GENERAL ORDERS
No. 25

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., *17 April 1969*

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 the Congress to:

First Lieutenant *Ruppert L. Sargent*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. While leading a platoon of Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, on 15 March 1967, Lieutenant *Sargent* was investigating a reported Viet Cong meeting house and weapons cache located in Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam. A former Viet Cong led the search party through the deserted village to a well-concealed tunnel entrance which Lieutenant *Sargent* observed to be boobytrapped. He tried to destroy the boobytrap and blow the cover from the tunnel using hand grenades, but this attempt was not successful. He and his demolition man moved in to destroy the boobytrap and cover, which flushed a Viet Cong soldier from the tunnel, who was immediately killed by the nearby platoon sergeant. Lieutenant *Sargent*, the platoon sergeant, and a forward observer moved toward the tunnel entrance. As they approached, another Viet Cong emerged and threw two hand grenades that landed in the midst of the group. Lieutenant *Sargent* fired three shots at the enemy then turned and unhesitatingly threw himself over the two grenades. He was mortally wounded, and his two companions were lightly wounded when the grenades exploded. By this courageous and selfless act of exceptional heroism, he saved the lives of the platoon sergeant and forward observer and prevented the injury or death of several other comrades. Lieutenant *Sargent*'s actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

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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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