GENERAL ORDERS

No. 23

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *23 April 1970*

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:

Private First Class *David P. Nash*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 29 December 1968 while serving as a grenadier with Company B, 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in Giao Duc District of Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam. When an ambush patrol of which he was a member suddenly came under intense attack before reaching its destination, he was the first to return the enemy fire. Taking an exposed location, Private *Nash* suppressed the hostile fusillade with a rapid series of rounds from his grenade launcher, enabling artillery fire to be adjusted on the enemy. After the foe had been routed, his small element continued to the ambush site where he established a position with three fellow soldiers on a narrow dike. Shortly past midnight, while Private *Nash* and a comrade kept watch and the two other men took their turn sleeping, an enemy grenade wounded two soldiers in the adjacent position. Seconds later, Private *Nash* saw another grenade land only a few feet from his own position. Although he could have escaped harm by rolling down the other side of the dike, he shouted a warning to his comrades and leaped upon the lethal explosive. Absorbing the blast with his own body, he saved the lives of the three men in the area at the sacrifice of his own. By his conspicuous gallantry at the cost of his own life in the highest traditions of the military service, Private *Nash* has reflected great credit on himself, his unit 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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