

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96384

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5119

"NGUY HIEN"

17 June 1970

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TC 439. The following AWARDS are announced.

Awarded: Distinguished Flying Cross

Date of service: 20 April 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, AR 672-5-1 and USARV Reg 672-1 dated 1 July 1969.

Organization: 155th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), APO 96297

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary actions above and beyond the call of duty: These men distinguished themselves by exceptionally valorous actions while flying a flight of helicopters during an extraction of two long range reconnaissance patrols, and the crews of two downed helicopters who made contact with an enemy force while on a classified mission west of Ban Don. At noon that day the crew and team of the initial extraction aircraft came under a barrage of enemy automatic weapons, rocket and suspected anti-aircraft fire, crashing back into the landing zone which they immediately evacuated for another extraction site. These men fearlessly descended into the enemy fire to extract a portion of the team. Skillfully, they maneuvered their ships vertically into the dense confined area, and fully loaded, nursed the ships out of the area back to Ban Don. Later that afternoon another aircraft was lost due to a barrage of fire on the initial extraction of a reconnaissance team. Orbiting above, they descended to save the lives of their comrades, without regard for their personal welfare. They approached the area under fire from unknown positions and piloted their aircraft vertically into the crash site, scarcely fitting over the wreckage. Their outstanding flying ability and undaunted courage were instrumental in the safe rescue of their fellow aviators. Their actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit, and the United States Army.