

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 41

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 13 June 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 Congress to:



Specialist Four *Don L. Michael*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company C, 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, in the Republic of Vietnam. On 8 April 1967, Specialist *Michael* was part of a platoon which was moving through an area of suspected enemy activity. While the rest of the platoon stopped to provide security, the squad to which Specialist *Michael* was assigned moved forward to investigate signs of recent enemy activity. After moving approximately 125 meters, the squad encountered a single Viet Cong soldier. When he was fired upon by the squad's machinegunner, other Viet Cong opened fire with automatic weapons from a well-concealed bunker to the squad's right front. The volume of enemy fire was so withering as to pin down the entire squad and halt all forward movement. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Specialist *Michael* exposed himself to throw two grenades, but failed to eliminate the enemy position. From his position on the left flank, Specialist *Michael* maneuvered forward with two more grenades until he was within 20 meters of the enemy bunkers, when he again exposed himself to throw the grenades, which failed to detonate. Undaunted, Specialist *Michael* made his way back to the friendly positions to obtain more grenades. With two grenades in hand, he again started his perilous move towards the enemy bunker, which by this time was under intense artillery fire from friendly positions. As he neared the bunker, an enemy soldier attacked him from a concealed position. Specialist *Michael* killed him with his rifle and, in spite of the enemy fire and exploding artillery rounds, was successful in destroying the enemy position. Specialist *Michael* took up pursuit of the remnants of the retreating enemy. When his comrades reached Specialist *Michael*, he had been mortally wounded. His inspiring display of determination and courage saved the lives of many of his comrades and successfully eliminated a destructive enemy force. Specialist *Michael's* actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost 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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