

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3418

7 SEPTEMBER 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

MCCOLLUM, TIMOTHY P. FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army, Co D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 31 March 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 D, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant McCollum distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 31 March 1969 while leading his platoon in the hills of south of the A Shau Valley. His company was engaged in a fierce firefight with a North Vietnamese force holding ridge from well-fortified positions. A ravine separating the two opposing forces obviated a direct assault on the enemy's positions. Undertaking an intricate flanking maneuver, Lieutenant McCollum infiltrated his men across the open ravine under heavy crossfire and ascended the heights behind the enemy as the company's main force continued firing on the hostile element's front. After overtly signaling friendly fire away from his position, he initiated a systematic sweep down through the enemy's hillside emplacements. He attacked an enemy bunker and overcame its unsuspecting occupant. An alerted North Vietnamese then turned and fired from his spider hole, seriously wounding an American. Realizing that the wounded man's recovery hinged on immediate evacuation, Lieutenant McCollum enlisted another soldier's aid and together they carried the casualty down the ridge through enemy positions. Their descent was obstructed by harassing fire from a nearby bunker. Lieutenant McCollum destroyed the fortification with grenades. When the wounded soldier had been delivered to safety, he made his way back to his men by the same treacherous route under a storm of machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire. First Lieutenant McCollum'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.

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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.