

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam  
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3869

21 August 1970

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

O'SULLIVAN, JOHN I [REDACTED] SECOND LIEUTENANT INFANTRY  
United States Army, 174th Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion,  
Americal Division, APO 96374

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date of action: 1 April 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act  
of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Second Lieutenant O'Sullivan distinguished himself while serving as fire team leader of a helicopter gunship team flying in support of allied operations near Quang Ngai. Although under a continuous hail of enemy automatic weapons fire, Lieutenant O'Sullivan led an aggressive attack on three companies of enemy soldiers that were entrenched in a Vietnamese village. Repeatedly exposing his aircraft to the intense enemy automatic weapons fire, he eliminated four enemy soldiers and destroyed two enemy bunkers. His aircraft was then shot down by intense enemy fire as he descended to a low altitude to provide cover fire for another downed friendly helicopter. After surveying the damage to his downed ship, Lieutenant O'Sullivan returned to the cockpit and flew the crippled craft to a nearby air strip. He then obtained another gunship and returned to the area to take command of the fire team. While covering the recovery of the downed helicopter, he eliminated five more of the enemy. Responding to an urgent appeal for assistance from another allied unit, he again braved intense fire as he assaulted three enemy machine gun positions. During this encounter, his gunship was damaged by enemy fire. Undaunted, he continued his aggressive assault, destroyed the enemy machine gun positions, and completely routed the enemy force. Second Lieutenant O'Sullivan's extraordinary heroism 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.

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