan, **PFC** to **SP5**, 1957–1958
- » B Co, 431st Engr Bn (Const), Corpus Christi, TX, **SP5**, 1958
- » Combat Const Spec, C Co, 17th Engr Bn, Ft Hood, TX, **SGT**, 1958–1960
- » Combat Const Spec, 559th Engr Bn, USARAL, **SGT**, 1960–1962
- » Sqd Ldr, C Co, 17th Engr Bn, Ft Hood, TX, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1962–1965
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **SSG**, 1965
- » Sqd Ldr, B Co, 326th Engr Bn, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SSG**, 1965–1966
- » Const Foreman, C Co, 87th Engr Bn (Cons), RVN, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1966–1967
- » Combat Engr Ops Sgt, HHC, 47th Eng Bn (Abn), Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1967–1968
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1968
- » Intel Sgt, A Co, 6th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1968–1969
- » **Ops and Intel Spec, A Co, 5th SFG, RVN, SFC, 1969**
- » Patient, Various Hospitals, **SFC**, 1969–1970
- » Intel Sgt, B Co & A Co, 8th SFG, Ft Gulick, CZ, Panama, **SFC**, 1970–1972; Ops Sgt, C Co, 3rd Bn, 7th SFG, Ft Gulick, CZ, Panama, **SFC** to **MSG**, 1972–1975
- » Ops NCO, HHC, USAG, Ft Sam Houston, TX, **MSG**, 1975
- » Retirement, 31 December 1975



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commander of a Strike Force drawn from Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam on September 17, 1969. On that afternoon, Staff Sergeant Morris' affiliated companies encountered an extensive enemy mine field and were subsequently engaged by a hostile force. Staff Sergeant Morris learned by radio that a fellow team commander had been killed near an enemy bunker and he immediately reorganized his men into an effective assault posture before advancing forward and splitting off with two men to recover the team commander's body. Observing the maneuver, the hostile force concentrated its fire on Staff Sergeant Morris' three-man element and successfully wounded both men accompanying him. After assisting the two wounded men back to his forces' lines, Staff Sergeant Morris charged forward into withering enemy fire with only his men's suppressive fire as cover. While enemy machine gun emplacements continuously directed strafing fusillades against him, Staff Sergeant Morris destroyed the positions with hand grenades and continued his assault, ultimately eliminating four bunkers. Upon reaching the bunker nearest the fallen team commander, Staff Sergeant Morris repulsed the enemy, retrieved his comrade and began the arduous trek back to friendly lines. He was wounded three times as he struggled forward, but ultimately succeeded in returning his fallen comrade to a friendly position. Staff Sergeant Morris' extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



# SSG Melvin Morris





## SSG Melvin Morris

**Born:** 1942, Okmulgee, OK

**Entered Service:** Fort Bragg, NC

**Unit:** 5th SFG

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 17 September 1969

**Date of Issue:** 18 March 2014

**DA GO 2014-36:** 16 June 2014

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Oklahoma NG: 14 April 1959
- » BCT and Cmbt Eng AIT, **PV1**, 1959
- » Entered Active Duty, Army, 30 August 1960
- » Cannon Crewmember Training, Ft Sill, OK, **PV2**, 1960
- » Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC**, 1961
- » C Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC** to **SP4**, 1962; Cmbt Eng, B Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1962–1965
- » Cmbt Eng, A Co, 307th Eng Bn, 82nd Abn Div, Dominican Republic, and Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1965–1967
- » Grad SFQC, 1968
- » TAC NCO, SWTGC, USAJFKSWC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1968–1969
- » **SF Eng and Plat Cdr, 5th SFG, RVN, SSG, 1969**
- » 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1969–1970
- » 4th Co, 5th SFG, RVN, **SSG**, 1970–1971; Team Ldr, 5th SFG, MACV (SOG), RVN, **SSG**, 1971
- » 7/60th ADA, 82nd Abn Div, and 264th Engr Co, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1972–1974
- » Cmbt Engr, HHC 130th Engr Bde, Hanau, Germany, **SSG**, 1974
- » Student, Hotel and Motel Management, BS, Central TX College, 1974–1977
- » Engineer and SF Eng Sgt, C & A Co, 3rd Bn, 5th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4** to **SSG**, 1977–1981
- » SF Eng Sgt, A Co, 3rd Bn, 7th SFG, Ft Gulick, Panama, **SSG**, 1981–1982; Inf Sqd Ldr, A Co, 3rd Bn, 5th SFG, Ft Kobbe, Panama, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1982; Sr Instructor, 193rd Inf Bde, Panama, **SFC**, 1982–1984
- » Plat Sgt, C Co, 8th Eng Bn, 1st Cav Div, Ft Hood, TX, **SFC**, 1984–1985
- » Retirement, 1 May 1985



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Robert J. Pruden, United States Army, distinguished himself on 20 November 1969 while serving as a reconnaissance team leader with Company G, 75th Infantry, Americal Division, during an ambush mission in Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam. The six-man team was inserted by helicopter into enemy-controlled territory to establish an ambush position and to obtain information concerning enemy movements. As the team moved into the pre-planned area, Sergeant Pruden deployed his men into two groups on opposite sides of a well-used trail. As the groups were establishing their defensive positions, one member of the team was trapped in the open by heavy fire from an enemy squad. Realizing that the ambush position had been compromised, Sergeant Pruden directed his team to open fire on the enemy force. Immediately, the team came under heavy fire from a second enemy element. Sergeant Pruden, with full knowledge of the extreme danger involved, left his concealed position and, firing as he ran, advanced toward the enemy to draw the hostile fire. He was seriously wounded twice but continued his attack until he fell for a third time, in front of the enemy positions. Sergeant Pruden's actions resulted in several enemy casualties and withdrawal of the remaining enemy force. Although grievously wounded, he directed his men into defensive positions and called for evacuation helicopters, which safely withdrew the members of the team. Sergeant Pruden's outstanding courage, selfless concern for the welfare of his men, and intrepidity in action at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the United States Army.



# SSG Robert J. Pruden





## SSG Robert J. Pruden

**Born:** 1949, St. Paul, MN

**Entered Service:** Minneapolis, MN

**Unit:** G Co (Ranger), 75th Inf, 23rd Inf Div

### MOH Event

## *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 20 November 1969

**Date of Issue:** 22 April 1971

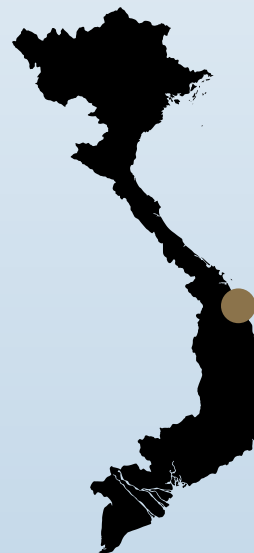
**DA GO 1971-26:** 26 May 1971

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Quang Ngai Province,  
Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 18 January 1968
- » BCT, Ft Campbell, KY, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1968; Inf AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, **PV2** to **PFC**, 1968; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC**, 1968
- » NCO Candidate School, Ft Benning, GA, **PFC** to **SGT**, 1968
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1969
- » Patrol Ldr, G Co, 75th Inf (Ranger), 23rd Inf Div, RVN, **SSG**, 1969
- » **KIA, Quang Ngai Province, RVN, 29 November 1969**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Franklin D. Miller, United States Army, distinguished himself on 5 January 1970 while serving as team leader with the 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, on an American-Vietnamese long-range reconnaissance patrol operating deep within enemy-controlled territory in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. Leaving the helicopter insertion point, the patrol moved forward on its mission. Suddenly one of the team members tripped a hostile booby trap which wounded four soldiers. Sergeant Miller, knowing that the explosion could alert the enemy, quickly administered first aid to the wounded and directed the team into positions across a small stream bed at the base of a steep hill. Within a few minutes, Sergeant Miller saw the lead element of what he estimated to be a platoon-size enemy force moving toward his location. Concerned for the safety of his men, he directed the small team to move up the hill to a more secure position. He remained alone, separated from the patrol, to meet the attack. Sergeant Miller single-handedly repulsed two determined attacks by the numerically superior enemy force and caused them to withdraw in disorder. He rejoined his team, established contact with a forward air controller and arranged the evacuation of his patrol. However, the only suitable extraction location in the heavy jungle was a bomb crater some 150 meters from the team location. Sergeant Miller reconnoitered the route to the crater and led his men through the enemy-controlled jungle to the extraction site. As the evacuation helicopter hovered over the crater to pick up the patrol, the enemy launched a savage automatic weapon and rocket-propelled grenade attack against the beleaguered team, driving off the rescue helicopter. Sergeant Miller led the team in a valiant defense which drove back the enemy in its attempt to overrun the small patrol. Although seriously



# SSG Franklin D. Miller



wounded and with every man in his patrol a casualty, Sergeant Miller moved the patrol to a more protected position. He then moved forward to again single-handedly meet the hostile attackers. From his forward exposed position, Sergeant Miller gallantly repelled two attacks by the enemy before a friendly relief force reached the patrol location. Sergeant Miller's conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity in action, and selfless devotion to the welfare of his comrades at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

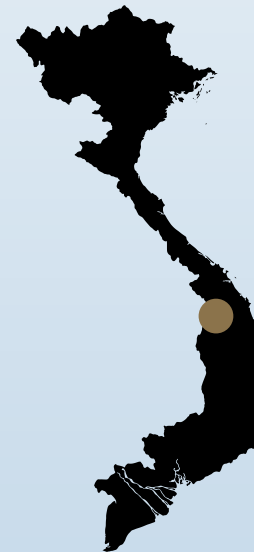


## SSG Franklin D. Miller

**Born:** 1945, Elizabeth City, NC  
**Entered Service:** Albuquerque, NM  
**Unit:** 5th SFG, MACV (SOG)

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 5 January 1970  
**Date of Issue:** 15 June 1971  
**DA GO 1971-35:** 16 July 1971  
**Conflict:** Vietnam War  
**Location:** Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 17 February 1965
- » BCT, Inf AIT, Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1 to PV2**, 1965
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2 to PFC**, 1965
- » D Co, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav, 1st Cav Div, RVN, **PFC**, 1966–1967
- » B Co, 1st Bn, 506th Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **PFC**, 1967
- » HHC 3rd Bde, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell and RVN, **PFC**, 1967–1968
- » Plat Sgt, A Co, Spec Ops Augmentation, 5th SFG, later USA Trng Support, USARPAC, RVN, **SGT**, 1969; Ops Sgt and Recon Team Ldr, 5th SFG, MACV (SOG), RVN, **SGT**, 1969
- » **Recon Team Ldr and Intel Sgt, USARV Trng and Adv, RVN, SGT to SSG, 1969–1972**
- » Section Sgt, HHT, 3rd Armed Cav Rgt, Ft Bliss, TX, 1972–1973
- » Lt Wpns Inf, B Btry, 4th ADA Tng Bn, ADA Tng Bde, Ft Bliss, TX, **SSG**, 1973–1974
- » Plat Sgt, HHC, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1974–1976
- » Sqd Ldr and Plat Sgt, B Trp, 2/9th Cav Rgt, Hunter AAF, GA, **SSG to SFC**, 1976–1978
- » Chief Instructor, 25th Inf Div, Schofield Bks, HI, **SFC**, 1978–1982
- » Plat Sgt, HHC, 2/9th Cav Rgt, Hunter AAF, GA, **SFC to MSG**, 1982–1985; Ops NCO, USA ELE HQ UN Cmd, Korea, **MSG**, 1985
- » Supply Chief, HHC, 25th Inf Div, Schofield Bks, HI, **MSG**, 1985; 1st Sgt, E Co, 725th Maintenance Bn, 25th Inf Div, Schofield Bks, HI, **MSG**, 1985–1986; 1st Sgt, B Co, 25th S&T Bn, 25th Inf Div, **MSG to SGM**, 1986–1988
- » Sr Log NCO, HQ 1st Signal Bde, Korea, **SGM**, 1988–1989
- » **CSM**, HSC 25th S&T Bn, 25th Inf Div, Schofield Bks, HI, **CSM**, 1989; Sr Log NCO, USA Log Ofc-PAC, Ft Shafter, HI, **SGM**, 1989–1990; Log Supply NCO, Schofield Bks, HI, **SGM**, 1990–1992
- » Retired, 30 November 1992
- » Deceased, 30 June 2000



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant Gary B. Beikirch, United States Army, Medical Aidman, Detachment B-24, Company B, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, while serving in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam, distinguished himself during the defense of Camp Dak Seang on April 1, 1970. On that date, the allied defenders suffered a number of casualties as a result of an intense, devastating attack launched by the enemy from well-concealed positions surrounding the camp. Sergeant Beikirch, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved unhesitatingly through the withering enemy fire to his fallen comrades, applied first aid to their wounds and assisted them to the medical aid station. When informed that a seriously injured American officer was lying in an exposed position, Sergeant Beikirch ran immediately through the hail of fire. Although he was wounded seriously by fragments from an exploding enemy mortar shell, Sergeant Beikirch carried the officer to a medical aid station. Ignoring his own serious injuries, Sergeant Beikirch left the relative safety of the medical bunker to search for and evacuate other men who had been injured. He was again wounded as he dragged a critically injured Vietnamese soldier to the medical bunker while simultaneously applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to sustain his life. Sergeant Beikirch again refused treatment and continued his search for other casualties until he collapsed. Only then did he permit himself to be treated. Sergeant Beikirch's conspicuous gallantry in action, his complete devotion to the welfare of his comrades, and his intrepidity at the risk of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



# SGT Gary B. Beikirch





## SGT Gary B. Beikirch

**Born:** 1947, Rochester, NY

**Entered Service:** Buffalo, NY

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment B-24

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 1 April 1970

**Date of Issue:** 15 October 1973

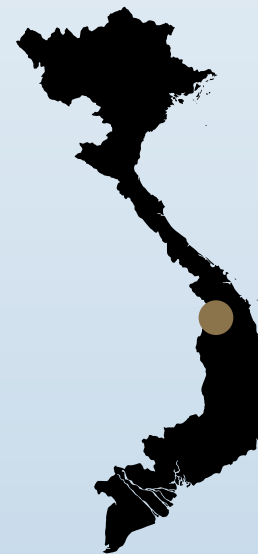
**DA GO 1973-37:** 5 November 1973

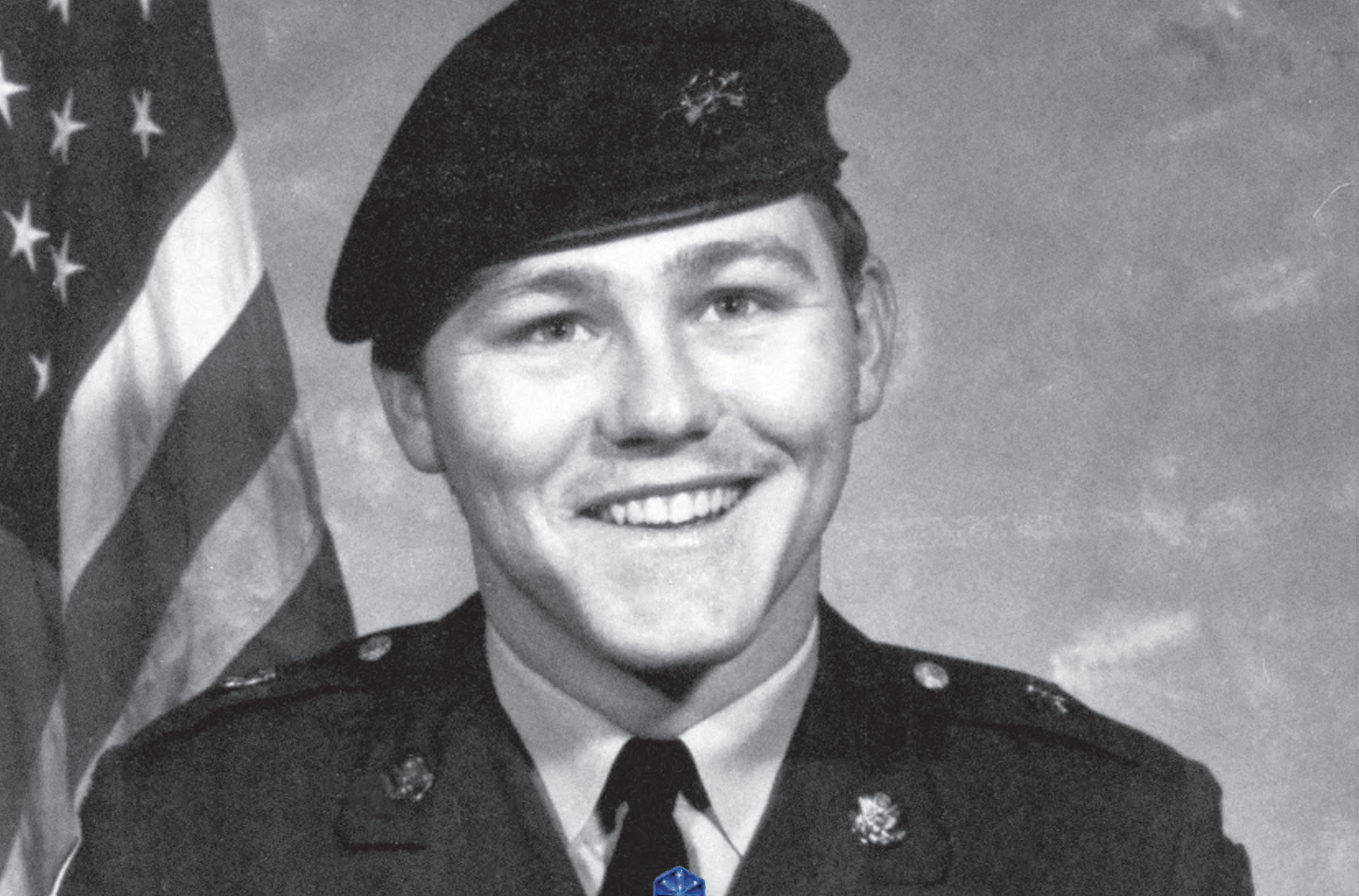
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 31 August 1967
- » BCT and Lt Wpns Inf AIT, Ft Dix, NJ; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1967–1968
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2** to **PFC**, 1968
- » Medical Field Service School, Ft Sam Houston, TX, **PFC** to **SP4**, 1968
- » Med Spec, B Co, 3rd SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1969
- » **Med Spec, B Co, 5th SFG, RVN, SP4 to SGT, 1969–1970**
- » Patient, Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, PA, **SGT**, 1970
- » Prev Med Spec, HHC 10th SFC, Ft Devens, MA, **SGT**, 1970–1971
- » Retirement, 31 August 1971





SGT Brian L. Buker



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant Brian L. Buker, United States Army, Detachment B-55, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces distinguished himself on 5 April 1970 while serving as a platoon advisor of a Vietnamese mobile Strike Force Company during an offensive mission in Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Buker personally led the platoon; cleared a strategically located, well-guarded pass; and established the first foothold at the top of what had been an impenetrable mountain fortress. When the platoon came under intense fire from a determined enemy located in two heavily fortified bunkers, and realizing that withdrawal would result in heavy casualties, Sergeant Buker unhesitatingly, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, charged through the hail of enemy fire and destroyed the first bunker with hand grenades. While reorganizing his men for the attack on the second bunker, Sergeant Buker was seriously wounded. Despite his wounds and the deadly enemy fire, he crawled forward and destroyed the second bunker. Sergeant Buker refused medical attention and was reorganizing his men to continue the attack when he was mortally wounded. As a direct result of his heroic actions, many casualties were averted, and the assault of the enemy position was successful. Sergeant Buker's conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



## SGT Brian L. Buker

**Born:** 1949, Benton, ME

**Entered Service:** Bangor, ME

**Unit:** 5th SFG, Detachment B-55

### MOH Event

## *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 5 April 1970

**Date of Issue:** 16 December 1971

**DA GO 1972-06:** 25 January 1972

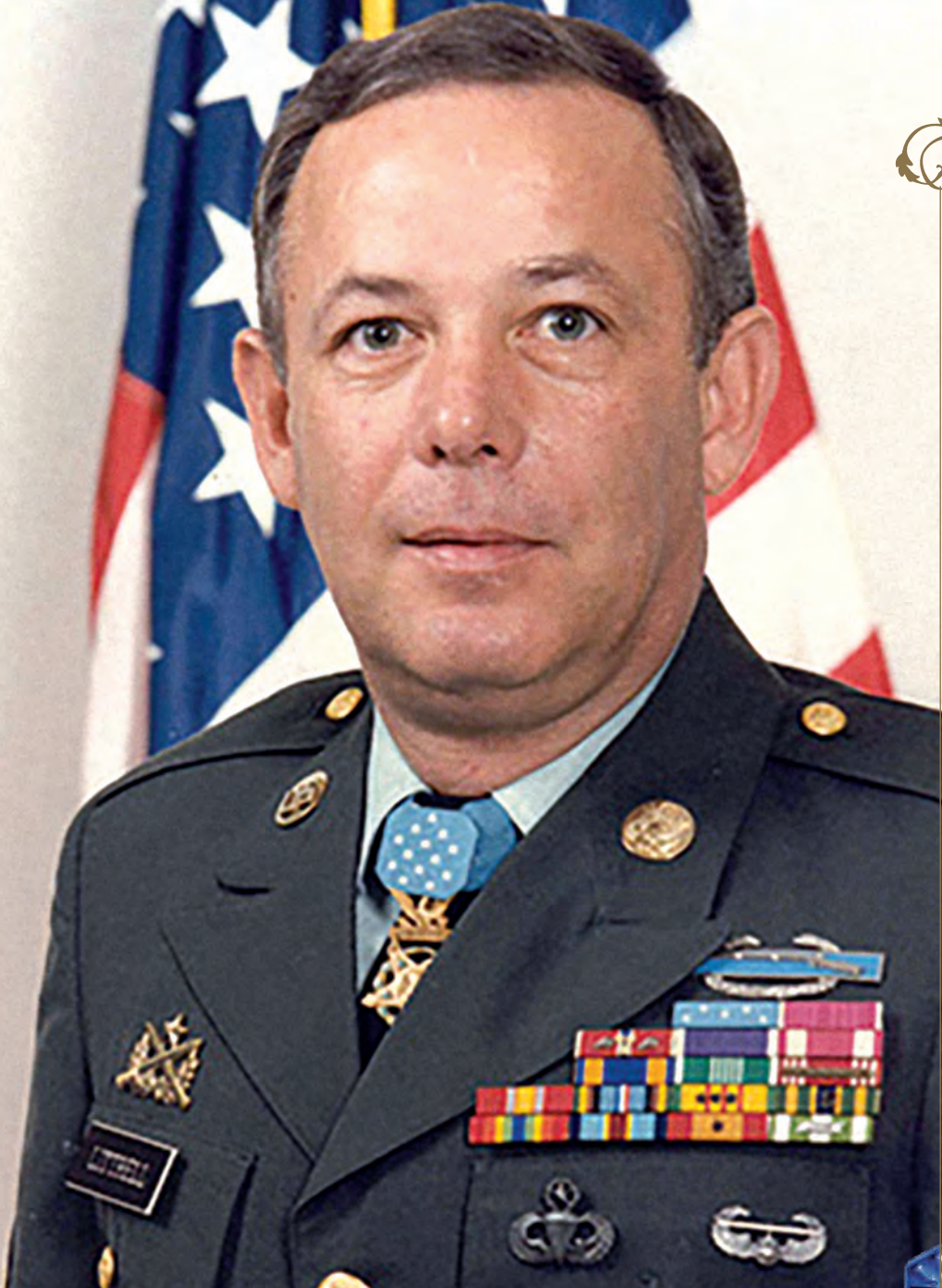
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 18 April 1967
- » BCT, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1967; AIT, Ft Dix, NJ, **PV2**, 1967; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1967–1968
- » Messenger and Sr. Wireman, 173rd Abn Bde (Sep), RVN, **PFC** to **SGT**, 1968–1969
- » Radio Operator, Sig Co, 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **SGT**, 1969
- » Cmbt Eng, HHC (B-55), 5th SFG, RVN, **SGT**, 1969–1970
- » **KIA, Chau Doc Province, RVN, 5 April 1970**



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Gary L. Littrell, United States Army, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Advisory Team 21, distinguished himself during the period April 4 to 8, 1970 while serving as a Light Weapons Infantry Advisor with the 23rd Battalion, 2nd Ranger Group, Republic of Vietnam Army, near Dak Seang in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. After establishing a defensive perimeter on a hill on April 4, the battalion was subjected to an intense enemy mortar attack which killed the Vietnamese commander, one advisor, and seriously wounded all the advisors except Sergeant Littrell. During the ensuing four days, Sergeant Littrell exhibited near superhuman endurance and conspicuous gallantry as he singlehandedly bolstered the besieged battalion. Repeatedly abandoning positions of relative safety, he directed artillery and air support by day and marked the unit's location by night, despite the heavy, concentrated enemy fire. His dauntless will instilled in the men of the 23rd Battalion a deep desire to resist. Assault after assault was repulsed as the battalion responded to the extraordinary leadership and personal example exhibited by Sergeant Littrell as he continuously moved to those points most seriously threatened by the enemy, redistributed ammunition, strengthened faltering defenses, cared for the wounded and shouted encouragement to the Vietnamese in their own language. When the beleaguered battalion was finally ordered to withdraw, numerous ambushes were encountered. Sergeant Littrell repeatedly prevented widespread disorder by directing air strikes to within 50 meters of their position. Through his indomitable courage and complete disregard for his safety, he averted excessive loss of life and injury to the members of the battalion. The sustained extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sergeant Littrell over an extended period of time were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.



# SFC Gary L. Littrell





## SFC Gary L. Littrell

**Born:** 1944, Henderson, KY

**Entered Service:** Los Angeles, CA

**Unit:** Advisory Team 21, 23rd Bn, 2nd Ranger Grp

### MOH Event

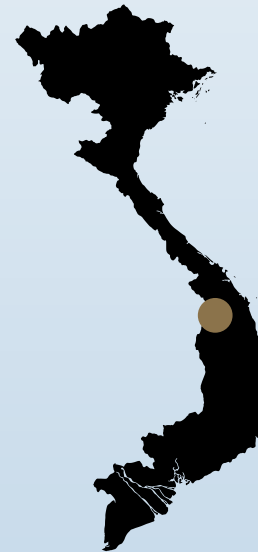
**Date of Action:** 4–8 April 1970

**Date of Issue:** 15 October 1973

**DAGO 1973-41:** 5 November 1973

**Conflict:** Vietnam

**Location:** Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 27 October 1961
- » BCT, and Inf AIT, Ft Ord, CA, **PV1**, 1961–1962; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2**, 1962
- » Loader, HHC, 2nd Abn Grp, 503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, **PFC**, 1962–1963; Asst Sec Ldr, D Co, 16th Armor, 173rd Abn Bde, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, **SP4**, 1963–1965
- » Asst Sec Ldr and Team Ldr, A Co, 1st Bn, 504th Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, **SP4**, 1965–1966; Team Ldr, A Co, 1st Bn, 504th Inf, 82nd Abn Div, Dominican Republic, **SP4**, 1966
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT**, 1966
- » Instr, Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT**, 1966–1969
- » **Ops and Intel Adv, Adv Team 21, 23rd Bn, 2nd Ranger Grp, MACV, RVN, SSG, 1969–1970**
- » Sr Instr, (Rgr Dept), 2nd Rgr Co, TSB, Dahlonga, GA, **SSG**, 1970–1971
- » Sr Instr, (Rgr Dept), 1st Rgr Co, TSB, Eglin AFB, FL, **SSG**, 1971–1972
- » Ops and Intel Adv, DRAC, MACV, RVN, **SFC**, 1972–1973
- » Training NCO, HHC USAG, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC**, 1974; Asst Ops Sgt, HHC, 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC**, 1974
- » Asst Ops Sgt, HHC 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC**, 1974–1975; Plat Sgt, A Co, 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC**, 1975; Intel Sgt, HHC, 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC**, 1975–1976; Intel Sgt and 1st Sgt, B Co, 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, Ft Campbell, KY, **SFC** to **1SG**, 1976–1977
- » 1st Sgt, C Co, 1st Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Stewart, GA, **1SG**, 1977–1978
- » 1st Sgt, HHC, HQ Cmd, Ft Stewart, GA, **1SG**, 1978–1979
- » Asst Comdt, 24th Inf Div NCO Academy, Ft Stewart, GA, **MSG**, 1979
- » Ops Sgt and 1st Sgt, HHC, 4th Bn, 20th Inf Bde, Panama, **1SG** to **SGM**, 1980–1982
- » **CSM**, HHC, 4th Bn, 20th Inf Bde, Panama, **SGM** to **CSM**, 1983
- » **CSM**, HHC, 4th AG Repl Det, Ft Carson, CO, **CSM**, 1983
- » Retirement, 31 October 1983



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant Gary M. Rose distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Special Forces Medic with a company-sized exploitation force, Special Operations Augmentation, Command and Control Central, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. Between 11 and 14 September 1970, Sergeant Rose's company was continuously engaged by a well-armed and numerically superior hostile force deep in enemy-controlled territory. Enemy B-40 rockets and mortar rounds rained down while the adversary sprayed the area with small arms and machine gun fire, wounding many and forcing everyone to seek cover. Sergeant Rose, braving the hail of bullets, sprinted fifty meters to a wounded soldier's side. He then used his own body to protect the casualty from further injury while treating his wounds. After stabilizing the casualty, Sergeant Rose carried him through the bullet-ridden combat zone to protective cover. As the enemy accelerated the attack, Sergeant Rose continuously exposed himself to intense fire as he fearlessly moved from casualty to casualty, administering life-saving aid. A B-40 rocket impacted just meters from Sergeant Rose, knocking him from his feet and injuring his head, hand, and foot. Ignoring his wounds, Sergeant Rose struggled to his feet and continued to render aid to the other injured soldiers. During an attempted medevac, Sergeant Rose again exposed himself to enemy fire as he attempted to hoist wounded personnel up to the hovering helicopter, which was unable to land due to unsuitable terrain. The medevac mission was aborted due to intense enemy fire and the helicopter crashed a few miles away due to the enemy fire sustained during the attempted extraction. Over the next two days, Sergeant Rose continued to expose himself to enemy fire in order to treat the wounded, estimated to be half of the company's personnel. On September 14, during the company's eventual helicopter extraction,



# SGT Gary M. Rose



the enemy launched a full-scale offensive. Sergeant Rose, after loading wounded personnel on the first set of extraction helicopters, returned to the outer perimeter under enemy fire, carrying friendly casualties and moving wounded personnel to more secure positions until they could be evacuated. He then returned to the perimeter to help repel the enemy until the final extraction helicopter arrived. As the final helicopter was loaded, the enemy began to overrun the company's position, and the helicopter's Marine door gunner was shot in the neck. Sergeant Rose instantly administered critical medical treatment onboard the helicopter, saving the Marine's life. The helicopter carrying Sergeant Rose crashed several hundred meters from the evacuation point, further injuring Sergeant Rose and the personnel on board. Despite his numerous wounds from the past three days, Sergeant Rose continued to pull and carry unconscious and wounded personnel out of the burning wreckage and continued to administer aid to the wounded until another extraction helicopter arrived. Sergeant Rose's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were critical to saving numerous lives over that four day time period. His actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Special Forces, and the United States Army.

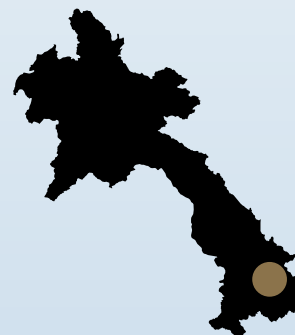


## SGT Gary M. Rose

**Born:** 1947, Watertown, NY  
**Entered Service:** Los Angeles, CA  
**Unit:** 5th SFG, MACV (SOG)

### MOH Event

**Date of Action:** 11–14 September 1970  
**Date of Issue:** 23 October 2017  
**DA GO 2017-47:** 23 October 2017  
**Conflict:** Vietnam War  
**Location:** Laos



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: April 1967
- » BCT, Ft Ord, CA; MP AIT, Ft Gordon, GA, Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PFC**, 1967
- » D Co, SWTG, SF Medical NCO Course, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC** to **SGT**, 1967–1969
- » Asst SF Med Spec, D Co, 7th SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 1968–1969
- » 46th SF Co, USARPAC-Thailand, **SGT**, 1969
- » **SF Med Spec, 5th SFG, MACV (SOG), RVN, SGT, 1969–1971**
- » Spanish Language Crs, Ft Myer, DC, A Co, 8th SFG, USARSO, CZ, Panama, **SGT**, 1971–1972
- » SF Med Spec, C Co, 3rd Bn, 7th SFG, USARSO, CZ, Panama, **SSG**, 1972–1973
- » OCS, Commissioned as **2LT**, FA, 1973
- » FAOB, Ft Sill, OK, **2LT**, 1974
- » Arty FO, Svc Bty, 4th FA Bn, Ft Sill, OK, **1LT**, 1975
- » Bty Cdr, D Co, 3rd Trng Bn, FA Off Adv Crs, Ft Sill, OK 1976–1978, **1LT** to **CPT**, 1978
- » Test & Eval Off, White Sands Missile Range, NM, **CPT**, 1978–1979
- » HHB, 1st Bn, 76th FA, later 2nd Bn, 39th FA, Germany, **CPT**, 1980–1981; B Btry, 29th FA, Germany, **CPT**, 1981–1982; HHB, 72nd FA Bde, Germany, **CPT**, 1982
- » Fire Spt Elem Instr, CECOM Net TACFIRE, Ft Sill, OK, **CPT**, 1982–1987
- » Retirement, 30 April 1987



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Jon R. Cavaiani, United States Army, United States Army Vietnam Training Advisory Group, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 and 5 June 1971 while serving as a platoon leader to a security platoon providing security for an isolated radio relay site located within enemy-held territory. On the morning of 4 June 1971, the entire camp came under an intense barrage of enemy small arms, automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade, and mortar fire from a superior-size enemy force. Sergeant Cavaiani acted with complete disregard for his personal safety as he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to move about the camp's perimeter directing the platoon's fire and rallying the platoon in a desperate fight for survival. Sergeant Cavaiani also returned heavy suppressive fire upon the assaulting enemy force during this period with a variety of weapons. When the entire platoon was to be evacuated, Sergeant Cavaiani unhesitatingly volunteered to remain on the ground and direct the helicopters into the landing zone. Sergeant Cavaiani was able to direct the first three helicopters in evacuating a major portion of the platoon. Due to intense increase in enemy fire, Sergeant Cavaiani was forced to remain at the camp overnight where he calmly directed the remaining platoon members in strengthening their defenses. On the morning of 5 June, a heavy ground fog restricted visibility. The superior size enemy force launched a major ground attack in an attempt to completely annihilate the remaining small force. The enemy force advanced in two ranks, first firing a heavy volume of small arms automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire while the second rank continuously threw a steady barrage of hand grenades at the beleaguered force. Sergeant Cavaiani returned a heavy barrage of small arms and hand grenade fire on the assaulting enemy force but was unable to slow them down. He ordered the remaining platoon members to attempt to escape while he provided



# SSG Jon R. Cavaiani



them with cover fire. With one last courageous exertion, Sergeant Cavaiani recovered a machine gun, stood up, completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire directed at him, and began firing the machine gun in a sweeping motion along the two ranks of advancing enemy soldiers. Through Sergeant Cavaiani's valiant efforts with complete disregard for his safety, the majority of the remaining platoon members were able to escape. While inflicting severe losses on the advancing enemy force, Sergeant Cavaiani was wounded numerous times. Staff Sergeant Cavaiani's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



## SSG Jon R. Cavaiani

**Born:** 1943, Royston, England

**Entered Service:** Fresno, CA

**Unit:** USARV (TAG)

### MOH Event

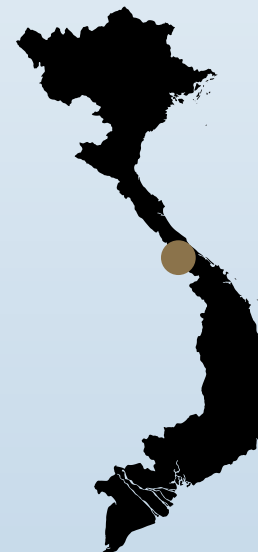
**Date of Action:** 4-5 June 1971

**Date of Issue:** 12 December 1974

**DA GO 1975-02:** 3 January 1975

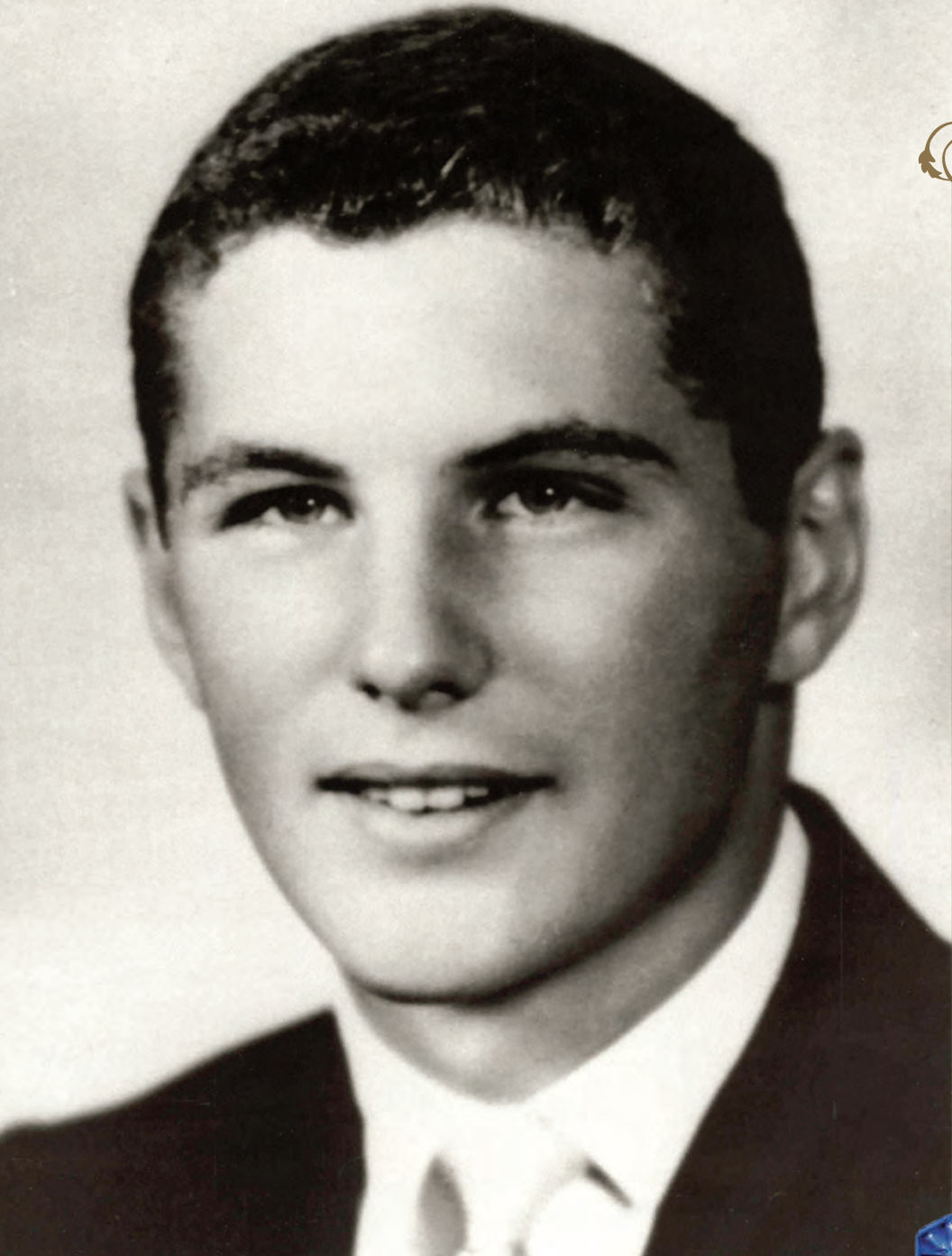
**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** Hill 950, Quang Tri Province,  
Republic of Vietnam



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 7 May 1969
- » BCT, Inf AIT, Ft Ord, CA; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1969
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2** to **SGT**, 1970
- » **Hvy Wpns Ldr, C Co, 5th SFG, RVN; Asst Team Ldr, SOA (CCN), 5th SFG, RVN; Team Ldr, USARV, TAG (CCN), RVN, SGT to SSG, 1970-1971**
- » Prisoner of War, **SSG**, 1971-1973
- » Instructor, E Co, USAIMA, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 1973-1974
- » Chief Enl Adv, USA Readiness Region IX, Presidio, CA, **SSG** to **SFC**, 1974-1977
- » Asst Ops Sgt and Asst Trng NCO, HHC, Spt Trp Bn, Berlin Bde, Germany, **SFC**, 1977-1978
- » Ops Sgt and Chief Ops Sgt, Allied Staff, Berlin, Germany, **SFC**, 1978-1980
- » Area Specialty NCOIC, 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **SFC** to **MSG**, 1980-1983
- » Ops Sgt Major, 11th SFG, Ft Meade, MD, **MSG**, 1983-1985
- » Senior Career Adv, Mil Pers Center, Alexandria, VA, **MSG**, 1985-1987
- » Ops SGM, Spec Rotary Wing Test Activity, Ft Eustis, VA, **MSG** to **SGM**, 1987-1988;
- » Sqdn SGM, Flight Concepts Div, Spec Rotary Wing Test Activity, Ft Eustis, VA, **SGM**, 1988-1989
- » Chief Instructor, 4th ROTC Rgt, Ft Lewis, WA, **SGM**, 1989-1990
- » Retired, 31 May 1990
- » Deceased, 29 July 2014



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

First Lieutenant Loren D. Hagen, Infantry, United States Army Vietnam Training Advisory Group, distinguished himself in action in the Republic of Vietnam on August 7, 1971 while serving as the team leader of a small reconnaissance team operating deep within enemy-held territory. At approximately 0630 hours on the morning of August 7, 1971 the small team came under a fierce assault by a superior-sized enemy force using heavy small arms, automatic weapons, mortar, and rocket fire. Lieutenant Hagen immediately began returning small arms fire upon the attackers and successfully led his team in repelling the first enemy onslaught. He then quickly deployed his men into more strategic defensive locations before the enemy struck again in an attempt to overrun and annihilate the beleaguered team's members. Lieutenant Hagen repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy fire directed at him as he constantly moved about the team's perimeter, directing fire, rallying the members, and resupplying the team with ammunition, while courageously returning small arms and hand grenade fire in a valorous attempt to repel the advancing enemy force. The courageous actions and expert leadership abilities of Lieutenant Hagen were a great source of inspiration and instilled confidence in the team members. After observing an enemy rocket make a direct hit on and destroy one of the team's bunkers, Lieutenant Hagen moved toward the wrecked bunker in a search for team members despite the fact that the enemy force now controlled the bunker area. With total disregard for his own personal safety, he crawled through the enemy fire while returning small arms fire upon the enemy force. Undaunted by the enemy rockets and grenades impacting all around him, Lieutenant Hagen desperately advanced upon the destroyed bunker until he was fatally wounded by enemy



# 1LT Loren D. Hagen



small arms and automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Hagen's courageous actions, high degree of professionalism and untiring efforts were a great inspiration to the entire team throughout the fierce battle. His gallant actions in the face of such overwhelming odds proved to be of inestimable value to his team. First Lieutenant Hagen's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, at the cost of his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him and the United States Army.



## 1LT Loren D. Hagen

**Born:** 1946, Fargo, ND

**Entered Service:** Fargo, ND

**Unit:** USARV (TAG)

### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 7 August 1971

**Date of Issue:** 6 September 1974

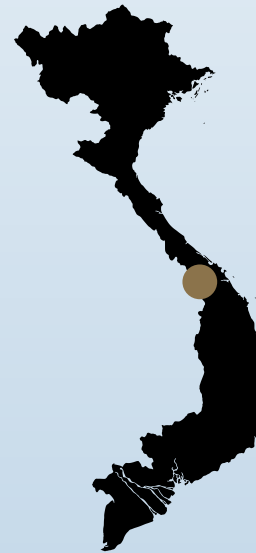
**DA GO 1974-40:** 6 September 1974

**Conflict:** Vietnam War

**Location:** A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 30 August 1968
- » BCT, Ft Dix, NJ, **PV1**, 1968; AIT, Ft Polk, LA, **PV1 to PV2**, 1968
- » Eng Off Candidate, Ft Belvoir, VA, **SP5**, 1969
- » Commissioned as Eng Off, 18 July 1969
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **2LT**, 1969; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **2LT**, 1969
- » Eng Off, HHC, 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **2LT**, 1969–1970
- » Tm Ldr, 5th SFG, MACV (TAG), RVN, **2LT to 1LT**, 1970–1971
- » **KIA, A Shau Valley, RVN, 7 August 1971**





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Master Sergeant Gary I. Gordon, United States Army, distinguished himself by actions above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as Sniper Team Leader, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Master Sergeant Gordon's sniper team provided precision fires from the lead helicopter during an assault, and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. When Master Sergeant Gordon learned that ground forces were not immediately available to secure the second crash site, he and another sniper unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. After his third request to be inserted, Master Sergeant Gordon received permission to perform his volunteer mission. When debris and enemy ground fires at the site caused them to abort the first attempt, Master Sergeant Gordon was inserted one hundred meters south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and a pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon and his fellow sniper, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Master Sergeant Gordon immediately pulled



# MSG Gary I. Gordon



the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Master Sergeant Gordon used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers until he depleted his ammunition. Master Sergeant Gordon then went back to the wreckage, recovering some of the crew's weapons and ammunition. Despite the fact that he was critically low on ammunition he provided some of it to the dazed pilot and then radioed for help. Master Sergeant Gordon continued to travel the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. After his team member was fatally wounded, and his own rifle ammunition exhausted, Master Sergeant Gordon returned to the wreckage, recovering a rifle with the last five rounds of ammunition and gave it to the pilot with the words "good luck." Then, armed only with his pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Master Sergeant Gordon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service, and reflect great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army.



## MSG Gary I. Gordon

**Born:** 1960, Lincoln, ME

**Entered Service:** Fort Bragg, NC

**Unit:** HQ, USASOC

### MOH Event

## Posthumous

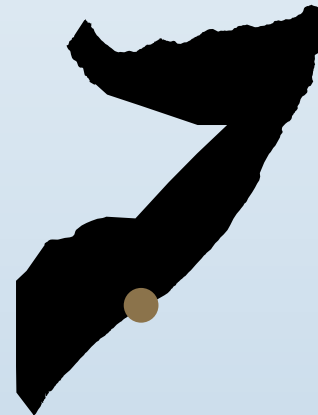
**Date of Action:** 3 October 1993

**Date of Issue:** 6 September 1994

**DA GO 1994-13:** 23 May 1994

**Conflict:** Operation GOTHIC SERPENT

**Location:** Mogadishu, Somalia



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 4 December 1978
- » BCT, Cmbt Engr AIT, Ft Leonard Wood, MO; Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1** to **PV2**, 1979
- » Grad SFQC, SF Engr, Ft Bragg, NC, **PV2**, 1980
- » SF Engineer, C Co, 2nd Bn, 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **PV2** to **SGT**, 1980–1982
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SGT**, 1982
- » SF Engineer, C Co, 2nd Bn, 10th SFG, Ft Devens, MA, **SGT** to **SSG**, 1982–1986
- » Operator/Asst Team SGT/Team SGT, USASOC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG** to **MSG**, 1987–1993; Operation JUST CAUSE, Panama, **SFC**, 1989–1990; Contingency Ops, Saudi Arabia, **SFC**, 1991; Contingency Ops for Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, **MSG**, 1993; Operation RESTORE HOPE, Mogadishu, Somalia, **MSG**, 1993
- » **KIA, Operation GOTHIC SERPENT, Mogadishu, Somalia, 3 October 1993**



SFC Randall D. Shughart



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart, United States Army, distinguished himself by actions above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as a Sniper Team Member, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Sergeant First Class Shughart provided precision sniper fires from the lead helicopter during an assault on a building and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. While providing critical suppressive fires at the second crash site, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader learned that ground forces were not immediately available to secure the site. Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. After their third request to be inserted, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader received permission to perform this volunteer mission. When debris and enemy ground fires at the site caused them to abort the first attempt, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader were inserted one hundred meters south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and a pistol, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Sergeant First Class Shughart pulled the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Sergeant First Class Shughart used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers while traveling the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. Sergeant First Class Shughart continued his protective fire until he depleted his ammunition and was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Sergeant First Class Shughart's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service, and reflect great credit upon him, his unit, and the United States Army.



## SFC Randall D. Shughart

**Born:** 1958, Lincoln, NE

**Entered Service:** Newville, PA

**Unit:** HQ, USASOC

### MOH Event *Posthumous*

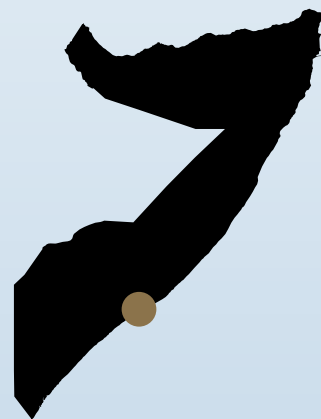
**Date of Action:** 3 October 1993

**Date of Issue:** 6 September 1994

**DA GO 1994-14:** 23 May 1994

**Conflict:** Operation GOTHIC SERPENT

**Location:** Mogadishu, Somalia



### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 10 December 1975
- » BCT, Inf AIT, Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1 to PV2**, 1976
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, 1978, **PFC**
- » B Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft. Lewis, WA, **SP4 to SGT**, 1978–1980
- » Inactive Reserve, 24 June 1980–6 December 1983
- » Re-enlisted, 7 December 1983
- » Infantryman/Squad Leader, B Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft. Lewis, WA, **PV2 to SSG**, 1983–1986
- » Operator/Team Member, USASOC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG to SFC**, 1986–1990; Operation JUST CAUSE, Panama, **SFC**, 1989–1990
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1990
- » Operator/Asst Team SGT, USASOC, Ft Bragg, NC, **SFC**, 1990–1993; Operation RESTORE HOPE, Mogadishu, Somalia, **SFC**, 1993
- » **KIA, Operation GOTHIC SERPENT, Mogadishu, Somalia, 3 October 1993**



*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, distinguished himself by extraordinary acts of heroism while serving as the Weapons Sergeant in Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 3312, Special Operations Task Force-33, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan during combat operations against an armed enemy in Konar Province, Afghanistan on January 25, 2008. While conducting a combat reconnaissance patrol through the Gowardesh Valley, Staff Sergeant Miller and his small element of U.S. and Afghan National Army soldiers engaged a force of 15 to 20 insurgents occupying prepared fighting positions. Staff Sergeant Miller initiated the assault by engaging the enemy positions with his vehicle's turret-mounted Mark-19 40 millimeter automatic grenade launcher while simultaneously providing detailed descriptions of the enemy positions to his command, enabling effective, accurate close air support. Following the engagement, Staff Sergeant Miller led a small squad forward to conduct a battle damage assessment. As the group neared the small, steep, narrow valley that the enemy had inhabited, a large, well-coordinated insurgent force initiated a near ambush, assaulting from elevated positions with ample cover. Exposed and with little available cover, the patrol was totally vulnerable to enemy rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapon fire. As point man, Staff Sergeant Miller was at the front of the patrol, cut off from supporting



# SSG Robert J. Miller



elements, and less than 20 meters from enemy forces. Nonetheless, with total disregard for his own safety, he called for his men to quickly move back to covered positions as he charged the enemy over exposed ground and under overwhelming enemy fire in order to provide protective fire for his team. While maneuvering to engage the enemy, Staff Sergeant Miller was shot in his upper torso. Ignoring the wound, he continued to push the fight, moving to draw fire from over one hundred enemy fighters upon himself. He then again charged forward through an open area in order to allow his teammates to safely reach cover. After killing at least 10 insurgents, wounding dozens more, and repeatedly exposing himself to withering enemy fire while moving from position to position, Staff Sergeant Miller was mortally wounded by enemy fire. His extraordinary valor ultimately saved the lives of seven members of his own team and 15 Afghanistan National Army soldiers. Staff Sergeant Miller's heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty, and at the cost of his own life, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



## SSG Robert J. Miller

**Born:** 1983, Harrisburg, PA

**Entered Service:** Oviedo, FL

**Unit:** 3rd SFG, Detachment A-3312

### MOH Event

### *Posthumous*

**Date of Action:** 25 January 2008

**Date of Issue:** 6 October 2010

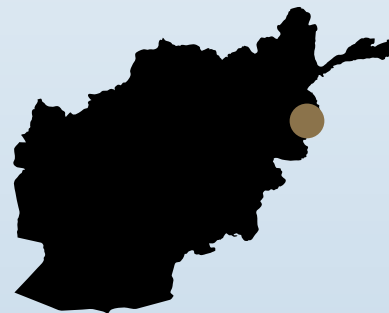
**DA GO 2012-19:** 19 December 2012

**Conflict:** Operation ENDURING  
FREEDOM-Afghanistan

**Location:** Konar Province, Afghanistan

### Military Service

- » PEBD Army: 14 August 2003
- » BCT, Inf AIT, and Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1 to PFC**, 2003–2004
- » Grad SFQC, Ft Bragg, NC, **PFC to SGT**, 2005
- » SF Wpns Sgt, 3rd SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SGT**, 2005–2007; Combat Duty in Afghanistan, **SGT to SSG** 2006–2007
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **SSG**, 2007
- » SF Wpns Sgt, A Co, 3rd SFG, Ft Bragg, NC, **SSG**, 2007–2008
- » **KIA, Konar Province, Afghanistan, 25 January 2008**





SSG Leroy A. Petry





*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty*

Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry, distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008. As a Weapons Squad Leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Ranger to cover. He then reported the situation and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade, providing suppression as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades. The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow Rangers to the ground and wounded both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Instantly realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, amputating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds. Although picking up and throwing the live grenade grievously wounded Staff Sergeant Petry, his gallant act undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Despite the severity of his wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry continued to maintain the presence of mind to place a tourniquet on his right wrist before communicating the situation by radio in order to coordinate support for himself and his fellow wounded Rangers. Staff Sergeant Petry's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the United States Army.

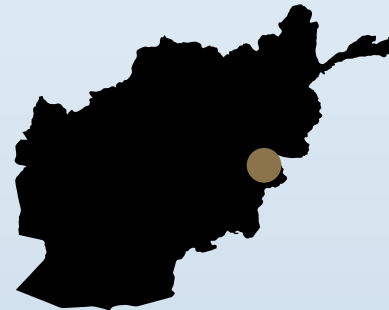


**SSG Leroy A. Petry**

**Born:** 1979, Santa Fe, NM  
**Entered Service:** New Mexico  
**Unit:** 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt

**MOH Event**

**Date of Action:** 26 May 2008  
**Date of Issue:** 12 July 2011  
**DA GO 2012-23:** 19 December 2012  
**Conflict:** Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-Afghanistan  
**Location:** Paktya Province, Afghanistan



**Military Service**

- » PEBD Army: 28 September 1999
- » BCT, Inf AIT, and Abn School, Ft Benning, GA, **PV1 to PV2**, 1999–2000
- » B Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Lewis, WA, **PV2**, 2000
- » Grad Ranger Crs, Ft Benning, GA, **PV2 to PFC**, 2001
- » Grenadier, Fire Team Ldr, and Sqd Ldr, B Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Lewis, WA, **PFC to SSG**, 2001–2006; Combat Duty in Afghanistan during 2003 (**SPC**), 2004 (**SGT**), 2005 (**SGT**)
- » Ops Sgt, Sqd Ldr, A Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Lewis, WA, **SSG**, 2006–2007; Combat Duty in Iraq during 2007
- » **Wpns Sqd Ldr, D Co, 2nd Bn, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Lewis, WA, SSG to SFC, 2007–2011; Combat Duty in Afghanistan during 2008 (SSG) and 2011 (SFC)**
- » Wounded Warrior Adv, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Benning, GA, **SFC to MSG**, 2011–2014
- » Retirement, 28 July 2014

