

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 44

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 12 September 1974

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 (Posthumous) 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:



Specialist Four *Danny J. Petersen*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on January 9, 1970 while serving as an armored personnel carrier commander with Company B, 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, during a combat operation against a North Vietnamese Army Force estimated to be of battalion size in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial contact with the enemy, an armored personnel carrier was disabled and the crewmen were pinned down by the heavy onslaught of enemy small arms, automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Specialist *Petersen* immediately maneuvered his armored personnel carrier to a position between the disabled vehicle and the enemy. He placed suppressive fire on the enemy's well-fortified position, thereby enabling the crew members of the disabled personnel carrier to repair their vehicle. He then maneuvered his vehicle, while still under heavy hostile fire, to within ten feet of the enemy's defensive emplacement. After a period of intense fighting, his vehicle received a direct hit and the driver was wounded. With extraordinary courage and selfless disregard for his own safety, Specialist *Petersen* carried his wounded comrade 45 meters across the bullet-swept field to a secure area. He then voluntarily returned to his disabled armored personnel carrier to provide covering fire for both the other vehicles and the dismounted personnel of his platoon as they withdrew. Despite heavy fire from three sides, he remained with his disabled vehicle, alone and completely exposed. Specialist *Petersen* was standing on top of his vehicle, firing his weapon, when he was mortally wounded. His heroic and selfless actions prevented further loss of life in his platoon. Specialist Four *Petersen's* conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism are in the highest traditions of the service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

FRED C. WEYLAND
General, United States Army
Vice Chief of Staff

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