GENERAL ORDERS
No. 35

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *16 July 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 bv the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Staff Sergeant *Franklin D. Miller*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 5 January 1970 while serving as team leader with the 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, on an American-Vietnamese long-range reconnaissance patrol operating deep within enemy-controlled territory in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. Leaving the helicopter insertion point, the patrol moved forward on its mission. Suddenly one of the team members tripped a hostile booby trap which wounded four soldiers. Sergeant *Miller*, knowing that the explosion would alert the enemy, quickly administered first aid to the wounded and directed the team into positions across a small stream bed at the base of a steep hill. Within a few minutes, Sergeant *Miller* saw the lead element of what he estimated to be a platoon-size enemy force moving toward his location. Concerned for the safety of his men, he directed the small team to move up the hill to a more secure position. He remained alone, separated from the patrol, to meet the attack. Sergeant *Miller* single-handedly repulsed two determined attacks by the numerically superior enemy force and caused them to withdraw in disorder. He rejoined his team, established contact with a forward air controller and arranged the evacuation of his patrol. However, the only suitable extraction location in the heavy jungle was a bomb crater some 150 meters from the team location. Sergeant *Miller* reconnoitered the route to the crater and led his men through the enemy-controlled jungle to the extraction site. As the evacuation helicopter hovered over the crater to pick up the patrol, the enemy launched a savage automatic weapon and rocket-propelled grenade attack against the beleaguered team, driving off the rescue helicopter. Sergeant *Miller* led the team in a valiant defense which drove back the enemy in its attempt to overrun the small patrol. Although seriously wounded and with every man in his patrol a casualty, Sergeant *Miller* moved the patrol to a more protected position. He then moved forward to again single-handedly meet the hostile attackers. From his forward exposed position, Sergeant *Miller* gallantly repelled two attacks by the enemy before a friendly relief force reached the patrol location. Sergeant *Miller*'s conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity in action, and selfless devotion to the welfare of his comrades at the risk of his life above

and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Staff Sergeant *Miller* for extraordinary heroism in action on 5 January 1970, as announced in United States Army Vietnam General Orders Number 1679, 1970.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:
VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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