GENERAL ORDERS
No. 26

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:

Specialist Four *Nicholas J. Cutinha*, [redacted], United States Army, who distinguished himself on 2 March 1968 while serving as a machinegunner with Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist *Cutinha* accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire from a battalion-size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communication with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties. When Specialist *Cutinha* observed that his company was pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his own safety, firing his machinegun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, Specialist *Cutinha* assumed command of all the survivors in his area and initiated a withdrawal while providing covering fire for the evacuation of the wounded. He killed several enemy but sustained another leg wound when his machinegun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to an operable machinegun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment. Specialist *Cutinha* maintained his position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing fifteen enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least nine members of his own unit. Specialist *Cutinha*'s conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

**GO 26**

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.*

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12–4 requirements.