GENERAL ORDERS

No. 71

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., *15 November 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 posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

First Sergeant *Maximo Yabes*, RA19406251, United States Army, who, on 26 February 1967, did distinguish himself with Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, which was providing security for a land-clearing operation near Phu Hoa Dong, Republic of Vietnam. Early that morning the company suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire followed by a battalion-sized assault from three sides. Penetrating the defensive perimeter, the enemy advanced on the company command-post bunker. The command post received increasingly heavy fire and was in danger of being overwhelmed. When several enemy grenades landed within the command post, First Sergeant *Yabes* shouted a warning and used his body as a shield to protect others in the bunker. Although painfully wounded by numerous grenade fragments, and despite the vicious enemy fire on the bunker, he remained there to provide covering fire and enable the others in the command group to relocate. When the command group had reached a new position, First Sergeant *Yabes* moved through a withering hail of enemy fire to another bunker 50 meters away. There he secured a grenade launcher from a fallen comrade and fired point-blank into the attacking Viet Cong stopping further penetration of the perimeter. Noting two wounded men helpless in the fire-swept area, he moved them to a safer position where they could be given medical treatment. He resumed his accurate and effective fire, killing several enemy soldiers and forcing others to withdraw from the vicinity of the command post. As the battle continued, he observed an enemy machinegun within the perimeter which threatened the whole position. On his own, he dashed across the exposed area, assaulted the machinegun, killed the crew, destroyed the weapon, and fell mortally wounded. First Sergeant *Yabes'* valiant and selfless actions saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers and inspired his comrades to effectively repel the enemy assault. His indomitable fighting spirit, extraordinary courage and intrepidity at the cost of his own life are in the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

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

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