GENERAL ORDERS
No. 68

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *27 October 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 Five *Edgar L. McWethy, Jr.*, (US55808442), United States Army. Serving as a medical aidman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 June 1967, Specialist *McWethy* accompanied his platoon to the site of a downed helicopter. Shortly after the platoon established a defensive perimeter around the aircraft, a large enemy force attacked the position from three sides with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire and grenades. The platoon leader and his radio operator were wounded almost immediately, and Specialist *McWethy* rushed across the fire-swept area to their assistance. Although he could not help the mortally wounded radio operator, Specialist *McWethy's* timely first aid enabled the platoon leader to retain command during this critical period. Hearing a call for aid, Specialist *McWethy* started across the open toward the injured men, but was wounded in the head and knocked to the ground. He regained his feet and continued on but was hit again, this time in the leg. Struggling onward despite his wounds, he gained the side of his comrades and treated their injuries. Observing another fallen rifleman lying in an exposed position raked by enemy fire, Specialist *McWethy* moved toward him without hesitation. Although the enemy fire wounded him a third time, Specialist *McWethy* reached his fallen companion. Though weakened and in extreme pain, Specialist *McWethy* gave the wounded man artificial respiration but suffered a fourth and fatal wound. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his own safety, and demonstrated concern for his fellow soldiers, Specialist *McWethy* inspired the members of his platoon and contributed in great measure to their successful defense of the position and the ultimate rout of the enemy force. Specialist *McWethy's* profound sense of duty, bravery, and his willingness to accept extraordinary risks in order to help the men of his unit are characteristic of 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. WESTMORELAN
General, United States A
Chief of Staff.

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

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