

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 64

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 22 October 1968

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Staff Sergeant *Kenneth E. Stumpf*, US55831375, United States Army, who distinguished himself on 25 April 1967, while serving as a Squad Leader of the 3d Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, on a search-and-destroy mission near Duc Pho in the Republic of Vietnam. As Sergeant *Stumpf's* company approaching a village, it encountered a North Vietnamese rifle company occupying a well fortified bunker complex. During the initial contact, three men from his squad fell wounded in front of a hostile machine gun emplacement. The enemy's heavy volume of fire prevented the unit from moving to the aid of the injured men, but Sergeant *Stumpf* left his secure position in a deep trench and ran through the barrage of incoming rounds to reach his wounded comrades. He picked up one of the men and carried him back to the safety of the trench. Twice more Sergeant *Stumpf* dashed forward while the enemy turned automatic weapons and machine guns upon him, yet he managed to rescue the remaining two wounded squad members. He then organized his squad and led an assault against several enemy bunkers from which continuously heavy fire was being received. He and his squad successfully eliminated two of the bunker positions, but one to the front of the advancing platoon remained a serious threat. Arming himself with extra hand grenades, Sergeant *Stumpf* ran over open ground, through a volley of fire directed at him by a determined enemy, toward the machine gun position. As he reached the bunker, he threw a hand grenade through the aperture. It was immediately returned by the occupants, forcing Sergeant *Stumpf* to take cover. Undaunted, he pulled the pins on two more grenades, held them for a few seconds after activation, then hurled them into the position, this time successfully destroying the emplacement. With the elimination of this key position, his unit was able to assault and overrun the enemy. Sergeant *Stumpf's* relentless spirit of aggressiveness, intrepidity, and ultimate concern for the lives of his men, at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (This award supersedes award of the Silver Star to Staff Sergeant *Stumpf* for gallantry in action on 25 April 1967 as announced in General Orders Number 3102, Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division, dated 24 September 1967.)



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army :

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

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