

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 2014-44

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 25 June 2014**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, and amended 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action is awarded to:

Sergeant First Class Robert F. Keiser for extraordinary heroism while serving as a military policeman with the 2d Military Police Company, 2d Infantry Division, in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Kunu-ri, North Korea. On 30 November 1950 at about 1300 hours, the 2d Infantry Division's main convoy began its retreat south along the Kunu-ri Sunchon Road. When the division convoy reached the crest of the Kunu-ri Sunchon Pass, referred to as "The Gauntlet", they faced a roadblock consisting of over 20 damaged and abandoned vehicles. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant First Class Keiser personally removed the vehicles blocking the road, allowing the division convoy to proceed to the safety of friendly lines. He received several injuries while under constant small arms and machine gun fire from the enemy, estimated to be of regimental size and located in the hills overlooking the pass, during a two hour period. Upon finding a vehicle that would run, Sergeant First Class Keiser loaded the dead and wounded lying in the road and ditches aboard the vehicle and commanded fellow Soldiers to drive the vehicles through the pass to the safety of friendly lines. After clearing the vehicles from the pass, Sergeant First Class Keiser proceeded to a stream a half mile south of the pass and stood for an hour in the cold water directing the division convoy through the ford, because the bridge had been destroyed. Sergeant First Class Keiser's extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Specialist Four Robert L. Towles for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Four Robert L. Towles distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action at Landing Zone Albany on 17 November 1965. During the course of an overland march, a numerically superior enemy force initiated contact with a heavy mortar barrage and struck from well-concealed positions cutting through the battalion's line of march. Disregarding his wounds and own personal safety, Specialist Four Towles unhesitatingly exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire and singlehandedly attacked and disabled an enemy machine gun position. Stunned by the assault, enemy troops momentarily broke contact and fled, enabling the beleaguered troops to withdraw and evacuate their casualties. Specialist Four Towles returned and led his comrades toward the battalion's defensive position and continued to hold back enemy troops until all of the wounded had been extracted. On arrival in the perimeter, he took an active role in the battalion's defense and proved instrumental in repelling two major enemy assaults on the position. Though surrounded by enemy forces, Specialist Four Towles volunteered to leave the battalion's defensive perimeter and go into a contested battle area to retrieve tactical radios left behind. Specialist Four Towles' extraordinary heroism, indomitable courage and devotion to duty

were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division and the United States Army.

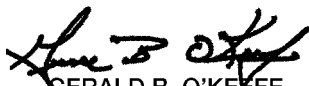
Staff Sergeant Patrick N. Watkins, Jr. for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Command and Control North, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. Staff Sergeant Watkins distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions in the early morning hours of 23 August 1968, while at Headquarters, Command and Control North when the compound was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army sapper force in a well-coordinated assault. Despite being wounded in the initial assault, Staff Sergeant Watkins quickly organized a small reaction force to repel the attack and rescue wounded Americans while leading them to a defensive position through a gauntlet of machine gun fire and grenades. Staff Sergeant Watkins disregarded his own safety to direct the recovery of the many wounded men and repeatedly engaged and killed enemy sappers. Despite receiving several more wounds from grenade shrapnel, Staff Sergeant Watkins repeatedly repelled numerous sappers as he continued the search for the wounded. He refused medical aid and on one occasion fiercely charged an onrushing NVA sniper, killing him and preventing the sniper's continuing infliction of numerous friendly casualties. His actions inspired his men to greater heights to defeat the enemy and successfully defend the compound. Staff Sergeant Watkins' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

[AHRC-PDP-A]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
General, United States Army
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GERALD B. O'KEEFE
Administrative Assistant to the
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