

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1192

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AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CHRISTIAN, DAVID A 05345884 SSAN FIRST LIEU-
TENANT INFANTRY United States Army, Combat Support Company,
1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Divi-
sion, APO 96345

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 29 October 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military oper-
ations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the
Republic of Vietnam: First Lieutenant Christian distinguished
himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 October 1968
while in charge of the lead element of a reconnaissance-in-
force mission ten miles northwest of Quan Loi. During an
attempt to flank enemy positions, Lieutenant Christian's nine-
man unit came under heavy rocket-propelled grenade, small
arms and automatic weapons fire. After firing several light
antitank weapons, he led an assault on the hostile strongholds,
killing three North Vietnamese and causing the others to flee.
As he and his comrades advanced they again received intense
small arms and machine gun fire and three men were wounded.
Lieutenant Christian sent the casualties and the medic to the
rear, and then led his troops forward until they became pinned
down within ten meters of a bunker. Disregarding his safety,
he assaulted the fortification single-handedly and destroyed it
with hand grenades. The communists were reinforced by ap-
proximately thirty men, forcing the reconnaissance team to
take cover behind a berm. Despite the enemy's devastating
fire superiority, Lieutenant Christian attacked them with two
antitank weapons. He was painfully wounded in the hand, but
refused medical care and returned to the berm to direct ar-
tillery fire. When friendly reinforcements arrived two hours
later, he directed them to cover his left flank while he attempt-
ed to evacuate his casualties. Although wounded again by an
enemy rocket-propelled grenade, he did not permit himself to