

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,
Americical 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.