

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 499

22 FEBRUARY 1970

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

O'NEILL, DANIEL L.                      FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States  
Army, Co C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Abn  
Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 21 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant O'Neill distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 May 1969 while serving as platoon leader on a search and destroy mission. His unit was ordered to attack a heavily-fortified hilltop position near the city of Tam Ky. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon was subjected to heavy enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Employing fire and maneuver, he began to move his platoon forward. Realizing that his men were reluctant to move because of the heavy volume of enemy fire, Lieutenant O'Neill began to move up and down the line shouting encouragement. He then took the lead and led his platoon across the rice paddy to the base of the enemy positions. Employing hand grenades and close fighting, his platoon broke through the initial enemy bunkers and continued to ascend the hill. He then realized that his platoon was receiving fire from its flanks and rear as well as from the enemy positions to the front. Temporarily halting his platoon, he directed the destruction of the enemy positions to his flanks and rear with light antitank weapons and hand grenades. He then renewed the assault, called for and redistributed ammunition, and led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. Ordered to withdraw from the hill to reinforce another platoon, he effectively led his men against the insurgents and rescued the besieged elements. Lieutenant O'Neill's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 499, dated 22 February 1970, HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 (Cont)

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provision of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.