

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2048

11 June 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

NICOL LON D RA17366849 SSAN [REDACTED] PLATOON SERGEANT
United States Army, Troop C, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry
Division, APO 96225

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date of action: 2 February 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Platoon Sergeant Nicol distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 February 1969 while on a reconnaissance-in-force mission in the vicinity of a small rubber plantation northwest of Go Dau Hau. About noon his troop discovered a large enemy bunker complex hidden along the hedgerows. On assaulting the enemy bulwark, the entire unit came under an enfilade of small arms and machine gun fire as well as rocket-propelled antitank grenades. Suddenly the lead armored personnel carrier drew a hit from extremely close range. Seeing that the entire crew was wounded, Platoon Sergeant Nicol leaped from his vehicle and rushed forward through an intense hail of fire to aid the injured. As he pulled the wounded from the burning track, he spotted a small enemy team preparing to launch grenades on the friendly position. He stormed the hostile emplacement, throwing grenades until he demolished his target. Then he carried the wounded to the medic and re-armed himself with more grenades. Pinpointing more enemy fortifications, he silenced them with precisely-delivered grenades. Later, while directing recovery operations and medical evacuation, he sighted two North Vietnamese soldiers. One had a hand grenade, and the other threatened to fire a rocket-propelled grenade at the recovery crew. Acting quickly, Sergeant Nicol shoved three of his comrades to the ground and shielded them with his own body. Fragmentation from the blast wounded him in the head and arms, while the others escaped unscathed.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 2048, dated 17 June 1969, DA, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375
(Cont)

to duty were keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

Special instructions: This award supersedes the award of the Silver Star Medal to Platoon Sergeant Lon D. Nicol, RA17366849, SSAN 481-36-6348, for action on 2 February 1969 as announced in General Orders Number 6290, Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division, APO 96225, dated 1 May 1969.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



GEORGE L. MABRY, JR.
Major General, US Army
Chief of Staff

ED V. HENDREN, JR.
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 5 - Each unit concerned
- 2 - AVHQA
- 1 - AVHIG
- 1 - AVHIO
- 1 - AVHAG-A
- 1 - AVHAG-AR
- 30 - AVHAG-PD
- 6 - CINCUSARPAC
- 1 - II Field Force Vietnam

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - USA Pers Svc Support Center,
ATTN: AGPE-F, Fort Benjamin
Harrison, Indiana 46249
- 1 - TAGO, DA ATTN: AGPB-A