

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 41

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 5 November 1973

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 First Class *Gary L. Littrell*, United States Army, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Advisory Team 21, who distinguished himself during the period April 4 to 8, 1970 while serving as a Light Weapons Infantry Advisor with the 23rd Battalion, 2nd Ranger Group, Republic of Vietnam Army, near Dak Seang in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. After establishing a defensive perimeter on a hill on April 4, the battalion was subjected to an intense enemy mortar attack which killed the Vietnamese commander, one advisor, and seriously wounded all the advisors except Sergeant *Littrell*. During the ensuing four days, Sergeant *Littrell* exhibited near superhuman endurance and conspicuous gallantry as he singlehandedly bolstered the besieged battalion. Repeatedly abandoning positions of relative safety, he directed artillery and air support by day and marked the unit's location by night, despite the heavy, concentrated enemy fire. His dauntless will instilled in the men of the 23d Battalion a deep desire to resist. Assault after assault was repulsed as the battalion responded to the extraordinary leadership and personal example exhibited by Sergeant *Littrell* as he continuously moved to those points most seriously threatened by the enemy, redistributed ammunition, strengthened faltering defenses, cared for the wounded and shouted encouragement to the Vietnamese in their own language. When the beleaguered battalion was finally ordered to withdraw, numerous ambushes were encountered. Sergeant *Littrell* repeatedly prevented widespread disorder by directing air strikes to within 50 meters of their position. Through his indomitable courage and complete disregard for his safety, he averted excessive loss of life and injury to the members of the battalion. The sustained extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sergeant *Littrell* over an extended period of time were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS

*Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General*

CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
*General, United States Army
Chief of Staff*

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