

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96384

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8459

"NGUY HIEM"

29 August 1970

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TC 439. The following AWARDS are announced.

BASHAM, WILLIAM 405-64-7287 CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER W2 United States Army
HARTFIELD, GEORGE D. 426-92-0632, WARRANT OFFICER W1 United States Army

Awarded: Distinguished Flying Cross

Date of service: 2 May 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, AR 672-5-1 and USARV Reg 672-1 dated 1 July 1969.


Organization: 334th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) APO 96227

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary actions above and beyond the call of duty: These men distinguished themselves by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as co-pilot/gunners aboard aircraft of a light fire team of helicopter gunships. Arriving at the contact area near the village of Pa Chres, they were informed that Allied ground forces were under extremely heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire from an enemy element occupying a nearby large village. After quickly assessing the situation, they began their systematic rocket and minigun attacks upon the enemy positions, only to be met by extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire. Despite suffering several hits, they boldly placed a devastating barrage of fire upon the enemy, effectively silencing the hostile fire. Receiving word that the friendly ground forces were receiving mortar and rocket fire from another position, they boldly executed a high speed, low level reconnaissance of the area in an attempt to find and destroy the enemy positions. Finding one particular housing structure which was surrounded by covered foxholes, they marked the positions and then boldly flew through heavy machinegun fire to assault the building. Although heavy damage was inflicted upon their aircraft, they fearlessly disregarded their own safety by continuing their attack until the enemy position was totally annihilated. Demonstrating thorough professionalism and undaunted personal courage in the face of enemy fire, they contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Their actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

THORVOLD R. TORGERSEN
Colonel, Infantry
Chief of Staff


JAMES M. NAKAGAWA
CW2, USA
Asst AG