

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3069

11 AUGUST 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

WRIGHT, ROBERT L. SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS E-4 United States Army, Co D, 2d Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 23 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, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry (Airborne), 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Wright distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 23 March 1969 while serving as the radio-telephone operator during a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the jungle region of the A Shau Valley. About three hours after sunset the night defensive perimeter came under hostile automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. During the initial volley, a rocket grenade landed only a meter from the company command post. Even though the round had ignited and could have exploded at any moment, Specialist Wright ran through the incoming fusillade and threw his body on the round, smoothing the fuse and rending it harmless. Exposing himself to direct hostile fire, he began carrying the 81-millimeter rounds to the mortar crews, until the perimeter was threatened with penetration. He then immediately commenced firing into the enemy ranks with his weapon until the enemy withdrew. Specialist Four Wright's 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.

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.