

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 29

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 5 June 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Lieutenant Colonel *Charles C. Rogers*, , Field Artillery, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on 1 November 1968, while serving as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division during the defense of a forward fire support base in the Republic of Vietnam. In the early morning hours, the fire support base was subjected to a concentrated bombardment of heavy mortar, rocket and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Simultaneously the position was struck by a human wave ground assault, lead by sappers who breached the defensive barriers with bangalore torpedoes and penetrated the defensive perimeter. Colonel *Rogers* with complete disregard for his own safety moved through the hail of fragments from bursting enemy rounds to the embattled area. He aggressively rallied the dazed artillery crewmen to man their howitzers, and he directed their fire on the assaulting enemy. Although knocked to the ground and wounded by an exploding round, Colonel *Rogers* sprang to his feet and led a small counterattack force against an enemy element that had penetrated the howitzer positions. Although painfully wounded a second time during the assault, Colonel *Rogers* pressed the attack killing several of the enemy and driving the remainder from the positions. Refusing medical treatment, Colonel *Rogers* reestablished and reinforced the defensive positions. As a second human wave attack was launched against another sector of the perimeter, Colonel *Rogers* directed artillery fire on the assaulting enemy and led a second counterattack against the charging forces. His valorous example rallied the beleaguered defenders to repulse and defeat the enemy onslaught. Colonel *Rogers* moved from position to position through the heavy enemy fire, giving encouragement and direction to his men. At dawn the determined enemy launched a third assault against the fire base in an attempt to overrun the position. Colonel *Rogers* moved to the threatened area and directed lethal fire on the enemy forces. Seeing a howitzer inoperative due to casualties, Colonel *Rogers* joined the surviving members of the crew to return the howitzer to action. While directing the position defense, Colonel *Rogers* was seriously wounded by fragments from a heavy mortar round which exploded on the



parapet of the gun position. Although too severely wounded to physically lead the defenders, Colonel *Rogers* continued to give encouragement and direction to his men in the defeating and repelling of the enemy attack. Colonel *Rogers*' dauntless courage and heroism inspired the defenders of the fire support base to the heights of valor to defeat a determined and numerically superior enemy force. His relentless spirit of aggressiveness, conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

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