

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 436

07 FEBRUARY 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

GANDY, MICHAEL L. SECOND LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY United States Army
Co B, 1st Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Abn Div,
APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)

Date action: 29 March 1968

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 B, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airborne). Second Lieutenant Gandy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 March 1968 as a platoon leader during a search and clear mission on the west bank of the Song Bo River. A three-man scout team was crossing the river in a sampan when it came under an intense barrage of enemy fire, killing one man instantly. The other two men were wounded and sought protection in a bamboo thicket on the river bank. Lieutenant Gandy moved from squad to squad, encouraging his men and directing their fire against the communists. Six of his troops attempted to cross the river to rescue the two casualties by pushing a sampan before them for protection but were carried downstream by the strong current. Despite the vicious enemy fire, Lieutenant Gandy dropped his equipment, made his way to the river's edge, and swam the seventy-five meters to the other side. Upon reaching the river bank, he found that only one of the scouts was alive. Grabbing hold of him, he began the hazardous swim back through intense hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire. As he approached mid-stream, the scout was hit and disappeared beneath the water. A few seconds later, Lieutenant Gandy was mortally wounded by the enemy fusillade. Second Lieutenant Gandy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in 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 provision of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.