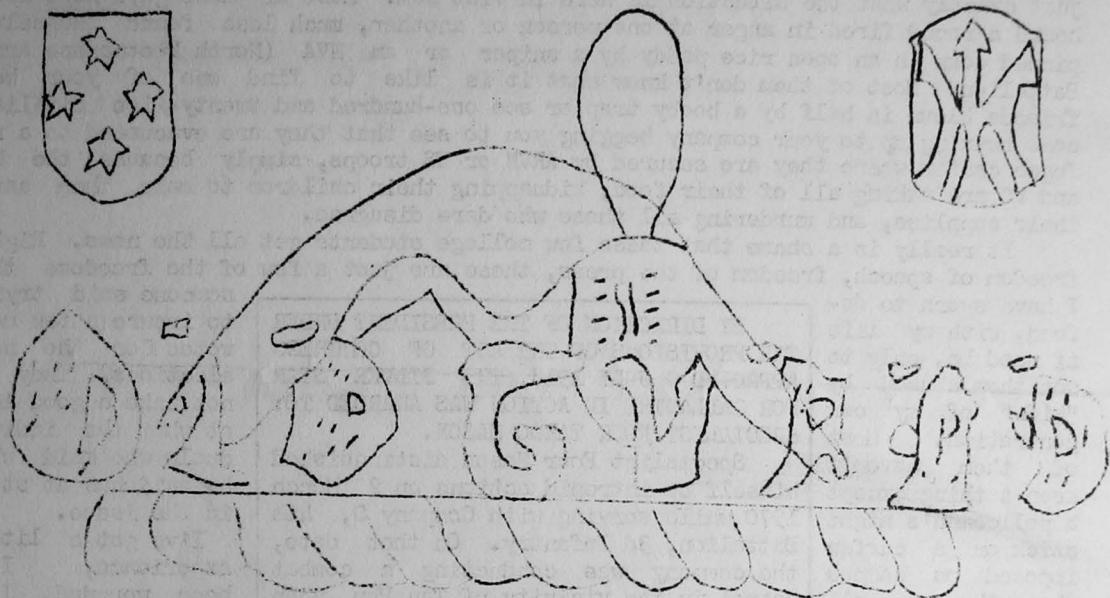


# CAUTION: DO NOT TAKE OR SEND TO THE FIELD



## 4TH BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

Volume 1, No. 31

2 July 1970

### Seven is a Lucky Number

11th Infantry Brigade troops from Alpha company 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry recently used ambush tactics to perfection while operating in the rough mountainous terrain southwest of Duc Pho. The "warriors" killed six NVA, one Viet Cong and confiscated two AK-47s, one SKS rifle, one 9mm Chinese pistol, several chicom hand grenades and assorted personal and food items.

The third platoon had set up on a ridge line over looking a well used trail 25 meters below. At 0830 hours the sound of an exploding claymore pierced the early morning stillness, so the first squad moved down to check out the area. When they were within 15 meters of the detonation area the men reconned by M16 fire and moved in. Arriving the squad found two NVA officers from the 403 Sapper Battalion. One of the officers was the Company Commander of the 403 Sapper Battalion and his cohort was the Chief political Officer for the area.

First Lieutenant Gene O. Phillipson (Whitehall, Wis.) Said "We secured the gear and then moved down the trail and set up another ambush, but we never dreamed that we would ambush two more officers that were headed down to meet the two officers we had already killed." The Platoon set out its claymores and then backed off the trail to wait for the unexpected.

It was early afternoon when the other claymore blew so the squad went down to the detonation area. Private (Cont. Pg. 3 Col. 2)

### Face-To-Face

An Infantryman from a unit of the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade recently found out what was like physically to confront an NVA face-to face at 10 meters with a weapon that misfired.

The infantryman was Private First Class Larry D. Toman (Reed City, Mich) third platoon, A Company, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry.

The day started out as any other normal day and then a call came down from Tactical Operations Center at San Juan Hill that the platoons RTO was to be ex-

tracted for an emergency leave. The platoon set up security for the LOH extraction and then moved out on its reconnaissance patrol with Private Toman walking point. "We just entered the woodline when we heard a warning shot," said Private Toman. The Platoon continued for another 30 meters and then as the pointman was walking up a natural stone step to a higher ground he looked up only to have an AK47 carrying NVA soldier looking down at him.

Private Toman said "As soon as I saw him I pulled the trigger; I knew it was a misfire, but when he pulled his trigger I could see smoke comming out of the barrel and I could just feel the bullets hitting me." Private Toman immediately dived into some brush and as he did he saw bullets impacting at his feet. Sergeant Maurice LaRock (Forest Dale, Vermont was second when the NVA opened fire (Cont. Page 3 Col 1)

# WORDS OF A COMPANY COMMANDER

It really makes me feel like blowing my top to sit down here and see so much unthinking dissension back in "the world" by people who really don't understand just exactly what the situation is here in Viet Nam. Most of these guys have never heard a round fired in anger at one person or another, much less found themselves pinned down in an open rice paddy by a sniper or an NVA (North Vietnamese Army) Battalion. Most of them don't know what it is like to find one of your best friends blown in half by a booby trap or see one-hundred and twenty-five civilians come running up to your company begging you to see that they are evacuated to a refugee center where they are secured by ARVN or US troops, simply because the NVA and VC are taking all of their food, kidnapping their children to make them carry their supplies, and murdering all those who dare disagree.

It really is a shame that these few college students get all the news. Right, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, these are just a few of the freedoms that

I have sworn to defend, with my life if need be, only to see them abused by "kids" of my own generation. Most of them haven't seen a thing except a policeman's night stick or a curfew imposed on campus where they can all go inside or home and be safe; they don't have to worry about mortars or rockets, all of which are stored in places like Cambodia or just inside the boundaries of Laos. These are the exact places that President Nixon sent the troops to clean the place out. Take a good look at what was captured, the pictures, the statements. As far as some individuals in the States are concerned this is terrible, but what about the "grunt" who gets mortared and sees 10 or 11 of his buddies killed or the artilleryman who sees a

bunker blown away by a satchel charge carried by a sapper, when the bunker has 3 of his buddies in it; needless to say all three are crippled for life. How about the chopper pilot who gets blown out of the sky by a 37mm antiaircraft gun (radar controlled) which sits just across the border in a "safe zone"? Some people say these protesters are sincere, but how can they be when they have not experienced it, they go on what they read in the paper or what

(Continued on top of adjacent col.)

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER  
THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS  
APPROVED 9 JULY 1918, THE SILVER STAR  
FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WAS AWARDED TO:  
SPECIALIST FOUR TAROO MASON.

Specialist Four Mason distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 2 March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting a combat patrol in the vicinity of Tan Phu when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. In the initial hostile fusillade, Specialist Mason and several comrades were wounded and became pinned down in an exposed area. Ignoring his painful wound, Specialist Mason crawled among the members of the friendly element, organizing them and directing suppressive fire onto the insurgents. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Mason moved over twenty meters through the heavy volume of hostile fire to his fallen comrade's position and skillfully administered emergency first aid. Realizing the danger of the exposed position, he then assisted in removing the casualties to a secure area from where they could be evacuated. Through his timely and courageous actions, Specialist Mason saved the lives of several of his fellow soldiers and was instrumental in thwarting the determined enemy attack. His personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

someone said trying to insure a few more votes for the next elections. They do not take a good look at what the individuals who said what he said has at stake in the issue.

I've got a little experience, I've been wounded, I've been shot at; as far as I'm concerned it has been worth it. I've laughed myself silly but I've also cried like a baby. I've heard the word murder used by some of my counter-parts in school; how can it be called murder when the man you just killed had an AK-47 and just killed your point man? I really doubt that any of these guys, who are always talking so loud, have ever found themselves in the sights of an AK-47 with a man behind it trying to kill them. Believe me it is an experience that is never forgotten.

Some people cut down the President for his actions, but

these same people would never be able to stand up under the pressures of the great responsibility he has to face 24 hours a day. I got a taste of those pressures as a company commander, but I only had the responsibility for the lives of a company of Infantry, not a nation. Because of that responsibility the President had to move, he had to move fast, he had to act as the commander-in-chief, as a general, and he did;

he dived for cover and then opened up, but to late, the NVA had already disappeared into the brush area. Simultaneously Private Toman again dived for cover, this time behind the machine gunner who was then able to open up. Private Toman never knew how close he had come to being hit until he checked his rucksack and found a clean hole through the rucksack buckle.

"It took me a long time to build up enough confidence to be point because of the stories they told in Advanced Infantry Training about walking down a trail and meeting face-to-face with an NVA soldier and now I know what the men were talking about," said Private Toman.

### CHARLIE NET 3

Two captured and one killed was the count recorded on two separate days of action involving Infantrymen from the 11th Brigades 4th Bn. 3d Inf. while the company was working opcon (attached to) 3d Bn. 1st Inf. in an area known as the Horse Shoe 24 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

On the 21st of June while the third platoon of Charlie Company was on routine patrol of the area three military age males began evading from a hooch to the platoons front. Says Private Danny Snider (Henry Tenn.) "As we closed in on the hooches two other military age males came outside with their hands raised. We quickly laid the two on the ground to search them while the rest of the platoon secured the area." Upon further investigation of the hooch one pistol belt was found including chicom grenades and other food and medical items. It was later learned that one individual was Viet Cong extortionist working the villages around the area and the other was NVA.

On the 28th of June the third Platoon was again on routine patrol when enemy fire was received from a woodline to the platoons front. Utilizing a nearby ditch for cover the platoon immediately began returning fire while the forward observer worked up a fire mission. Says Private First Class Ken Maag (Lima, Ohio) medic of the platoon, "As I looked up from my position in the ditch I saw a figure pop out of a tunnel at the edge of the woodline in front of me, I fired fast and was lucky to get him the first time. When firing had ceased one NVA was killed, one AK-47, three magazines containing AK ammunition, a pistol belt with three grenades and numerous other food and medical items were found. The Medic was credited with the one KIA.

First Class Larry Toman (Reed City, Mich) said, "We cautiously moved down to check out the area and when we arrived on the site of the detonation we found two more dead NVA Officers lying about four feet apart of the trail." According to Lieutenant Phillipson the officers were from MF 3 Battalion Operations, and were sent into the area to establish a sapper training school.

From this ambush site the third platoon confiscated one AK-47, one 9mm Chinese pistol, one knife and some food items. Private Toman said, "The Officer carrying the AK-47 was prepared, he had a 29 round clip in and his weapon was on full automatic."

From this Ambush site the third Platoon secured the equipment and moved again to still another ambush site, this time one that would net the platoon one more NVA and the last one of the day for Alpha Company.

In the mean time the 81mm mortar Platoon had been patrolling the area looking for a suitable ambush site when the pointman, Sergeant David Alvis Humphries (Marion, N.Y.) ran face-to-face with an NVA coming down the trail from the opposite direction. Sergeant Humphries and the NVA were within about 20 meters of each other when Sgt. Humphries opened up simultaneously, Sergeant David Whalen of Rose Creek Mich. let lose with his M-16. The NVA immediately dropped his SKS rifle and evaded back down the trail. The NVA ran southeast for about 50 meters and when the squad finally caught up with him he was dead. Sergeant Humphries said "When I looked up I saw him so I did the only thing I could do, I opened up."

A search of the person revealed 24 rounds of SKS Ammunition in some ammo pouches he had around his waist.

In the late afternoon the first platoon got into the action when one of their claymores was detonated. A search of the area revealed a blood trail which the platoon followed for about 75 meters and then First Lieutenant Thomas Norton (East Orange, N.J.) spotted the dead V.C. lying in the brush. The V.C. appeared to be heading for some hooches that the first platoon had investigated earlier that day when he was found.

The last action of the day again brought the third platoon into action. It was early evening when the claymore detonated and the squad moved down to check out the area. It was raining and as the squad turned the bend in the trail the pointman, private Mike McNally (Floral Park, N.Y.) saw the NVA lying in the brush with his body facing toward the trail. Caution was the key note as Private George Murphy (Blue Earth, Minn.), reconned the area with his M-60. The NVA was dead when they arrived on the scene. It was pouring rain by this time so the squad returned to their night defensive position to await a restless night.

# AWARDS

Below is a list of service and achievements awards which have been approved during the last week. (A- achievements; S-service; and OLC- Oak Leaf Cluster)

## HEADQUARTERS

MAJ William Holmes	BS"A" (2nd OLC)
CPT Anthony Farnelli	BS"S" (1st OLC)
CPT Paul Hagewood	BS"A"
CPT William Mynatt	" (1st OLC)
CPT Allen Maughan	"
CPT James Schwebach	" (5th OLC)
1LT Larry Collett	"
1LT Thomas Norton	" (1st OLC)
1LT David Sheehan	"
CWO Robert Roland	ACM"A" (1st OLC)
SSM John Landers	BS"A" (1st OLC)
1SG Frank Brownlee	" (1st OLC)
SFC Michael Baxter	"
SFC David Wright	ACM"S"
SSG JAMES MARCOUX	BS"A"
SP6 Jerry Sykes	" (1st OLC)
SGT Jerry Baldon	"
SP4 Freddie Andrews	ACM"S"
SP4 Russell Dalton	BS"S"
SP4 Ruby Garza	ACM"S"
SP4 Robert Gibson	ACM"A" (2nd OLC)
SP4 Craig Heitke	BS"A"
SP4 Gary Moore	ACM"S"
SP4 Dennis Rosor	BS"A"
SP4 Warren Vera	ACM"S"
SP4 Charles Waltington	ACM"A"
SP4 Charles Waltington	ACM"S" (1st OLC)
SP4 James Yates	"
PFC Charlton Ard	"
PFC Manuel Flores	"
PFC Daniel Kopydlowski	"

## ALPHA

SSG Dale Zichm	BS"A"
SGT Danny Burkhardt	"
SGT Thomas Carney	"
SGT Robert Fossett	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SGT Charles Hutt	ACM"A" (1st OLC)
SGT James Rippl	BS"A"
SGT Michael White	"
SP5 Paul Childs	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SP4 Coley Hebrard	BS"A" (1st OLC)
PFC Thomas Gaskind	ACM"A" (1st OLC)

## BRAVO

1LT John Gaines	BS"A" (1st OLC)
1LT William Gaudet	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SFC Jack Clark	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SSG Richard Seomen	BS"A"
SGT Kenneth Blades	"
SGT Alton Bray	ACM"A" (1st OLC)
SGT Jesus DeLeon	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SGT Joseph Filliben	" (1st OLC)
SGT Louis Kreatke	BS"A"
SGT Charles Page	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SGT Charles Pööl	BS"A"
SGT Julio Quiroz	"
SGT Lawrence White	"
SP4 Andrew Anderson	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SP4 Thomas Cafaro	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SP4 Roger Williams	BS"A"
SP\$ Cardwell Wooten	"

## CHARLIE

CPT John Brooks	BS"A"
1LT David Berry	ACM"S"
1LT Bruce Suffern	BS"A" (1st OLC)
1LT Juan Caballero	BS"A" (1st OLC)
1LT Richard Chandler	BS"A" & PH
1LT Nichols Prevas	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SSG Richard Powell	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SSG Sammie Wright	"
SGT Kenneth Gibbs	PH
SGT Steven Harris	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SGT Gary Hougham	ACM"S"
SGT Kenneth Kroll	BS"A"
SGT Ronnie Lewis	"
SGT David Limberg	" (1st OLC)
SGT Harold Locklear	"
SP4 Jim Alexander	PH
SP4 Clifto Dalton	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SP4 William Bell	BS"A" (1st OLC)
SP4 Robert Dancel	ACM"S"
SP4 Donald Dowdy	BS"A"
SP4 Henry Gizenski	"
SP4 Larry Lowrance	"
SP4 James Martin	ACM"S"
SP4 Neil Potter	BS"A"
SP4 Willie Semien	"
SP4 James Van Hevelin	"
PFC William Balderas	PH
PFC Jack Bearden	PH
PFC Clinton Deacon	PH
PFC William Kaletta	PH
PFC Harold Titus	PH

## Words of a C.O. cont.

he caught the enemy by surprise and put him off balance in such a way that it will take months maybe years to regain what he has lost.

Don't misunderstand me; no man prays more than a soldier, because the soldier (especially the "grunt") is the one who bears the brunt of battle. I, is he that gets torn to pieces by artillery or suffers the pain of being hurt or crippled. But I also know this out of respect for my fallen comrades and the Vietnamese I have fought beside: we have got to stop the enemy here or our descendants will get to stop them on their door steps.

What is happening in Laos and Cambodia will prove the fact that this is not "just another civil war". The enemy is not just a little farmer running around in the bushes, but he is a seasoned, tough, and determined soldier who shows no mercy. He has some of the most sophisticated weapons a soldier can possess. He has been raised with the sole thought that he must take the world one way or the other. If he takes South Viet Nam, when or where will he stop?

WRITTEN BY: CPT WARREN "CASEY" HAUGEN  
CO. A, 4TH BN 3D INF., 11TH LD

## OLD GUARD

LTC. PHILIP GRIMM	CO
1LT. REED SIMMONS	S1
SGT. ROBERT DANIELS	REPORTER

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# VALOR AWARDS

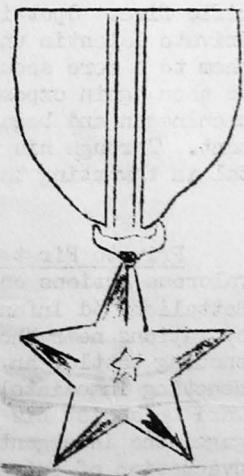
The following is a list of those individuals in the battalion who have recently received Valor Awards. They have distinguished themselves by valorous actions on the field of battle.

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046, 24 AUGUST 1962, THE BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO: Staff Sergeant Terrell Murphy, Sergeant Robert Fossett, Specialist Four Stephen Kremer, Private First Class Samuel Latta, Private First Class William Tester, Private First Class Rubin Valentin and Private First Class Daniel Pernick.

Staff Sergeant Terrell Murphy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving as an Acting Platoon Leader with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation Sergeant Murphy led his platoon against a hostile element which had surrounded another friendly platoon. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Murphy maneuvered toward the trapped friendly unit and skillfully directed the fire of his comrades against the insurgents. While friendly gunships strafed the enemy infested area and medical evacuation helicopters were called in, Sergeant Murphy skillfully administered emergency first aid to several seriously wounded comrades. Braving the possibility of additional enemy sniper fire, he carried a fallen fellow soldier 100 meters over rugged terrain to the evacuation point. Through his timely and courageous actions, Sergeant Murphy was instrumental in minimizing friendly casualties and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

Sergeant Robert Fossett distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 30 March 1970 while serving as a Platoon Sergeant with Company A, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting a search and clear operation in the vicinity of Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by an unknown

size enemy force. In the initial hostile barrage, the friendly element sustained several casualties. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Sergeant Fossett moved to the forward element of his unit and quickly organized his men for an assault on the enemy emplacements. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he unhesitatingly maneuvered through the heavy volumes of hostile fire in order to position his men and direct their retaliatory fire. Ignoring the danger involved, Sergeant Fossett led his unit through the enemy



fusillade until the insurgents were routed from the area. Through his timely and courageous actions, Sergeant Fossett contributed significantly to the success of the operation.

Specialist Four Stephen Kremer distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc village when the forward element was suddenly assaulted by a large enemy force. During the initial burst of fire, several friendly soldiers had fallen critically wounded. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Specialist Kremer moved forward with two fellow soldiers to evacuate the wounded from the area. Ignoring the enemy rounds impacting near him, he provided a solid base of suppressive fire as he advanced toward his comrades. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Kremer began the difficult task of carrying a fallen soldier to safety. Although he provided the primary target for the insurgents, he again established a devastating base of fire for his fellow soldiers until they had all returned to a secured area. Through his timely actions, the wounded were quickly evacuated and the mission was continued without further casualties.

# VALOR AWARDS

Private First Class Samuel F. Latta distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting a routine combat patrol near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. During the ensuing battle, Private Latta heard a call from a wounded friendly soldier near an enemy bunker. Reacting immediately and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Latta began maneuvering through the hostile barrage toward his fallen fellow soldier. Despite suffering arm and leg wounds, he managed to reach the casualty and assisted him to a more secure location. Overcoming the pain caused by his wounds, Private Latta then began maneuvering towards an evacuation location when he spotted another friendly casualty. Braving the hostile sniper fire, he gallantly assisted the wounded man to the extraction point. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Latta was instrumental in saving the lives of two fellow soldiers and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

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Private First Class William T. Tester distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. During the initial impacting of enemy rounds, several friendly soldiers were seriously wounded. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Tester began maneuvering through the intense volumes of hostile fire to the position of the casualties. Braving the enemy barrage Private Tester positioned a fallen soldier on his back and began crawling through the enemy fusillade with the casualty. After maneuvering out of the contact area with the wounded man on his back, Private Tester rose and carried his comrade the remainder of the distance to a secure area. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Tester was instrumental in saving the life of a comrade and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

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Private First Class Rubin Valentin distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Private Valentin began to engage the insurgents with rifle fire. Spotting three wounded friendly soldiers in a position 15 meters away Private Valentin unhesitatingly maneuvered through the hostile barrage and carried them to a more secure position. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he then again exposed himself to enemy fire while crawling to an unmanned friendly machinegun and began putting out devastating bursts of fire on a key enemy emplacement. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Valentin was instrumental in thwarting the enemy attack and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

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Private First Class Daniel Pernick distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. During the ensuing battle, an element from the friendly forces became encircled by insurgents. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Private Pernick rushed forward to assist his besieged comrades. Disregarding the danger involved, he engaged the insurgents with highly effective rifle fire and began to assist in the evacuation of friendly casualties. Braving a barrage of hostile fire, Private Pernick moved along a trail in an attempt to extract wounded friendly soldiers until he was himself seriously wounded by an enemy hand grenade. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Pernick served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

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BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF AR 672-5-1  
THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO: Private First  
Class Douglas D. Leifheit.

Private First Class Douglas Leifheit distinguished himself by valorous actions on 2 March 1970 while serving as a Radio-Telephone Operator with Company D, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc village when its forward element was suddenly assaulted by a large enemy force. During the initial burst of fire, Private Leifheit saw the unit's other Radio-Telephone Operator fall wounded. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, he rushed forward with several of his fellow soldiers. Realizing that he was now the only source of communication for the company, Private Leifheit repeatedly exposed himself to the impacting rounds while moving from position to position where his radio was needed. Ignoring the danger involved, he remained in the area of contact until the enemy force was completely routed. Through his timely actions, he contributed greatly to the