

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1859

3 March 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

GRAY, LARRY A US54812159 [REDACTED] SERGEANT Company B 101st Aviation
Battalion APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Distinguished Flying Cross

Effective month: March 1969

Date action: 20 March 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 March 1968. Sergeant Gray distinguished himself while serving with the 188th Assault Helicopter Company in support of the 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company C was on a reconnaissance in force operation near the village of Thon Thane Trang, Republic of Vietnam, when its lead elements were subjected to intense enemy automatic weapons fire. As the company continued its advance across a series of open rice paddies toward the village, two men were critically wounded and an immediate request was made for a medical evacuation helicopter. Sergeant Gray was acting as a door gunner on a resupply helicopter when the urgent appeal from Company C was monitored. He had just finished unloading supplies for Company B, which was also in contact on the opposite side of the village. As the craft became airborne, it was engaged by a heavy concentration of enemy fire. Sergeant Gray, employing his machine gun, returned fire as the helicopter circled the village and began its approach to Company C. With the enemy maintaining a constant base of fire, the helicopter landed beside the first injured man. Quickly loading the man aboard, Sergeant Gray again began firing, driving the enemy back as the aircraft raced at low altitude across the rice paddy to the second injured man. Because of his helicopter's vulnerability at the time, accurate and sustained firepower was extremely important. Sergeant Gray helped load the second wounded man aboard and once again employed his machine gun to provide suppressive fire as the helicopter evacuated the men from the area. Sergeant Gray's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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 of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. L. HOWERY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

for NL March MAJ AGC
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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