GENERAL ORDERS
No. 20

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:

Sergeant (then Specialist Four) *Gordon R. Roberts*, , who distinguished himself on July 11, 1969, while serving as a rifleman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant *Roberts'* platoon was maneuvering along a ridge to attack heavily fortified enemy bunker positions which had pinned down an adjoining friendly company. As the platoon approached the enemy positions, it was suddenly pinned down by heavy automatic weapons and grenade fire from camouflaged enemy fortifications atop the overlooking hill. Seeing his platoon immobilized and in danger of failing in its mission, Sergeant *Roberts* crawled rapidly toward the closest enemy bunker. With complete disregard for his own safety, he leaped to his feet and charged the bunker, firing as he ran. Despite the intense enemy fire directed at him, Sergeant *Roberts* silenced the two-man bunker. Without hesitation, Sergeant *Roberts* continued his one-man assault on a second bunker. As he neared the second bunker, a burst of enemy fire knocked his rifle from his hands. Sergeant *Roberts* picked up a rifle dropped by a comrade and continued his assault, silencing the bunker. He continued his charge against a third bunker and destroyed it with well-thrown hand grenades. Although Sergeant *Roberts* was now cut off from his platoon, he continued his assault against a fourth enemy emplacement. He fought through a heavy hail of fire to join elements of the adjoining company which had been pinned down by the enemy fire. Although continually exposed to hostile fire, he assisted in moving wounded personnel from exposed positions on the hilltop to an evacuation area before returning to his unit. By his gallant and selfless actions, Sergeant *Roberts* contributed directly to saving the lives of his comrades and served as an inspiration to his fellow soldiers in the defeat of the enemy force. Sergeant *Roberts'* extraordinary heroism and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him, 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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