

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1306

27 February 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

RUSSELL, ALBERT L JR 064277 (SSAN 188-16-7667), LIEUTENANT COLONEL, ARMOR,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th
Infantry Brigade APO 96217

Awarded: Distinguished Flying Cross (1st Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date of action: 6 and 7 September 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight as evidenced by voluntary actions above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Russell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 6 and 7 September 1968 while serving as the commanding officer of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade. On that date, Colonel Russell was conducting an aerial reconnaissance mission northwest of Quang Ngai when he received word that the reconnaissance platoon of Company E was pinned down in a rice paddy near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, he instructed his pilot to fly to the area of contact. Flying at low altitudes, his door gunners provided supporting fire for the besieged platoon. Receiving heavy volumes of automatic weapons fire from three positions, his aircraft was forced to withdraw to a higher altitude. That afternoon, the insurgents initiated a fierce ground attack on the friendly forces, attempting to overrun the platoon's defenses. Pinpointing the hostile positions, Colonel Russell called in air strikes on the insurgents and provided fire support with his aircraft. Continuing to circle the area of contact, he directed the movement of the platoon as they engaged the enemy. Through his timely actions and decisive leadership, he was largely responsible for the successful defense of the perimeter and the subsequent extraction of the platoon, saving them from possible annihilation by the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel Russell's personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.