

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE  
20 San Francisco 96309

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1210

"GUY HILL"

20 February 1973

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

McPHERSON, MERVIN D. [REDACTED] WO1 100B H Trp, 10th Air Cav (WHSTP, 10)  
APO 96485 AV

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" Device

Date of service: 26 January 1973

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provision of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, AR 672-5-1 and USARV Supplement 1 to AR 672-5-1 dated 10 August 1970.

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Warrant Officer McPherson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as pilot of a light observation helicopter in support of a divided Vietnamese long range reconnaissance patrol in contact with an enemy force. Under enemy fire, Warrant Officer McPherson chose to attempt a pickup of the smaller of two friendly elements. While at a hover between the trees that surrounded the pickup area, his aircraft took numerous hits and when climbing above the trees the aircraft continued to take direct hits which caused fire from the engine compartment. While maneuvering his aircraft and passengers away from enemy positions, he adjusted rocket fire supporting Cobras into the center of the enemy concentrations, inflicting enemy casualties. With his cockpit rapidly filling with smoke and his visibility diminishing, Warrant Officer McPherson continued evasive action until his aircraft engine stopped. His aircraft crashed into the trees. Ignoring his injuries, Warrant Officer McPherson assisted two Vietnamese soldiers from the wreckage and then returned to help his observer who was pinned beneath the aircraft. The aircraft was burning and he attempted time and again to shift the helicopter in order to lift the transmission from his crew member. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1210, dated 20 February 1973, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1 ST AVIATION BRIGADE APO San Francisco 96360 (Cont)

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

JAMES T. McQUEEN  
Lieutenant Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

*Richard J. Jones, Jr.*  
J.V. PALADINO  
CW3, USA  
Asst AG

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