

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3419

7 September 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

PEOPLES, LEON. SERGEANT E-5 United States Army, Co B, 2d Battalion (Abn), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347
Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross
Date action: 26 April 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, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne), 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Peoples distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 26 April 1968 while leading a fire team on a search and destroy mission in Phu Bai Province. After long hours of exhausting and indecisive battle, Sergeant Peoples' platoon had made little progress in precisely locating the enemy's bunker fortifications in the thick, mountainous jungle. Discontented with his unit's stalemated advance, Sergeant Peoples crawled alone toward the North Vietnamese to reconnoiter their positions. When in sight of the first bunker, he was spotted and turned back by heavy fire. He then gathered his fire team and initiated a flanking maneuver on the enemy bunker. As the team advanced, the enemy opened up on them with streams of automatic weapons fire which held them fast to the ground and wounded many. Sergeant Peoples then drew the attention of the communist firepower by rushing them and dropping behind available cover as he assaulted. With grenades prepared for immediate detonation he made a final spring and dived for cover as the ejected grenades ripped through the hostile stronghold. Detecting a second bunker from which the enemy were placing suppressive fire on his team, Sergeant Peoples stole near the emplacement and unleashed on it several well-placed grenades. After dropping back for re-supplies of ammunition, he again infiltrated the enemy complex under thick fire and crawled without rifle up to a third bunker and eliminated its occupants with grenades. Picking up an enemy weapon, he then began routing the demoralized communists as they frantically retreated. Sergeant Peoples' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty 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.