

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1050

09 March 1968

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

Dinkins, Clifford. SPECIALIST FORTH CLAS E-4 United States Army, Co B, 2d Battalion (Abn), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 21 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 B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne), 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Dinkins distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 while serving with an airborne infantry unit on a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho. While moving along a jungle trail, the patrol was suddenly subjected to a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire which inflicted several casualties. Observing a wounded comrade lying in the killing zone of the savage fusillade, Specialist Dinkins unhesitatingly raced through a withering hail of bullets to the casualty, pulled him to safety of an abandoned enemy bunker and administered emergency medical aid. He then saw two Vietnamese troops fall under the intense Viet Cong fire. Heedless of his safety, Specialist Dinkins began to move across the bullet swept battle field to their aid but was knocked to the ground and wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he gallantly continued his rescue attempt through a curtain of hostile fire. He reached the fallen men, discovered one was dead, and pulled them both back to the bunker. While treating the wounded trooper, he detected three Viet Cong advancing towards his position. He jumped from the bunker and fired deadly bursts from his rifle, killing one insurgent and forcing the others to withdraw. Unnoticed, a fourth enemy soldier had flanked his position and had crawled close enough to throw a hand grenade into the shelter. Specialist Dinkins leaped for the grenade, picked it up and threw it back at the insurgent. The grenade exploded in midair, killing the Viet Cong and seriously wounded Specialist Dinkins a second time. His fearless action in close combat saved the lives of two fellow soldiers. Specialist Four Dinkins' 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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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.