

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 34

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 16 July 1971

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:



Chief Warrant Officer *Michael J. Novosel*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 2 October 1969 while serving as commander of a medical evacuation helicopter of the 82d Medical Detachment, 45th Medical Company, 68th Medical Group in Kien Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam. He unhesitatingly maneuvered his helicopter into a heavily fortified and defended enemy training area where a group of wounded Vietnamese soldiers were pinned down by a large enemy force. Flying without gunship or other cover and exposed to intense machine gun fire, Chief Warrant Officer *Novosel* was able to locate and rescue a wounded soldier. Since all communications with the beleaguered troops had been lost, he repeatedly circled the battle area, flying at low level under continuous heavy fire, to attract the attention of the scattered friendly troops. This display of courage visibly raised their morale, as they recognized this as a signal to assemble for evacuation. On six occasions he and his crew were forced out of the battle area by the intense enemy fire, only to circle and return from another direction to land and extract additional troops. Near the end of the mission, a wounded soldier was spotted close to an enemy bunker. Fully realizing that he would attract a hail of enemy fire, Chief Warrant Officer *Novosel* nevertheless attempted the extraction by hovering the helicopter backward. As the man was pulled on board, enemy automatic weapons opened fire at close range, damaged the aircraft and wounded Chief Warrant Officer *Novosel*. He momentarily lost control of the aircraft, but quickly recovered and departed under the withering enemy fire. In all, 15 extremely hazardous extractions were performed in order to remove wounded personnel. As a direct result of his selfless conduct, the lives of 29 soldiers were saved. The conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism displayed by Chief Warrant Officer *Novosel* were an inspiration to his comrades in arms and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Chief Warrant Officer *Novosel* for extraordinary heroism in action on 2 October 1969, as announced in United States Army Vietnam General Orders Number 1555, 1970.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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

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