

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 6275

4 November 1966

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously:

DEXTER, HERBERT J MAJOR INFANTRY United States Army
Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d
Infantry, 1st Brigade, 191st Airborne Division, APO 96347
Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross
Date actions: 18 September 1965
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military
operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic
of Vietnam. On 18 September 1965, Major Dexter, the S3
Officer of the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 191st Airborne
Division, was accompanying his battalion on a search and
destroy mission in the vicinity of Binh Khê, Republic of
Vietnam. The battalion was airlifted to the operational
area and upon arriving encountered increasingly heavy
hostile fire from various insurgent positions. A friendly
platoon, which had landed in a previous lift, was forced
to withdraw from a tactically important hill along the
landing zone perimeter. Realizing the importance of the
hill as a defensive position, Major Dexter, with complete
disregard for his personal safety, voluntarily rushed to
the now heavily infested hostile area and successfully
reorganized the friendly forces positioned there. He
quickly issued competent instructions and personally led
the left flank element up the hill, despite the intense
hostile small arms and mortar fire being directed at the
platoon. While securing the crest, Major Dexter personally
killed two insurgents who were at a deadly close range and
sustained a leg wound from the murderous Viet Cong fire.
Realizing that his leadership and encouragement were needed
to inspire the members of the besieged platoon to hold the
hill position, Major Dexter, although in great pain from
his wound, continually refused to be evacuated. As the
battle raged on, he was mortally wounded. Major Dexter'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 provisions of the
Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of
the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.