HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Washington, DC, 24 March 1971

No. 15

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:

United States Army, who distinguished himself on 11 January 1969 while serving as a platoon leader with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Quan Loi in Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Fritz was leading his seven-vehicle armored column along Highway 13 to meet and escort a truck convoy when the column suddenly came under the intense crossfire from a reinforced enemy company deployed in ambush positions. In the initial attack, Captain Fritz' vehicle was hit and he was seriously wounded. Realizing that his platoon was completely surrounded, vastly outnumbered and in danger of being overrun, Captain Fritz leaped to the top of his burning vehicle and directed the positioning of his remaining vehicles and men. With complete disregard for his own wounds and safety, he ran from vehicle to vehicle in complete view of enemy gunners in order to reposition his men, to improve the defenses, to assist the wounded, to distribute ammunition, to direct fire and to provide encouragement to his men. When a strong enemy force assaulted the position and attempted to overrun the platoon, Captain Fritz manned a machine gun and through his exemplary action inspired his men to deliver intense and deadly fire which broke the assault and routed the attackers. Moments later a second enemy force had advanced to within two meters of the position and threatened to overwhelm the defenders. Captain Fritz, armed only with a pistol and bayonet, led a small group of his men in a fierce and daring charge which routed the attackers and inflicted heavy casual-

Captain (then First Lieutenant) Harold A. Fritz.





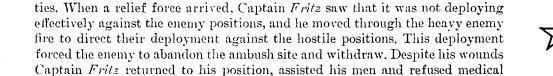


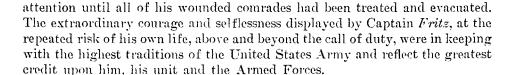






















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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:

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

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