GENERAL ORDERS
No. 15

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *24 March 1971*

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 Congress to:

Captain (then First Lieutenant) *Harold A. Fritz*, Armor, United States Army, who distinguished himself on 11 January 1969 while serving as a platoon leader with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Quan Loi in Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. Captain *Fritz* was leading his seven-vehicle armored column along Highway 13 to meet and escort a truck convoy when the column suddenly came under the intense crossfire from a reinforced enemy company deployed in ambush positions. In the initial attack, Captain *Fritz*' vehicle was hit and he was seriously wounded. Realizing that his platoon was completely surrounded, vastly outnumbered and in danger of being overrun, Captain *Fritz* leaped to the top of his burning vehicle and directed the positioning of his remaining vehicles and men. With complete disregard for his own wounds and safety, he ran from vehicle to vehicle in complete view of enemy gunners in order to reposition his men, to improve the defenses, to assist the wounded, to distribute ammunition, to direct fire and to provide encouragement to his men. When a strong enemy force assaulted the position and attempted to overrun the platoon, Captain *Fritz* manned a machine gun and through his exemplary action inspired his men to deliver intense and deadly fire which broke the assault and routed the attackers. Moments later a second enemy force had advanced to within two meters of the position and threatened to overwhelm the defenders. Captain *Fritz*, armed only with a pistol and bayonet, led a small group of his men in a fierce and daring charge which routed the attackers and inflicted heavy casualties. When a relief force arrived, Captain *Fritz* saw that it was not deploying effectively against the enemy positions, and he moved through the heavy enemy fire to direct their deployment against the hostile positions. This deployment forced the enemy to abandon the ambush site and withdraw. Despite his wounds Captain *Fritz* returned to his position, assisted his men and refused medical attention until all of his wounded comrades had been treated and evacuated. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Captain *Fritz*, at the repeated risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect the greatest credit upon him, his unit and the Armed Forces.

GO 15

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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