GENERAL ORDERS

No. 52

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *8 August 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress, posthumously, to:

Platoon Sergeant *Bruce A. Grandstaff*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity on 18 May 1967 while leading the Weapons Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry on a reconnaissance mission near the Cambodian border in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. His platoon was advancing through intermittent enemy contact when it was struck by heavy enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire from three sides. As he established a defensive perimeter, Sergeant *Grandstaff* noted that several of his men had been struck down. He raced 30 meters through the intense fire to aid them but could only save one. Denied freedom to maneuver his unit by the intensity of the enemy onslaught, he adjusted artillery to within 45 meters of his position. When helicopter gunships arrived, he crawled outside the defensive position to mark the location with smoke grenades. Realizing his first marker was probably ineffective, he crawled to another location and threw his last smoke grenade but the smoke did not penetrate the jungle foliage. Seriously wounded in the leg during this effort he returned to his radio and, refusing medical aid, adjusted the artillery even closer as the enemy advanced on his position. Recognizing the need for additional firepower, he again braved the enemy fusillade, crawled to the edge of his position and fired several magazines of tracer ammunition through the jungle canopy. He succeeded in designating the location to the gunships but this action again drew the enemy fire and he was wounded in the other leg. Now enduring intense pain and bleeding profusely, he crawled to within ten meters of an enemy machine gun which had caused many casualties among his men. He destroyed the position with hand grenades but received additional wounds. Rallying his remaining men to withstand the enemy assaults, he realized his position was being overrun and asked for artillery directly on his location. He fought until mortally wounded by an enemy rocket. Although every man in the platoon was a casualty, survivors attest to the indomitable spirit and exceptional courage of this outstanding combat leader who inspired his own men to fight courageously against overwhelming odds and cost the enemy heavy casualties. Sergeant *Grandstaff*'s conspicuous and selfless gallantry, 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.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

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

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